



SEASONS

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

Ascension Sunday —Year B

May 12th, 2024

Sunday, 12th May @11.30am
Infant Baptisms

Sunday, 19th May 1pm
Confirmation Mass

Sunday, 26th May
PPLT Meeting

Wednesday, 29th May
Parish Finance Meeting
Please approach a PPLT/ Finance member if you would like an item to be discussed at these respective committees

311 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930

Phone: 9787 7777

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

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

Office Days:

Wednesday 1pm to 4pm

Friday 1pm to 4pm

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 May 12th

Tuesday Mass 5.30pm

Tuesday Adoration 6.00pm

Wednesday* Mass 10.00am

Thursday Adoration 9.00am

Thursday Mass 10.00am

Friday* Mass 10.00am

*Rosary 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

Reflection from Our Sunday Visitor:

Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?"

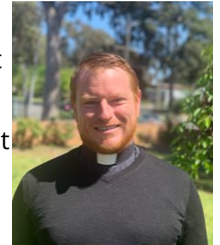
That question, uttered by the two angels to the disciples, is easily read over quickly or even misunderstood. The natural reaction, I think, is to conclude the angels were simply saying, "Look: Jesus is gone. There's nothing more here to see. Go your way." The impression is that Jesus, in ascending into heaven, had not only departed but created some sort of distance between himself and his disciples. We might even conclude that the disciples were sorrowful or confused, wondering, "What next?"

But such conclusions are incorrect; in fact, they are quite contrary to the real nature of the Ascension.

Benedict XVI, in *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week* (Ignatius Press, 2011), offered several insights into the nature and meaning of the Ascension. Referring to St. Luke's account of the Ascension (Lk 24:50-53), he noted that after Christ "was taken up to heaven", the disciples did not weep or act confused but "returned to Jerusalem with great joy..." He stated, "The joy of the disciples after the 'Ascension' corrects our image of this image. 'Ascension' does not mean departure into a remote region of the cosmos but, rather, the continuing closeness that the disciples experience so strongly that it becomes a source of lasting joy."

Then, a bit later, Benedict remarked upon the meaning of the "cloud" that took Christ up and out of the sight of the disciples. The cloud is meant to invoke several important events, including the Transfiguration, in which a cloud surrounded Jesus, Moses, and Elijah (see Lk 9:28-36); the "overshadowing" of Mary by the Most High (Lk 1:35); and the cloud signifying the presence of God during the exodus (Ex 13:21-22; 40:34-35). The cloud, in short, evokes a profound mystery—the very reality of God. "It presents Jesus' departure", wrote Benedict, "not as a

journey to the stars, but as his entry into the mystery of God. It invokes an entirely different order of magnitude, a different dimension of being."



The dimension is referred to in today's readings from Ephesians 1 and Mark 16 as God's "right hand", the place of power, majesty, and glory. This position, St. Paul wrote, is "far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion"—it is not part of this temporal world, for it is the inner life of the Triune God. And God, of course, is not limited by time and space, so we can say that Jesus did not "go away" in any temporal sense, but, as Benedict insisted, "now and forever by God's own power he is present with us and for us." And, paradoxically, this means Christ is with us in a new and continuing way, which is a cause for great joy among his disciples.

This is heady and mysterious stuff, without a doubt. But what does it mean for us in the here and now? The answer was beautifully expressed in the fifth century by Pope St. Leo I, who wrote, "Since then Christ's Ascension is our uplifting, and the hope of the body is raised, wither the glory of the Head has gone before, let us exult, dearly beloved, with worthy joy and delight in the loyal paying of thanks. For today not only are we confirmed as possessors of paradise, but have also in Christ penetrated the heights of heaven."

The Son of God, having united himself forever to humanity by becoming man, has now opened the way for man to be united with him eternally in glory, in the beatific vision. This is the "hope" and the "riches of glory" and the "inheritance" referred to by St. Paul in his letter to the Ephesians.

The Lord, Benedict explained, is with us now; he comes to us: through his word and the sacraments, "especially in the most Holy Eucharist..." He fills all things in every way for those who have accepted his gift of divine and everlasting joy.

1st weekend of each month
(31st May - 2nd June)

Friday Adoration 9.00am — 11.59pm

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

**Those who have passed away recently...
Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..**

Lucia Hentley, Maud E Davies, Eileen Cooksley, Keith MacGregor, Scott Reade,
Colleen Duyvestyn, Mary-Jo Flood

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



Alpha Program

The Alpha Program commenced on the 18th of April. We have welcomed over twenty people who are interested in exploring their faith and sharing what it means to follow Jesus Christ. Alpha meets in the Undercroft on Thursday nights, and meetings begin at 7pm, with refreshments followed by discussion and closure at 8.45pm. Please continue to keep the group in your prayers as they grow together in fellowship and faith. We also pray in thanksgiving for the team of volunteers who generously support the Alpha participants each week. Anyone is welcome to join an Alpha meeting, just pop in if you are curious



Celebration of Confirmation Mass, May 19th @ 1pm

Next Sunday the Parish welcomes Bishop Tony Ireland to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on the candidates who have been prepared through the School and Parish. To show our support for these members of our community, parishioners will have the opportunity to take a prayer card that has the candidates first name and a short prayer on it. This prayer card may be left on the fridge, in a bible or prayer space at home as a prompt to pray for the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to be nurtured in these children. As we move into June and towards the Feast of St Thomas More the School community will be learning more about our patron saint in the classroom and these projects will be displayed in the Church later in June.



