



# SEASONS

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A

November 12th 2023

### Diary

#### Memorial Mass/Luncheon

Tuesday 14th Nov 11.00am

#### Catechism Classes

Tuesday 14th Nov 4.30pm CC

#### STM School Mass

Friday 17th Nov 10.00am

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

**Email: [MountEliza@cam.org.au](mailto:MountEliza@cam.org.au)**

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

Parish Priest:

**Rev. Fr. Patrick Bradford**

Secretary: Ann Hancock

Office Days/Hours:

Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm

Friday 9.30am to 4pm

#### Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Patrick Bradford

Ruth Hilton Joe Sayah

Emma Chapple Sandra Taylor

Kathy Raccanello

*See your happy team on the Notice Board!*

### Church Services from 13th Nov

Tuesday Mass 5.30pm  
Tuesday Adoration 6.00pm

Wednesday \* Mass 10.00am

Thursday\* Mass 10.00am

Friday Adoration 9.00am

Friday Mass 10.00am

\*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass.

#### Reconciliation

Tuesday 6.00pm –7.00pm

Friday 9.30am -10.00am

Saturday 4.30pm - 5.00pm

#### Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

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

Dear Friends

A reflection taken from Our Sunday Visitor:



A first-century Jewish wedding began after nightfall. The bridesmaids, after spending time with the bride, would go out to meet the bridegroom. Since it was dark, they would carry some sort of light, either an oil lamp or a torch made of oil-soaked rags. They would then escort the bridegroom to the bride. The wedding party then made their way through the village, usually taking a long and meandering route in order to share their joy with as many of the townspeople as possible. They eventually went to the bridegroom’s home, where a great banquet awaited all of the family members and guests.

The parable of the ten virgins takes place within this festive and joyful context, yet the final message is a sober exhortation to be properly prepared. The virgins are apparently the bridesmaids who were to escort the bridegroom (along with his bride) to his home and the banquet. They awaited the arrival of the bridegroom, but he was “long delayed”. Why? No reason is given, but the focus is not on the reason for the delay, but on the preparedness of the virgins.

It is striking that all of the virgins “became drowsy and fell asleep”, but that half of them, upon awaking, needed oil. Those five desperately demanded that the five wise virgins share some of the oil they had brought along in case there was a delay. However, if the wise virgins shared the oil, the fuel would be quickly consumed and they would risk meeting the bridegroom without the expected and welcome light.

On another level, the refusal of the wise virgins makes even more sense. The ten virgins are commonly understood to represent disciples of Jesus the Bridegroom. “These five and five virgins are all Christian souls together”, wrote St. Augustine, who said they are souls who “have the Catholic faith and seem to have good works in the church of God.” The oil signifies good works, an interpretation drawn from the connection made by Jesus between the lamp that shines before men and good works (Matt 5:15-16). Augustine, referring to St. Paul’s great reflection on love in 1 Corinthians 13, said the oil signifies charity, “the gift of God”. There is no contradiction between the two, because our good works are nothing without love (cf., 1 Cor 13:1-3). The wise virgins couldn’t give their oil to the foolish virgins because no one can borrow the good works of others to make up for the good works they’ve failed to do. Each person must, Paul wrote, “work out [their] own salvation with fear and trembling” (Phil 2:12).

Augustine further identified the drowsiness and sleep of the virgins with death. This makes sense because chapters 24 and 25 of Matthew’s Gospel are focused on the last things, including final judgment (see Matt 24:3, 13; 25:31ff). In fact, the moment of death is the moment of judgment. Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that at the end of our life we face, “a particular judgment that refers his or her life to Christ...”  
*(Cont. Page 3)*

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

**Those who have passed away recently...**

Jan Santo (Connell)



**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..**

Christopher Fulton, Antonina Socha, Mark Landman, Margo Moloney, Lauren Kelly, Margaret Carr, Brighty Leneaux-Gale, Kevin Barnes, Gwendaline Pay

**The sick...** Adrian Gobel, Caroline Herbert, April Morrissey, 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, Sue Emerton, Jimmy and Gary Lakeman, Anneliese Rose, Charlie Ebsworth, Noel Anstey, Mary Doherty, Annette O’Brian, Elaine (Dee) Smith, Sr Elizabeth Browne-Russell, Philip Yee, John Miller, Jim Bourke 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.*

**Stewardship**

Would the person who is contributing via Envelope No 32 please contact the parish office. Many thanks

**November Mass Offerings**

If you would like to have a Mass offered for a deceased family member, envelopes are available in the foyer of the Church.

**Parish Social Function –  
Tuesday 14th November**

November Mass at STM & Sages  
Spring Carnival Lunch at Sages Rd Baxter. There will be a memorial Mass at 11.00am for all those Parish Elders who have gone before us, followed by a blessing of the plaques in the memorial garden.

**Note: Luncheon has been fully booked.**

**Women's Fellowship Group**

**Women's Fellowship Group every first Friday of the month 7pm-9pm, for women 18 years and over.**

**Please contact Kathy Raccanello for details: raccanellokathy@gmail.com**

**Managing our ‘Sick List’**

Following feedback from parishioners, we are intending to make some changes to the administration and publication of our weekly “sick list” in the Parish bulletin.

