

SEASONS

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

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

16th August 2020

Stage 4 of Covid 19 Restrictions!!!

Parish Office Staff

Parish offices must be closed. Parish employees must work from home.

In the event of an urgent matter or certain extenuating circumstances and a parish employee needs to attend the parish office (or Church), the following steps must be followed:

- 1) the staff member must obtain an approved *work permit* before attending the parish office (the template for this *work permit* should be available on the Victorian Government website shortly; as soon as it is posted we will send a link)
- 2) the work permit must be carried with the staff member as proof if questioned by Police;
- 3) the staff member must stay at the parish office (or Church) the shortest possible period before returning home;
- 4) when attending the parish office (or Church), a written record of the staff member's time of arrival and departure must be kept;
- 5) while in the parish office (or Church), the staff member must wear a face mask at all times, practice social distancing and appropriate hand hygiene; and
- 6) directly after leaving the parish office (or Church), the staff member must wash/sanitise their hands.

Parish Volunteers

The health and safety of parish volunteers is also very important at this time. This means volunteers should not be attending Parish facilities and working from home if at all possible. If volunteers are engaged in essential services (e.g. preparation of food packs for the needy) then the necessary conditions apply:

- 1) the work permit must be carried with the volunteer as proof if questioned by Police;
- 2) the volunteer must complete the voluntary activity in the shortest possible period before returning home;
- 3) when volunteering, a written record of the volunteer's time of arrival and departure must be kept as well as a description of the activity;
- 4) whilst volunteering, the volunteer must wear a face mask at all times, practice social distancing and appropriate hand hygiene; and
- 5) immediately after completing the activity, the volunteer must wash/ sanitise their hands.

Baptisms in a restricted zone are to be postponed, unless there is an urgent and grave pastoral need. (Can. 857; 860).

Funerals held in a restricted zone will be limited to 10 people plus those required to conduct the funeral.

Weddings are banned during Stage 4 of Covid 19 Restrictions

Except for the exemptions noted regarding Weddings and Funerals, all public Masses, Liturgies and communal devotions (whether indoors or outdoors) **are temporarily suspended until further notice.**

We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Rex Swann, Doris A. Hill, Gerard Carra, John Bourke, Ethel May Blake, Valerie Crowe, Helene "Nell" Hellard, Corrie Grootscholten, Eric Fox, John D. Doherty, Sr Mary Teresita

The sick... Peter Rodriguez, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle,



Evonne Paddison, Joanne O'Brien, Maree Bracken, Maria Truong, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Helen Steinbach, Ava Macias, Michael McKenzie, Luke Carroll, Betty Corke, Chloe, David Dole, Maria Kelly, Elizabeth Ware, Althea Greeff, Michael Blick, Maureen Anstey, Jake Steyn, Adrian Gobel, and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre & Ranelagh Gardens Nursing home **and the parish-ioners of St Thomas More Parish, Tequimomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.**

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.



Responsorial Psalm:

O God, let all the nations praise you!

Second Reading: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the Kingdom, and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Woman, you have great faith.



Next Week's Readings - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20



The Bishops of Victoria have suspended the Sunday Mass Obligation for all Catholics in Victoria until further notice. Mass is broadcast via the **Ten Network (6am, Sunday)** for any one who would like to participate.

Catholic Parish of St Thomas More

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Mount Eliza Vic. 3930

Phone: 9787 7777

Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au

Web: www.stm-mteliza.org

Pastoral Leadership Team

Fr Joe Truong (Parish Administrator)

Jacinta Griffin (Chairperson)

Sue Carr Paul Stinear

Leonie Bourke Carmel Huggard

Margaret Jamieson Michael Robertson

PPLT Email: MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au

Mass online

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

OR <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

OR <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

OR St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Daily and Sunday Mass is available, with the I am Mass live streamed; it is also available as a recording on-demand.

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Let faith, not fear,
rule your heart.

