

# SEASONS

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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

25th 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....** 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 parishioners of St Thomas More Parish, Tequimata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.**

## Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

**First Reading:** Exodus 22:20-26

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.



**Responsorial Psalm:**

I love you, Lord, my strength.

**Second Reading:** I Thessalonians 1: 5-10

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

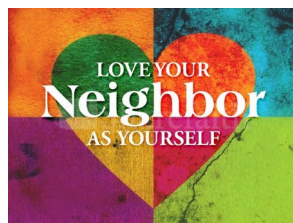
**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

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

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matthew 22:34-40

You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbour as yourself.



**Next Week's Readings - 1 November All Saints**

1st Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

2nd Reading: I John 3:1-3

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12



**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*

*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>

LOVE GOD ↑  
← LOVE OTHERS →

**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 18 October

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Pledge</b>
<b>Stewardship</b>	\$ 1776	\$ 2252
<b>Presbytery</b>	\$ 121	

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

# What's Happening Here ...

## **BROSNAN SERVICES - PENINSULA SUPPORT GROUP (in our 36th year)**

This has been a very difficult year for so many. As you know our cheque presentation to Brosnan Services for their work with troubled youth, usually takes place at this time, but due to Covid lockdown our fundraising letter is running very late. We do hope to get it to the members of the Peninsula Support Group very soon.

### **SPONSORS FOR EAST TIMOR**

Some of the poorer families in East Timor can't afford to send their children to school. The average income for most families is less than \$10.00 per week. This is mostly earned by selling a few vegetables the families may grow.

Putting the people's income into perspective, a teacher as an example will only earn about \$50.00 per month, or a bus driver may earn \$5.00 per week.

When the children reach their early teens many poor families send them to work in the family vegetable garden instead of sending them to school, thereby overcoming the need to pay school fees which they can't afford.

The cycle of poverty is very difficult to break. We attempt to do this by sponsoring the education of poor children.

Sponsors are asked to make a contribution of \$100 at the beginning of each school/university year. This goes a long way to meeting the school/university fees. The sponsored support continues for the educational life of the child, continuing in many cases through to University.

Sponsored children's parents are required to enter into an agreement allowing their child to continue being educated.

A copy of the child's end of year school/university report is presented to sponsors together with a 'letter of gratitude' from the child.

If you would like to become a sponsor or discuss the possibility of sponsorship further, contact Les Harper on mobile 0408123562 or email 'lesharper@optusnet.com.au'.

## **Baptisms**

**All Baptism Information/Preparation - Please contact Fr Joe at the Parish Office [for logon details for zoom meeting on Tuesday 3 November 2020 @7:30pm](#)**



## **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

### Booking for Parish Zoom Account

**Sunday 25 October 2020**

**8:00AM**                      **Parish Mass on Zoom**  
Meeting ID: 434 691 8189  
Passcode: 439075

**Wednesday 28 October 2020**

**9:15 AM**                      **Parish Mass on Zoom**  
Meeting ID: 434 691 8189  
Passcode: 439075

**Sunday 1 November 2020**

**8:00AM**                      **Parish Mass on Zoom**  
Meeting ID: 434 691 8189  
Passcode: 439075

**Monday 2 November 2020**

**7:00PM**                      **Parish All Souls Mass on Zoom**  
Meeting ID: 434 691 8189  
Passcode: 439075

**Tuesday 3 November 2020**

**7:30PM**                      **Parish Baptism Preparation on Zoom**

**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 28 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 2:19-22**

You are no longer aliens or foreign visitors: you are citizens like all the saints, and part of God's household. You are part of a building that has the apostles and prophets for its foundations, and Christ Jesus himself for its main cornerstone. As every structure is aligned on him, all grow into one holy temple in the Lord; and you too, in him, are being built into a house where God lives, in the Spirit.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

***Their message goes out through all the earth.***

The heavens proclaim the glory of God,  
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.

Day unto day takes up the story  
and night unto night makes known the message.

***Their message goes out through all the earth.***

No speech, no word, no voice is heard  
yet their span extends through all the earth,  
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

***Their message goes out through all the earth.***

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

You are God: we praise you. You are the Lord: we acclaim you;  
the glorious company of apostles praise you.

**Alleluia!**

## STM PARISH MASS ON ZOOM—Sunday 1 November

**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 Apocalypse.**

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.' One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

### **Responsorial Psalm**

#### **Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

#### **Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things.

#### **Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

#### **Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.**

### **Second reading**

#### **A reading from the first letter of St John.**

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,  
by letting us be called God's children;  
and that is what we are.

Because the world refused to acknowledge him,  
therefore it does not acknowledge us.

My dear people, we are already the children of God  
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;  
all we know is, that when it is revealed  
we shall be like him

because we shall see him as he really is.

