



SEASONS

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

Twenty - Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

18th 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...

Kevin Kost

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time....

John Pierce, Ronald Taylor, Bruce Wright, Beverley Smith, John Hooper.

The sick... Shirley Spry, Denis Mirrabella Michael

Leonard, 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 - Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First Reading: Isaiah 45: 1, 4-6

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.



Responsorial Psalm:

Give the Lord glory and honour.

Second Reading: I Thessalonians 1: 1-5

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God.'s



Next Week's Readings - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

2nd Reading: I Thessalonians 1:5-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40



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 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 11 October

	Actual	Pledge
Stewardship	\$ 2308	\$ 2279
Presbytery	\$ 40	

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

What's Happening Here ...

Homily

Sometimes, we Christians can be faced with a dilemma – how might one remain a good Christian in a secular world? In today's Gospel Jesus gives us a practical answer to this delicate question. The teaching of Jesus in the Gospel is an inspiration for us to be both a faithful disciple and a good citizen to our nation.

The Gospel passages over the past weeks have shown since Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem there have been continual conflicts between himself and the authorities. In today's Gospel passage, we hear Jesus being challenged with the question, "whether one is permitted to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" This question can place Jesus in a no-win situation. If Jesus' answer is 'yes' – then he is found guilty of being disloyal to the Jewish Tradition. On the other hand, if Jesus' answer is 'no', then he is in breach of the civil law. Hence, Jesus gives a diplomatic response to this delicate question, "give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God". Jesus recognises the co-existence of both the religious system and the political system. The followers of Jesus must respect both of these systems.

Politics and religion always co-exist in every society. It is not a question of forgetting one or the other. It is about putting the first things first! It is necessary for both political and religious leaders to realise that the authority by which they exercise is a participation in the supreme authority of God. Neither religion nor politics can replace the supremacy of God and God's power in the world. Religion and Politics are both at the service of the supreme Sovereign – God. The Church must realise that it is her fundamental mission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to encourage people to imitate the example of their Lord and Master. The Church must never preach the Gospel of political convenience. The Church has the responsibility to uphold and defend moral values and everything that has to do with justice, common good, and natural law. The Church must speak up whenever the matters of justice, morals, common good, or natural law have been compromised or undermined. As for the State – it must not forget that its function is to be at the service of humanity and the society. The political system must not make any rules that may violate human rights and many other values that belong to the human community - this includes people's freedom and rights to practice religion and worship. It is possible for religion and politics to sit peacefully side by side – provided that each gives due respect to the other!

Christians do have the obligation to show loyalty both to their Church authority and the State. The legitimate State has rights over its citizens ('give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar', says Jesus), and Christians must respect the rights of their Government. Christians must endeavour to be good citizens of their country. At the same time Christians must realise their rights to practice religion. Christians are always free to worship God and to live faithfully according to his ordinance which is expressed in the Ten Commandments, the teachings of the Church, and natural law. Sometimes we Christians can be faced with a dilemma – how to be a good Christian in a secular world where the laws may contradict the commandments of God, the teachings of the Church, and natural law. St Thomas More has this to say to us "**I die as the king's true servant, but God's first**". This is an inspiration for us to make sure we serve God first!

May we continue to be loyal to our Church and to our God who loves us ardently. However, may we never forget that we too are called to be dutiful citizens of our country.

Baptisms

All Baptism Information/Preparation - Please contact Fr Joe at the Parish Office [to make an appointment for a meeting on zoom.](#)



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.

Community Corner

RIP

I wish to convey the sad news that Paul Kost's brother, **Mr Kevin Kost**, has passed away during the week. Please keep Paul and Carmel Kost along with their extended family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this time of loss and grief.

