

SEASONS

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

Eleventh & Twelfth Sundays of Ordinary Time, Year B

June 16th & 23rd 2024



From Archbishop Peter: My greetings to you, in Christ Jesus, Prince of Peace.

You may be aware that I was overseas for the better part of the past two weeks, though I had been silent on where I was heading prior to leaving. Now that I am home, I would like to let you know that I have been in the Holy Lands of Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon on a pilgrimage of solidarity, first with Rabbi Yaakov Glasman AM, Senior Rabbi of the St Kilda Shule (in Israel) and then Bishop Antoine-Charbel Tarabay OLM, Maronite Bishop of Australia (in Lebanon). There was a need to keep quiet about this before going, as there were security issues to attend to, and public knowledge of travel between the two countries would likely have prevented entry into either country.

The pilgrimage allowed for significant opportunities in prayer, engagement and learning through that part of the world where, in the past, Christ walked and ministered, and where, today, the great Abrahamic religions and historical cultures live side-by-side, in very complex, and presently tragic ways.

It was particularly powerful for me to stand with my friend, Rabbi Yaakov, at the Western Wall of the Temple in Jerusalem, and to pray together Psalm 150 and Isaiah 2.1-5. Likewise, it was a moment of profound blessing to be in prayer with Bishop Antoine before the great Lebanese holy men and women, especially St Charbel and St Rafqa.

I had the honour of meeting with both the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa OFM, and the Maronite Patriarch of Antioch, Cardinal al-Rahi OMM. These were both spiritual encounters and moments of insight. These men of God, and the Churches they lead, deserve our prayer and support.

You cannot go to the Holy Lands today without facing into the complex and tragic realities that are currently playing out. For example, it was (obviously) impossible to travel into Gaza. It also proved too difficult to spend any significant time in the West Bank. Nonetheless, opportunities did emerge to engage with people who live in these wounded locations, as well as the suffering of Israel and the beleaguered of Lebanon.

A chance meeting in Jerusalem with two religious sisters who had only just come from the Holy Family Parish compound in Gaza City, having been living there through the first 6 months of the war, was humbling and revealing. The difficulty of living in the compound was harrowing to hear, yet the level of hope that they continue to hold was telling. Similarly, speaking with a victim of the devastating explosion in the Port of Beirut of 2020 opened up the difficulty of coming to the truth of what occurred, so as to find justice for those effected. (I carried home with me a simple wooden cross made from the debris of the explosion, given to our local Church by the Archbishop of Beirut.) Most Rev Peter A Comensoli Archbishop of Melbourne St Patrick's Centre, PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia Tel: +61 3 9926 5612 Email: archbishop@cam.org.au

Amid what might seem a complete breakdown in society, based on ancient hatreds, there are hidden jewels of goodness and rightness, and signs of reconciliation. In Jerusalem, we met with a group of senior clinicians and medical administrators who have established a program of palliative care – the only common endeavour in Israel – jointly led by a mixed group of Jewish, Muslim and Christian leaders. This program, the Rozana Project, is available to any person – no matter their religious or cultural background – in Jerusalem and the Palestinian Territories. It seeks

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Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au
Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

Office Days:
Wednesdays 1pm to 4pm

At the moment the office is running on reduced hours. Email is the preferred means of communication. Emails, voicemails and letters are being checked and responded to twice per week

Pastoral Leadership Team
Fr Patrick Bradford, Ruth Hilton, Joe Sayah, Emma Chapple, Sandra Taylor, Kathy Raccanello

Pastoral Finance Committee
Joe Sayah, Jim Bourke, Joan Bekery-Coleman

Church Services from June 16th

Monday Rosary 12pm

Tuesday Rosary 12pm

Wednesday Rosary 12pm

Thursday Rosary 12pm

Friday* No Mass/ Rosary

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

Reconciliation

Saturday 4.30pm – 5.00pm

While Fr Patrick is away there is a limited Mass schedule at St Thomas More. Further details on alternative services are on page 3

First Friday / Saturday/ Sunday of each month : First Friday / Saturday currently suspended while Fr Patrick is away.

Sunday 2nd July Filipino Mass @ 4.00 pm

We pray for: **Those who have passed away recently:** Gianna Santarosa 

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time:
Ian Dash, Margaret Greaves, Nance Awburn, Maria De Jong, Dragana Bedenikovic, George Awburn, Roger Pearson, John Herbert, Frances Taylor, Tony Collins, Harold Redfern

The sick... Nicole Buchanan Dawn Daff, John Wareham, Maggie Campbell, Carmel Gowans, 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

Padua College School Advisory Council Representative



Padua College School Advisory Council is the governing board which meets once per month to provide advice and support to the Principal, Kelly McGurn in her leadership of several hundred staff and three thousand students across three campuses. The school constitution has been written to include representation from each parish which owns Padua College and to represent the clergy who collectively are responsible for supporting the Catholic mission at the college. Preferably, the parish representative is someone actively committed to their faith, with a knowledge of education and is able to contribute to the Catholic mission of the School. There is currently a vacancy on the board for a St Thomas More Parish representative. The term is for two years, the board meets once per month. The person need not have a child at Padua college. If anyone is interested in this, please contact me directly by email: Patrick.bradford@cam.org.au

Faith Formation for Adults each Thursday night from July 25th in Parish Community Centre

