



SEASONS

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

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A

November 19th 2023

Diary

Catechism Classes

Tuesday 21st Nov 4.30pm CC

Mass –Faithful departed

Thursday 23rd Nov 10.00am

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

**Email: 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 20th 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

This week’s Gospel speaks of how Jesus’ disciples are to conduct themselves as they await the Kingdom of Heaven. In the preceding passages and in last week’s Gospel, Jesus taught that there is no way to predict the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. His disciples must, therefore, remain vigilant and ready to receive the Son of Man at any time.



Jesus’ parable talks about Christian discipleship using economic metaphors. Before he leaves on a journey, the master entrusts to his servants a different number of talents, giving to each according to their abilities. A talent is a coin of great value. Upon the master’s return, he finds that the first and second servants have doubled their money, and both are rewarded. The third servant, however, has only preserved what was given to him because he was afraid to lose the money. He has risked nothing; he did not even deposit the money in a bank to earn interest. This servant is punished by the master, and his talent is given to the one who brought the greatest return.

Read in light of last week’s parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, this parable teaches that God’s judgment will be based on the service we render to God and to one another in accordance with the gifts that God has given to us. Our gifts, or talents, are given to us for the service of others. If we fail to use these gifts, God’s judgment on us will be severe. On the other hand, if we make use of these gifts in service to the Kingdom of Heaven, we will be rewarded and entrusted with even more responsibilities.

This Gospel reminds us that Christian spirituality is not passive or inactive. Our life of prayer helps us to discern the gifts that have been given to us by God. This prayer and discernment ought to lead us to use our gifts in the service of God and our neighbour. God’s grace allows us to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mass for the Faithful Departed

This Thursday at 10am we will be celebrating a Mass especially for those who have lost loved ones in the last twelve months. The prayers and readings will be an opportunity to reflect on the mystery of death and the promise of eternal life. At the Mass there will an opportunity to light a candle and reflect on the year that has passed. This Mass is being celebrated in the context of November, where two major feast days set the scene for the rest of the month. On November 1st, All Saints, we celebrate the many saints in heaven, and we are encouraged and inspired by their faith to join them one day.

On November Second we turn our attention to our brothers and sisters who have left this world and are on the journey to the fullness of life in heaven. This journey is not made alone but is a kind of pilgrimage where they can help each other and we can aid them. All Souls reminds us of the profound connection we have with the world to come, and how our prayers and the difficult experiences we go through, are not wasted – but can become a gift of love.

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

**Those who have passed away recently...
Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..**



Mark Sorenson, Diego Mirabella, Patricia Hansen, John Clark, Judith Hennessy,
John Hamilton, Jane Collins, George Mikolajunas, Wilfred Oakes, Vernon Hussey,
Helen Sorensen

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.*

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.

Women's Fellowship Group
Let's get together ladies!
Every first Friday of the month :7pm to 9pm (after dinner) for women 18 - 100 years +
A chance to connect, chat, laugh and share.
Next get together : **Friday 1st December.**

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

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

Safeguarding Committee
For information:
Julie Carter 0420 923 859



Christmas Choir

The Parish of St. Thomas More warmly invites families to be part of a choir to be ready in time for the Christmas Eve Vigil Mass on 24th December, with carols beforehand.

There will be four rehearsals, and all participating children must be accompanied by a parent or other guardian/carer for the duration of each rehearsal, in the church, and at the Carols and Vigil Mass.... so, adults accompanying children are also warmly invited to join in this ‘pop-up’ choir, to encourage the children and swell the sound!

A lovely choir helps to lead the Christmas singing, and the singing helps make a memorable Christmas!

Rehearsal dates:

Fri 24th November; Fri 1st December;
Fri 8th December; Fri 22nd December.
All practices at 3.40pm - 4.20pm.

The choir will be led and trained by Emma Chapple and Ruth Hilton, (both are musicians, teacher/former teacher, parishioners and with children/grandchildren at STM school.)

For any further enquires,
ring Ruth on 0417 352 817

Ordinations

Next Saturday, St Patricks Cathedral will host the ordinations of four men: Rev Tien Van Tran, Rev Doan Ngoc (Peter) Nguyen and Rev Thomas William Christie to the Priesthood; Jean-Sébastien Géry will be ordained to the Diaconate. We keep them all in our prayers and ask for God's continued provision of Priests for the Church in Melbourne.

Rev Deacon Tom Christie has shared how important it had been for him to grow up in a loving and committed Catholic family, and also spoke of the formative influence of his childhood parish priest. 'His reverence, and the way that he celebrated the liturgy, the Mass, in hindsight did have a deep and profound effect and impact on me,' he said. He was looking forward in his vocation to being an 'instrument of grace', accompanying people 'both in the most joyous occasions of their life, but also in the most tragic ones'.

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

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

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.

You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

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 Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20

A perfect wife - who can find her?

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 127:1-5

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Second reading I Thessalonians 5:1-6

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

Gospel Acclamation John 15:4. 5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25:14-30

You have been faithful in small things: come and join in your master's happiness.

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

To be near God is my happiness,
to place my hope in God the Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Christ the King

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

2nd Reading: I Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46