Caring for the sick is one of the seven works of mercy, and an important outreach of St Thomas More Parish. The current practice is that anyone can contact the Parish Office and nominate a loved one to be included on this list. However, as we do not collect any contact details, there is often no way for us to keep this lists accurate and up to date. Unfortunately, there have been occasions where we have been praying for someone on the sick list who has since passed away; other times we are praying for someone on the sick list who has since fully recovered!

It is important that we offer care for the sick and housebound in our community through our prayer, personal contact and the ministry of the Sacraments.

Going forward, if there is someone you would like to be named on this list in the Parish bulletin you will be asked if they would like a visit from Fr Patrick to administer the Sacraments.

You will also be asked to give at least an email address or phone number so that each month the Parish Office can review the lists and ensure that the sick are not only being prayed for at Mass, but also receiving any ongoing spiritual and pastoral care they may need.

From 2024, the sick list will be actively monitored and it will be adjusted if we don’t know the status of those listed. We welcome the names of sick or housebound parishioners to be emailed or phoned in to the Parish Office.

If you prefer, we can of course keep names off the published sick list but continue to pray and keep in contact.

– Fr Patrick

Further, in the words of St. John of the Cross: “At the evening of life, we shall be judged on our love” (par 1022).

Because the five wise virgins were perfected in good works and charity, they “were ready” and so “went into the wedding feast with him.” And then the door was locked. The cry of the foolish virgins—“Lord, Lord...!”—brings further into focus the meaning of true discipleship, for it echoes Jesus’ earlier statement from the Sermon on the Mount: “Not every one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matt 7:21).

In light of this, Jesus said, we must stay awake—that is, be spiritually vigilant and mindful the Bridegroom will indeed come. For now, we live in a “time of waiting and watching” (CCC, 672).

**SAVE THE DATE! Night of the Witnesses – 22 November 2023, 7pm at St Patrick’s Cathedral.** *Aid to the Church*

*in Need* invites you to an evening of prayer, testimony, song, adoration and reflection to honour the witness of twelve recent Christian martyrs and to stand in solidarity with Christians all over the world who are suffering persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. Archbishop Peter Comensoli will preside and His Beatitude, Patriarch Joseph Absi of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church will be one of the international guest speakers who will share personal testimony of persecution for the faith. We hope you will join us. For more information please visit [www.aidtochurch.org/notw](http://www.aidtochurch.org/notw)



### Special Collection this Sunday

#### Annual Appeal for the Catholic Deaf

#### Payment terminal in the Foyer of the Church

Many will have noticed a black terminal which is fixed to the wall on the left side of the main doors as you exit the church.

As we move to become a “cashless” society, this device accepts credit card donations from parishioners which exclusively supports the Church account. This account facilitates regular parish expenses like staffing, utilities, insurance, liturgical costs, and more.

If you wish to donate you will find four preset donation amounts, or you can choose “other” and type in any amount up to \$100.

Simply touch the denomination you wish to donate, then you will be prompted to wave your card on the top of the unit. It will “beep” when processed. It is possible to request a printed receipt.

If you have any difficulties please approach Fr Patrick or any of the welcomers for assistance.

Thankyou for your support.

#### Anytime access to the Church for Private Prayer

“Because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat. Jesus said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest” (Mk 6:31). In our busy lives we can find it hard to find the time to spend with God. The wisdom of the monastic tradition suggests that our physical environment has a big part to play in removing distractions and being focussed in prayer. The environment, our posture, lighting and noise all have an impact.

Anytime access to the Church for private prayer is possible via the electronic keypad. Access is initially granted by completing an application form and registering your contact details with the Parish Office. Your thumbprint will be taken which will grant access via the side door. This system ensures the safety of visitors as only authorised users can access the Church, and all movements in and out of the side door are monitored.

Inside the Church, Parishioners can find a range of spiritual resources to help with prayer. In the white stand on the left hand side of the gathering space as you walk in, you will find a range of brochures, booklets and leaflets which offer formation on prayer, the Mass, the Sacraments and more. Near this stand is also a small library which contains a selection of bibles and spiritual reading available for use while in the Church.

If you are a St Thomas More Parishioner and would like to have anytime access to the Church, please contact the Parish Office for an application form. You can find these on our website, print out and return to the Parish Office for processing.

Alternatively you can approach Fr Patrick after Mass.

**Entrance Antiphon**

Let my prayer come in to your presence.  
Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

**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**                      **Wisdom 6:12-16**

Wisdom is found by those who look for her.

**Responsorial Psalm:**                      **Psalm 62:2-8**

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

**Second reading**    **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**

Do not grieve about those who have died in Jesus.

**Gospel Acclamation**    **Matthew 24:42, 44**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:  
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**                                      **Matthew 25:1-13**

The wise and foolish virgins

**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 is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall  
want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he  
gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Next Sunday's Readings:

**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading:        Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20,30-31

2nd Reading:     I Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel:             Matthew 25:14-30