



SEASONS

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

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year A

October 22nd 2023

Diary

STM First Communion

Sun 22nd Oct 10.00am

Catechism Classes

Tuesday 24th Oct 4.30pm CC

**311 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
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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 23rd Oct

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,

Like most of us, I was about eight years old when I made my first holy communion. While I attended a Catholic school, the Church near the school was 40 minutes away from where my family lived. I was given the choice of making my first communion at the Church adjacent to the school, with all the other children, or in my home parish with my family and local community. It was a hard decision for an eight year old, but I wanted to be with my family and the people from Mass who were like family to me. I will always remember the priests and monks quietly standing aside as I received communion before everyone else - just after the celebrant. Even as a child, I felt something shift inside – a deeper awareness of God; and deeper love for my faith. I have no doubt that without the Eucharist being a regular part of my life from a young age, my life would look different today.



Both last weekend and this weekend, the Parish of St Thomas More celebrates with the families of 26 children who will receive the blessed Eucharist for the very first time. The children have been preparing spiritually and physically for this special day which marks a moment of deepening and strengthening their faith and trust in God. It is wonderful again that the whole parish community is able to support the first communicants at usual Sunday Masses with our prayers and our faith. Every Sunday is a day of joy and hope for each of us; every Sunday is a new day of resurrection, of hope and new life. May the joyful expectation and excitement of the candidates inspire and encourage each of us, reminding us of that day when we received Our Lord for the first time.

Below is a reflection adapted from Catholic World Report about guardian angels which we celebrated in this month of October. As the conflict in the Middle East impacts on different parts of the world, including Australia, our guardian angels can be a source of strength and direction.

In the month of October, the Church asks us to remember our guardian angels. But what kind of picture do we have in our minds when we think of guardian angels? Surely every Catholic has seen some version that depicts the guardian angel as constantly present and always watching out for the person, even if he or she doesn't recognize it. The image of a guardian angel as a motherly figure or cherub can certainly help children see angels as friendly. But none of the angels described in Sacred Scripture—and there are many of them—act quite like that.

The first angel that's explicitly described as an angel in the Old Testament appears to the pregnant slave Hagar. The angel does not act like "bubble wrap", protecting her from stubbing her toe or keeping her from slipping on a bridge. Instead, he tells her to return to her abusive mistress and leads her to a well so that she and her son won't die of thirst and makes sure that she knows that Abraham's God is watching out for her. Something similar happens, for example, with Lot and his daughters, Abraham, Jacob, the entire Chosen People during the Exodus, the prophet Gideon, the parents of the prophet Samson, the prophet Elijah, and the prophet Daniel. That is, the angel announces a message from God ("angel" does mean "messenger", after all) and provides help from God. The angel who spoke to Saint Elizabeth and the Blessed Virgin Mary, as well as the many angels who announced the birth of Jesus Christ to the shepherds, were also primarily concerned with conveying an important message from God. Such angels are not cute and cuddly but strong and powerful.

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

Those who have passed away recently...



Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

William Ryan, John Pierce, Ronald Taylor, Bruce Wright, Beverley Smith

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 Patrick Guest, Elaine (Dee) Smith, Bernadette Smith, Sr Elizabeth Browne-Russell, Philip Yee, John Miller 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.



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

Stewardship

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

Many thanks

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
A chance to connect, chat, laugh and share.
Next get together Friday 3rd November.
(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 –Tuesday 14th November

November Mass at STM & Sages Spring Carnival Luncheon
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.

We will then proceed to Sages Cottage for a light luncheon (e.g. soup, sandwiches, frittata, cakes)accompanied by tea, coffee or a glass of wine.

The delightful gardens should be in full bloom, and strolling through them is welcomed.
Please contact Tom & Maree Shelton on 0418 337 950 as soon as possible, as seating is limited.

From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by [angels'] watchful care and intercession. "Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life." The Catechism reminds us of our belief that every believer has an angel protector, a guardian angel, who watches out for him or her to help that person reach eternal life. Our guardian angels are less concerned about us being temporarily inconvenienced by getting wet in a stream or even facing some physical danger than in not reaching Heaven at all.

That concern with eternal matters is certainly something we see in the lives of the saints. Some holy men and women have talked about the strong personal relationship that they had with their guardian angels. The eleventh century Spanish abbot Saint Eneco was near death and had to be carried to his monastery on a stretcher late at night. When he reached the monastery, Eneco told his monks to provide food for the "boys with torches" who had accompanied them. The puzzled monks slowly realized that their holy abbot had seen angels lighting the way during their journey. Since Eneco died soon afterward, perhaps those angels were about to lead him on his final journey.

Then there are saints and blessed who regularly saw their guardian angels. Saint Frances of Rome was not a flighty visionary; she was a practical woman who managed a large household and cared for the poor even during times of civil unrest. A year after her beloved son had died from the plague, he appeared to her in a vision, accompanied by a guardian angel who had the appearance of an eight-year-old child. For the rest of her life, Frances was able to see and hear her guardian angel, who directed and protected her.

Saint Faustina Kowalska, the twentieth century Polish nun best known for promoting the Divine Mercy devotion, described her guardian angel, whom she saw regularly, as very beautiful. On the other hand, the nineteenth century Italian priest Saint John Bosco claimed that his guardian angel appeared at his side as a huge grey dog whenever he was in trouble.

Obviously, angels do not have bodies because they are spiritual beings, not spiritual-and-material beings like us. God does not permit people to see or hear angels just to satisfy human curiosity but for His own purposes: to communicate an important message, to remind us to trust in God, or to protect us when we are serving Him, for example. Perhaps if we take the time to thank our guardian angels for the innumerable times they have helped us without our knowledge, we might become as aware of their presence as are little children and great saints.

World Mission Sunday –Hearts on Fire Appeal



This week Catholic Mission will offer the opportunity to be part of a life-changing program – The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic.

The Maria Auxiliadora Clinic is a vital project for the Salesian Sisters and the Church in Venilale. Since its establishment, the clinic has provided life-saving treatment for many in need, like Jose*, who became severely malnourished at 8 months old. But, with an increase in the demand for treatment, the Sisters resources can only carry them so far.

Please give generously today to help continue this life-giving program by using the appeal envelope, going online at catholicmission.org.au/timor, or scanning the QR code. Your gift will also help many other similar Church-run mission programs around the world.

*Name altered to protect identity

PAROUSIA: THE BIBLE AND THE MASS

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall Rosebud. Join us for Catechesis by Scott Hahn each Wednesday from 6:00pm—7:00pm starting October 18th for 10 weeks. 20 minutes video followed by



Children's colouring sheets

Colouring sheets are now provided for the use of younger children during weekend Masses. The topics are related to the gospel, psalms or other readings to help children gain some knowledge and understanding on their level. May God bless them all. Parents, after children have finished colouring - please remind your children to put any bags of borrowed pencils back on the table in the foyer, so that other children can use them at other Masses. - Thank you.

Entrance Antiphon

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.
Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me.

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 **Isaiah 45:1,4-6**

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations
before his countenance.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 95**

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second reading **I Thessalonians 1:1-5**

We are mindful of your faith, hope and love.

Gospel Acclamation **Philippians 2, 15-16**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Shine on the world like bright stars; you are
offering it the word of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Matthew 22:15-21**

Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and
to God the things that are God's

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

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who
fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue
their souls from death, to keep them alive in
famine.

Next Sunday's Readings:

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

2nd Reading: I Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40