

SEASONS

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

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

15 November 2020

Easing of Covid Restrictions

Places of Worship may have indoor religious ceremonies for **a total of 20 people plus 1 celebrant** .

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 14/ 15 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.... Antonina Socha, Mark Landman, Margo Moloney, Lauren Kelly, Margaret Carr, Brighty Leneaux-Gale, Kevin Barnes, Gwendaline Pay, Mark Sorensen, Diego Mirabella.

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.**

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Year A

First Reading: Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Give her a share in what she has worked for.



Responsorial Psalm:

Happy are those who fear the Lord.

Second Reading: I Thessalonians 5:1-6

The day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night.

Gospel Acclamation:

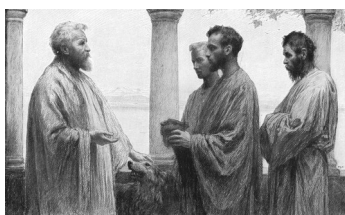
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Because you have been faithful over a few things, enter into the joy of the Lord.



Next Week's Readings - Christ the King Year A

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17

2nd Reading: I Corinthians 15: 20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46



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

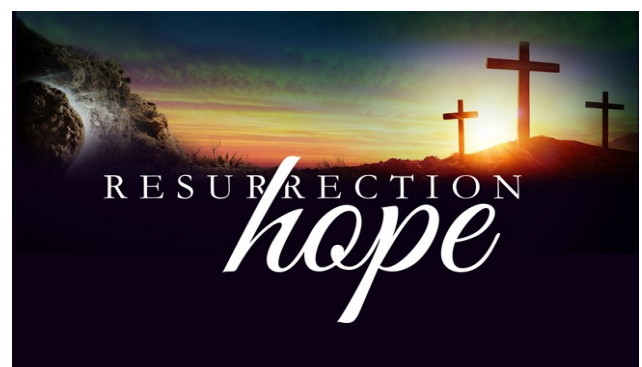
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

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	\$ 2384	\$ 1646
Presbytery	\$ 445	

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

What's Happening Here ...

Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Australia's Care

We currently have a significant number of refugees and asylum seekers in our care both within continental Australia and on Nauru, Christmas Island and Papua New Guinea. It has always been legal to seek asylum in Australia and we have human and legal responsibilities for refugees and asylum seekers in our care. The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP) is one important Catholic group that assists in practical ways, those within our own local communities, who need a chance to live a decent life, free from fear of death, persecution and torture. Refugees and asylum seekers need the chance to make a new home, where they are safe and can live in some dignity and hope. Here is one practical way to help people in Community Detention in Australia. Hand write a letter to a politician. All the details, from BASP are provided in two documents below: the first document explains how to write a letter and why it is important for us to act; the second provides all the necessary contact details of politicians who make important decisions affecting refugees and asylum seekers.

Peter Griffin on behalf of the STM Social Justice Committee

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.

Monday 16 November 2020

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

7:00 PM —9:30PM **St Vincent de Paul Conference**

Tuesday 17 November 2020

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

Wednesday 18 November 2020

7:30PM– 9:30PM **PPLT Meeting**

Tuesday 24 November 2020

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

STM PARISH MASS ON ZOOM—Tuesday 17 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.

First reading

Apocalypse 3:1-6,14-22

I, John, heard the Lord saying to me: "Write to the angel of the church in Sardis and say, "Here is the message of the one who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars: I know all about you: how you are reputed to be alive and yet are dead. Wake up; revive what little you have left: it is dying fast. So far I have failed to notice anything in the way you live that my God could possibly call perfect, and yet do you remember how eager you were when you first heard the message? Hold on to that. Repent. If you do not wake up, I shall come to you like a thief, without telling you at what hour to expect me. There are a few in Sardis, it is true, who have kept their robes from being dirtied, and they are fit to come with me, dressed in white.

Those who prove victorious will be dressed, like these, in white robes; I shall not blot their names out of the book of life, but acknowledge their names in the presence of my Father and his angels. If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

"Write to the angel of the church in Laodicea and say, "Here is the message of the Amen, the faithful, the true witness, the ultimate source of God's creation: I know all about you: how you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other, but since you are neither, but only lukewarm, I will spit you out of my mouth. You say to yourself, 'I am rich, I have made a fortune, and have everything I want', never realising that you are wretchedly and pitifully poor, and blind and naked too. I warn you, buy from me the gold that has been tested in the fire to make you really rich, and white robes to clothe you and cover your shameful nakedness, and eye ointment to put on your eyes so that you are able to see. I am the one who reproves and disciplines all those he loves: so repent in real earnest. Look, I am standing at the door, knocking. If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in to share his meal, side by side with him. Those who prove victorious I will allow to share my throne, just as I was victorious myself and took my place with my Father on his throne. If anyone has ears to hear, let him listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Responsorial Psalm

The one who is victorious I will sit beside me on my throne.

Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault;

he who acts with justice

and speaks the truth from his heart;

he who does not slander with his tongue.

The one who is victorious I will sit beside me on my throne.

He who does no wrong to his brother,

who casts no slur on his neighbour,

who holds the godless in disdain,

but honours those who fear the Lord.

The one who is victorious I will sit beside me on my throne.

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;

who takes no interest on a loan

and accepts no bribes against the innocent.

Such a man will stand firm for ever.

The one who is victorious I will sit beside me on my throne.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

God first loved us

and sent his Son to take away our sins.

Alleluia!

HOMILY

The Gospel for this Sunday reminds us that God has blessed each and every one of us with some special talents. The question is – what have we done with the talents that we have received from God?

