

SEASONS

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

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

8 November 2020

Easing of Covid Restrictions

Places of Worship may have indoor religious ceremonies for **a total of 10 people plus 1 celebrant**.

NOTE: The Government Regulations allow you to travel **up to 25km** from your home to attend Church.

DHHS has given the following directives for 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.

We are now taking registration for indoor Mass. 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 7/ 8 November 2020

Weekend Reconciliation & Masses

Saturday

Reconciliation 5:00PM—5:30PM

Vigil Mass 6:00 PM

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Weekday Masses

Tuesday: **Mass on Zoom @ 9:15 AM**

Wednesday—Friday 9:15 AM

We pray for...

**Those who have passed away recently...
Those whose anniversaries fall at this
time....** Christopher Fulton; Mona Kelly

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

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.



Responsorial Psalm:

My soul is thirsting for you O Lord my God.

Second Reading: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Be watchful and ready: you know not when the Son of Man is coming.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.



Next Week's Readings - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

2nd Reading: I Thessalonians 5:1-6

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30



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

Leonie Bourke Carmel Huggard

Margaret Jamieson

PPLT Email: MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au

Mass online

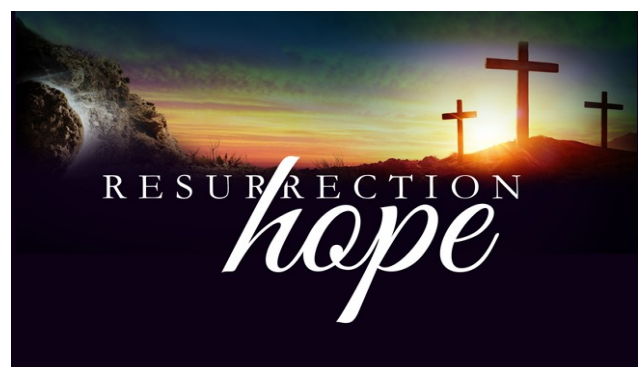
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

OR <http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

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

OR St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Daily and Sunday Mass is available, with the I am Mass live streamed; it is also available as a recording on-demand.

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



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

	Actual	Pledge
Stewardship	\$ 3356	\$ 4127
Presbytery	\$ 180	

*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 1 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.

Parish Zoom Account

For security reasons zoom logon details can not be included with the parish bulletin. If you would like to attend any of our service on zoom please send us an email, or give us a call on 9787 7777.

Tuesday 10 November 2020

9:15 AM Parish Mass on Zoom

Monday 16 November 2020

1:30 PM—3:30PM STM Poetry Group (Contact Coordinator for zoom login details).

Tuesday 17 November 2020

9:15 AM Parish Mass 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—Tuesday 10 November

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

Please contact the parish for logon details.

Saint Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor •

on Tuesday of week 32 in Ordinary Time

First reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus.

It is for you to preach the behaviour which goes with healthy doctrine. The older men should be reserved, dignified, moderate, sound in faith and love and constancy. Similarly, the older women should behave as though they were religious, with no scandal-mongering and no habitual wine-drinking – they are to be the teachers of the right behaviour and show the younger women how they should love their husbands and love their children, how they are to be sensible and chaste, and how to work in their homes, and be gentle, and do as their husbands tell them, so that the message of God is never disgraced. In the same way, you have got to persuade the younger men to be moderate and in everything you do make yourself an example to them of working for good: when you are teaching, be an example to them in your sincerity and earnestness and in keeping all that you say so wholesome that nobody can make objections to it; and then any opponent will be at a loss, with no accusation to make against us. You see, God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to *set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own* and would have no ambition except to do good.

The word of the Lord.

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

If you trust in the Lord and do good,
then you will live in the land and be secure.
If you find your delight in the Lord,

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

He protects the lives of the upright,
their heritage will last for ever.
The Lord guides the steps of a man
and makes safe the path of one he loves.

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

Then turn away from evil and do good
and you shall have a home for ever;
The just shall inherit the land;
there they shall live for ever.

The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

HOMILY

Towards the end of every liturgical year, the Gospel's message is often about the coming of Christ in glory. The parable of the five sensible bridesmaids calls us to be ready always for the coming of the Lord for we do not know the hour or the day....

