

# SEASONS

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

Twenty - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

4th October 2020

## **Stage 2 of easing-Covid Restrictions**

During Stage 2, Places of Worship may have outdoor religious celebration for **up to 5 people along with the celebrant.**

**NOTE: The Government Regulations allow you to travel only **up to 5km** from your home to attend Church.**

**DHHS** has given the following directives for outdoor gathering of **all** religious groups:

- ❖ Social distancing is to be observed at all times.
- ❖ Wearing of a face-mask is mandatory.
- ❖ Hand sanitising is to be observed at all times.
- ❖ Absolutely no socialising/mingling before and after each ceremony.

\*\*\*\*\*No physical contact between persons.

I would like to invite any parishioners who would like to attend outdoor Mass to register your interest with the parish by phone or email. We will start taking registration for outdoor Mass from **Tuesday, 6 October 2020**. I am hoping to draw-up a Mass Attendance Roster for the parish in order to enable people who would like to attend Mass to be able to do so at least 2 or 3 times over the next few months. **I would like to make it clear that you are the best person to make the decision for yourself about attending outdoor/indoor Mass during the time of Corona Virus.**

## **Mass Arrangements for STM Parish During Stage 2:**

### **Weekend Masses**

Saturday 6:00 PM—Live Mass (Location—on the veranda of STM Church)

Sunday: 8:00 AM—**Mass on Zoom**; **10:00 AM**—Live Mass (Location—on the veranda of STM Church)

### **Weekday Masses**

Tuesday; Thursday; Friday . **9:15AM**—Live Mass (Location—on the veranda of STM Church)

Wednesday. **9:15 AM Mass on Zoom**

**12:00noon**—Live Mass (Location—on the veranda of STM Church)

## We pray for...

**Those who have passed away recently...  
Those whose anniversaries fall at this  
time....** .. Joy Morrison; John Deighton

**The sick...** Denis Mirrabella Michael Leonard, Peter Rodriguez, Liz Spurdle, John Spurdle, Evonne Paddison,



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

## Twenty - Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year

**First Reading:** Isaiah 5:1-7 The vineyard of the Lord God of hosts is the House of Israel.



**Responsorial Psalm:**

The vineyard of the Lord is the House of Israel.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 4:6-9

Do these things and the God of peace will be with you

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything that I have learnt from my Father.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 21:33-43

He leased his vineyard to other farmers.



**Next Week's Readings - 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14



**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*

**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 I am Mass live streamed; it is also available as a recording on-demand.

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



**Parish Office Hours: Closed during Stage 2**  
**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 20th September**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Pledge</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	\$ 439	\$ 1242
<b>Presbytery</b>	\$ 50	

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

# What's Happening Here ...

## EAST TIMOR UPDATE OCTOBER 2020

I hope and pray that you are well and blessed.

I just had information this morning from people from EDS that the container will be bringing from Dili to Laga tomorrow (25 of September). We hope that everything goes well according to the plan.

By the way, the influence of covid19 is very disastrous. We always accompany the situation of our good friends and neighbors Australia and Indonesia. We understand your difficulties and we pray for your intentions in our daily prayers that the Good Lord protects you always. I agree that it is very difficult to raise money. We pray to God that the situation can change. I will explain this situation to the sponsorship kids.

Here in Timor, we have no local transmission of covid19. Thanks to God. But we are still afraid because the land frontier of TL and Indonesia is still open for the timorese students from Indonesia who want to come back to Timor, but they have to stay for 14 days in quarantine.

Thank you very much.

I will give you more information about containers tomorrow.

Fr. Rui

Laga

## **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 **30 September, 14** 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.

## Booking for Parish Zoom Account

**Wednesday 7 October 2020**

**9:15 AM** Parish Mass on Zoom

**Meeting ID: 434 691 8189**

**Passcode: 439075**

**Thursday 8 October 2020**

**7:00PM—8:30PM—STM Finance Meeting**

**Sunday 11 October 2020**

**8:00AM** Parish Mass on Zoom

**Meeting ID: 434 691 8189**

**Passcode: 439075**

**Thursday 15 October 2020**

**7:30 –8:30PM— STM PPLT Meeting**

**Monday 19 October 2020**

**1:30 PM—3:30 PM—STM Poetry Group**

**Please contact the parish by phone or email if you would like to use the parish zoom account for your parish ministry group meeting.**

