



SEASONS

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

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

23rd 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.. . Leo Mulcahy, Ben Grootcholten, Leslie Russell, Fr John Hardy.



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 MacKenzie, 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 parishioners of St Thomas More Parish, Tequinomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.**

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23
 I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder.



Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading:

 Romans 11:33-36

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 16:13-20

Your are Peter; to you I will give the keys of the Kingdom of heaven.



Next Week's Readings - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-9

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27



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

**313 Canadian Bay Rd
 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>

Upon This ROCK



I Will Build My Church

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. **Reconciliation:** Please call Fr Joe on 9787 7777 to make an appropriate arrangement.
6. **Spiritual Guidance:** Fr Joe is available from Tuesday to Sunday afternoon — by phone only.
7. **Seasons:** Please contact the parish office if you would like to receive a copy of *Seasons* by post.

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
16th August	\$1664	\$2327
Presbytery		
Presbytery: 9th August		\$ 40

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**.

Memorial of St Augustine of Hippo

28 August



This famous son of [St. Monica](#) was born in [Africa](#) and spent many years of his [life](#) in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his [pride](#) darkened his [mind](#) so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine [Truth](#) anymore . Through the [prayers](#) of his holy mother and the marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that [Christianity](#) was the one true religion.

St. Augustine of Hippo is the patron of brewers because of his [conversion](#) from a former [life](#) of loose living, which included parties, entertainment, and worldly ambitions. His complete turnaround and [conversion](#) has been an [inspiration](#) to many who struggle with a particular [vice](#) or [habit](#) they long to break.

Community Corner

STM Parish Mass via Zoom—Wed 26 August 2020 @ 9:15 AM

Topic: Joseph Truong's Zoom Meeting

Time: **Aug 26, 2020 09:00 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4346918189?pwd=c0tsZ2xCszBhR3JqMzMzNVcjg1WDczdz09>

Meeting ID: 434 691 8189

Passcode: 439075

First reading

2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,16-18

We worked night and day not to be a burden on you

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we urge you, brothers, to keep away from any of the brothers who refuses to work or to live according to the tradition we passed on to you.

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow.

We gave you a rule when we were with you: do not let anyone have any food if he refuses to do any work.

May the Lord of peace himself give you peace all the time and in every way. The Lord be with you all.

From me, PAUL, these greetings in my own handwriting, which is the mark of genuineness in every letter; this is my own writing. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 127(128):1-2,4-5

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper.

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life!

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

1Jn2:5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ
grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Fr Joe

Community Corner cnt

Some of Andrew Dean's jokes via Gui Hone

Now is not the
right time to
surround yourself
with positive
people.

The World Health Organization
has announced that dogs cannot
contract Covid-19. Dogs
previously held in quarantine
can now be released. To be clear,
WHO let the dogs out.

Homily

The Gospel for this weekend raises an important question – the identity of Jesus. “Who do you say I am?” It is a question that resounds through the entire Gospel. Everything hinges on the answer to this question. On this weekend, and indeed throughout our life, we are being invited to reflect carefully upon the question Jesus is asking of us - “Who do you say I am?”

Yes – I do suggest that we come up with the personal answer to Jesus' question, “who do you say I am?” The objective answer to Jesus' question is given by Peter “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” We accept Peter's profession of faith as fundamental to our life as Christians and we do not make any change to this objective response to the question “who do you say that I am?”. In fact, any attempt to change Peter's profession of faith is a departure from the authentic and apostolic tradition. While without making any change to Peter's answer to “who do you say I am?”, we can still come up with a meaningful and personal response to this same question. It is important that during the course of our life we do develop a solid personal friendship with Jesus. (This intimate personal relationship with Jesus is unique from one person to the next). A personal relationship with Jesus will help us to answer Jesus' question in a way that is real and meaningful for us.

How do we develop a relationship with Jesus? The same way as how we would form a friendship or relationship with another human person. This means, time, commitment and openness are essential elements. We do not become good friend with another person overnight. We need to have some ample time to get to know the person and sharing our life with him or her. Friendship does not grow by itself – it requires both parties to commit to it and nurtures it. Sometimes true friendship involves trials and testings too. The way that we develop a relationship with Jesus is no different to how we make friend with others. A good healthy prayer life is an effective way to help us grow in our relationship and knowledge of Jesus.

“Who do you say that I am?” I have said too much (I think?). It is now time for you to do your own reflection and to come up with a personal answer that you are comfortable with. May God bless and keep us always!

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall loosed in heaven. Matthew 16:18-19