We have some people within our community who are interested in becoming a Catholic or who want to explore their faith. Following the successful launch of the Alpha Programme which focused more on personal faith, the Holy Spirit and prayer, we are now launching the formal catechetical part of our instruction for adults. We are further inviting anyone to join us for regular meetings where we will learn about the Catholic Faith, answer questions and enter into the mysteries, history and beauty of the Church's life and teachings. Over the next few months, Fr Patrick will present 14 classes on various topics. If you or someone you know would like to become Catholic the classes each week will help prepare you to receive Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion. These will be celebrated on November 24th. If you are interested in this please email me directly: Patrick.bradford@cam.org.au. However, anyone is able to join any of the classes if you are curious of would like to know more about the faith. Details below:

Faith Formation Classes 7pm—8.15pm

Date	Topic
25/7/24	Faith and God in the world
1/8/24	The Church
8/8/24	Scripture
15/8/24	God's family- Father, Son, Holy Spirit
BREAK	
29/8/24	Prayer: why and how to pray
5/9/24	Intro to Sacraments: Baptism & Confirmation
12/9/24	Eucharist & the Mass
19/9/24	Confession & Anointing
BREAK - SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
BREAK - SCHOOL HOLIDAYS	
10/10/24	Marriage & holy orders
17/10/24	10 Commandments "worship God alone"
24/10/24	10 commandments "love one another"
31/10/24	10 commandments "relationships"
7/11/24	10 commandments "speaking truth and using things well"
14/11/24	Saints and Mary
21/11/24	World without end

Changes to Mass times and Parish Office

Fr Patrick will be away from next week for a conference, annual retreat and holidays. During this time there will be weekday Mass only on Fridays (except this Friday, 14th June). There will be **no change** to Mass times on the weekends as four different priests will be visiting to offer Mass and hear confessions on Saturday night. The Parish Office will be generally closed to the public but will be attended twice a week to respond to messages, emails and phone calls and for regular counting teams. Email is the preferred means of contact during this time for non urgent or routine matters. If you need a priest urgently, please contact either St McCartans' in Mornington on 59752200 or St Francis Xavier, Frankston 97833484. Weekday Masses are available at Mornington Tuesday—Friday at 9.15am. While there are no Masses being scheduled, there will be the opportunity to come to the Church for personal prayer and to recite the rosary at 12pm, midday, Monday—Thursday. All are very welcome.

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

to build peace through healthcare by building bridges between people. In Lebanon, the local Caritas agency has developed programs of education and jobs training that aids anyone in need in a society beset by economic crisis and political impasse.

There are many other stories to be told of these past few days, and I will look to write a more significant piece on my experience in the Holy Lands of Israel, the Palestinian Territories and Lebanon. At this immediate moment, I simply wish to bring an initial impression to you of this pilgrimage of solidarity. But do wish to offer one final impression now. My time away on pilgrimage was a blessing. In all the tragic complexity of what is occurring politically, and the wounds that are festering consequently, there are nonetheless signs of hope, actions of goodness and people of welcome and hospitality – of us, and of each other.

It can be so easy to reduce what is currently unfolding in these lands to sound bites on social media, usually tinged by ideology and political manipulation. The hostages must be released; a ceasefire must be found – these are the first things needed. But then, there is a need for peacebuilding and truth-telling. Among the people I met on the pilgrim road, there are active agents for finding pathways to dialogue, reconciliation and the bridging of divides.

As I celebrated Mass in a small chapel in Galilee on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australia, I prayed in gratitude for the many blessings of good will and justice that we are graced to live with, and work for, here in this country, and I prayed in petition that we avoid turning away from truthfulness and moral uprightness. Might I ask therefore, in your own Christian charity, that you keep all who are suffering, displaced, and persecuted in the lands where Jesus walked close in your prayers.

Thank you for supporting our parish

Presbytery Account: Supports our Parish Priest, other priests of the Archdiocese, sick and retired clergy and the Archbishop

Church Account: Covers regular parish expenses including loan repayments insurance, rates, utilities, staff, repairs / maintenance, cleaning and groundskeeping. **Payment terminal in the Foyer of the Church supports this account**

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

11th Sunday, 16th of June

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Ps 27: 8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people,
a saving refuge for the one he has anointed.
Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage,
and govern them for ever.

Gloria

[See back page](#)

Responsorial Psalm 91:2-3,13-16

Give thanks to the Lord, his love is everlasting

Second reading **2 Cor: 5:6-10**
from the body and make our home with the Lord

We want to be exiled

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The see is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live forever. Allelulua!

Gospel **Mark 4:35-41**

Communion Antiphon **Ps 144: 15**

The eyes of all look to you, Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.

Creed

[See back page](#)

Communion Antiphon

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life

Thanksgiving envelopes and contributions

We are very grateful for the financial support offered by the 124 families who are registered givers at the parish. For those who contribute by envelope, new envelopes dated from July are now available in the foyer of the Church, sorted alphabetically by last name. After EOFY June 30, in July, the parish will send out giving statements for those who contribute either electronically or by envelopes. This will contain a report detailing how your support is spent on providing for the the parish's mission and outreach. Thanks again for your generosity and offering of time, treasure and talent. Fr PB



12th Sunday , 23rd June**Entrance Antiphon**

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people Lord, and bless your heritage. And govern them forever.

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 Genesis 3:9-15

I was afraid because I was naked, and I hid

Responsorial Psalm 129

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption

Second reading**2 Cor: 4:13-5:1**

We are being trained to carry the weight of eternal glory

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Princes of this world will now be cast out, and when I am lifted up from the earth I will draw all to myself, says the Lord, Alleluia!

Gospel**Mark 3:20-35**

A kingdom divided against itself cannot stand


Nicean Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(At the words that follow up to and including and became man, all bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen. 

The mystery of faith

When we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim your death O Lord, until you come again

Communion Antiphon

the Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my saving strength.