## **STM PARISH MASS ON ZOOM—Wednesday 07 October**

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

Topic: STM Parish Mass on Zoom

**Time: Oct 7, 2020 09:00 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney**

Meeting ID: 434 691 8189

Passcode: 439075

### **Our Lady of the Rosary •** on Wednesday of week 27 in Ordinary Time

#### **First reading**

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

It was not till fourteen years had passed that I went up to Jerusalem again. I went with Barnabas and took Titus with me. I went there as the result of a revelation, and privately I laid before the leading men the Good News as I proclaim it among the pagans; I did so for fear the course I was adopting or had already adopted would not be allowed. On the contrary, they recognised that I had been commissioned to preach the Good News to the uncircumcised just as Peter had been commissioned to preach it to the circumcised. The same person whose action had made Peter the apostle of the circumcised had given me a similar mission to the pagans. So, James, Cephas and John, these leaders, these pillars, shook hands with Barnabas and me as a sign of partnership: we were to go to the pagans and they to the circumcised. The only thing they insisted on was that we should remember to help the poor, as indeed I was anxious to do.

When Cephas came to Antioch, however, I opposed him to his face, since he was manifestly in the wrong. His custom had been to eat with the pagans, but after certain friends of James arrived he stopped doing this and kept away from them altogether for fear of the group that insisted on circumcision. The other Jews joined him in this pretence, and even Barnabas felt himself obliged to copy their behaviour.

When I saw they were not respecting the true meaning of the Good News, I said to Cephas in front of everyone, 'In spite of being a Jew, you live like the pagans and not like the Jews, so you have no right to make the pagans copy Jewish ways.'

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

***Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.***

O praise the Lord, all you nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples!

***Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.***

Strong is his love for us;  
he is faithful for ever.

***Go out to all the world, and tell the Good News.***

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children,  
and in that Spirit we call God our Father.

**Alleluia!**

## STM PARISH MASS ON ZOOM—Sunday 11 October

Mass commences at 8:00AM. However, you may start logging on to zoom from 7:45AM.

Topic: STM Sunday Mass on Zoom

**Time: Oct 11, 2020 08:00 AM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney**

**Meeting ID: 434 691 8189**

**Passcode: 439075**

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### First reading

Isaiah 25:6-10

On this mountain,  
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples  
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines,  
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.  
On this mountain he will remove  
the mourning veil covering all peoples,  
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,  
he will destroy Death for ever.  
The Lord will wipe away  
the tears from every cheek;  
he will take away his people's shame  
everywhere on earth,  
for the Lord has said so.  
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God  
in whom we hoped for salvation;  
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.  
We exult and we rejoice  
that he has saved us;  
for the hand of the Lord  
rests on this mountain.

### Responsorial Psalm

***I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.***

The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures  
where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me,  
to revive my drooping spirit.

***I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.***

He guides me along the right path;  
he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness  
no evil would I fear.

You are there with your crook and your staff;  
with these you give me comfort.

***I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.***

You have prepared a banquet for me  
in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil;  
my cup is overflowing.

***I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.***

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me  
all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell  
for ever and ever.

***I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.***

### Second reading

Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

### 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!**

**'Pondering Grief - Reflection event via Zoom'**, Saturday 17 Oct 2020, 10am-1pm (AEST). Facilitated by Counsellor/Supervisor/Educator Linda Espie, this event provides the opportunity to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creative, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop will offer a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration.

Limited to 10 participants.

Cost \$30. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/BLUEA> For more information, contact [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or tel 9890 1101.



## 4 Oct 2020 - Daylight Saving Time Starts

When local standard time is about to reach Sunday, 4 October 2020, **2:00:00 am** clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour to Sunday, 4 October 2020, **3:00:00 am** local daylight time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later on 4 Oct 2020 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening.

Also called Spring Forward, Summer Time, and Daylight Savings Time.