'O God, listen favourably to our prayers offered on behalf of your servant, and grant that **Kevin**, who committed himself zealously to the service of his family and society, may rejoice forever in the company of your saints. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen'

Booking for Parish Zoom Account

Sunday 18 October 2020

8:00AM Parish Mass on Zoom

Meeting ID: 434 691 8189

Passcode: 439075

Monday 19 October 2020

1:30 PM—3:30 PM—STM Poetry Group

7:30PM—9:30PM—St Vincent de Paul's Society

Wednesday 21 October 2020

9:15 AM Parish Mass on Zoom

Meeting ID: 434 691 8189

Passcode: 439075

Wednesday 21 October 2020

7:30 —8:30PM— STM PPLT Meeting

Sunday 25 October 2020

8:00AM Parish Mass on Zoom

Meeting ID: 434 691 8189

Passcode: 439075

STM PARISH MASS ON ZOOM—Wednesday 21 October

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

Meeting ID: 434 691 8189

Passcode: 439075

First reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-12

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery, as I have just described it very shortly. If you read my word you will have some idea of the depths that I see in the mystery of Christ. This that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel. I have been made the servant of that gospel by a gift of grace from God who gave it to me by his own power. I, who am less than the least of all the saints have been entrusted with this special grace, not only of proclaiming to the pagans the infinite treasure of Christ but also of explaining how the mystery is to be dispensed. Through all the ages, this has been kept hidden in God, the creator of everything. Why? So that the Sovereignities and Powers should learn only now, through the Church, how comprehensive God's wisdom really is, exactly according to the plan which he had had from all eternity in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is why we are bold enough to approach God in complete confidence, through our faith in him.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!

Declare the greatness of his name.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Sing a psalm to the Lord

for he has done glorious deeds;
make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Be watchful and ready:

you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

STM PARISH MASS ON ZOOM—Sunday 25 October

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

Meeting ID: 434 691 8189

Passcode: 439075

First reading

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this:

“You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

“If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

“If you take another’s cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity.”

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise,
when I call I am saved from my foes.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me,
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Second reading

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

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Meditation & Mindfulness - Reflection event via Zoom', Saturday 7 Nov 2020, 10am-1pm. Facilitated by Carol Dyer (B.A. (Psych), Transpersonal & Experiential Psychotherapy Level 5 (Trainer), Cert. Spiritual Direction), this event provides the opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time. There will be some input to enable participants to learn some theory of meditation and mindfulness practices as well as time away from the Zoom screen for meditation and mindfulness practise. Cost \$25. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/663916> For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or tel 9890

RCIA

RCIA stands for the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**. It is a process of **Christian formation** offered to adults who seek to **become Catholic**. The initiation of new members is a **gradual process** allowing enquirers time to grow in faith and become full participants of the Catholic community.

Anyone who would like to enrol into STM RCIA program is asked to contact Fr Joe by email or phone—**no later than 5 November 2020.**



**Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults**

[A summary of PPLT Meeting - Wed 16 Sept 2020](#)

No correspondence in but letter to Michael Robinson going out to acknowledge him for his work in the parish.

Parish security.

CCTV cameras will possibly be installed.

Approximately \$5500 for church. Finance Committee is happy to spend this amount. Signage and bollards to included too.

Employment of a catechist 3-4 hours per week (casual position) as we no longer have a pastoral associate. This will free Father Joe up to do other duties.

Report from Education Board – Jacinta /Joe: Master Plan was the main topic of the meeting. The school has appointed an architectural firm so that when the master plan is complete, the school may make application to access grants if possible. Enrolments: 32 Preps definites, 3-5 students starting next term, 3-5 more students starting next year in other classes.

Next Meeting: Wednesday 21st October, 2020

Combined Catholic Parishes' Raffle. Congratulations to all the winners!!

Prize No	Prizes	Ticket No	Parish
1	Suzuki Beleno	032770	Good Shepherd, Mulgrave
2	Suzuki Beleno	095457	St Patrick's, Lilydale
3	Suzuki Beleno	049753	Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale
4	\$1000 Coles/Myer Gift Card	083496	Our Holy Redeemer, Surrey Hills
5	\$1000 Coles/Myer Gift Card	011368	Clairvaux Primary School, Belmont
6	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	024215	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Dromana
7	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	069241	St Damian's, Bundoora
8	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	077953	Resurrection Parish, Keysborough
9	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	109047	St Simon's, Rowville
10	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	077525	Resurrection Parish, Keysborough
11	\$500 Coles Myer gift Card	092015	St Michael's, Ashburton
12	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	056036	St Scholastica, Bennettswood
13	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	015841	St Agatha's, Cranbourne
14	\$500 Coles Myer Gift Card	069696	St Damian's, Bundoora

With Term 4 just around the corner and the many challenges that Covid has brought among school communities, children and parents alike may be anxious about the coming months and the new school year in 2021.