Surely everyone who entertains this hope  
must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

#### **Alleluia, alleluia!**

Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened,  
and I will give you rest, says the Lord.

#### **Alleluia!**

## 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**

# All Souls Day

This year, “All Souls” Day falls on Monday 2 November. If you would like to have your deceased family members, relatives, or friends included in STM Memorial Book—**please contact the parish by Sat 31 October 2020.**

**Masses for All Souls Day are listed below:**

Monday 2 November 9:15 AM Mass—**LIVE** (location—STM Church veranda)

5:00PM Mass— **LIVE** (location—STM Church veranda)

(Due to a limited quota for outdoor gathering for religious services—**booking to attend live Masses is necessary!**) **Booking for outdoor Masses closed Friday 31 October @5:00PM)**

**Monday 2 November 7:00PM - Mass on Zoom**

**Meeting ID: 434 691 8189**

**Passcode: 439075**



## Homily

In today's Gospel Jesus reminds us of the two great commandments: love of God and love of our neighbour. These are simple commandments but they are not always easy to fulfil. The grace of God is necessary for us to live faithfully by these commandments.

There are 613 commandments that the devout Jews are expected to observe. In today's Gospel, when Jesus was asked to name the greatest commandment (from the 613 commandments), he responded to the request by naming two. This is because from Jesus' perspective, the second followed directly from the first. Love of neighbour arises out of love of God. In one sense, Jesus did not give the new commandment – both of these can be found in the writing of the Old Testament. (What is new in Jesus' teaching does not only lie in the fact that Jesus brought the two commandments together to form a single commandment that has two parts, but Jesus made these two commandments of equal importance.) We read in the book of Deuteronomy, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul" (Deu 6:5). The love of God is central to the Jewish faith and they do incorporate this commandment into their prayer. It is in Leviticus 19:18 that we find the precise teaching about loving "your neighbour as yourself". For Jesus God's will for all is summed up in the double command to love God and neighbour. The disciples of Jesus are called to live by this 'Great Commandment' in the course of their life.

Jesus has joined the two beautiful commandments (love of God and love of neighbour) together and made of them equal importance! Therefore, we must never separate these two commandments which are so important for our relationship with God and others. However, in practice we often do separate these two commands. Many of us find that it is far easier to love God than it is to love our neighbour as ourselves. We need to be clear in our mind that to love someone is not about how we feel about that person. Love is the matter of the will – not the way how we feel. Our actions do not have to be dictated by the way how we feel. Fr Flor McCarthy says that, "only when we accept ourselves as fundamentally good, and begin to love ourselves, will we be able to start loving others as the Lord commanded." This can be a challenge for some of us. Some of us are very good at being kind and loving towards all others, except for loving ourselves. Perhaps, some of us may need to come before the Lord and ask for the grace to be able to accept and love ourselves – to recognise that it is no matter what other people might be thinking of us, we are loveable in the eyes of God.

Let us pray that we will always have the courage to love God with all our heart, to accept and love ourselves just as we are, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

**Madonna magazine –  
Keeping people connected spiritually**

Dear Friends

Parish communities and individual parishioners have been hit hard by the pandemic with Masses suspended, sacraments curtailed and congregations unable to gather in the usual ways. Even as restrictions ease, the ability to attend Mass may be some way off for many.

Although parishes have during the pandemic, creatively found new ways to bring life to the spirit of the Church and support faith and spirituality, not all in our community are able to access digital platforms

The elderly, particularly those in aged care, are among those who feel most acutely the isolation and inaccessibility of 'the usual' rituals. Efforts to keep the aged and vulnerable safe during the pandemic mean traditional means of pastoral outreach in aged care facilities may also not be possible, further isolating people.

This is where *Madonna* can help.

For more than 120 years *Madonna* magazine has provided for people's daily spiritual life with reflections on the readings for the day, faith-focused articles, deep reflections and prayer resources – it is a much-loved staple of the Australian spirituality scene. A subscription to *Madonna* helps keep people connected to their spiritual communities, where face to face or online connection is not possible.

**BUY OR GIVE A GIFT SUBSCRIPTION**

Give the gift of connection to the vulnerable in your community by buying a *Madonna* magazine gift subscription. Or consider buying *Madonna* magazine for use in your pastoral outreach. For more on *Madonna* subscriptions, see the **[Madonna website](#)**.

For more on *Madonna*, see **[Fr Andrew Hamilton's article on the magazine's history](#)**.

Thank you for your support of our ministry and this publication.

Yours sincerely  
Michele Frankeni  
*Madonna* associate editor

***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](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com) or tel 9890 1101.

## **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**

## **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](mailto:recruitment@cam.org.au) by Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> 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.