We can be quite certain that of all the people in the world there is no two individuals who are 100 percent alike. God has created each one of us to be unique, and he also has given to each of us some different talents (gifts). The talents are given to us for some special purposes. During the course of our life we have the duty to discern the special talents that we have received from God and use them well for the good of others, the society in which we live, and for ourselves. Sometimes we hear comment like “so and so is useless..... he/she is good for nothing”. The thing is 1) it is hurtful and unkind to say to someone that he/she is useless; 2) it is not true that X, Y, Z is useless. Every person has some special gifts that he/she could share or use for the good of all. With the help of a wise mentor people can come to recognise the special talents that they have. Sometimes it can take people longer time to recognise the gifts that they have – but no one is “useless” – certainly not in the eyes of God! Instead of putting people down with hurtful comments we ought to do whatever we can to encourage them to realise the hidden talents that they have.

We ought to celebrate the talents that we have. By making good use of our talents we are honouring God at the same time. The talents that God has given to us are for the purposes of building up relationships and communities. Therefore, we must never misuse our talents, or to use our gifts for harmful purposes. Further, sometimes we can be envious of the talents that the other people have. It is a waste of time to get jealous because our neighbours have talents that we do not have. Instead, we should be focusing on the gifts that we have and put in our best effort to develop them. We are just as gifted as our neighbours! At the end of time each one of us will have to give an account to God for the way how we have used, or misused the gifts that we have received from him. God is not going to judge us on how many talents we have, but whether we have used our talents in a life-giving way!

Let us give thanks to God for all the talents that he has given to us in our life. Let us pray that God will inspire us with creative ways as to how we can use the talents we have for the good of the whole community.

A Special Message from Fr Joe

Dear friends,

It is so wonderful that freedom has now being restored to us who live in Victoria, and we are now able to travel across the State to visit the loved ones who we have not seen for many weeks. Certainly, it is such a blessing for us to be able to return to our parish church to celebrate the beautiful sacraments that Jesus instituted for our spiritual nourishment. Let us pray that some vaccines will be available soon so that we can enjoy life in this beautiful world without the fear of catching such a contagious Covid 19.

There have been several changes to the appointment of the clergy in the Archdiocese over the last few months. There is also 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 to 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..

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 20 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

Deceased relatives of Barry and Marj Hansen

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



Community Corner

VINNIES SUMMER APPEAL 2020

EARLY THIS YEAR COVID 19 BROUGHT A DRAMATIC CHANGE TO OUR LIVES. VINNIES VISITATION PROCESS CHANGED FROM IN-HOUSE CALLS TO A PHONE CONSULTATION IN WHICH WE ESTABLISHED OUR CLIENTS NEEDS. HAVING ESTABLISHED THE NEED, WE MOSTLY SUPPLIED ASSISTANCE BY WAY OF VOUCHERS, WHEREBY CLIENTS COULD VISIT THE NOMINATED SUPERMARKET FOR THEIR FOOD. BECAUSE OF SOCIAL DISTANCING OUR VISITATIONS WERE LIMITED TO SIX MARRIED COUPLES TRAVELLING IN PAIRS IN THEIR OWN VEHICLE. DURING THAT TIME EIGHT OF THE TWELVE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH MEDICAL ISSUES, RANGING FROM A HOSPITAL STAY FROM BETWEEN THREE WEEKS TO ONE DAY SURGERIES. WE THEREFORE ALWAYS NEED AN INTAKE OF YOUNGER MEMBERS OF VARYING AGES TO FOLLOW IN OUR FOOTSTEPS. THIS YEAR THE YOUNGER MEMBERS HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY WITH THEIR WORK, HOME SCHOOLING AND HOME DUTIES AND FRUSTRATED WITH NOT BEING INVOLVED WITH VISITATIONS. THEY LOOK FORWARD TO GAINING EXPERIENCE WHEN NORMALITY RETURNS. OUR CONFERENCE IS MADE UP OF APPROXIMATELY 25% YOUNG ADULTS THROUGH TO PEOPLE IN THEIR MID EIGHTIES. THERE IS ALWAYS A NEED FOR YOUNGER MEMBERS TO ASSIST ON WEEKENDS AND SCHOOL HOLIDAYS. THIS WOULD TAKE UP ABOUT TWO HOURS OF YOUR TIME. THIS YEAR WE HAVE COPEd BECAUSE NO ONE HAS BEEN ABLE TO HOLIDAY DURING WINTER. NORMALLY WE WOULD PROVIDE FOOD AND TOY HAMPERS FOR CHRISTMAS, BUT BECAUSE OF THE VIRUS WE TOOK AN EARLY DECISION TO GIVE MONEY VOUCHERS IN PLACE OF FOOD AND TOYS. THE VOUCHERS HAVE STRICT LIMITATIONS AS TO WHERE AND FOR WHAT THEY CAN BE EXCHANGED. DUE TO ENFORCED LOW NUMBERS THAT WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND CHURCH, AND THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON SCHOOL-CHILDREN PICK-UP, YOU WILL BE INFORMED IN "SEASONS" AS TO HOW YOU CAN DONATE THIS YEAR TOWARDS OUR FOOD AND HAMPER CHRISTMAS GIVING. THERE ARE MANY NEEDY FAMILIES WHO WILL NEED ASSISTANCE THIS CHRISTMAS. REMEMBER - THE POOR WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US.

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

Face Masks for Sale

Wearing of a face mask may remain mandatory in Victoria for quite sometimes. One of our parishioners and STM School mum, Sonya, has a wide range of face masks for sale at a very reasonable price. Please consider supporting Sonya—our parishioner and a school parent.



Each mask is cotton 3 layers.

1 x mask @ \$8.00each

2 x masks @ \$15.00

3 x masks @ \$20.00



Please contact Sonya for further inquiries.

Mobile: 0429300180

Email: sonyamuser@gmail.com

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. **Please register your interest by Sat 21 November 2020.**

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)