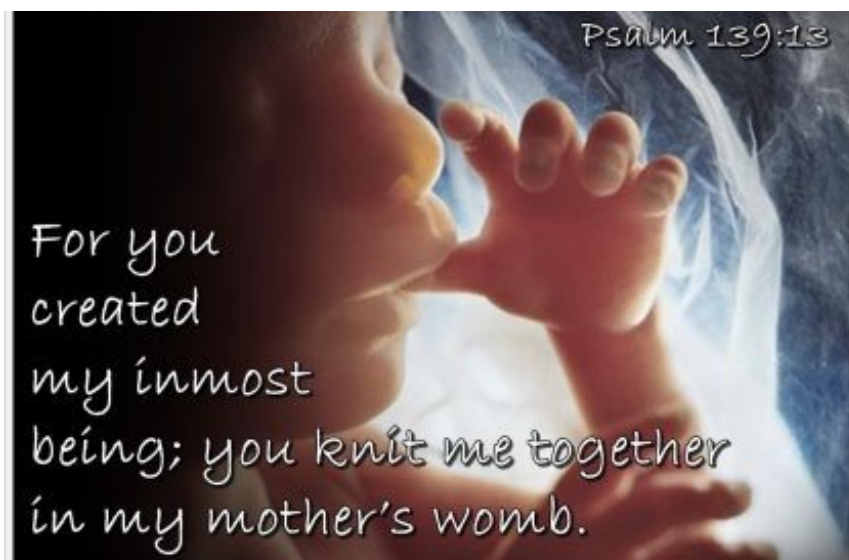


## 2020 Live Streamed *March for the Babies* October 10 @1 p.m.



Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the Annual March for the Babies 2020 will be a Live Streamed event @ 1p.m. Saturday October 10

Join in online [www.mftb.online](http://www.mftb.online) for Victoria's largest pro-life event in defence of the victims of Victoria's inhumane abortion laws, unborn children and their mothers. Featured speakers, powerful testimonies, music and opportunities to promote the "culture of life".





## Archbishop Commensoli letter to the People and Clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Dear friends in Christ, As we now welcome the beginnings of easing in COVID-19 Restrictions in Victoria, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you, the Clergy and people of our Archdiocese. It is great news that regional Victoria will, from tonight, move into the Third Step of the Roadmap to reopening, which includes our parishes located outside the metropolitan zone. However, we have a long way to go. The deprivation in sacramental life has been a profound loss for our people. As well as all the other sufferings of the Pandemic, the sense of estrangement from the Eucharist has been a particular struggle for Catholics. The Mass is our primary means of gathering together in faith; it is the source and summit of our Christian life, and its life-giving nourishment and healing is dearly missed. In the midst of this loss, I am grateful to our Priests and Deacons for continuing to serve the faithful, for sharing a sacramental ministry even under strict conditions, and for being alongside our people and their loved ones in times of death and grief. Thank you for your faithfulness. All of us are anxious to open church doors, but I want to emphasise our need to be creative in the ways we do so, especially with the thousands of children who have been waiting for Sacraments of Initiation. Countless Catholic families are awaiting Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation for their children. Adults, too, have longed to be received into the life of the Church. We shall be exploring possibilities such as outdoor liturgies in parish and school settings to facilitate these crucial events of grace and welcome. Throughout the pandemic, I have been advocating directly with the Government, reminding authorities continually of our respectful compliance with each stage of restrictions, and seeking a fair consideration in what is permitted. The Catholic community throughout the pandemic has been constructive and positive. We have, and continue to act in a mature way, caring for the safety and vulnerability of Victorians facing great risk. Thankfully the signs of driving down COVID numbers are looking good at this moment and Catholics join other people of faith in giving thanks for this outcome and working to ensure the steps ahead do not take us backward. Now, it is essential that the Government does not treat faith communities as an afterthought to the opening up of other sectors. Our churches are locations for communities of care and essential service, and must be treated fairly and reasonably. Practically speaking, I have been in discussion with the Premier to thank him for overturning the restriction on spiritual ministry to the sick and the dying, and have assured him that the Catholic Church is able to manage restrictions (including good hygiene, face coverings, social distancing and density requirements). If pubs and restaurants can open, then places of worship should be open under similar conditions and numbers. If case numbers track well, I expect we will see larger outdoor gatherings in regional Victoria become possible over the next few weeks, and proportionate opportunities for gathering in metropolitan Melbourne. I am hopeful that this may occur sometime in October, which would be a deeply welcomed improvement on the current Roadmap indications. If we can open our churches, even for outdoor gatherings, then we should open them. The Deputy Premier and the Multicultural Affairs Minister are conducting discussions this month through the Multifaith Leaders Forum. The Archdiocese will be contributing to these meetings. In addition I will continue to engage with the Premier and Ministers directly on the Church's need for opening doors, carefully and safely. Be assured of my ongoing closeness in prayer and concern. I have heard your cry, and I am working to bring your voice to the authorities. The Lord has promised he will be with us always; let us place our hope in Him. With every grace and blessing, I remain, Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus

