



SEASONS

Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of St. Thomas More, Mount Eliza

3rd Sunday of Lent -Year A

12th March 2023

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday at 3.30pm

Infant Baptisms

Sunday March 12 11.30am

**313 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
Phone: 9787 7777**

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

Office Days/Hours:

Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm

Friday 9.30am to 4pm

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford

Ruth Hilton

Paul Keane

Sandra Taylor

Joe Sayah

Emma Chapple

Kathy Raccanello

See your happy team on the Notice Board!

Church Services from 13th March

Tuesday Adoration 6.00pm

Tuesday Mass 7.00pm

Wednesday* Mass 10.00am

Thursday* Mass 10.00am

Friday Exposition 9.00am

Friday Mass 10.00am

*Rosary before Mass

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Reconciliation

Tuesday 6.30pm –7.00pm

Friday 9.30am –10.00am

Saturday 4.30pm –5.00pm

St Thomas More acknowledges the Traditional Land owners, the Bunurong people on which we live, work and worship. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and emerging.

Dear Friends,

A reflection from My Catholic Life:

Living Water for a Thirsty Soul

Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. It was about noon. A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

John 4:5-7

Today, throughout the world, Catholic liturgies will celebrate the first of three Scrutinies of those adults who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The word "scrutiny" comes from the Latin word scrutari which means an inquiry, close examination or search of something. It originally referred to rummaging through rubbish so as to find something of value. In a sense, this is what God does with all of us. When we first turn to Him, He sorts through the disorder of our fallen human nature and our sins so as to point to the goodness and beauty of the child He created. As for the liturgical rite that will be celebrated in churches throughout the world today, the Right of Christian Initiation of Adults describes it as follows: "The scrutinies are meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good" (#141). The Gospel story we read today depicts this action beautifully. It is the long and inspiring story of the woman at the well. This story is filled with symbolism, much of which the casual reader could easily miss. To begin, it is important to prayerfully imagine the scene. Jesus was all alone sitting next to Jacob's Well around noon. Few women would come to the well at that time of day due to the

heat. But this woman came at this time because she knew others would not be around. She was a sinner, and many of the other women of the town knew it. Therefore, in an attempt to avoid them and avoid feeling shame, she came at a time when she could avoid the other women. So the first thing to consider is the suffering this woman was enduring because of her shame and embarrassment over her sinful life.



As she approached the well, she was surprised to hear Jesus ask her for a drink. She was a Samaritan. Jews generally considered Samaritans as ritually unclean. For that reason, Jews would not drink from their vessels. But Jesus broke this unholy custom and looked at her as a daughter of God with innate dignity and value as He engaged her in conversation.

Within the heat of the day, Jesus spoke lovingly to this woman and said, "Give me a drink." Saint Augustine states that, symbolically speaking, Jesus thirsted for her soul, for her salvation. He longed to give her the grace soon to be won through His Cross. Her willing reception of this gift would also bring satiation to the Heart of our Lord. Jesus didn't dwell upon her past; He knew all about it. He could read her soul. All He wanted to do was to rummage through the sin and rubbish that was cluttering her soul so as to discover her dignity within. If she were to allow Jesus to offer her this mercy, not only would she receive true Living Water to quench her spiritual thirst, she would also satiate the spiritual thirst in the soul of our Lord that could only be satiated by the dispensing of His mercy.

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**We
pray
for.....**

Those who have passed away recently...

Peter Flahive

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Dr John O'Brien, Bill Leneaux-Gale, Else Bloch, Norah Connolly,
Fr Maurice Adams, Luke Allen



The sick... Maureen Mirabella, Adrian & Maree Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, John Spirason, Thomas Parrish, Rodney Abbatangelo, Bev Johnstone, Kate Matheson, John Xavier Clifton, Michael Leonard, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison, Maree Bracken, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Betty Corke, Maria Kelly, Elizabeth Ware, Althea Greeff, Michael Blick, Maureen Anstey, Rosalie McKiernan, Julian Collins, Sue Emerton, Jimmy and Gary Lakeman, Anneliese Rose, Charlie Ebsworth, Noel Anstey, Mary Doherty, Denis Prowse and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and the parishioners of St Thomas More Parish, Tequinomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.

