



# SEASONS

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

5th Sunday of Easter —Year B

April 29th 2024

Diary **Wednesday 1st May @ 7pm—First Reconciliation for St Thomas More Children**

**Thursday 2nd May @ 7pm—Baptism preparation meeting**

**311 Canadian Bay Rd  
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930  
Phone: 9787 7777**

**Email: [MountEliza@cam.org.au](mailto:MountEliza@cam.org.au)  
Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>**

Parish Priest:

**Rev. Fr. Patrick Bradford**

Office Days—

Wednesday 3pm to 5pm

Friday 1pm to 5pm

**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 29th

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.

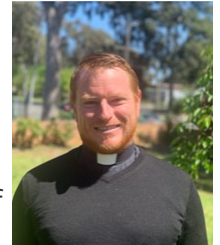
From Loyola Press:

Today's reading from the Gospel of John is part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper. Recall that John tells the story of Jesus' Last Supper differently from the other Evangelists. In John's Gospel, the Last Supper begins with Jesus washing his disciples' feet. Jesus then provides them with a series of instructions. We call this section the Last Supper discourse or Jesus' farewell discourse. In these chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples about the importance of following his example of love and service, about the gift they will receive when Jesus sends them the Holy Spirit, and about their relationship with Jesus and with the world. The Last Supper discourse concludes with Jesus' prayer for his disciples.

Today's Gospel reading is taken from middle of the Last Supper discourse. Jesus speaks about his relationship to his disciples. In his metaphor of the vine and the branches, Jesus is referencing the Hebrew Scriptures. In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is the vineyard, and Yahweh himself tends the vineyard. One of the primary themes of John's Gospel is to show Jesus to be the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples that his relationship with them will not end after his death; he will remain with them always. This unity between Jesus and his disciples is the basis for their ability to continue to do the work that he began.

Similarly, Jesus' presence with us through the Gift of the Holy Spirit enables us to continue the work of love and reconciliation that he began.



Jesus also teaches his disciples about the importance of the words he has taught to them. Just as Jesus will remain in the disciples, so too will his words. We come to know Jesus through the Scriptures, the living Word of God. Our commitment to be Christ's disciples is sustained through God's Word. This commitment is also strengthened by our life of prayer and nourished by the Eucharist. Through the Eucharist, Jesus dwells in us, remains with us, and transforms us so that we might bear fruit in his name.

We observe many people who act in ways that show their commitment to serve their neighbor. Christians and non-Christians feed the hungry, care for the sick, shelter the homeless, and give alms to the poor. These actions become acts of Christian discipleship when they are motivated by our relationship with Jesus. Whatever the immediate results, Jesus promises us that these actions will bear fruit when we undertake them in his name.

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

**Those who have passed away recently...**

Colleen Caldwell

**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..**

Peter Taylor, Joe Kilgariff, Frances Ninnes, Bernadette Thomas

**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.)*



### Thankyou and farewell to 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. We thanked Ann with a farewell luncheon on Wednesday 25th of April. Ann again wanted to thank parishioners for their kind phone calls, emails and well wishes. A new Parish Secretary position is open and applicants to be interviewed in the coming weeks—Fr Patrick

### Aid to Church in Need

This organisation helps Catholic communities around the world through material support for catechesis, buildings and personnel as well as spiritual support through facilitating masses and prayers for struggling communities. Of particular note at this time is the Catholic community in Gaza who are under immense pressure. A.C.N will be visiting St Thomas More next weekend, May 4th and 5th.



### 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 boxes to the church.**

### Mass Count

During the month of May during the offertory collectors will be performing a census of those who attend Mass at St Thomas More Parish

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!

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

## Christianity in the Public Square

More than 230 people gathered for the first Melbourne Catholic Professionals (MCP) luncheon of 2024, where Greg Sheridan AO, foreign editor for *The Australian*, shared his encouraging experience of ‘coming out’ as a Christian in public life. Despite a long career in journalism—he says he has been ‘an opinionated newspaper columnist’ since he was a boy and before he had an ‘outlet’—it has only been in the last several years he has chosen to become more vocal in his defence of Christianity. He never actively hid his Catholicism, but sensing that the public culture was becoming more ‘hostile’ to Christian belief and values, he felt prompted to do more. If chance gives you a public microphone, you have a duty to speak in defence of the truth and, more basically, to stand up for your friends.

