



# SEASONS

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

3rd Sunday in Advent — Year B

13th December 2020

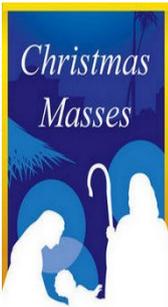
Dear Fr Joe,

We are very thankful for the time you have spent with us in Mount Eliza. May you continue to be sustained by His grace, and may your life in God's service always be filled with joy.

From All of Us.



**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

As of 6th December,

**Our St Thomas More Church has a total capacity (based on current distancing laws) of 130 people.**

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

- v Social distancing and Hand sanitising is to be observed at all times.
- v Wearing of a face-mask is optional and mandatory in confined spaces.
- v Absolutely No physical contact between persons.

We 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 12/13 December 2020**

## **Weekend Reconciliation & Masses**

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

Weekday Masses are suspended from 16th December 2020 until Fr Patrick Bradford arrives in the second week of January 2021

## We pray for...

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

**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time....** David Duff, Tom Sanders, Margaret Wunder, Carmel Bainbridge, Jason Sutton, Frank McConvill, Marie Peters, Peter Sawa.

**The sick...** Rosemary Ivey, Patricia Leerson-Dash, Bill Hunt, Shirley Spry, Dennis 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.**

## 3rd Sunday in Advent — Year B

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm**

My Soul rejoices in my God.



**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

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

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*



**Parish Office Hours: Limited Hours**

**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

**4th Sunday in Advent—Year B**

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



**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.

### 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 9th January 2021**



**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**

How can you connect to Live streaming on **Christmas Eve 24 December ?**

The following link will be active on Christmas Eve

<https://youtu.be/UAIzVoRvsuo>

# What's Happening Here ...

## [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 December 14 at 7.30 p.m.

Next meeting for the **St Vincent de Paul Society Mount Eliza Conference** will be via Zoom.

### Thursday December 17 at 7.30 p.m.

**St Thomas More Parish Social Justice Group** will meet via Zoom.

Parishioners wishing to join the meeting are asked to register with Bernard Dobson at [dobsonb@bigpond.com](mailto:dobsonb@bigpond.com) and he will then send out the Zoom invitation.

## ACRATH :Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking In Humans.

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude;  
slavery and servitude shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 4 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights



Many people here in Australia hold the belief that slavery, trafficking in humans, does not exist in our country. This is not so, there are cases of slavery in various forms across Australia.

Every day around the world hundreds of thousands of people are drawn to the promise of work simply to put food on their family's table - work that often turns out to be a job in forced labour or slave like conditions. Or worse, they will be sold into labour or sexual exploitation.

ACRATH's **VISION** is to have a world free of human trafficking.

ACRATH's **PURPOSE** is to eliminate modern slavery and human trafficking and the harm they cause in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and [globally.in](http://globally.in) collaboration with others.

ACRATHS's **VALUES** -Dignity of each human being, Human rights, Women's rights, Justice and Collaboration.

ACRATH members are dedicated to help by raising awareness leading to action, acting regionally and nationally, working for systemic change locally and globally, by advocating with government and collaborating with counter trafficking networks.

ACRATH is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not for profit Commission.

If you would be interested in finding out more about the work of ACRATH and how you can help you can contact on email [office@acrath.org.au](mailto:office@acrath.org.au) or speak to parishioners, **Bernard Dobson** or **Mary Cameron** who both are members of ACRATH.

## 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 operating under current restrictions**
2. **Seasons** publish online, send out by email, or by post.  
Please contact the parish office if you would like to receive a copy of *Seasons* by post.
3. **Pastoral visitation: Anointing of the Sick and Communion for the housebound:**  
By request.

### Assistance Required

Due to building density and social distancing regulations, STM Church can only have a total of 130 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 130 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**

eam 2

Sanitiser 1: **Anselm Gunsekera**

Sanitiser 2: **Yolande Gunsekera**

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**



“We would like to thank Fr Joe and all the people of St Thomas More who kept Dennis in their prayers and thoughts during his time in hospital. Your thoughtfulness and caring have been overwhelming and a source of comfort and support for both of us. Dennis is making as good a recovery as can be expected but he has still has a long and difficult journey ahead of him.”

**Dennis and Maureen Mirabella.**

## 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.**



## 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



**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

### CDF-Online Portal for Parishes

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:

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

## Financial Matters 6th December

	Actual	Pledge
Stewardship	\$ 3796	\$ 5087
Presbytery	\$ 266	

*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

## 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>

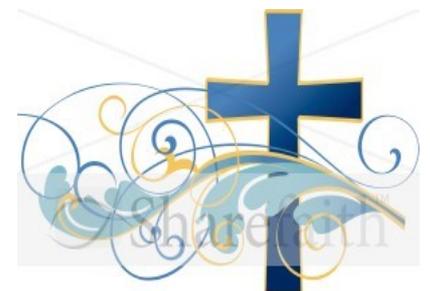
## STM Social Club    Fun & Friendship For All

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

## Baptisms —

**On hold until Fr Patrick Bradford arrives in January 2021.**

Please contact the Parish Office on 9787 7777 to leave your details.



# PPLT

Thank you to Paul Stinear who has recently resigned down from PPLT Group.

St Thomas More parishioners thank you for your valued leadership and hard work in the PPLT and in the wider Parish groups/events over the many years.



## 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

## Pregnancy Assistance Frankston

Website: <http://www.pregnancyassistancefrankston.org.au>

Latest Newsletter: [PAFHeartBeatNewsletter2020.12.pdf](#)

### **A Mother's Prayer**

O Most Merciful Heart of Jesus, To Thee I consecrate my children. No-one can understand, better, My cares and anxieties and no-one can more effectively help me than Thou. Give me many graces to bring up my children, Because I know well that no endeavours of mine Will have any efficacy without Thine assistance. Direct my undertakings and enlighten My instructions to my children; Guard my children from sin; Teach them to progress in goodness; Preserve them from bad companions; Help them to become learned; Make them kind and merciful to the poor, suffering and unhappy; And keep them in sanctifying grace and health That they may grow up for the honour and glory of God, For the betterment of society, For the consolation and support of their parents, And for their own earthly and eternal happiness. When Thou callest me, as my Judge, Henceforth, I promise to serve Thee faithfully, Adore Thy inexhaustible mercy, Spread devotion to it, And place it in Thy abounding confidence. Amen.

