



SEASONS

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

4th Sunday of Easter —Year B

April 21st 2024

Diary

Funeral: Colleen Caldwell

Wednesday 24th April 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

Office Days—

Wednesday 1pm to 4pm

Friday 1pm 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 April 22nd

Tuesday Mass 5.30pm

Tuesday Adoration 6.00pm

Wednesday* Mass 10.00am

Thursday Adoration 9.00am

Thursday Mass 10.00am

Friday* Mass 10.00am

*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass.

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Reconciliation

Tuesday 6.00pm — 6.30pm

Friday 9.30am —10.00am

Saturday 4.30pm —5.00pm

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,

During the last week Australians have been presented with the terrible news of violence and destruction within our own community and in many other parts of the world. During Mass last Sunday we prayed for the victims of the attack at Westfield Shopping Centre in Bondi. A few days later we learnt of an attempt on the life of Orthodox Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel and another priest in Western Sydney. As Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP said “The stabbing of Bishop Mar Mari Emmanuel and Father Isaac Royel is shocking and has caused distress to many in the community”. As the Bishop said “houses of prayer have traditionally been places of peace and solace, refuge and sanctuary and so the video footage of the attack upon a religious leader during a religious service inside a church has been especially confronting”. “I urge the faithful to not respond to these events with fear, avoiding places of worship because they are worried about further attacks, nor with anger, engaging in acts of reprisal or revenge. The best response to violence and fear is prayer and peace”.

As we consider the readings for this Sunday, we are struck by the comparison between the reassuring and comforting words of Jesus who is the Good Shepherd, and the turmoil and strife that is being experienced by people of faith both in Australia and around the world. Jesus said ‘The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. ‘I am the good shepherd ...and I lay my life down for my for my sheep’. In the aftermath of the knife attack from his

hospital bed, Bishop Mari offered these words of encouragement and faith to his local community. “We need to be always thankful to Our Lord and Savior



Jesus Christ of Nazareth for whatever trials and tribulations we go through.” “We are all carrying the cross,” he said. “Let us not forget that at all.” The Bishop confirmed that he is “recovering very quickly” and said that “there is no need to be worried or concerned.” “For this young man, I say to you, you’re my son, and you’ll always be in my prayers,” he said, speaking to his attacker. “May the Lord Jesus bless you and show you the way, my dear son.” “I forgive whoever has done this act, and I say to him you are my son, I love you, and I will always pray for you,” he continued. “And whoever sent you to do this, I forgive them as well.” Emmanuel said “The Lord Jesus never taught us to fight. The Lord Jesus never taught us to retaliate. The Lord Jesus never said to us ‘an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ The Lord Jesus said, ‘Never return evil with evil, but return evil with good.’ These strike me as being the words of a good shepherd who stands firm on the truth of his faith while always gathering together his flock in reassurance.

Recent events remind us that the struggle between good and evil can certainly happen far away overseas, but it also unfolds within our own community, and it plays out too in our own hearts and minds. These events both near and far should not be a cause of fear or alarm us but prompt us to come close to Jesus who is our good shepherd. He is the one who gives courage and strength to stand up for what everything that is good, true and beautiful.

(Cont. on Page 3)

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

Those who have passed away recently...

Colleen Caldwell, Roy Collinson

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Joseph Truong, Margaret Smith

The sick... Nicole Buchanan Dawn Daff, John Wareham, Maggie Campbell, Carmel Gowans, Frances Glare, Sr Elizabeth Brown-Russell, John Miller, Fiona Leyden, Annette O'Brien, Maree Bracken.

(Names of the sick will be published for one month, unless otherwise requested. If you would like a Mass to be offered a loved one's intentions, envelopes are available at the back of the church.)



Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours

Have you been considering whether an overseas professional placement with Palms is for you? Wanting to share your skills with communities in the Pacific, Asia or Africa to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty? Come to Palms' **Discovery information session at Sacred Heart Oakleigh on 22 April**. Meet our director Soraya and former Palms participants to find out more about Assignments Aboard.

Venue: Sacred Heart PRIMARY School. **Address:** 2 Mora Ave, Oakleigh **Date:** Monday 22nd April 2024
Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm **02 9560 5333 palms@palms.org.au**

Thankyou and farewell Ann

We have been blessed to have Ann Hancock working in the Parish Office in recent times. Ann's cheerful and welcoming presence in the Parish office will certainly be missed. Ann has brought her deep commitment to faith and a generous spirit of service to her role. During her time with us Ann and has built rapport with so many in our Parish community not only as parishioners but also as friends. As she leaves us to spend more time supporting and caring for family we wish Ann all the very best. Ann's last day with us was Friday, 19th April. A new Parish Secretary position is open and applicants to be interviewed in the coming weeks—Fr Patrick

Safeguarding Committee

For information: Julie Carter 0420 923 859

In the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, we consider the safety and wellbeing of all persons to be our highest priority.