Support for Sound System. Back in 2018 (only six years ago) the Parish spent \$43,844 on new microphones, speakers, and AV equipment. Unfortunately despite this significant investment, both wireless lapel microphones have now stopped working. This will impact on sound until a solution can be found. Our sound technician has now advised that these mics are unfortunately beyond repair and that we should consider investing in one high quality replacement mic for \$2,100 which should last 10+ years. If you would like to directly support this (unexpected) purchase, please take one of the envelopes in the foyer or donate through CDF online:<https://melbourne.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=70> noting in the comments box "microphone" . Thankyou

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

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 7th June**
Where?: at my home - Please email me for details if you're interested in attending (raccanellokathy@gmail.com).

Thank you for supporting our parish

Presbytery Account

Supports our Parish Priest and the priests of the Archdiocese
Church Account

Facilitates regular parish expenses **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

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

Parish Secretary Position

We are currently advertising for a parish secretary for 12 hours per week with flexible hours and days to suit the right applicant.

The role of the Parish Secretary is to undertake the administrative and secretarial responsibilities which enable the Parish Office to run effectively, efficiently, and professionally. The role is a collaborative partnership that supports the Parish Priest and works together with volunteers, parishioners and external agencies to progress the mission of the Catholic Church in Mount Eliza.

If you or someone you may know is interested in this position, please follow the link below:

<https://au.indeed.com/job/parish-secretary-e16e0f5046519a59>

Or, google "Parish Secretary Mount Eliza"

Applications will close on May 22nd at the latest

St Thomas More Feast Day Celebrations

June 22nd is the official feast day of our patron saint, Thomas More. Due to calendar issues the Parish will be celebrating St Thomas More's patronage of our Parish from May 31st to Sunday 2nd of June.

The first event will be on Friday, 31st of May in a social night with drinks and nibbles followed by a screening of the newly released film *Cabrini*. For those who haven't yet seen it, the film depicts the life of Mother Francis Xavier Cabrini, who worked tirelessly to support the poor and destitute beginning in New York but is now worldwide. St Cabrini and St Thomas More share a passion for justice, the dignity of every human person, the primacy of education and religious freedom. The film has a 90% rating and has been very popular worldwide.

On Sunday 2nd of June the 10am Mass will consider St Thomas More in the light of the feast of Corpus Christi. To bring our whole community together for this celebration there will be no 8am Mass on that Sunday. Following the Mass there will be a festive medieval luncheon with live music from the 1500's performed on a recorder and viola-da-gamba. St Thomas More is saint for our own times, and we have much to learn and be inspired by his vision. I warmly invite you to participate in these events.

Schedule of events:

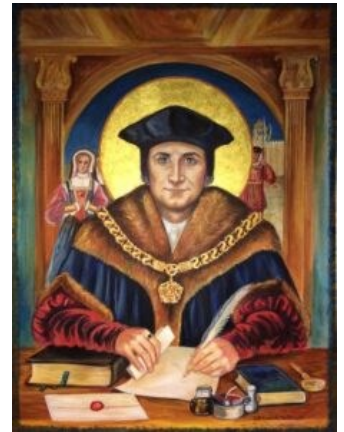
Friday, May 31st

7pm Drinks and nibbles
7.30pm-9.30pm Movie

Sunday, 2nd June

8am—No Mass
10am—Parish Mass
11am—1500's themed Parish Luncheon

RSVP on sheets at back of Church



The Combined Societies of Mary

Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

Sunday 12th May 2024



"Your Mother Needs Your Prayers"

1:30 pm Adoration, Prayers, Procession, Holy Mass

St Mary's Church 91 Manning Road East Malvern

Further Information, phone Joy 9509 2207, www.combinedsocietiesofmary.com

Our Lady of Fatima is associated with some of the most significant historical and spiritual events of the last century. The truth of the apparitions was demonstrated through the amazing miracle of the sun in which on October 13th, 1917 everyone in a crowd of approximately 100,000 witnessed an incredible solar phenomenon. The effect on those who witnessed this miracle was profound, with many conversion. Fr Patrick will be celebrating the Mass and conducting the procession at St Marys this Sunday. All are welcome to this Mass.

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. *Other members: Faye Melhem; Nick Passmore*



The next meeting of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be held on Monday the 20th May in the Undercroft at 9.00am. New members are welcome—please approach the Parish Office for more info.

Marilyn Moloney, chair SVDP

Entrance Antiphon**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 1:1-11
Jesus was lifted up while they looked on

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 46:2-3
God mounts his throne to shouts of joy; a blare of
trumpets for the Lord.

Second reading Eph 4:1-13
Let us love one another, since love comes from
God

Gospel Acclamation
Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all nations my gospel. I am with you
always, until the end of the world.

Gospel Mark 16:15-20

Go out to the whole world; proclaim the good
news

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

Behold, I am with you always, even to the end of
the age, alleluia



Next Sunday's Readings:
Pentecost - Year B 19th May

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11
2nd Reading: Gal 5:16-25
Gospel: John 15:26-27, 16:12-15