‘I don’t want to overstate that,’ he admitted. ‘We Christians are not persecuted in Australia, but we live in a now actively hostile public culture ... So that’s not an argument for the past. The past is a foreign country. It had its own demons, its own wickedness. It’s simply recognising a changing circumstance. Now, in that circumstance, if chance gives you a public microphone, you have a duty to speak in defence of the truth and, more basically, to stand up for your friends.’ Mr Sheridan shared that BA Santamaria and Archbishop Daniel Mannix were among his greatest mentors and influences. Both were unafraid, in their time, of taking a public stand for those things. Mr Sheridan acknowledged that he was not a person of ‘great virtue’, and sympathises with the figure of Nicodemus from the gospels, who, despite knowing who Jesus was, keeps it to himself and only after his crucifixion comes out and organises a burial for his friend. His primary fear was not persecution so much as ‘the obvious failure of my life to mirror Christianity’. ‘It’s much classier to be a person of great virtue who has problems with the doctrine of the Trinity or transubstantiation or something,’ Mr Sheridan said. ‘I’m absolutely the reverse: a man of almost no virtue who nonetheless clings to the truth because the truth is true, and because it’s the only path to sanity.’ When I finally did ‘come out’ [as a Christian], I found the reaction was overwhelmingly friendly, even from people who absolutely objected and disagreed with everything I said or wrote. Nevertheless, he received additional prompts from Jesus himself, who forthrightly commands his followers not to be ashamed of him before others (Luke 9:26; Mark 8:38; Matthew 10:33). Prominently atheist news anchors have allowed him to come on and discuss the importance of Christianity and belief in God; some people have begun to think more deeply about Christianity or even returned to the Church; despite profound disagreements at the level of politics, Mr Sheridan was also able to uncover the deeper religious experiences of some high-profile politicians. *God is Good For You* explores the faith of politicians who diverge widely when it comes to politics, from Mary Easson and Kristina Keneally to Malcolm Turnbull AC, Kevin Rudd AC and Kim Beazley AC. We have every reason to be hopeful and even optimistic because we follow a God who knows his way out of the grave. His writing on Christian themes has also offered moments of solidarity with other believers and opportunities to hear from Christians around the world doing incredible work. He cited one interview he did for his book *Christians* with Gemma Sisia, a young woman who now lives in Africa with her family building schools and teaching children. ‘At the end of that interview, I felt better about being a human being,’ he said. He encouraged everyone at the luncheon do the same, to be unafraid of being a public Christian—not only because one day we will have to account for ourselves before God, but because it offers ‘moments of grace and happiness’ beyond our expectations. It can also be ‘great fun’. ‘All of this resolves into saying that coming out as a public Christian is great fun, and it’s worth doing, and it brings the truth to people, and it encourages fellow Christians. In many ways these are difficult times, but we have every reason to be hopeful and even optimistic because we follow a God who



## ANZAC Day—Message from Archbishop Peter Comensoli

Friends, we come once again to Anzac Day, this very major and important commemoration for our nation, as we recall those who have given their lives and service for the defence of our country. This Anzac Day—every Anzac Day—is a commemoration not of the glory of war or of conflict, but of honour and towards sacrifice ... that sacrifice that has taken place particularly commemorating the moments that happened at Anzac Cove but [also] in terms of all those in our Australian context who have been involved in war and conflict. So those people who are military, but also civilian; of warriors and workers ... all to be commemorated this day by way of honour, not of glory. On this Anzac Day particularly, I think there’s a purpose in saying ‘no’ to war, ‘no’ to a way of life that involves conflict, but also ‘no’ to injustice and hatred. And there

we need to consider both the reality that sometimes conflict does happen, but that our intention, our work, our service, is towards peace. So, on this commemoration of Anzac Day, let us say ‘yes’ to peace; for work towards what is good ... to dialogue amongst peoples. Lest we forget.

**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 9:26-31**

Barnabas explained how the Lord has appeared to Saul on his .

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 21:26-28,30-32**

I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people

**Second reading** **I John 3:18-24**

The commandment of faith and love

**Gospel Acclamation** **John 10:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

**Gospel** **John 15:1-8**

I am the vine, you are the branches

**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**

If you love me, keep my commandments, says the  
Lord and I will ask the Father and he will send you  
another Paraclete, to abide with you forever,  
Alleluia



Next Sunday's Readings:  
**6th Sunday of Easter - Year B 5th May**

1st Reading: Acts 10:25-48

2nd Reading: I John 4:7-10

Gospel: John 15:9-17