

# SEASONS

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

2nd Sunday in Advent — Year B

6th December 2020

As of 25th November, the Guidelines state:

Places of Worship may have indoor religious ceremonies for a total of 150 people plus 1 celebrant.

**Our St Thomas More Church has a total capacity (based on current distancing laws) of 65 people.**

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

- ❖ Social distancing is to be observed at all times. ❖ Hand sanitising is to be observed at all times.
- ❖ Wearing of a face-mask is mandatory. ❖ Absolutely No physical contact between persons.

We are now taking registration for indoor Masses. I would like to invite parishioners who would like to attend Mass to register your interest with the parish by phone (**Registration for Weekend Masses - Closed Friday 3PM**). I would like to make it clear that you are the best person to make the decision for yourself about attending Mass during this time of Corona Virus.

## **Mass Arrangements for STM Parish from the Weekend of 5/6 December 2020**

### **Weekend Reconciliation & Masses**

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Reconciliation</b>	5:00 PM—5:30 PM
	Vigil Mass	6:00 PM
<b>Sunday Mass</b>	Masses	8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

### **Weekday Masses**

Wednesday & Friday Masses 9:15 AM

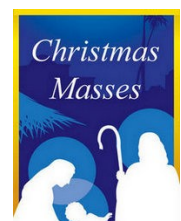
### **We will be having two Mass Services at St Thomas More:**

Christmas Eve 24 December (inside STM Church) : 7:45pm Carol – followed by Christmas Mass at 8:00 PM.  
- **Live Streaming**

Christmas Day 25 December (inside STM Church): Mass at 9:00 AM

Christmas Mass Rosters: If you would like to be a Lector, Commentator, Minister of the Eucharist, AV operator or part of the Cleaning/Sanitizing Crew at any of the Christmas Masses, please contact the Parish office.

Ideally, it would help our planning (prior to Fr Joe's departure) if you could respond as soon as possible. Then we can publish the Roster in Seasons.



## We pray for...

**Those who have passed away recently...**

**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time....** Tyler Cassidy, Harry Knuckey, Catherine Farrell, Carolyn Royal, Fr John Pierce, Henry Haines, Wayne Jackson, William Green, Richard Shea..

**The sick...** Rosemary Ivey, Patricia Leerson-Dash,



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

## 2nd Sunday in Advent — Year B

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

Lord, let us see your kindness,  
and grant us your salvation.



**Second Reading:** 2 Peter 3:8-14

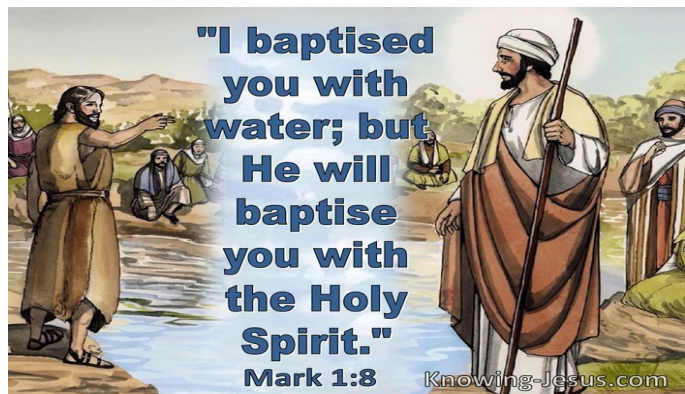
*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*



**Parish Office Hours: Remain Closed**

**After Hours:**

**Please leave a message  
on 9787 7777**



St Thomas More acknowledges the Traditional Land owners, the Bunurong people on which we live, work and worship. We pay our respects to the Elders, past, present and merging.

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

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

### Next Week's Readings

#### 3rd Sunday in Advent—Year B

1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

2nd Reading: 1 Thess 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28



**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.

## 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 Statewide Last Step restrictions**
2. **Seasons** publish online, send out by email, or by post.
3. **Pastoral visitation:** By request.
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.

### A Special Message from Fr Joe

Dear friends,

There have been several changes to the appointment of the clergy in the Archdiocese over the last few months. There has also been a change to my appointment. **Archbishop Peter Comensoli has appointed me as Chaplain to the Royal Melbourne Hospital and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, and part-time assistant priest to the parish of St Michael's, North Melbourne.**

Some of you may know that one of my passions is to walk with people during their time of illness and suffering. The appointment as hospital chaplain is something that I have been waiting for in the last several years – finally, the opportunity has come.

The appointments as hospital chaplain and part-time assistant priest come into effect on 16 Dec 2020. **Therefore, my last day at STM parish is 15 December 2020.**

I have been at STM parish for 15 months, and I really enjoy being part of this beautiful parish. I will miss STM Parish very much. Thank you for your hospitality and kindness to me throughout the past 15 months. May the Lord continue to bless you in your good work.

