

SEASONS

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

Twenty - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

30th 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..

John Gallagher; Timothy Bruitzman; Nancy Wraight; Fiona Lindner, Reginald Leydin; Norma Jackson; Jim Hunter.

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 parish-ioners of St Thomas More Parish, Tequino-mata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.**

Twenty - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year

First Reading: Jeremiah 20: 7-9

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.



Responsorial Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Second Reading: Romans 12:1-2

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.



Next Week's Readings - 2 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

2nd Reading: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20



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

**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

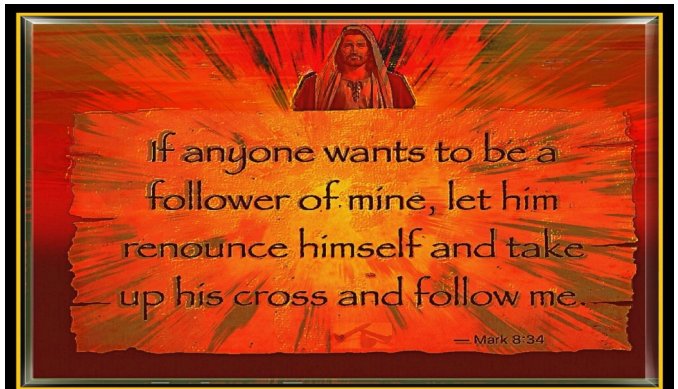
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

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>



— Mark 8:34

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 or **zoom video conference** 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
23 rd August	\$579	\$1292
Presbytery		
Presbytery: 23rd August		\$ 156

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

What's Happening Here ...

[A Summary of PPLT Meeting](#)

"Despite the limitations of the Lockdown, the PPLT have been active via Zoom. Here is a summary of our discussions at our last meeting on **Wednesday, August 19th 2020**:

St. Thomas More Parish Privacy Policy □ Discussion of the Survey sent out to the parish community in July. As a result of responses to streaming or recording masses, it was decided that a Zoom package be purchased and masses will be available for our community beginning on Wednesday morning. Fr. Joe will make the link available via Seasons. Community groups within the parish can also use this package to run meetings with their groups. Contact Fr. Joe for details. □ Discussion of security measures for the parish/school property, as well as appropriate signage for public access and care of the oval.

□ Our next meeting (more than likely by Zoom!) will be **Wednesday, September 16th**. Please email the parish or phone Fr. Joe if you have something to be raised for the agenda by the 10th September

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**.

Community Corner

Dear fellow parishioners,


On Wednesday, 19 parishioners gathered to celebrate mass with Fr. Joe via 'Zoom' at 9.15am. I don't think any of us were sure how it would be, but, there was joy and excitement at seeing people who we haven't seen for ages. We had a commentator and a reader, we sang hymns and we prayed together. It was an uplifting experience.

Fr. Joe admitted us to the 'meeting' from 9.00, so there was chatter and smiling faces before mass, and then again afterwards people stayed chatting for several minutes.


Thank you Fr. Joe for organising this. The most difficult thing during lockdown and level 3 and 4 restrictions is not being able to gather as community, this enabled people to come together albeit via our iPads and computers. Fr. Joe will be expanding this to a Sunday mass shortly. Come and join in, if you're unsure how to, contact Fr. Joe for some advice.

Jacinta Griffin

Some more Jokes From: Andrew Dean via Gui Hone



There will be a minor baby boom in 9 months, and then one day in 2033, we shall witness the rise of the quaranteens.



I'll tell you a coronavirus joke now, but you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it.

Parish Zoom Account

The parish has purchased a zoom account in order to encourage STM Parish Ministry Groups to meet online during stages 3 and 4 (may be even during stage 2) of social isolation and lockdown. Please contact the parish via email to obtain the login details to operate the parish zoom account.

STM PARISH MASS ON ZOOM

Please find below the link for STM Parish Zoom **Mass Wednesday 2 September 2020**. Mass commences at 9:15 AM. However, you may start logging on to zoom from 9:00AM.

Topic: STM Parish Zoom Mass Wednesday 2 September 2020

Time: Sep 2, 2020 09:00 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/5155659926?pwd=dmRxOW02cWIKaVdmaGZraVIITW5WZz09>

Meeting ID: 515 565 9926

Passcode: 819258

First reading

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers, I myself was unable to speak to you as people of the Spirit: I treated you as sensual men, still infants in Christ. What I fed you with was milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it; and indeed, you are still not ready for it since you are still unspiritual. Isn't that obvious from all the jealousy and wrangling that there is among you, from the way that you go on behaving like ordinary people? What could be more unspiritual than your slogans, 'I am for Paul' and 'I am for Apollos'?

After all, what is Apollos and what is Paul? They are servants who brought the faith to you. Even the different ways in which they brought it were assigned to them by the Lord. I did the planting, Apollos did the watering, but God made things grow. Neither the planter nor the waterer matters: only God, who makes things grow. It is all one who does the planting and who does the watering, and each will duly be paid according to his share in the work. We are fellow workers with God; you are God's farm, God's building.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32(33):12-15,20-21

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.
From the heavens the Lord looks forth,
he sees all the children of men.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

From the place where he dwells he gazes
on all the dwellers on the earth;
he who shapes the hearts of them all;
and considers all their deeds.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name.

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Gospel Acclamation

Lk4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.

Alleluia!

Homily

“You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced...” Many of us have allowed ourselves to be seduced by Jesus (the fact that we are still remaining at his side as his disciples). May we also have the confidence to follow in the footsteps of Jesus throughout our life!

Perhaps, we feel sorry for Peter when Jesus reprimands him: “get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God’s way but man’s.” They are very strong words. What does Peter do to deserve such a strong correction from Jesus? We need to take a closer look at the entire passage in order to find out the reason why Peter has got into such a trouble with Jesus. As St Matthew makes it clear from the beginning of today’s Gospel Jesus wants to instruct the disciples about his mission and the path that he must take in order to fulfil the will of the heavenly Father and to bring about redemption for humanity. Jesus articulates most clearly to the disciples that his work will inevitably involve the Cross! Yet, the Cross is only the means that leads to the glorious end. Jesus makes it clear to the 12s that his disciples are to follow on the same path that he himself has trod— where the Master has gone before, the disciples are to follow. However, obviously, Peter does not like to listen to everything that Jesus says about his mission or the way of the Cross. Therefore, Peter makes an attempt to dissuade Jesus from continuing on such a deadly journey and says to Jesus, “Heaven preserve you, Lord. This must not happen to you”. By addressing this statement to Jesus, Peter has actually overstep the mark. Peter, temporarily, stops being a disciple— following in the footsteps of the Master. Peter wants to take on the role of a leader and he wants to take Jesus onto a different path – a path that makes Peter feels comfortable. This is where Peter gets it wrong. From Jesus’ perspective the disciples are to follow where the Master wants to take them. The disciples’ role is not to lead, but to follow and trust that the Master knows what he is doing and where he wants to take the disciples to. (The sheep must follow in the way of the Shepherd – not the other way around). The Master alone knows best the road that leads to the place of green pasture.

Like Peter, many Christians would like God and his Son to be with them as they direct our own lives and establish their own agendas. However, we need to hear what Jesus says in today’s Gospel – the disciples must be followers and must not try to tell Jesus which way he must go! The Captain has marked out the route for all, the co-pilots, flight attendants and passengers need only to follow the Captain’s instructions and enjoy the flight. The plane will land safely because the Captain knows what he is doing. There will be problems when the co-pilots or flight attendants want to take control of the flight! Crash landing!!! OUCH!!!



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