The message in today's parable is that since we do not know the day or the hour of the Lord's coming, we must be prepared so that when the time comes we can go out to meet him. To be prepared means to be actively living our Christian life, and carrying out the mission that has been entrusted to us. We cannot just be idle and do nothing. Jesus has entrusted to us as a community of faith (the Church) a specific responsibility to continue his ministry in the world until the end of the ages. We must continue to proclaim the word of God, take care of the disadvantaged and those who are on the periphery of the society, to welcome new members into our community, and to bear witness to Christ by our life even in this challenging time. Jesus also has given to each one of us specific mission to be carried out in this life. Our personal mission may include being a responsible parent, a devoted teacher, a caring nurse or doctor. The evangelist Matthew is urging us to be faithful to our mission as we are waiting for the day of the final coming of the Lord.

Jesus' parable in today's Gospel also speaks strongly to us about the need to live our present with an eye for the future. Some people have the tendency to live as if the present life – 'the now' is the only important thing in life! These people are more inclined to live a care-free life – embracing anything and everything that brings them the apparent satisfaction and happiness (they give very little thought about the future). It is quite unlikely that the people who live their life – focusing on the 'now' have much interest in observing either social or religious norms. On the other hand, our society also has people who live their life focusing solely on the future, and ignoring the joy and excitement that this present life can offer. The thing is – both of these approaches to life leave us unprepared for the God of surprises who does have his own plans for our present and future life and happiness. As Christians we are called to be deeply committed to God's gift of the present and at the same time be open to God's gifts and plans for our future. We ought always to be on alert and be prepared.

On this weekend let us give thanks to God for our present life and happiness. Let us pray also that the Lord will help us to prepare well for his coming, and be ready to welcome the life of perpetual happiness that he brings to us.



Recently Beatified: Blessed Carlo Acutis

3 May 1991—12 October 2006

Blessed Carlo Acutis, Pray for us!!!

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**

November—Month of the Holy Souls

Please pray for:

The Duncan, Grieve and O'Hanlon families.

Fr Peter Fulton (STM 2nd Parish Priest)

Francis Bracken

Mona Kelly

**Please contact the parish if you would like to add your loved ones to
this 2020 memorial list**



Community Corner

St Thomas More Parish Social Justice Group

I have been asked to express STM Social Justice Groups concerns regarding Job Seeker being cut back after Christmas to the old long brutally standing Newstart payment. Asking people to live on \$40.00 per day or \$280.00 per week. This leaves people with the choice, DO I BUY FOOD THIS WEEK OR PAY THE RENT.

The ANU calculated the Coronavirus Supplement has lifted 640,000 people out of poverty. If the Coronavirus Supplement is fully cut by 31st Dec 2020, we will see 3.5 million people below the poverty line in Australia. Noting that there is 1.6 million people on Job Seeker in Oct 2020

The fact is the St Thomas More SVDP Conference, like many other community support agencies have been Supplementing the underfunded Social Security Support Payments for years .

The time has come to join the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) Campaign To: Raise The Rate For Newstart. If you can, write to your local Federal Member who speaks for you in Parliament or the Social Service Minister.

Who will speak for our brothers and sisters if we don't. Could we be like the good Samaritan with an open heart that can See, Judge and Act.

ACOSS campaign to Raise the Rate (<https://raisetherate.org.au/about/>)

Peta Murphy MP for Dunkley Tel 97812333 or email peta.murphy.mp@aph.gov.au

Greg Hunt MP for Flinders. Electorate Office Tel 59779082.

With Kind Regards, Ron Congues

We support Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)

ACRATH is committed to raising awareness about human trafficking and modern-day slavery in the areas of sexual exploitation and forced labour. There were 216 referrals from 1 July 2018 to 31 June 2019 of human trafficking to AFP. A staggering 31% were for sexual servitude.

ACRATH advocates of behalf of exploited workers under the Australian Government's Seasonal Workers Program and other programs. 22 men from Vanuatu were exploited while working on farms in Queensland during 2014. The men were hired by a labour contractor. They were, in most cases, paid nothing and fed little. The men are still owed around \$77,000.

ACRATH is working towards the elimination of forced marriage by conducting forced marriage Workshops. Currently, a girl is married every 2 seconds.

ACRATH members act as companions for people who are recovering from the experience of being trafficked or enslaved.

