



SEASONS

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time-Year B

February 11th 2024

Diary

Ash Wednesday Masses

14th February 10.00am and 7.00pm

Bishop Ireland visiting the parish

Friday 16th Feb to Sunday 18th Feb

**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 12th Feb

Tuesday	Mass	5.30pm
Tuesday	Adoration	6.00pm

ASH Wednesday

Masses 10.00am* & 7.00pm

Thursday*	Mass	10.00am
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Friday	Adoration	9.00am
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Friday	Mass	10.00am
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Saturday: Bishop Ireland Visitation

*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass.

Reconciliation

Tuesday	6.00pm – 6.30pm
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Friday	9.30am - 10.00am
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Saturday	4.30pm - 5.00pm
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Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil	5.00pm
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Sunday	8.00am
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Sunday	10.00am
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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 coming Wednesday marks the beginning of our Lenten journey to the crucifixion and resurrection of Our Lord. Before we do anything important, we always prepare for it. Whether it is a wedding rehearsal, a football match, an important exam, or a big dinner for the whole family. And If something is important we want to familiarise ourselves with it and prepare so that we can give it our best shot. This is what Lent is all about. On Ash Wednesday we begin our preparations seriously. The Church asks us to abstain from meat and to fast from one full meal. On this day, the physical hunger gnaws away at us as a steady reminder of what we are doing, and why. The space in our stomachs creates space in our hearts and minds for God. I pray the prayer, fasting and generosity of Lent will be a sacred time that brings us closer to the Lord.



Reflection:

Pope Francis has centred his Lenten message for 2024 on the Book of Exodus. The Pope framed this reflection on the departure of the Israelites from Egypt, a story that not only represents the journey from bondage to emancipation but also of revelation and spiritual freedom. “When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom,” the pope said. The Holy Father went on to note that this process “is a demanding one” and that “it is not answered straight away. It has to mature as part of a journey.” “We realize how true this is at those moments when we feel hopeless, wandering through life like a desert and lacking a promised land as our destination. Lent is the season of grace in which the desert can become once more — in the words of the prophet Hosea — the place of our first love,” the pope observed.

Pope Francis also underscored the centrality of the desert in the New Testament, observing that on the first Sunday of Lent, we are reminded that Jesus “was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom.” “The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken,” the pope added. Tying the season of Lent to the setting of the desert, the pope noted that the penitential season cannot be looked at just as an “abstract journey” but must, instead, be “concrete,” and this shift is predicated upon our capacity to “open our eyes to reality.” For the pope, this reality is centered on the quest to mitigate the suffering and various forms of social and economic oppression that are ubiquitous today, much of which, he said, is caused by “a deficit of hope.” “This ‘deficit of hope’ is not unlike the nostalgia for slavery that paralyzed Israel in the desert and prevented it from moving forward. An exodus can be interrupted: How else can we explain the fact that humanity has arrived at the threshold of universal fraternity and at levels of scientific, technical, cultural, and juridical development capable of guaranteeing dignity to all, yet gropes about in the darkness of inequality and conflict?” During Lent 2024, the pope has encouraged the faithful to undertake an interior examination by asking: “Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us?” The Lenten season, according to the pope, is a time that is characterized by personal struggle as we suffer from myriad temptations, but it is the recognition of this that calls us to “pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the

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

Those who have passed away recently...

Brian Fallows, Des Leyden

A Requiem Mass for Brian Fallows will be held at STM
on Thursday 15th Feb at 11.30am



Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Laurie Gage, Michael Pierce, Eileen Kilgariff, Hayden Jackson, Tom Connolly, Terry Sutton,
Lee Rayner, Peggy Fox, Keith Donovan, Alice Murtagh, Trish Hutchinson, Leo Fennessy, Patricia Duguid,
Pat May, David Dole, Lucy Tuck, Clare Sullivan

The sick... Fiona Leyden, Annette O'Brien, Gui Hone, Jim Bourke, Caroline Herbert, Bev Johnstone,
Maree Bracken, Eileen O'Beirne, Michael MacKenzie, Betty Corke, Maureen Anstey, Rosalie McKiernan,
Sue Emerton, Noel Anstey and Mary Doherty

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

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

Safeguarding Committee



For information:

Julie Carter 0420 923 859

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. In the Catholic
Archdiocese of Melbourne, we consider the safety and
wellbeing of all persons to be our highest priority.

We too acknowledge that children, young people and
adults at risk may require additional safeguards to
promote their participation, wellbeing and safety.

We respect the human dignity of each person and strive
to create an inclusive and welcoming Church that enables
its people to grow and develop in their faith freely and in a
caring and supportive environment.