Project Compassion

Thank you for your wonderful generosity!
Please remember to bring back your envelopes or

Thank you for supporting our parish

Presbytery

Supports our Parish Priest and the priests of the Archdiocese

Church

Facilitates regular parish expenses

Payment terminal in the Foyer of the Church

You can also support the Parish by electronic transfer into our NAB Bank Account for both accounts: **BSB 083-347**

Church Account no. 638 078 704

Presbytery Account no 637 953 335

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 3rd May**

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

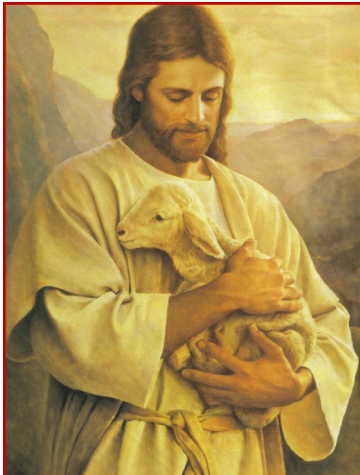
Children are to be supervised by a parent/guardian at all times.

(From page 1)

The good shepherd is one who knows the sheep and feeds them with good pasture- the word of God, the teachings of Christ, the example of love, forgiveness and support of the poor and the vulnerable.

Let us pray for all those who are suffering around the world because of fear and violence, and let us also pray for the Church, that our faith community will lead people through good shepherds – priests, bishops and deacons – to the Good Shepherd, Our Lord Jesus.

21 April (Fourth Sunday of Easter) Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.



Pope Francis tells us: There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood. On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, pray for yourself. Pray to know if God is calling YOU to be a Priest, Sister or Brother. Pray! A prayer request You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Carry them with you 'spiritually' to Mass on Sunday and place them on the alter at the offertory. Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations. 'pledge a prayer' for vocations at www.pledgetoprayer.com.au this is a site dedicated to encouraging prayer for vocations in Australia.

Summary of the PPLT meeting Saturday, March 23rd from 10am – 1.30pm

1. Church historical records and items. All parish items should be stored in a way that they can be easily accessed. Items of significance to the Parish Community could be displayed. This could take the form of a permanent book-let in foyer, and/or artefacts display set up temporarily for viewing around the feast of the Parish. A team made up of parishioners should be established to care for historical items
2. The Feast of St Thomas More and the Anniversary of the Parish's dedication will be celebrated on Sunday, June 2nd. A series of events to be planned and advertised over the next few months. Suggestions from parishioners are welcome
3. Holy week Masses and liturgies – different teams involvement and actions discussed
4. Coloring sheets for children at Mass – discussion of how this could be done effectively to support the families who attend
5. Discussion of Bishop Tony Irelands visitation report. Fr Patrick will work with each of the groups identified in the report to review and follow up. Following this feedback and discussion the Parish will be invited to participate in reporting and discussion
6. Discussion of Ron Huntley's visit last November and how we can become more welcoming, more supportive of faith, mission and outreach. Particular focus on welcoming new families to the Parish, getting them in touch with our different groups and touchpoints around the Sacraments.
7. The Baptism Preparation programme– we have 20-30 baptisms each year. How to better engage families who present young children for baptism; how to be more welcoming and intentional; how to engage with school families who are seeking baptism for younger children who missed out during COVID.
8. Planning the Alpha programme and follow up from Alpha, including RCIA (welcoming new Catholics into the Church)
9. Youth – work is underway to run regular monthly events for young adults based in Mornington Peninsula. Team of five young adults are regularly meeting and networking with other young adults in Melbourne Archdiocese to plan and promote regular events
10. Christmas family Mass and School Prep welcome Mass review and improvements for next year
11. Parish Volunteers drive – following from last years thanksgiving renewal the PPLT will co-ordinate a campaign where parishioners are invited to commit to giving some time each month in a ministry of their choice. Aiming to advertise and complete before July
12. Dates of PPLT meetings set: April 20th; May 26th; July 27th; September 14th; November 9th; Advent dinner December 1st. Parishioners can always approach a PPLT member for feedback or concerns.

Entrance Antiphon

The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia

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 **Acts 4: 8-12**

The name of Jesus Christ is the only name in which we can be saved.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 117**

The stone rejected by the builders has become the corner stone.

Second reading **1 John 3:1-2**

We shall be like God because we shall see him as he really is.

Gospel Acclamation **John 10:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel **John 10:11-18**

The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

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 Good Shepherd has risen,
who laid down his life for his sheep
and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.



Next Sunday's Readings:
5th Sunday of Easter - Year B 28th April

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Gospel: John 15:1-8