**We have been informed our next Parish Administrator will be  
Fr Patrick Bradford (formally of Mt Waverley)  
who will arrive on 6th January 2021**

# Congratulations

to our St Thomas More Year 6 Students  
who celebrated the Sacrament of  
Confirmation during the week.



# What's Happening Here ...

## RESERVE YOUR SEAT!

Reserve your seat for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services.  
Current road-map guidelines for our Church is 65 People.

**Christmas Eve 24 December (inside STM Church) : 7:45pm Carol**  
**Live Streaming** – followed by Christmas Mass at 8:00 PM.

**Christmas Day 25 December (inside STM Church): Mass at 9:00 AM**

### Safeguarding Committee

The next meeting is 21st January 2021 at 7.30pm.

Consistent with the requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards, the Archbishop, through the Professional Standards Unit has requested that all the clergy, staff and volunteers across the diocese to have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC).

Therefore, we invite every volunteer across all parish ministry groups, to apply for a Working with Children Check, if you have not already done so.

The Working with children Check is **free** for volunteers.

If you have an existing WWCC card created for another organisation, please contact the Department of Justice to **ADD** St Thomas More Parish to your profile.

The parish office can assist you with the necessary information, contact Vicki on 9787 7777.



John Natoli  
Coordinator)  
0418 208 778



Julie Carter  
(Banda)  
0420 923 859



### STM Social Club Fun & Friendship For All

**New members are always most welcome!**  
Membership fee is \$30.



### Social Club News

- ♦ The Social Club Norwood House Christmas Lunch has been cancelled.
- ♦ On Wednesday 9th December a picnic get together at 12noon. Bring a chair and your lunch to the Mt Eliza Park behind the Bowling Club (off Canadian Bay Road.) This is a time to come together before Christmas, no need to contact anybody, simply come along.

Look forward to seeing you.  
**Love— Carolyn Gascoigne**



## Assistance Required

Due to building density and social distancing regulations, STM Church can only have a total of 65 attendees for each service (this figure could be doubled when the building density and social distancing rules are further eased by Christmas).

However, before STM Parish can start having 65 attendees at each Mass it is necessary that we have at least a team of 2 volunteers to assist with sanitising the Church after Mass. Also, we need 1 volunteer to supervise the registration process for each Mass. Ideally, we would need to have more than 1 team of volunteers to help with cleaning the Church and to supervise the registration process. If you are able to assist with either of these duties please contact the parish office ASAP.

### Sat 6:00PM Mass

Team 1

Sanitiser 1: **Margaret Jamieson**

Sanitiser 2:

Registration: **Sam. Failia**

Team 2

Sanitiser 1: **Anselm Gunesequera**

Sanitiser 2: **Yolande Gunesequera**

Registration: **Don McKenzie**

### Sunday 8:00 AM Mass

Team 1

Sanitiser 1: **Barry Hansen**

Sanitiser 2: **Marj Hansen**

Registration: **Joan Bekery-Coleman**

Team 2

Sanitiser 1: **Beatrice Rodriguez**

Sanitiser 2: **Mary Goss**

Registration:

### Sunday 10:00 AM Mass

Team 1

Sanitiser 1: **Lien Sy**

Sanitiser 2: **Stephanie Nguyen**

Registration: **Maree Shelton**

Team 2

Sanitiser 1:

Sanitiser 2:

Registration: **Maurie Hutchinson**

## NOTE!!!!

We are trialling a QR (Quick Response) code that has been authorised by the Catholic Archdiocese. This is an alternative way to sign in as you come to Church—it is still preferable that you book your seat ahead of time with the Parish Office.

1. Hold the camera up to the code, so that it's all visible, and then a message will drop down from the top of the screen, asking if you want to **Open "asta-staysafe.com.au" in Safari**, or a similar banner will appear on an Android phone
2. Tap on the message/banner to open the St Thomas More Parish check in page in your browser. You only need to enter your first name and phone number, and submit.
3. If you're checking in for other members of your household who can be contacted on the same number, you can add all names in one hit, separated by commas.
4. If you're checking in on behalf of someone else who doesn't have a mobile, you can add their landline number in the contact number field.

For troubleshooting, see this article:

<https://www.hellotech.com/guide/for/how-to-scan-qr-code-iphone-android>



## Catholic initiative.

**This Christmas banner has been sent to every Parish to display. It is hoped that by displaying these banners we can propose:**

**Jesus—as the answer and a way forward in this tumultuous time around our globe**



**Christmas Bowl**

Unfortunately we are not able to have our Inter-Church Prayer evening and Christmas Bowl activities this year. As an alternative, Act for Peace have taken great joy in preparing all the resources you need to take part in this year's Christmas Bowl online. This year we have created a unique online giving page for St Thomas More so your congregation can also give safely online. It is a place where they can make a gift to the Christmas Bowl directly through your church and for you to see the collective contribution made by your congregation.