Every student will experience their own challenges and frustrations, but parents can support their children through these periods by encouraging self-regulation of their emotions.

Self-regulation involves a set of skills that allow us to understand and manage our emotions and behaviour/reactions. Below are some practical tips on how you can support the development of self-regulation in your child!

Naming feelings

Help your child name their feelings by giving them a label (sad, angry etc.). Naming feelings is integral in helping children learn to identify them. Not only does it allow your child to develop vocabulary so they can talk about their feelings, but also creates a starting point to explore the root of the problem.

Modelling

Children develop self-regulation through warm and responsive relationships, and by watching those around them. Use organic opportunities to model how to manage strong emotions in positive and constructive ways. For example, how you can do a frustrating task without becoming upset. You might say something like “That was really hard, but I kept trying and got there in the end”.

Create a ‘toolbox’ of coping strategies to use when dysregulated

Physical tools (e.g. walk, stretch, jumping jacks)

Thinking tools (e.g. coping statements, positive self-talk, affirmations)

Social tools (e.g. connect with a friend/trusted adult)

Relaxing tools (e.g. yoga, meditation, visual imagery)

Creative tools (e.g. drawing, painting, journaling)

Mindfulness

Mindfulness techniques are wonderful way to quieten busy minds. Some popular exercises are **5-4-3-2-1 Grounding**, **Belly**

Breathing and **Body Scan**.

Provide a structured and consistent routine

Predictability in knowing what to expect helps to decrease stress.

Give praise

Praise your child when they talk about their feelings or express them in an appropriate way. Not only does it help to normalize feeling and create a safe context to talk about them, it also reinforces this behaviour so they are likely to repeat it.

Show empathy and encouragement

It is important that your child feels cared about, valued, and understood as they learn to regulate. Expect setbacks in learning and growth.

Children who are able to identify, express and manage their emotions effectively are more likely to experience an array of long-term benefits to their mental health and wellbeing. These include better school and career outcomes, more positive and stable relationships, behaving in socially acceptable ways, greater resilience and coping skills, and a positive sense of self.



Strengthening families + communities
Greater Melbourne • Geelong • Gippsland

Sarah | Child & Family Counsellor

Sources:

Raising Children Network | Kids Helpline | Early Childhood Australia | Child Mind Institute

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 14th 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, 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 with any questions you may have or for more information go to www.ritchies.com.au

Yours Faithfully

Fred Harrison
Chief Executive Officer

Position Vacant

We are seeking a Casual Sacramental Coordinator who will be responsible for sacramental preparation of our school age children and work in collaboration with our Parish School.

This position will commence in 2021 and the working hours will vary and flexibility is required to be available on some evening and weekends during Masses, planning and during sacraments.

Key Requirements

A Sound understanding of theology

Understanding of liturgy and liturgy preparation

Ability to relate to a variety of people & develop sound working relationships, work with a spirit of generosity and achieve in a team environment.

Good communication skills with ability to relate to a variety of people

Strong PC skills, in particular working knowledge of Microsoft Office and Google suite of products

- Energetic and highly motivated with initiative and capacity to work with a minimum of supervision.

Well motivated to work for the Catholic Church and ideally possess a strong commitment to its practices and values.

Key Responsibilities

- Teaching and preparing children for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation.
- Recruitment and Coordination of volunteer catechists as required
- Attending planning meetings with Parish Priest and School staff, assisting with planning and running of retreat held for Communion and Confirmation.
- Actively support the Parish Priest with the Sacramental Program, key objective of ensuring efficient and seamless coordination with a strong pastoral focus in the parish.
- Preparation of correspondence, maintenance of records, receiving telephone calls and enquiries relating to Sacraments.
- Develop and maintain sound working relationships with the school staff, parents and children.
- Provide support to the Parish Priest in preparation for Feast Day's and Church Celebrations.

Active involvement with attendance at celebrations & liturgy for the sacraments, these may include weekday evening and weekend attendance.

Other Relevant Requirements

Working with Children Check

Police Check (new Check required)

Valid Driver Licence

Additional Information

Applications are to be sent to recruitment@cam.org.au by Tuesday 29th October 2020. Please submit a cover letter along with a current resume. For further information, contact Suzette Diaz, HR Partner on (03) 9926 5615. We look forward to hearing from you and wish you all the best.