



SEASONS

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

Twenty - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

13th 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....

.. Patricia Ginnane, John Murphy, Michele Rogic McCartney, Mildred Hanmer, Edward Doherty, Norman Prendergast, John McLoughlin, John Maxwell, John Bowring, Celestine Fennessy, Charles Doherty.

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 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First Reading: Sirach 27:30-28:7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.



Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew

18: 21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.



Next Week's Readings - 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20-24,27

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16



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

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>

**Loving God
means serving
our neighbour
without
reserve, and
trying to forgive
without limits.**

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 6th September

	Actual	Pledge
Stewardship	\$ 3,451	\$ 4,122
Presbytery	\$ 40	

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

What's Happening Here ...

EAST TIMOR UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2020

The 39th shipping container, since starting our East Timor project in the year 2000, has been filled and sent to East Timor.

It was filled with 100's of desks, chairs, 4 drums of donated rice from parishioners, 100's of boxes of clothing, many Baby Boxes, a refrigerator, cupboards, gardening tools and many 100's of tubes of skin creams. Skin diseases prevail among the people.

Thanks for the generous donations from parishioners and local businesses. Also many thanks to the hard working volunteers who helped collect the goods and pack the container.

We hope to be filling the 40th container when Corona Virus restrictions are lifted.

Another project making a difference is the sponsorship of the education of dozens of school and university students. Generous parishioners sponsor the education of children, who because of poverty and not being able to afford school fees, would most likely leave school to work in the family vegetable garden.

If you would like to become a sponsor, or discover more detail on the things we are doing in East Timor look up the web site "HELPING EAST TIMOR" "lesharper.org" and speak to Les Harper.

Email: lesharper@optusnet.com.au

Or telephone 0408123562

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 9 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.

STM Poetry Group: STM Social Club

STM Poetry Group is planning to meet on zoom on **Monday, 21 September from 1:30PM—3:00 PM**. If you would like to join, please call

Brian MacAnallen on 0428 776 202.



Parish Zoom Account

Wednesday 16 September

7:30PM –9:30PM—PPLT Meeting

Monday 21 September 2020

1:30PM—3:00PM—Poetry Group (STM Social Club)

7:00PM—9:00PM—St Vincent de Paul Society Meeting

STM PARISH MASS ON ZOOM—Wednesday 16 Sept

Please find below the link for STM Parish Zoom **Mass Wednesday 16 September 2020**. Mass commences at 9:15 AM. However, you may start logging on to zoom from 9:00AM.

Time: Sep 16, 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

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

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known. In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

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

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

O sing him a song that is new,
play loudly, with all your skill.

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

For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.

The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.

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.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life;
you have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia!

STM PARISH MASS ON ZOOM—Sunday 20 Sept

Please find below the link for STM Parish **Zoom Mass Sunday 20 September 2020**. Mass commences at 8:00AM. However, you may start logging on to zoom from 7:45AM.

Time: Sep 20, 2020 08:00 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

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

Meeting ID: 515 565 9926

Passcode: 819258

First reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

The Lord is near to all who call him.

Second reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!



Protecting God's Children Parent Resource

Professional Standards Unit

A Catholic Parent's Guide to Keeping Their Kids Safe

The Archdiocese of Melbourne is pleased to announce the release of the *Protecting God's Children Parent Resource: A Catholic Parent's Guide to Keeping Their Kids Safe*. This protective behaviours resource is aimed at supporting Catholic parents of children aged 5-12 years. The resource helps parents teach children a range of important personal safety skills, supports the development of emotional intelligence skills and promotes a child's understanding of the right to feel safe through engaging activities and storybooks.

Using the concept of "basket fillers", the resource begins by exploring the theme, "God gave all children the right to feel safe at all times" and sequentially builds on:

- children's understanding of safety
- awareness of their feelings and early warning signs
- body awareness
- helping seeking strategies
- empowering children to say no in unsafe situations
- reinforcing the concept of personal space, and
- importantly the theme of "Nothing is so awful that we can't talk with someone about it".

Whilst we maintain that adults are ultimately responsible for maintaining safe environments for children, it is just as important to empower children to recognise when they are feeling unsafe and to tell a trusted adult (or adults) so that action is taken to help them be safe and feel safe. As children's first and most enduring educators, parents are best placed to begin conversations with their children in an age and developmentally appropriate way. Building on the parental bond established through trust and love, these conversations model for them that it is okay to "talk about anything" and that we are approachable and "we will listen".