Our unique giving page is: [mycb.link/107413](https://mycb.link/107413) - our Supporter number: 107413

*Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.*

*Janet Cousens*

### RITCHIES COMMUNITY BENEFIT CARDS

Recently Ritchies have launched their new Ritchies Card, incorporating the Community Benefit Program and this will not only benefit our parish, but also all our members. The program now has an App for both IOS and Android smart devices. For those members who don't have a smart phone, or would like a physical card, this option is also available and can be linked to the App. You can download the Apps by searching for Ritchies in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

**Sign up at:** <https://www.ritchies.com.au/loyalty>

**Our parish receives these contributions each month—good fundraising activity.**



**GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANT** Rev Fr William (Bill) Gill is leaving the Peninsula and moving to a retired Priests home in North Fitzroy, where he already knows some retired Priests there. We wish him all the best as he moves into this new phase in his life.

### Financial Matters 29 November

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Pledge</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	\$ 3362	\$ 1482
<b>November Weekly Ave</b>	\$ 2634	
<b>Presbytery</b>	\$ 747	

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

## **Farewell to Fr. Joe**

**As you would have read in Seasons, Fr. Joe is about to take up another position in the diocese from the 16th December.**

**Fr. Joe's farewell and thank you Mass will be at the 10.00am on 13th December. As per Covid restrictions, you will have to book for this mass as per the requirements for religious gatherings.**

**At this stage, we are unsure as to whether or not we can gather in a small number to say goodbye, however we do intend to farewell and thank him for all he has done for us at St. Thomas More in the last 12 months. The details of this will hopefully be in next week's Seasons when we will have a clearer understanding of what we can or can't do.**

**If you would like to contribute to a thank you gift for Fr. Joe, could you forward your contribution to the Parish Office Mail Box (which is locked) - Marked "Attention Vicki" by Wednesday the 9th December.**

**Jacinta Griffin PPLT**



‘The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”’  
—Luke 1:30–33

### **CDF-Online Portal for Parishes**

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

<https://secure.artezpacific.com/registrator/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&spid=5635822>

# PPLT

## SUMMARY OF MEETING 18.11.20

1. SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT- The committee was addressed by Julie Banda on behalf of John Natoli and the 4 other members of this group and viewed the video: 'What a Child Safe Parish Looks Like'. The following matters were then discussed:

- A Child Safety Policy and Code of Conduct has been compiled by the Safety Group

2. BUSINESS ARISING from last meeting: New Member drive for the PPLT. It was decided to use 'Seasons' to call for new members before the January meeting.

3. SCHOOL GOVERNANCE REPORT- J.Griffin showed a map of the property, which clearly delineates school, parish and shared areas, usage and responsibility for upkeep and management. Fr Joe discussed issues regarding the role of the parish priest, archdiocese and the school, as well as signing off the governance document.

4. CHRISTMAS MASSES: Fr Joe reported on his meeting with the Liturgy Team, who are unable to facilitate an outdoor children's Christmas Mass on the oval this year due to low membership numbers. Indoor mass will be held under COVID restrictions of 80-100 people maximum spaced throughout the church. There will be 2 Christmas masses this year:

- Christmas Eve- 7.45 for 8pm with one instrumentalist and one vocalist, a commentator and reader and two ministers of the Eucharist.
- Christmas Day Mass- 9am

5. COVID SAFE PRACTICES FOR WEEKEND MASSES- Discussion was held regarding the need for a COVID SAFE team to set up the Church and sanitise furniture and equipment before and after Mass. Fr Joe will organize a 'call out' for teams through 'Seasons'.

6. EMPLOYMENT OF A CATECHIST: Fr Joe reported on progress in this matter so far. Closing date for applications has been extended.

7. PPLT CHRISTMAS BREAK UP & FAREWELL FOR FR. JOE:

- As Fr Joe is leaving the parish on December 16<sup>th</sup>, his farewell will be held on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the 10am Mass.

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST- PPLT

The PPLT are currently under quota and so we are calling on all interested parishioners to put their hands up to join the PPLT. We meet in the evening on the 3rd Wednesday of each month to discuss, plan and implement activities that benefit the whole parish community. During this difficult year we have met via Zoom meetings but usually we meet in the Parish House

Please consider joining the PPLT. This represents us, the people of our community and it's where our voices can be heard. We are an advisory group to the Parish Priest/ Administrator and we work together with the best interests of this Parish in mind. At the centre of our meetings is the Parish three year Plan (which is due for an update) and decisions are made within this framework.

If you want further information or wish to express an interest in joining us you can contact any of the PPLT.

PPLT Members:

Fr. Joe Truong, Jacinta Griffin (Chair), Leonie Burke, Carmel Huggard, Margaret Jamieson