ACRATH promotes slavery-free supply chains and has worked with St Vincent's Health Australia looking at the procurement of rubber gloves and the work of contract cleaning companies. 75% percent of garment workers are women, often working in dangerous environments, receiving low wages.

Keep December 10 at 1.30 pm. free for a Zoom Prayer organised by ACRATH to conclude the International Community's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. Further information on this prayer will be made available in Seasons.

Catholic Schools Governance Update - Media Release 22nd October 2020

New era for Catholic education in Melbourne with the establishment of Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd

Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools Ltd (MACS) has been established to assume the governance and operation of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli says.

The change in governance arrangements will see all 293 schools owned by the Archdiocese, its parishes or associations of parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne transferred to MACS, which will be responsible for the governance and operation of the schools.

‘Building on the significant legacy of parish priest led and governed schools, MACS will usher in a new era for Catholic education in the Archdiocese’, Archbishop Peter said.

‘Education is integral to the mission of the Catholic Church to proclaim the Good News, and Catholic schooling forms our young people so they may be equipped with the knowledge, skills and hope to live meaningful lives and enrich the world around them.

‘The establishment of MACS is a necessary and constructive change to the operations for schools that not only reflects community expectations about the operations of schools, but keeps our Christ Centered mission at the heart of all we do in Catholic education.’

A Steering Committee was established in November 2019 to consider changes in governance for Melbourne Catholic schools. The Steering Committee has overseen 11 months of significant consultation and deliberation which has culminated in today’s announcement, Archbishop Peter said.

Archbishop Peter has appointed Mr Gerard Dalbosco as the inaugural Chair of MACS to lead this historic new path for Catholic education in Melbourne. Formerly a senior partner at EY, Mr Dalbosco has had a distinguished career holding several significant leadership roles with EY across Oceania and the Asia-Pacific region. He also has significant governance experience, with current roles including positions with the Committee for Melbourne, Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak and Newman College.

‘Gerard brings a wealth of strategic vision and governance experience to our efforts’, Archbishop Peter said. ‘I am very pleased to appoint him to this position and excited for what the future holds under his leadership.’

Mr Dalbosco said that he was honoured to be appointed as the inaugural Chair of MACS.

‘Catholic schooling in Melbourne has a profound footprint across our community’, Mr Dalbosco said. ‘We are the largest diocese in Australia and, together with Catholic religious institute schools, provide Catholic education for more than 153,000 students across 335 schools in Victoria, employing over 20,000 teachers and support staff.

‘I look forward to working with Archbishop Peter and key leaders in the Archdiocese to appoint fellow board members as we move the mission of Catholic education in Melbourne forward.’

Mr Dalbosco also said that he was looking forward to helping foster the renewed relationship between parishes and schools.

‘Parishes are the core of Church life in Melbourne’, he said. ‘These communities have not only planned for but, in many cases, built and paid for schools out of their own pockets because of their understanding of the need for Catholic education in the Archdiocese.

‘I am looking forward to MACS working closely with parish priests and parishes, which will continue to be central to the care and education of Catholic school students.’

Archbishop Peter announced that Catholic Education Melbourne, the service arm for Catholic schools in the Archdiocese, will also move to MACS, with recently announced Executive Director of Catholic Education Melbourne, Mr Jim Miles, to serve as MACS Executive Director.

‘The contribution of Catholic education in Melbourne and greater Victoria is an ongoing fruit of the gospel and a gift of Catholic educators to Victorian society’, Archbishop Peter said. ‘Jim will continue to play a critical role, as MACS will build up the leadership, transparency and fairness of that great tradition.

‘I have no doubt that he and Gerard, along with the rest of the MACS board and staff, will continue to ensure that each Catholic school is a valued and essential community in the life of the Catholic Church, and honour the relationships of trust and friendship between school and parish communities.’

MACS will officially begin its governance responsibilities on 1 January 2021.

Further information about the transition of governance arrangements for Melbourne Catholic schools can be found at www.governance.melbourne

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

Advent Gospel Reflections

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, this year our Advent Gospel Reflections will be held on zoom. Another priest and I will take it in turn to lead the Advent Gospel Reflections.

Please contact the parish office if you would like to be part of this year Advent Gospel Reflections.

Friday 27 November (1st Sunday of Advent)

Friday 4 December (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Friday 11 December (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Friday 18 December (4th Sunday of Advent)