Developed by Andrea Musulin (Director of Safeguarding, Catholic Archdiocese of Perth), this resource has been adapted by our Professional Standards Unit (PSU) for use by families within the Melbourne Archdiocese. We also thank Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB (Archbishop of Perth) for making the resource available to us

Building a culture of safety in our parishes

Professional Standards Unit

Across the Archdiocese, parish leadership and safeguarding teams have been working hard to implement safeguarding practices and policies that reinforce the Church's commitment to protecting children and those most vulnerable in the community.

Fr Tony Doran, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ringwood, says it has required his parishioners to look at every aspect of parish life. 'What we do, how we do it, the spaces in which we do what we do. Now we know where the gaps are in our policies and procedures, so we can begin to address them. We also know where we're doing well.'

Implementing change can often be a slow process, requiring the participation of all in the community.

'We engage with our community, our leaders, and our parishioners about reinforcing our joint commitment to child safety,' says Ewa, a parishioner at St Benedict's in Burwood. 'We also provide the broader community with information about our policies and our procedures, and give them some online helpful resources, and also ask for feedback on our practices.'





Archbishop Comensoli sends special message to Year 12 students

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli recently recorded a special message for Year 12 students. In it, he acknowledged the complexities of finishing high school during this time of the pandemic. 'I know the year has just gone in a very odd direction for all of you,' Archbishop Comensoli said. 'I've been thinking of you particularly because you haven't had the opportunities that other Year 12s would have had in their final year ... I just want to show you of my prayer and encouragement as you're preparing for your exams soon.'

[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.

Homily

It has been a very long time since the last time we gathered in our beautiful Church of St Thomas More to celebrate Mass. However, I believe that you would remember that we always begin Mass by asking forgiveness for our sins. During the Penitential Rite we stand before God just as we are, broken and wounded, and we admit to him our own faults, poverty and our need of forgiveness. We can learn from the parable about the unforgiving servant in today's Gospel that we cannot demand or win God's forgiveness. All we can do is plead for his mercy. Hopefully, that just as we come before God asking for forgiveness, we also ask God for the grace to be able to forgive all those who have sinned against us. We know how hard it can be to forgive. We know that we cannot do so without the help from God – we are so much being weighed down by our humanity!

None of us can go through life without getting hurt in some ways or the other. The question that we ought to ask ourselves is, what do I do when I feel hurt? Hurts are not easily to deal with, and there are many different steps that we could take in dealing with the hurts that we experience in life. Unfortunately, some of us choose to store up all the hurts inside us. This storing of hurts will produce the legacy of bitterness, resentment, and anger – these emotions are poisonous to our spirit, and they destroy our capacity to love. Therefore, it is vitally important that we have some effective strategies in dealing with hurts – instead of sweeping them under the carpet. May I propose that as soon as we have being hurt (often by someone we love and care for) that we do take it to God in prayer and ask him to heal and free us from the hurt we experience and whatever feelings associated with it. Receiving healing for the hurts that we have experienced is an important step in the process of forgiving the people who have wronged us in life.

Fr Flor McCarthy says that forgiveness is a process – it is not something that can be achieved over night. Time is of vital important in the journey towards forgiveness. We travel only at the pace that we are comfortable with. There are steps we can take, which with the help of God, will eventually lead to forgiveness and healing of the hurt we experience. On this journey towards forgiveness we must be able to recognise that a wrong has been done to us. Sometimes, we can be very good at pretending that the other person has not hurt us in anyway. We must be able to recognise that we feel angry and hurt as a result of another person's action/word. It is important for us not to be afraid to acknowledge our feelings – feelings are not sinful. We need to be able to talk to someone about the feeling of anger or hurt.... We must not be bottling up and not talking to anyone about our hurt and anger. Hopefully, by taking up the steps above we can come to a point where we can choose to forgive our offender. To forgive is the matter of the will – not how we feel towards another person. We may continue to feel hurt for a long time into the future, but we can still make the choice to forgive. Finally, we may want to think about our relationship with the person who has hurt us: to continue the relationship; break it off until the time when we are ready to be reconciled. Fr Flor McCarthy has illustrated for us simple and practical steps we could take in order to forgive our offender. But, as we can see it is not easy to work through each of these steps – with our effort alone. We need the special help from God to help us achieving them. When Jesus tells us to forgive seventy times seven (i.e. always) he is also willing to assist us in the effort to forgive our offender. Jesus does not ask us to do the impossible. God's grace is vitally important in the process to forgive our offender.

Let us pray that we will always avoid causing hurt or pain to others. If we have been hurt by someone, then let us pray for God's grace to be able to forgive the person/people who have hurt us.