## **Important changes to how the “NEW” Ritchies Card can assist your organisation**

The Ritchies Community Benefit Program has made a financial difference to many, many clubs, schools and charities over the past 26 years. You'll be pleased to know we have contributed more than \$50 million dollars back to the local community. We have also been seeking the best way to continue our financial support for all of our valued partner organisations. As a result, we will be launching a new Ritchies App and Ritchies card on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

We want you to be the first to know about how the program will change and **what your organisation will need to do** in order to continue to receive financial support from Ritchies.

The Community Benefit Program will transition to a new Ritchies Card App, available from the App store or Google Play, and will issue new physical cards (Ritchies Card) available free from any participating Ritchies Store. Shoppers will be required to download the App, or apply on line at [www.ritchies.com.au/loyalty](http://www.ritchies.com.au/loyalty), and then choose a charity, school or club they wish to direct their financial support.

**This is where you come in!** In order for your organisation to receive as much cash as possible on a monthly basis, you need to communicate the new program to your members and supporters. The more shoppers that nominate your organisation, the more cash you will receive.

**This would have to be the easiest and least costly way to raise funds for your organisation!**

Please see the attached marketing material with simple instructions on ways to alert your key supporters of this change and how best to drive them to re-nominate your organisation.

We are making this change because we want to continue to support local communities surrounding our stores, support our incredible partner organisations, as well as modernising the program. It will also allow us to offer additional personal discounts, promotions and new and exciting features to Ritchies card members.

With historical monthly donations soon to be discontinued, it is important your organisation is very pro-active in getting your current and new members to sign up again.

Your understanding and feedback is welcome as always, so please contact [loyalty@ritchies.com.au](mailto:loyalty@ritchies.com.au) with any questions you may have or for more information go to [www.ritchies.com.au](http://www.ritchies.com.au)

Yours Faithfully

**Fred Harrison**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## Homily

This weekend we find solace in the letter of St Paul and the teaching of Jesus in the Gospel. St Paul encourages us to bring all our anxiety to the God of peace. Jesus tells us about the love, patience and tenderness that God has for us.

The parable in today's Gospel is an allegory of God's dealing with his people. God's love and care for his people as a diligent gardener cares for his vineyard. God remains patient even when 1) the vineyard has failed to bear good fruits; 2) the tenants (i.e. those who are called to care for the vineyard) have behaved so immorally. God never gives up on his people even when they have betrayed him in serious ways. God does not retaliate by destroy or abandon his vineyard. But, God persists until he gets a response.

As Christians we can take pride in having a God who is kind and generous in his dealing with us. This is a cause of celebration for us. I believe that we can celebrate God's goodness by doing our best to produce the desired fruits. In particular, with the grace of God we should aim at producing the fruits of justice, holiness, forgiveness and peace. I trust that as long as we make the effort to produce good fruits – God will take care of the rest. What we would want to avoid is – doing nothing! God's patience is not a permit for us to be idle! Further, I believe that we can also celebrate God's kindness by imitating his tenderness in the way that we relate to each other. During this time of Covid 19 Pandemic we ought to be more kind, more loving, more patient with the people around us. This is the time when we need to show to others the good qualities of a Christian life.

When looking back to the second reading we hear the soothing words of St Paul who says "there is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving..." St Paul is not referring to our everyday and genuine worries. Paul talks about the excessive worries and anxiety that some of us are living with. As we know by overly worrying does not solve any problem for us – it only paralyzes us mentally. Anxiety weakens us and takes lots of energy out of us – it does so to the extent that we can no longer be at peace. It is certain that anxiety is not a sign of the movement of the Holy Spirit. We can say that anxiety is a lack of trust in oneself, others and especially in God. St Paul exhorts us to commit our concerns and excessive worries to God. We will find peace when we learn to place in God's hands anything that causes us to be anxious. Peace is what God wants us to enjoy, and therefore he will help us to live with, and to deal with our excessive worries in a healthy way.

On this weekend, let us give thanks to God for his kindness to us and let us ask him to free us from every useless anxiety!