The Parish Welfare officers for March are Jim and Betty Bourke 0429 011 082

Fiat—A Weekend of Prayer

Friday 24 March – Sunday 26 March 2023

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has invited the Archdiocese of Melbourne to unite for a weekend of prayer from Friday 24 March to Sunday 26 March 2023.

Parishes, communities and movements will be hosting hours of prayer across the Archdiocese, meditating on Mary's fiat, her total 'yes'.

You can view the full schedule at bit.ly/fiat-prayer-weekend



Parish Social Function

**Come and have some fun
over breakfast / coffee at the**

The Sober Mule

Peninsula Lifestyle Centre

1098 Nepean Hwy Mornington

9.00am Wednesday 15th March

Book in with Paul Kost

9787 - 3757 / 0421 467 285

Women's Fellowship Group

Let's get together ladies! Every first Friday of the month from 7pm to 9pm (after dinner) for women 18 - 100 years plus!

A chance to connect, chat, laugh and share.

Next get together Friday 7 April (Good Friday evening).

Where: at my home - Please email me for details if

you're interested in attending
(raccanellokathy@gmail.com)

If you can, please bring something to share
with everyone.

Hope you can come!

Kathy

From Page 1...

As we celebrate the Scrutinies this Sunday, reflect upon this woman at the well. First, she is a symbol of every person coming to faith in Christ and preparing for the Living Water of Baptism this Easter. But she is also a symbol of your own soul, to the extent that it has become cluttered with the rubbish of sin and disorder. Do not let shame, fear or a sense of unworthiness deter you from engaging in this same conversation with our Lord. Hear Him say to you that He thirsts for you and longs to be satiated by the sacred act of the ongoing bestowal of His Divine Mercy, poured forth through the Living Water superabundantly given to you at your baptism.

Please join us when you can.

Stations of the Cross

3.30pm

Every Friday during Lent



Aid to the Church in Need is asking for support to provide sisters in Romania with a new heating system. The Sisters of the Mother of God are the oldest congregation of sisters in the Romanian Greek Catholic Church. The history of their community has long been one marked by persecution, particularly when Romania was under communist rule.

Today the sisters continue to aid their local community with youth groups, spiritual support and counselling, as well as providing the poor with basic necessities. But they are facing a major problem. Their ancient heating system has finally broken down and needs to be replaced, but they cannot afford the cost. The sisters need your

BISHOP ROBERT RABBAT'S

SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

PLEASE DONATE NOW

The recent Syrian earthquake has hit people who were already displaced in a region that has been devastated by more than a decade of civil war. Yet again, we are seeing people fleeing and desperate for shelter in freezing winter conditions. We want to help provide that light in the deepest darkness, to get through this devastating disaster.

MCF DGR ACCOUNT
 Ref: Syrian Appeal
 BSB: 062784
 Account: 100011493

All donations are Tax Deductible.
 For a receipt please email mcf@melkite.org.au or contact on (02) 9750 5514

Melkite iCare

Nightfever

FRIDAY 24 MARCH
6PM TO MIDNIGHT

Nightfever-Join with the youth of Melbourne to pray

Friday, March 24, 2023, 6pm – Midnight
 Sacred Heart Church, Rathdowne St & Pelham St, Carlton

Project Compassion

Please take home a Project Compassion box ...

or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season. You will be helping to support vulnerable people around the world, now and

For All Future Generations.

Entrance Antiphon

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare. Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and
in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God. Amen

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest and on earth
peace to people of good will.
we praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
We give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading **Exodus 17:3-7**

Strike the rock, and water will flow from it.

Responsorial Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second reading **Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

The love of God has been poured into our hearts
by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Gospel Acclamation **John 4:42,15**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give
me living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel **John 4:5-42**

A spring of water welling up to eternal life

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he
descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

The mystery of faith

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess
your Resurrection until you come again.

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,
the water I shall give will become in him
a spring welling up to eternal life.



Next Sunday's Readings for Mass during the day.

19th March - 4th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13
2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel: John 9:1-41