



SEASONS

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

4th Sunday of Lent -Year A

19th March 2023

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday at 3.30pm

SVDP Meeting

Monday 20th March 7.30pm

Youth Alpha

Tuesday 21st March 5.00pm

**311 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
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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 Joe Sayah

Paul Keane Emma Chapple

Sandra Taylor Kathy Raccanello

See your happy team on the Notice Board!

Church Services from 20th March

Monday Mass 5.30pm

St Joseph's Feast Day

Tuesday Adoration 6.00pm

Tuesday Mass 7.00pm

Wednesday* Mass 9.00am

Thursday* Mass 10.00am

Friday Exposition 9.00am

Friday Mass 10.00am

Saturday Mass 10.00am

The Annunciation of the Lord

*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: The Holy Drama of Grace

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. John 9:35–38

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith.

We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of Exodus 20:5–6 in which God said that He inflicts punishment "on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation." Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are,

therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight.

The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in our

lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story.

After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus.

The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others. Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. (Cont.)



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

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Unah Burr, Mylee Trevitt, Moira Renouf,



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



Thank you !!!!

Thank you to all the wonderful parishioners who worked so enthusiastically at last Saturday's Working Bee.

Great improvements were achieved.

May God bless you abundantly!

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

Parish Social Function at the Sober Mule

It was great to catch up! Everyone enjoyed themselves.

Thank you Paul, for organising it!

(From Page 1)

How will you respond? Will you imitate the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World.

Jesus, Light of the World, You came to dispel the darkness caused by original sin. You came to heal our blindness and open the eyes of our souls to Your true Light. Please open my eyes so that I may see, and give me the courage I need to profess my faith in You and worship You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

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 help! To make an offering and learn more visit www.aidtochurch.org/monthlyproject or scan the QR code.



The next meeting of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be held on Monday the 20th March at the Parish Community Centre at 7.30pm. Thank you



Nightfever-Join with the youth of Melbourne to pray

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



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



Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

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 **I Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13**
David is anointed by Samuel

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall
want.

Second reading **Ephesians 5:8-14**
Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation **John 8:12**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel **John 9:1-41**

The blind man went off and washed himself, and
came away with his sight restored.

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

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.



Next Sunday's Readings for Mass during the day.
26th March - 5th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14
2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11
Gospel: John 11:1-45