



SEASONS

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

Twentieth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

August 18th 2024

**311 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930**

Phone: 9787 7777

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

Website: <http://pol.org.au/mounteliza>

Office Days:

Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30am to 4:30pm

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 11.8.24

Sundays

Saturday Vigil Mass 5.00pm

Sunday Mass 8.00am

Sunday Mass 10.00am

Wednesday Mass 10:00am

Thursday Mass 10:00am

Friday* Mass 10.00am

*Rosary prayed before this Mass.

Reconciliation times

Tuesday 6.00pm — 6.30pm

Friday 9.30am — 10.00am

Saturday 4.30pm — 5.00pm

Adoration

Tuesday 6:00pm -7:00pm

New opening times:

The Church will now be open during office hours, from 9am until 4.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays. All are very welcome to drop in for quiet prayer.

Fr Patrick will be away at a conference so there will be no Mass on Tuesday and no Adoration on Thursday, all other mass times remain the same.

Reflection from Loyola Press.com's Sunday Connection

On this Sunday, we continue to read from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of John. Today's Gospel elaborates further on the teaching that Jesus began in our liturgy last week. In that reading, the crowds wondered about how Jesus could say that he had come down from heaven because they knew Jesus to be the son of Joseph. In this Gospel, some have difficulty with Jesus' teaching that he is the living bread sent from God. Recall that Jesus had told them that just as God gave the Israelites manna to sustain them in the desert, so now God has sent new manna that will give eternal life. We hear the concluding verse of last week's Gospel repeated in today's reading: Jesus himself is the bread sent by God; Jesus' flesh is the bread that is given for the life of the world.

Among the stumbling blocks for those who heard but did not understand Jesus is the teaching that the bread that Jesus will give is his own flesh. In response to the people who quarreled over his words, Jesus teaches with even greater emphasis that salvation comes to those who eat his Body and Blood. Jesus doesn't seem to answer the question posed about how salvation will come about, perhaps because this reality can only be understood after his death and Resurrection. Instead, Jesus teaches about the life that he will give to the world.

To many ears, Jesus' words are jarring and difficult to hear. Many who heard Jesus could not accept what he said. Many today continue to struggle to accept these words. But they are important words because they reveal our intimate connection with Jesus.

This is the mystery that is at the heart of our eucharistic theology. In the elements of bread and wine, Jesus' Body and Blood are made truly present. When we share in the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus himself comes to dwell within us. This communion with the Lord makes us one body, brings us eternal life, and sends us forth to be Christ's body for the life of the world.

We

Those who have passed away recently:

pray for:

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time:

Thomas Hansen, Donn O'Connor, Doris Driscoll, James T Kennedy, Kaye Coughlan, Olga Mary Brady, Thomas P Smith, Ruby McCartney, Kevin Sheehy, William Lindner, Dr Trevor Connolly, Ida Smeeton, Fredereick Taylor

The sick... Barbara Hunt, Charlie Ebsworth, Nicole Buchanan Dawn Daff, 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.



Faith Formation for Adults each Thursday night from July 25th in Parish Community Centre 7pm - 8:15pm.

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 warmly 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:

| Date | Topic |
|-------------------------|---|
| 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 | |
| 10/10/24 | Marriage & Holy Orders |
| 17/10/24 | Catholic Social Teaching |
| 24/10/24 | 10 Commandments 1-4—Love of God |
| 31/10/24 | 10 Commandments 5-10 Love of neighbour pt 1 |
| 7/11/24 | 10 Commandments 5-10 Love of neighbour pt 2 |
| 14/11/24 | The Saints and Mary |
| 21/11/24 | World without end |

Day of prayer for peace

In the world and in our hearts

On the anniversary of the Feast of Our Lady of Victories, the St Thomas More community will gather on Monday, 7th October for a day of prayer, recollection, meditation and fellowship. This date will mark the first anniversary of the recent tensions that erupted in Israel last year, and have continued until now. The day will run from 9am until 4pm and there will be opportunity for Mass, adoration, reconciliation, the Rosary, divine mercy chaplet as well as time for fellowship and reflection.

Save the date: October 7th





2024 Archbishop's Campaign: supporting the future of our faith community

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

This weekend marks the second weekend of the 2024 Archbishop's Campaign across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The focus of this year's campaign honours the priests who have faithfully served our community of faith in the past and invites us to invest in those preparing to serve the community of faith in the future. This new annual campaign is more than just a fundraising effort; it's a chance for us to show our gratitude and to support the next generation of priests who will continue this vital and sacred ministry.

Information regarding the Archbishop's Campaign including details on how you may contribute and gifting envelopes are available in the foyer.

End of life Care

(copies of the full document are available in the foyer of the Church, or online through melbournecatholic.org.au)

Australia's Catholic bishops have released a new document to Catholics who are providing pastoral support to those who are considering accessing the Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) scheme. The Companion Guide has been written as a tool to help Catholics reflect and learn from *To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope*, a document endorsed by the bishops in November 2023.

To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope was produced in the wake of the Voluntary Assisted Dying legalisation in all Australian states. It is important for those caring for the sick and dying to have access to compassionate and relevant pastoral advice and spiritual support. 'This is a timely resource, which offers guidance for carers, chaplains, family and friends of the sick and the dying,' said Bishop Tim Harris, the bishop delegate for the Euthanasia Taskforce. 'In challenging circumstances, it is important for those caring for the sick and dying to have access to compassionate and relevant pastoral advice and spiritual support, which this resource provides.'

'The Church continues to respect the dignity of the person, especially when they are at their most vulnerable. This guide supports and assists those facing difficult and challenging circumstances at the end of life.' In preparing the original document, the bishops consulted widely with a range of people, including Church leaders and health professionals. The bishops have also worked with the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Catholic Health Australia, the peak body representing 80 public and private hospitals and 350 aged care facilities, says governments must invest more in palliative care services. A large majority of Australians support government investment in palliative care, but chronic funding shortfalls are limiting access.

'When it comes to end-of-life, our members choose to specialise in palliative care,' said CEO Jason Kara. 'We know that a large majority of Australians support government investment in palliative care, but chronic funding shortfalls are limiting access to quality care, particularly in rural and regional locations. 'Without quality and accessible palliative care, there is a real risk that some patients decide on ending their own lives when they may not otherwise have done so.'

One of the many reasons individuals seek out Catholic healthcare services is its focus on pastoral care in the form of accompaniment, conversations,



Sunday, 18th August

20th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
And look on the face of your anointed one;
one day within your courts
is better than a thousand elsewhere.

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 Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom builds her house and invites all to eat her
bread there

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 33(34):2-3,10-15

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second reading Ephesians 5:15-20

Be filled not with wine, but with the Spirit

Gospel Acclamation John 6:56

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who eat my flesh and drink my blood
live in me and I in them, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink

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 Jn 6:51-52

I am the living bread that came down from heaven,
says the Lord.

Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.