Another Fashion parade?

Lois Bracken would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in attending another fashion parade in the parish, presented by her daughters: Donna & Colleen of U and I Fashions. At least 20 ladies would need to attend, for this function to proceed. Please register your interest by contacting **Lois on 9787 2970.**

St Vincent de Paul –Annual Christmas Collection



Your parish conference of the St Vincent de Paul
Society wishes to thank you for your contribution to our
appeal at Christmas masses. In excess of \$1,400 was donated
to help alleviate the hardships suffered by our local
community's less fortunate brothers and sisters.
Marilyn Moloney, President

Want to become a Catholic?

At S.T.M, we are about to start enrolments for those who would like to learn about our beautiful Catholic faith. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a Catholic or being fully initiated into the faith, the first step is to register for the Alpha programme. Following this candidates will be invited to start RCIA / Catechesim in July 2024 with the Sacraments to be received in November. Details of Alpha on page 3

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

Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister.” Highlighting the three pillars of Lent — prayer, almsgiving, and fasting — the pope noted that they are not disparate acts but form a symbiotic “movement of openness and self-emptying in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us.” “I invite every Christian community to do just this: to offer its members moments set aside to rethink their lifestyles, times to examine their presence in society, and the contribution they make to its

Bishop Ireland Parish Visitation Schedule 2024

Friday, 16th February

(Events underlined are open to all)

10am Mass with Parish

11am Morning tea with School Staff

11.45am St Thomas More School Grade Six Confirmation Candidates

12.30pm School Executive Leadership Team

1.30pm Lunch art Presbytery & Free time

3.00pm Parish Staff, Tour of buildings and registers

4.30pm Afternoon tea with Parish Staff

5.00pm Safeguarding Committee

6.30pm Dinner with Pastoral Council at Presbytery

Saturday, 17th February

9am St Vincent de Paul Chair and Leadership

9.30am Catechetical team

10am Finance Committee

10:30am Morning tea & Parish Forum

“Opportunity for Parishioners to speak with the Bishop about priorities, goals and challenges”- (no clergy)

Please RSVP on sheets in church foyer

12.30pm Lunch

2.30pm House visits

4.00pm Youth

5.00pm Vigil Mass

6.30pm Dinner with family

Sunday, 18th February

8am Mass

10am Mass

11am Morning tea



Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each week looks at a different question around life and faith such as

- * Is there more to life than this?
- * Who is Jesus?
- * How can I make the most of the rest of my life?

Alpha is fun, relaxed and free - and you can ask anything you like! Millions around the world have found it a wonderful introduction to the Christian faith.

Each session starts with a meal. There's a video presentation and plenty of time to ask questions and share opinions - it's designed to create conversation. And there's no obligation and no pressure.

'Alpha was the best thing I ever did. It helped answer some huge questions and to find a simple empowering faith in my life.'

Bear Grylls, TV Adventurer

Starts Thursday, 7th of March @ 7pm

For more information or to register please contact Parish Office. Registration also through trybooking <https://www.trybooking.com/CPFDZ>



Alpha Programme

Commencing 7th March 2024, 7pm

The PPLT warmly invites parishioners, members of the school community and anyone from our local community to join us for Alpha. The Alpha programme has attracted nearly 22 million people to learn more deeply about their faith and to explore belief in a non judgemental, no pressure setting. The programme looks at who is Jesus? Why did he die? How can I have faith, understand the bible and pray? What is the Holy Spirit? What about evil, the Church, being a follower of Christ today?

Sessions are scheduled for Thursday evenings from 7pm until around 8:30pm. The meetings will run from 7th of March, taking a break for Easter then running each week from the 18th of April until we finish on 30th of May. There is no charge nor any obligation to attend particular sessions.

Alpha is also the pathway for anyone in the community who is interested in becoming a Catholic. Once completing the Alpha series, RCIA / Catechism classes will commence in July for those adults and older children who have not yet been baptised Catholic, or for those adults who are baptised Catholic and would like to receive their first communion, reconciliation and confirmation. If anyone is interested in becoming Catholic, Alpha is the first step on this journey.

For more information on any questions please contact the Parish or speak with Fr Patrick after Mass

Registrations can be made at [trybooking.com/CPFDZ](https://www.trybooking.com/CPFDZ)

Entrance Antiphon

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

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 **Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46**

The unclean man must live outside the camp.

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 31**

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second reading **1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1**

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

Gospel Acclamation**Isaiah 61:1**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us; God has visited his people. Alleluia!

Gospel**Mark 1:40-45**

The leprosy left the man at once, and he was cured.

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

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Next Sunday's Readings:

1st Sunday of Lent –Year B

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15