Parish Office Hours: Closed during Stage 4 of Covid 19 Restrictions
After Hours: Please leave a message on 9787 7777

Pastoral Care for STM Parish during the time of the Coronavirus Pandemic

This plan will be revised upon further easing of restrictions

1. **STM Church and Office Closed during Stage 4 restrictions**
2. **Seasons** publish online, send out by email, or by post.
3. **Pastoral visitation:** Not available during Stage 4 restrictions
4. **Anointing of the Sick, and Communion for the housebound:** Anointing of the Sick is available only for the seriously ill. The Eucharist is given as Viaticum to the dying only.
5. **Spiritual Guidance:** Fr Joe is available from Tuesday to Sunday afternoon **—by phone only.**
6. **Seasons:** Please contact the parish office if you would like to receive a copy of Seasons by post.
7. Mass in private (without the congregation): **Tuesday—Sunday**

CDF-Online Portal for Parishes

Dear Parishioners,

We wish to thank you for your support of our parish even during this time of health crisis and financial challenge. We wish to advise you that the Archdiocese of Melbourne and Catholic Development Fund have partnered to build an online payment portal—CDF pay for parishes. This site enables you to make quick and easy online thanksgiving payments—you can set-up a recurring payment, or you can choose a one-off offering. The St Thomas More Mount Eliza site is live and can be found via the link below:

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family every blessing from the risen Christ.

Fr Joe Truong

Financial Matters

(Please note that the majority of our contributions are done electronically via Direct Debit & Credit Card Payments)

Stewardship	Actual	Pledge
9th August	\$1143	\$1611
Presbytery		
Presbytery: 9th August		\$ 600

Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.

What's Happening Here ...

[Natural Fertility Awareness Week from 17th to 23rd August](#) – Are you wondering how you can find out more about your reproductive health during these times of isolation and social distancing?

Billings LIFE has the answer!! Why not learn how to track your fertility using, Fertility Pinpoint™- it's more than an App! It is an online service that provides you with your own personal accredited Billings Ovulation Method® tutor who can help you learn how to track your unique cycles and recognise your fertility and infertility on a daily basis – all remotely and safely.

Billings Ovulation Method® is scientifically validated and simple to use. It's the healthy alternative.

For more information check the website: www.fertilitypinpoint.com and start to take control of your life.

Catholic Care Support for your parish community during COVID-19

We know that many people are suffering emotionally, socially and financially during the COVID-19 pandemic. CatholicCare has the following services to help:

Counselling - Free counselling via telephone or video conference.

Emergency Relief - For food vouchers and other financial assistance.

T: (03) 9287 5555 | W: www.ccam.org.au/covid19response | E: CatholicCare@ccam.org.au

Baptisms

All Baptism Information/Preparation - Please contact Fr Joe at the Parish Office. Not available during Stage 4 of Covid 19 Restrictions



STM Children and Young People Safeguarding Committee

At STM Catholic Parish, Mount Eliza, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish. For more information please call: John Natoli (Coordinator) on 0418 208 778; or Julie Carter (Banda) on 0420 923 859

STM Social Club Fun & Friendship For All

New members are always most welcome!
Membership fee is \$30.

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, the Social Club has decided to suspend all activities until further notice.

Dear fellow members of STM Social Club,

This is just to say hello and to let you know that you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. I hope that you all are going well. I am missing our Social Club gatherings and hoping that we will be able to come together for our annual Christmas get together. Love you, **Carolyn Gascoigne**.

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin of Mary

15 August



This feast originated in Jerusalem before the fifth century as the 'Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God'. It was adopted in Rome in the mid-seventh century and was renamed the 'Assumption'.

The Feast of the Assumption commemorates Mary's passing over, body and soul, from this world into the glory of her risen Son. This is a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. Mary's assumption into heaven is the most important of all Marian feasts, a holy day of obligation.

Holy days and feast days look to the present and the future and they give us insight in our own relationship with God. Like Mary, we hope and pray that one day we too will spend eternity with Christ in heaven.

