



# SEASONS

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

6th Sunday of Easter —Year B

May 5th, 2024

Wednesday 8th May @7pm  
School Advisory Council

Friday, 10th of May @ 10am  
Mothers Day Mass

Sunday, 12th May @11.30am  
Infant Baptisms

**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: 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

### Church Services from May 5th

|            |           |         |
|------------|-----------|---------|
| 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  |

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

|          |                              |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Friday   | Adoration 9.00pm—11.59pm     |
| Saturday | Adoration 9.00 am            |
|          | Mass for the Unborn 10.00 am |
| Sunday   | Filipino Mass 4.00 pm        |

### Reflection from Loyola Press:

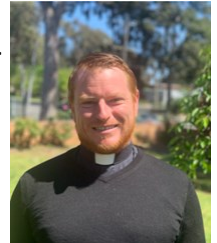
Today's Gospel follows immediately after the Gospel proclaimed last week, in which Jesus taught that he was the vine and that his disciples were the branches. In the example of the vine and the branches, we learned that our union with Jesus will lead to fruitful service. Today's reading extends this teaching to describe the kind of service that Christians are called upon to offer to others.

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John's intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today's Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today's Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is agape. The second is philia. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is

used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term



for love, philia. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Another aspect of Gnostic belief taught that a believer was an elect person, chosen and set apart from the world. John reminds his community that Jesus also taught that a disciple is one who had been chosen—one who had been chosen by Jesus. To be chosen by Jesus, however, is not to be set apart from the world. Instead, to be chosen by Jesus is to be sent to serve the world as he did. The disciples of Jesus were chosen and were sent into the world to bear fruit by serving others, by sacrificing for others, in love.

This reading, like last week's, is part of Jesus' Last Supper discourse. In the context of John's Gospel, these words are spoken before Jesus' Crucifixion. We read his instruction to the disciples in light of his death and Resurrection. We know that Jesus himself gives us the greatest example of the kind of love and service that he teaches to his disciples. He has, in fact, laid down his life for his friends, for his disciples, and for us. Through his death and Resurrection, we have received the grace to love others as Jesus has commanded.

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

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

Frances Glare



**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, 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



### 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 to raise awareness of their important work this weekend, May 4th and 5th.



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**

### 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

### 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).

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.**

### Mothers who pray for their children

More than 150 mothers, grandmothers, religious and clergy gathered at the Catholic Leadership Centre on Saturday 27 April for the first Mothers Who Pray for Their Children conference in Australia, including parishioners from St Thomas More. Saturday's conference was the first to be held in the English-speaking world and explored the five stages of the movement's spirituality: reconciliation, prayer, the Eucharist, penance and mission. Guest speakers included the movement's foundress Angela Abdo, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, Fr Rob Galea, Sharon Duiker, Carolina Cetenaeski, Fr Vic Ignacio and special musical performances by Alyssa Agius and the Divine Mercy Samoan Choir.

Guest speaker Sharon Duiker, a wife, health mentor and mother to 11 children, spoke of the call to be 'Eucharistic mothers'. 'We need to be Eucharistic mothers to receive Christ, to be with Christ, to commune with Christ,' she said. 'We need to be Eucharistic mothers to have Eucharistic families.' Being nourished by Christ and the Sacrament of the Eucharist, Sharon shared, is tantamount to 'consuming the ultimate nutrition for our body and soul—the nutrients that allow us to thrive in our faith journey', thus becoming stronger and more resilient in the face of adversity and temptation. Sharon encouraged the mothers present to persevere and introduce their children to Christ from a young age, sharing 'who he is and how he provides for what they need to stay strong in faith'. 'Teach them to love him with all their mind, body, soul and strength. It is our necessary duty as mothers and grandmothers to do this ourselves, and to lead the way for our children to follow.' She also spoke of Jesus being present in our brokenness, and that in the suffering, it is Christ who 'makes the impossible possible'.

Fr Rob Galea, a priest of the Diocese of Sandhurst and founder of ICON Ministry, spoke of the central role that his mother played in his own story of conversion. He recounted how, at the age of 14, feeling lost, angry and unloved, he rebelled against his parents and ran away from home. This led to a life of couch surfing and an addiction to stealing to make himself feel accepted among peers. By 16, he found himself hanging out in night clubs and in the company of drug dealers. Eventually, after getting into trouble with one of the group's leaders, a young Rob returned to his parents' home to seek shelter and protection. Fr Rob believes it was his mother's persistence and prayers that saw him through. 'You see when you pray, God shows you what your children were made for, even when they don't see it.' 'One day, my mum was praying with me. I was just coming out of my addiction ... My mother knew. She saw—she prayed me into my vocation. She prayed me into where God wanted me to be,' reflected Fr Rob. 'So, this is my prayer for you [mothers]: One, recognise your authority. Two, step into that authority. Three, pray for wisdom. And number four, ask God to reveal to you where your children need to be. And pray them in perseverance to that place.' 'Your prayers are so powerful,' Fr Vic said to the mothers gathered on Saturday. 'That's the reason why one of our movement's pillars is prayer. But it's not only praying ... it is committing yourself to your promises. Even if sometimes you feel weak, you feel down ... you feel inadequate. Faithfulness will bring you blessings. Faithfulness will let you understand the wisdom of being patient with God, for God always provides, just like our Blessed Mother.'

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](http://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 next Sunday. All are welcome



PENINSULA YOUNG ADULTS

# Benediction & Board Games

FRIDAY, 10TH MAY  
 OUR LADY OF FATIMA, ROSEBUD

6:30PM BENEDICTION  
 7:15PM: DINNER & BOARD GAMES

**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 10:25-26,34-35,44-48**  
The pagans have received the Holy Spirit just as  
much as we have

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 97:1-4**

The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving  
power

**Second reading I John 4:7-10**  
Let us love one another, since love comes from  
God

**Gospel Acclamation John 14:23**  
Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my  
Father will love them and we will come to them,  
Alleluia!

**Gospel****John 15:9-17**

You are my friends if you do what I command you

**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:  
**Ascension of the Lord - Year B 12th May**

1st Reading: Acts 1:-11

2nd Reading: Eph 4:1-13

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20