



# SEASONS

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

4th Sunday of Lent-Year B

March 10th 2024

### Alpha Program

Thursday 14th March 7.00pm

### Stations of the Cross

Friday 15th March 3.00pm

**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**

Secretary: Ann Hancock

Office Days/Hours this week

Wednesday 9.30am to 4pm

Thursday 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 11th March

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

Dear Friends,

A reflection from My Catholic Life!

### Seeking the Full Truth



Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” John 3:14–15

The line quoted above concludes a dialogue that Jesus had with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. This is the first of three times Nicodemus is mentioned in the Gospel of John. The second time he appears is when he reminds the other members of the Sanhedrin that a man must be first heard before he is condemned. The third time was when Jesus was killed and Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare Jesus’ body for burial.

Jesus was not accepted by most of the Pharisees and within the Sanhedrin. For that reason, Nicodemus was taking a risk by going to him at night to talk. But Jesus clearly senses faith in the heart of Nicodemus, which is why when Nicodemus asks Jesus about His teaching, Jesus answers him. Unlike the other Pharisees, Nicodemus was not trying to trap our Lord; he sincerely wanted to understand.

At the beginning of this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus, Nicodemus professes the beginning of faith in Jesus when he says, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him” (John 3:2). Interestingly, Jesus then speaks to Nicodemus in figures of speech, saying that one can only enter the Kingdom of God when they are “born from above” and “born from water and the Spirit.” Nicodemus tries to understand but fails. Jesus then gently rebukes him by saying, “You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this?” (John 3:10). Jesus then goes on to speak further in symbolic language and figures of speech, concluding with the beginning of today’s Gospel quoted above when He speaks in a veiled way about His coming crucifixion.

One thing that is important to understand from this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus is that Jesus’ language is veiled in symbolic language because, even though Nicodemus was on the right path, he was not yet ready for the full revelation of the Gospel. He could not yet fully comprehend all that our Lord came to reveal. Thus, Jesus spoke in veiled language and invited Nicodemus to keep seeking its hidden meaning.

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.

(Cont page 3)

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

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

Ron Munro -Funeral 11.30am Thursday 14th March at STM

Gui Hone –Funeral 11.30am Friday 15th March at STM

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

Peggy Morrow, Ian Stewart, Leon Proto, John O'Brien, Bill Leneaux-Gale, Else Bloch

**The sick...** Carmel Gowans, Frances Glare, Sr Elizabeth Brown-Russell, John Miller, Fiona Leyden, Annette O'Brien, Maree Bracken, Jim Bourke,

*(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.)*



**Please join us for...**

**Stations of the Cross**

Each Friday during Lent  
**3.00pm**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

1st Fridays 9.00pm –Midnight  
1st Saturdays 9am –10.00am

**Safeguarding Committee**

For information: Julie Carter 0420 923 859



**Project Compassion**

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](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

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 5th April.**

Where?: at my home - Please email me for details if you're interested in attending ([raccanellokathy@gmail.com](mailto:raccanellokathy@gmail.com)).

If you can, please bring something to share with everyone.

Hope you can come!

Kathy

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

(From page 1)

In our own lives, we can come to God and want Him to speak clearly and definitively to us, revealing His perfect will for our lives. But often He doesn't. Why? Because God knows we are not yet ready for the full truth. When He speaks to us and when we gain insight in one way or another, this is good and reveals we are on the right path. But the Gospel, in its fullness, is so radical and so demanding that most people are not yet ready for the full truth. Therefore, in His compassion, God gives us only what we can handle at the moment. But this humble truth should encourage us, as it did Nicodemus, to not give up and to continue opening ourselves to the fullness of the Word of God.

Reflect, today, upon how open you are to the fullness of God's Word. What would happen if God were to reveal to you, by an immediate personal revelation of divine knowledge, all that was in His sacred mind? Would it be too much for you to handle? Yes, it would be. But that humble admission is an important step toward that very goal. Humble yourself, today, more fully before the mysterious Word of God and pray that you will continue to be changed and open so that the clarity of God's truth will more fully penetrate your soul.

*My teaching Lord, Your sacred Truth is so deep, so profound and so transforming that it remains too much for me to fully comprehend and embrace. For that reason, I thank You for the mercy of speaking to me in veiled ways so as to continually draw me deeper in my faith and knowledge of You. Please continue to open my mind and heart to You so that, one day, I will understand Your Truth most fully. Jesus, I trust in You.*



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/CPFZD> 

## Alpha Program

Commenced 7th March 2024,

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

**Can you help?** To support our Alpha program over the coming weeks we would greatly appreciate donations of food. For this Thursday, we are asking if any parishioners would like to make a salad, cake or dessert. The donation can be dropped off at the Community Centre from 6.30pm. To manage the donations, a clipboard has been placed at the back of the church. Any questions can be directed to Karen on 0428 393 855. Thank you so much for your support!

**Entrance Antiphon**

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

**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 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**

God's wrath and mercy are revealed in the exile  
and release of his people.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 136:1-6**

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

**Second reading Ephesians 2:4-10**

You have been saved through grace.

**Gospel Acclamation John 3:16**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only  
Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal  
life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel John 3:14-21**

God sent his Son so that through him the world  
might be saved

**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**

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.  
It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the  
Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

Next Sunday's Readings:

**5th Sunday of Lent –Year B**



1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

Gospel: John 12:20-33