



SEASONS

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

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A

November 5th 2023

Diary

Catechism Classes

Tuesday 7th Nov 4.30pm CC

Altar Society Meeting

Thursday 9th Nov 10.30am

Infant baptism

Sun 12th Nov 11.30am

**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 6th Nov

Tuesday Mass 10.00am

Tuesday Adoration 9.00am

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 9.30am -10.00am

Friday 9.30am -10.00am

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,

The readings for this weekend highlight the relationship between the religious leaders and the people. Today we would understand this as the relationship between the Church’s ministers and the lay faithful. The Second Vatican Council taught that the Church’s structure is founded on Jesus and the apostles. Everyone in the Church including clergy and laity have a unique role and function, each complements and supports each other. The gospel tells us that the authority of leadership should be grounded in service and humility, not pride and honour.



Reflection by Carl E. Olsen

A prophet,” wrote Archbishop Fulton Sheen, “is a Divine Troubler, not a political troubler. He is always a disturber of worldly peace; he makes listeners feel uneasy.” This explanation of the prophet’s work—which is challenging for both himself and his listeners—fits perfectly with today’s readings, especially the first, from the prophet Malachi, and the last, from the Gospel of Matthew.

Malachi, whose name means “My messenger” (see Mal 3:1), preached in the post-exilic period, in the middle of the fifth century B.C. The temple had been rebuilt and sacrifices renewed. But spiritual laxity and corruption were commonplace, including among the priests, who offered impure sacrifices and failed to show proper reverence for God (Mal 1:6-14a). They did not “give glory” to God’s name, failing to acknowledge and serve God in their actions or in their hearts. They caused scandal, leading others away from God. Consequently, having so openly violated the Law and the covenant, they had brought a curse upon themselves.

The prophet, in relaying this strong indictment, pointed to the true source and proper focus of priestly service: “Have we not all the one father? Has not the one God created us?” They were priests because they had been chosen by God. By failing to live holy lives and to offer proper sacrifices, they had severed themselves from the life and mercy of God.

The same dynamic is at the heart of today’s Gospel. The tensions between Jesus and the religious leaders had escalated to the point that direct confrontation could no longer be avoided. In fact, so strong are the words of Jesus, they form a prelude of sorts to a series of seven “woes”, or covenantal curses (Mt 23:13-36), which contrast directly with the series of blessings, the “beatitudes”, uttered by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5:1-11).

As with the priests of Malachi’s time, the central issues pinpointed by Jesus were corruption, arrogance, spiritual laxity, injustice, lack of reverence, and hypocrisy. He deliberately pointed out the truthfulness of the Pharisee’s teachings, which only further heightened the severity of their sins, for despite knowing and teaching the Law they did not practise what they preached: “All their works are performed to be seen.” Instead of humility and holiness, they pursued praise and prestige. Their hypocrisy was very similar to that of the Judaizers confronted and questioned by the Apostle Paul: “you then who teach others, will you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal?” (Rom 2:21).

All of this seems logical enough, even if the direct harshness of Jesus’ words is unsettling—as it was meant to be. What to make, however, of his command to call “no one on earth your father”, or “rabbi”, or “master”? This section, especially the injunction against the title, “father”, has been used by some Protestants to attack the Catholic priesthood.

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

Those who have passed away recently...

Eric John Marsden



If you would like to have the name of a loved one included here please contact the Parish Office. We will ensure any names received are re-published in Seasons at each anniversary

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Mary Donnellan, John Pingiaro

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, Bernadette Smith, Sr Elizabeth Browne-Russell, Philip Yee, John Miller, Jim Bourke and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre

November Mass Offerings

If you would like to have a Mass offered for a deceased family member, envelopes are

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

Dear Parishioners,

This year, PAF celebrated fifteen years of operation in Frankston, and we wish to acknowledge your generous support of finances, goods and prayers since 2008. We are looking for new people to join our team of volunteers next year, so please get in touch with us if you’d like to know more about this rewarding outreach for supporting pregnant women.



PAF’s volunteers share an understanding that all life is God-given and precious, and that difficulties can be overcome when a burden is shared and support offered.

Ring 03 9770 6226 between 10am -2pm Mondays to Fridays, or pay us a visit within these hours to learn more about us. We look forward to meeting you.

With kind regards, Elizabeth and PAF Team

Memorial Wall - Plaque Restoration



Some parishioners have enquired about having the plaques of their relatives restored. Following several enquires, arrangements have been made with A1 Plaques to undertake a total restoration of the standard plaque for \$70 plus GST. If you are interested in taking up this offer you may contact Dave Stenhouse directly on: 1300 558 813 (local call) or via email ...
a1plaques@bigpond.com

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There are a couple of points to keep in mind. First, if Jesus meant every use of “father” (as well as “teacher” and “rabbi”), it would necessarily also include references by children to their fathers, which makes no sense- of course children should call their dad – Dad! Secondly, both Stephen and Paul made references to “fathers”. In the case of Stephen, it was to those who were stoning him to death (Acts 7:2), whereas Paul used it in a number of ways, even telling the Christians in Corinth, “For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel” (1 Cor 4:15; see Acts 22:1; Eph 6:4; Phil 2:22).

Jesus, then, was warning against pride and the seeking of titles and, like Malachi, pointing toward the source of fatherhood, true teaching, and authentic authority. “It is one thing to be a father or a teacher by nature, another to be so by generosity,” wrote St. Jerome. “One is rightly called a teacher only for his association with the true Teacher.” Jesus, the divine troubler, is also our divine brother, drawing us to the Father so that we can practice what we preach (Mt 12:50).

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

Deadline for booking: Monday 6th November

The Right to Life Australia Inc.

Conference and Dinner 2023

Saturday 11 November 2023

Register online:

<https://righttolife.com.au/conference-2023>

or email rtl@rtlaustr.com or phone (03) 9385 0100

9:15 am - 4:30 pm Conference (includes morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea) \$105

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm Pre dinner drinks & savories \$25

6:15 pm - 9:00 pm Conference dinner \$110 (table 10 - \$990)

Student assistance available

The Treacy Centre

126 The Avenue, Parkville, Melbourne, VIC 3052



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

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.

Stewardship

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

Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

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 Malachi 1:14-2: 2, 8-10

You have strayed from the way, you have caused
many to stumble by your teaching.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 130

In you, Lord, I have found my peace.

Second reading I Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

We were eager to hand over to you not only the
good news but our lives as well.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 23:9,10

Alleluia, alleluia!
You have one Father, your Father in heaven;
You have one teacher: the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 23:1-12

They do not practise what they preach.

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

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of
joy in your presence, O Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings:

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

2nd Reading: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13