Community Corner

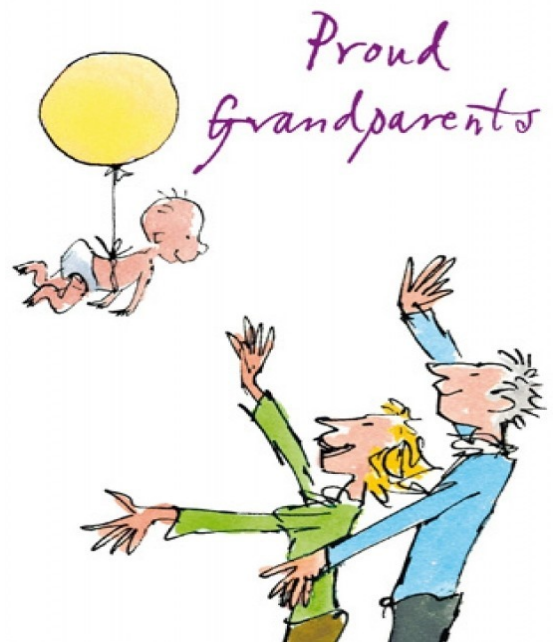
A special message from Lois Bracken

Lois Bracken would like to give her heartfelt thanks to those who have offered to pray for the healing and wellbeing of her daughter with Gleo Blastoma (cancer) of the brain and also her granddaughter with bowel cancer. They are both mother and daughter of the same family! "Maree and Narelle." Your prayers are very much at work!



New Grandparents-to be

Congratulations to Chris and Mary-Lou Mansour who will soon be grandparents for the first time: "my son Michael and his wife are expecting a baby in February"! **Chris and Mary-Lou**



'Treasuring our Later Years' (via Zoom until face-to-face permitted), 6 x Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm, 4 Aug to 8 Sep 2020. Facilitated by Nicole Rotaru rsm, this series offers participants the opportunity to explore new possibilities that ageing offers daily. It will include reflections on themes that take on particular relevance and meaning in our later years, eg Spirituality...deepest dimension of our life; What is giving my life meaning?; At its core, life is about relationships; etc. Cost \$115 for the series, or \$20 per session. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BKLUH> . For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or tel 9890 1101.

Homily

The Gospel for this weekend provides much food for thought. While some preachers take this Sunday's Gospel passage as the call for our community to be more inclusive, I see in this Gospel passage an invitation for us to listen to the cry of the poor.

Jesus does listen to the cry of the poor! In today's Gospel we read about a loving young mother who cries out desperately for help. The woman's daughter is tormented by a devil, and unless some kinds of spiritual/miraculous interventions happen, her daughter could be in lots of danger. We can assume that this young mother has done everything she could in looking for help, and yet, she is unsuccessful. It may be that there is no one in her town who can help, or it may be that people consider this young mother to be a nuisance and do not want to come to her aid. The fact that this young mother is going through such time of stress and anguish on her own does suggest that there is no one who cares enough to give her kindness, love, care and support. Therefore, in her desperation the young mother turns to the foreigner – Jesus, for assistance. The young mother calls out "Sir, Son of David, take pity on me". The young mother expresses her helplessness as well as her desire for love and mercy! (It is very disappointing to learn of the apostles' reactions - "She is shouting at us"... the apostles want Jesus to grant the young mother her wish and then send her away!) Initially, in order to test the young mother's faith and to lead her to a better realisation of her helplessness and her needs for the divine assistance, Jesus pretends to be indifferent. But, when the young mother has proven her faith, Jesus gives her what she asks for. In responding to the cry for help from people who are in desperate needs Jesus does not just give them what they are asking for. But, Jesus always wants to help such people to come to a greater awareness about themselves, their needs, and who they truly are before God. Jesus has genuine concern and love for those who turn to him in their needs. Jesus does not only listen to the cry of the poor, but he wants to heal them in body, soul and spirit.

We too need to attune to the cry of the poor in our society! There are people in our society, who like the Canaanite woman, is in desperate need for help from people of good will. In order to hear the cry of the poor in our community we need to be like Jesus and take a step away from the place of our familiarity and comfort. We need to step into the "Gentiles" territory. It is in the region of Tyre and Sidon and not the Jewish City of Jerusalem that Jesus encounters the Canaanite woman. The majority of the people who join our community for Sunday worship or become members of the various parish groups are quite 'ok' with their life. The people who we do not see – are the ones who we need to reach out to and listen to their story and cry for compassion. Like Jesus, we too need to be at the side of the people who are on the periphery to offer them Christ's love, concern and solace.

During this weekend, let us pray that we too have an attentive ear that hears the desperate voice of our sisters and brothers!



Jesus says to the Canaanite woman, “ you have great faith... Let your wish be granted”.
From that moment her daughter was well again. Matthew 15:21-28