

# SEASONS

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

Twenty - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

6th September 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..**

Mary Sheila Butler, Myrtle Haines, Maurice Doyle, Matthew Patrick Kelly, Monica Prendergast.

**The sick...** Michael Leonard, Peter

Rodriguez, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne

Paddison, Joanne O'Brien, Maree Bracken, Maria

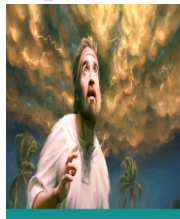


Truong, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Helen Steinbach, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Luke Carroll, Betty Corke, Chloe, David Dole, Maria Kelly, Elizabeth Ware, Althea Greeff, Michael Blick, Maureen Anstey, Jake Steyn, Adrian Gobel, and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre & 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 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 33:7-9

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.



**Responsorial Psalm:**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading:** Romans 13:8-10

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:15-20

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Step one:

Matthew 18:15

Go and talk to the other person directly and privately.

**Next Week's Readings - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7

2nd Reading: Romans 14: 7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35



**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](mailto:MountEliza@cam.org.au)**

**Web: [www.stm-mteliza.org](http://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](mailto:MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au)**

### Mass online

[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://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>

**Step two:**

Matthew 18:16

Take one or two others along with you to meet with that person

**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.
8. Mass in private (without the congregation): **Tuesday—Sunday**

**CDF-Online Portal for Parishes**

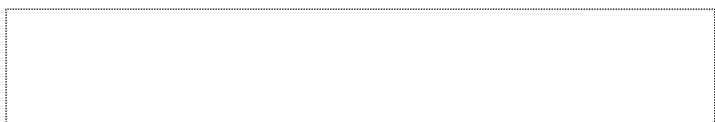
Dear Parishioners,

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**



<u>Stewardship</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Pledge</u>
30th August	\$404	\$997
<b>Pres-</b>	<b>bytery:</b>	30th August
<b>\$</b>	<b>Monthly Average: \$1606</b>	280

# 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](http://www.ccam.org.au/covid19response) | E: [CatholicCare@ccam.org.au](mailto: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 2 September, 15 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.

## 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 9 September 2020**. Mass commences at 9:15 AM. However, you may start logging on to zoom from 9:00AM.

Topic: STM Parish ZOOM Mass Wed 9 September 2020

Time: Sep 9, 2020 09:00 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

### **Join Zoom Meeting**

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

**Meeting ID: 515 565 9926**

**Passcode: 819258**

Dial by your location

+61 8 7150 1149 Australia

+61 2 8015 6011 Australia

+61 3 7018 2005 Australia

+61 731 853 730 Australia

+61 861 193 900 Australia

Meeting ID: 515 565 9926

Passcode: 819258

### **First reading**

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

About remaining celibate, I have no directions from the Lord but give my own opinion as one who, by the Lord's mercy, has stayed faithful. Well then, I believe that in these present times of stress this is right: that it is good for a man to stay as he is. If you are tied to a wife, do not look for freedom; if you are free of a wife, then do not look for one. But if you marry, it is no sin, and it is not a sin for a young girl to get married. They will have their troubles, though, in their married life, and I should like to spare you that.

Brothers, this is what I mean: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.*

Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your father's house.

So will the king desire your beauty:

He is your lord, pay homage to him.

*Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.*

The daughter of the king is clothed with splendour,  
her robes embroidered with pearls set in gold.

She is led to the king with her maiden companions.

*Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.*

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
they pass within the palace of the king.

Sons shall be yours in place of your fathers:

you will make them princes over all the earth.

*Listen to me, daughter; see and bend your ear.*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

Rejoice and be glad;  
your reward will be great in heaven.

**Alleluia!**



## Homily

There are two themes for us to reflect upon this weekend, and perhaps into the coming week: Jesus' teaching on fraternal corrections, and the invitation to enter into a deeper friendship with God and others.

In the responsorial psalm we hear the psalmist sings "O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your heart". Here is the tender voice of God calling us to enter into a deeper relationship with him and one another. In order to enter more fully into a relationship with God and others we need to have a soft heart. Fr Flor McCarthy says in his reflection, a soft heart can be touched, moved, warmed, and [is] receptive. On the contrary, a hard heart cannot feel, cannot respond, cannot love, and therefore is not receptive. I suppose, we can safely say that a hard heart can kill any relationship! However, the good news is that the voice of God can soften the hardest of hearts. When we listen to the voice of God everything changes – a heart of stone becomes a heart of flesh. The question is - will we be brave enough to listen to the gentle voice of God???

In the Gospel Jesus addresses the way how differences and conflicts should be addressed and settled in a community (community here refers to the Christian Community, but, I believe it may be interpreted broadly to include, school, parish, club and family communities). Basically, what Jesus says is that when a conflict arises over the injury/hurt (physical or emotional) we inevitably do to one another, then peace must be established by an encounter between the offended party and the offender. If this fails we should call upon the help of two or three other witnesses so that the wrong can be set right and peace established within the community. I believe that we need to give some serious considerations to Jesus' teaching. Firstly, Jesus encourages us to settle dispute/ conflict in a loving way. The followers of Jesus are called to relate to one another by the law of love. Secondly, Jesus leads us to realise that every dispute/conflict does have some impacts on the whole community. It is never simply the matter between the two parties concerned! Thirdly, Jesus encourages us not to cut anyone off from the community – even when the person is obstinate and unwilling to make amendment. We need to be patient and make use of love to win the obstinate person over. This is how God deals with us – he uses love to win us over. God is patient with us even when we show no sign of repentance! God does not cut us off, but he always leaves the doors open to us. This is how we should be treating the obstinate members of our family, school, club and even parish.

However, one thing that we ought never to do whenever a dispute/conflict arises in our community – is to allow gossip to spread. Gossip does not bring about peace or reconciliation, it only makes the matter worse. Gossip does much damage to the parties involved in the dispute and also to the community in which they belong. Gossiping is not compatible with our Christian calling to love and to be kind. Therefore, as soon as any gossip begins to surface in our community we must do whatever it takes to crush it immediately for the good of all!

On this weekend let us pray that we will have a soft heart – a heart that is willing to embrace all people and avoid causing hurt or pain to others.

**Happy Father's Day!**

(see page 8)

# Thank You, Dad.

- 4 years: My Daddy can do anything!
- 7 years: My Dad knows a lot...a whole lot.
- 8 years: My father does not know quite everything.
- 12 years: Oh well, naturally Father does not know that either.
- 14 years: Oh, Father? He is hopelessly old-fashioned.
- 21 years: Oh, that man-he is out of date!
- 25 years: He knows a little bit about it, but not much.
- 30 years: I must find out what Dad thinks about it.
- 35 years: Before we decide, we will get Dad's idea first.
- 50 years: What would Dad have thought about that?
- 60 years: My Dad knew literally everything!
- 65 years: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.



## A Father's Day Prayer

God,  
Bless all the fathers in the world. Father, we ask that You guide them to be good role models and loving to their children. We also ask that You help them to be a father like You are. Give them grace and patience to handle situations in a loving way.  
Amen



I love you and I miss you dad,  
and though you've passed away,  
you'll never be forgotten,  
for I think of you each day.

If heaven celebrates this day  
how special it will be.  
A gathering of the many dads  
upon our family tree.

Your father and grandfather  
and great grandfather too.  
How wonderful it is, if they  
can spend this day with you.

May you know how much I love you  
though I'm here and you are there.  
Happy Father's Day in heaven  
to the best dad anywhere!



*St Joseph,*

Pray for all of our fathers...

