



SEASONS

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

1st Sunday of Lent-Year B

February 18th 2024

Diary

Bishop Ireland visiting the parish

Friday 16th Feb to Sunday 18th Feb

SVdP Meeting

Monday 19th Feb 9.30am

**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

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 19th Feb

Tuesday Mass 5.30pm

Tuesday Adoration 6.00pm

Wednesday * Mass 10.00am

Thursday* Mass 10.00am

Friday Adoration 9.00am

Friday Mass 10.00am

*The Rosary will be prayed before this Mass.

Reconciliation

Tuesday 6.00pm –6.30pm

Friday 9.30am -10.00am

Saturday 4.30pm - 5.00pm

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil 5.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

Sunday 10.00am

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 weekend we welcome Bishop Tony Ireland who will be visiting St Thomas More Parish. While our Archdiocese of Melbourne is enormous – over 200 parishes and schools, the Archbishop intends to have each parish personally visited by a bishop every five years. Bishop Ireland’s visit is a tangible reminder of two things. Firstly, that St Thomas More Parish is not one piece, but an important part of a whole body. What we do as parishioners, volunteers, clergy and staff impacts on our own community but also impacts on the mission of the wider Church in Melbourne. Secondly, the pastoral visitation is an exercise in dialogue, where the Archbishop will carefully listen to the joys and challenges of our community, and we carefully listen to his hopes, dreams and expectations for our Parish. The schedule for the bishop’s visit is posted in Seasons, and there will be opportunities for parishioners to catch up with him throughout the weekend, especially around the Mass times.



A Lenten reflection from The Catholic Life:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry. Matthew 4:1–2 “Forty” is a significant number. In Scripture, it is used more than 145 different times. For example, the rain during the Great Flood lasted forty days and forty nights. Each time Moses went up Mount Sinai, he remained there for forty days and nights. The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days before ascending into Heaven. And there are many other uses of “forty” throughout the Bible. Interestingly, forty is even significant within human nature, in that we develop within our mother’s womb for forty weeks before being born.

The “forty” that we commemorate today is the forty days and forty nights that our Lord spent in the desert being tempted by the devil while He fasted and prayed. Forty is used to symbolize a time of testing, purification, trial or probation. For that reason, it should also be seen as a symbol of your entire life here on earth. In Saint Matthew’s version of Jesus’ temptation in the desert, he specifically uses the wording “forty days and forty nights.” Saint Bede, in commenting upon this, points out that this period of time not only symbolizes our entire lives, but the “days” represent the many graces and blessings we receive, while the “nights” represent the crosses we endure.

As we begin our Lenten journey, it is important to once again apply the lessons of Jesus’ time in the desert to our entire lives. Let’s consider two lessons we can take from the passage quoted above. First, we see that Jesus was “led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.” This teaches us that Jesus not only endured temptation, He confronted it. He was not afraid of the devil and did not fear his attacks. Instead, He willingly faced those temptations, being led by the Spirit, so as to not only overcome them in His life but also to enable us to confront, in our lives, every temptation by the power and initiative of the Holy Spirit. We must never be afraid to confront temptations directly and confidently when the Holy Spirit is in the lead.

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

Those who have passed away recently... John Miller

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Michael Hauser, Helene Seymour, Catherine Kost, Wilma Coffey, Alex Hamilton

The sick... Sr Elizabeth Brown-Russell, John Miller, 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

Women's Fellowship Group every first Friday of the month 7pm-9pm, for women 18 years and over.

Please contact Kathy Raccanello for details: raccanellokathy@gmail.com

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.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Next Meeting – Monday February 19

9.30am in the Undercroft



Please join us for...

Stations of the Cross

3.30pm each Friday during Lent



Payment terminal in the Foyer of the Church

Many will have noticed a black terminal which is fixed to the wall on the left side of the main doors as you exit the church. As we move to become a "cashless" society, this device accepts credit card donations which exclusively support the Church account.

This account facilitates regular parish expenses like staffing, utilities, insurance, liturgical costs, and more. If you wish to donate you will find four preset donation amounts, or you can choose "other" and type in any amount up to \$100. Simply touch the denomination you wish to donate, then you will be prompted to wave your card on the top of the unit. It will "beep" when processed. It is possible to request a printed receipt. If you have any difficulties please approach Fr Patrick or any of the welcomers for assistance.

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

Church Account no. 638 078 704

Presbytery Account no 637 953 335

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

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A second important lesson is that Jesus voluntarily fasted during this time in the desert. This illustrates the importance of the virtue of temperance in life. If we see this period of forty as a symbol of our whole lives, then we will understand that temperance must always be part of our lives. When we experience the joys and blessings of life (the forty days), we must certainly celebrate them. But we must always do so with a certain self-denial, in that we must never allow the passing things of this world to become the primary satisfaction we seek. Saint John of the Cross teaches that we can even become overly attached to spiritual consolations. Conversely, when we experience the crosses of life (the forty nights), we must also practice a certain self-denial, in that we must not allow the difficulties we endure to discourage us or to distract us from seeking out and fulfilling the will of God. Fasting, meaning our acquisition of the virtue of temperance, must lead us always through the ups and downs of life, helping us to keep our eyes on the truths God has revealed to us and rejecting the lies of the devil.

Reflect, today, upon the importance of embracing the virtue of temperance with courage throughout life. Throughout life's many ups and downs, joys and sorrows, blessings and crosses, we must allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, confronting every circumstance with courage and self-control.



Project Compassion Sunday 10 & 11 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



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/CPFZ>



Alpha Program

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

Entrance Antiphon

When he calls on me, I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

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 9:8-15**

‘There shall be no flood to destroy the earth
again.’

Responsorial Psalm: **Psalm 24**

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those
who keep your covenant.

Second reading **1 Peter 3:18-22**

The water on which the Ark floated is a type of
the baptism which saves you now.

Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 4:4**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless
glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every
word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless
glory!

Gospel **Mark 1:12-15**

Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked
after him.

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

One does not live by bread alone, but by every
word that comes from the mouth of God.

Next Sunday's Readings:

2nd Sunday of Lent –Year B

1st Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

2nd Reading: Romans 8:31-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10