

SEASONS

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

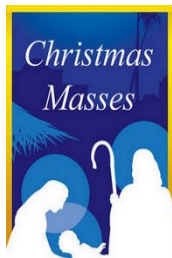
4th Sunday in Advent — Year B

20th December 2020

**Welcome and Thank you to our visiting Priests
Fr Geoffrey McIlroy and Fr Len Size**



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**).

Remember, 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 19/20 December 2020

Weekend Reconciliation & Masses

Saturday	Reconciliation	5:00 PM—5:30 PM
	Vigil Mass	6:00 PM
Sunday	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....

George Vines, Tom Shannon, Margaret Rutherford-Smith, Marianna Landman, Jason Lowndes, Margaret McLoughlin, Margaret Bourke, John Mitchell, Ria Wilson

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.**

4th Sunday in Advent — Year B

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

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 26-28

You will conceive and bear a son.



Listen and rejoice!
As we celebrate this 4th Sunday of Advent, our focus is on Mary. Mary was called by God, to Listen and Rejoice! God calls us to do the same!

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 (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>

STM Parish Office Hours: Limited Hours

After Hours:

**Please leave a message at Mornington
Parish Office on 5975 2200**

Next Week's Readings —Year B

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40



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.

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.

**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>

St Thomas More Website:

<https://www.stm-mteliza.org/>

Our main website has some operating problems when you select the Weekly Bulletin Page. It is due to it's age and the Archdiocese IT department suggest I place the weekly bulletin link on the HOME page for now.

We also have another website you can view:

<http://pol.org.au/mounteliza/Home.aspx>

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 21 at 7.30 p.m.

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



St Thomas More Parish Social Justice Group

Church Teaching on Social Justice

Whenever Jesus encountered a person suffering from a physical or mental impediment holding them apart from the community, he restored their dignity and drew them into the light. He proclaimed the 'reign of God', which is a reign of justice.

Whenever we assist another, especially someone whose dignity has been downtrodden, we are a source of light to them. No matter how small our action may be, we become co-workers in proclaiming the reign of justice.

Catholic Social Teaching sums up the teachings of the Church on social justice issues. It promotes a vision of a just society that is grounded in the Bible and in the wisdom gathered from experience by the Christian community as it has responded to social justice through history.

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me: he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour," *Isaiah 61:1-2*

Who are the poor, the captives, the blind and the oppressed in society? They are those who lack human dignity, who are set apart from 'acceptable' society for one reason or another.

The social teachings of the Church are designed to protect and promote human dignity as this is the starting point and central concern of Catholic thinking about human rights. Each person is created in the image and likeness of God and so has an inalienable, transcendent God-given dignity. Each member of the human family is equal in dignity and has equal rights because we are all children of the one God.

Every person is worthy of respect simply by virtue of being a human person. People do not lose the right to being treated with respect because of disability, poverty, age, lack of success or race, let alone gain the right to be treated with greater respect because of what they own or accomplish.

The concept of the Common Good refers to the greatest good for all just because they are human beings. We are connected with other people. Each individual, and group, has the right to achieve their potential. Each social group must take account of the rights and aspirations of other groups, and of the well-being of the entire human family.

Our St Thomas More Parish Social Justice Group has decided to focus on several areas in which human beings are not being treated with the dignity and respect owed to them. These are Asylum Seekers and Refugees (BASP); people who have been subjected to human trafficking and slavery (ACRATH); Homelessness (SHAC); Poverty linked to inadequate support to the unemployed (New Start); Poverty (Vinnies) and Youth Justice in Victoria and the Brosnan Centre. However, there are many other ways we as Christians can support others, such as people in care and in need of disability support.

Remember, any small act can benefit another human being.

Best Wishes

Bernard Dobson on behalf of St Thomas More Social Justice Group

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**

Team 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



**During these COVID times —
our “Seasons” newsletter will continue during
January as a way of keeping us all connected,
especially those who are self isolating.**

We will continue to distribute Seasons via email and post mail each week.

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.artezapacific.com/registant/donate.aspx?eventId=52905&spid=5635822>

Financial Matters 13th December

	Actual	Pledge
Stewardship	\$ 1981	\$ 1446
Presbytery	\$ 587	

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

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>

Baptisms — On hold until Fr Patrick Bradford arrives in January 2021.



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

STM Social Club Fun & Friendship For All

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

Please contact **Carolyn Gascoigne** on **0448 871 970**

Fun was had by all who attended the Picnic in the Park last Wednesday.

It was a great opportunity to catch up and have a chat before the Christmas rush.

We are all looking forward to the New Year and a time where we can return to having meetings and planning events to attend. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Regards Carol Gascoigne

Wishing all our Parishioners and visitors

A Very Merry Christmas

from Vicki & Margaret in the Parish Office



PPLT

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:

Jacinta Griffin (Chair), Leonie Burke, Carmel Huggard, Margaret Jamieson

Hello Volunteers, The Church rosters will expire at the end of December.



I would like to compile our new rosters as soon as I can but I need your help!

I would like to know

- a) if you are comfortable resuming volunteer duties, and
- b) what are your current preferences, eg which mass time and which duty/s.

I acknowledge that for some people it is still too soon to return to public circulation. I respect your decision. Only you know when it is right for you to return or engage in out of house activities.

Hopefully I will receive enough replies back to the Office to provide you with a fair roster so that we do not burn out our wonderful volunteers. No one wants the pressure of Reading or AV operator each week.

Please have a think over the weekend about what role you can play at St Thomas Mores Parish over the next 4 months.

Again, I want to state; there is no pressure to attend church or sign up for rosters unless you are comfortable doing so. Bye for now.... Regards Vicki Abbatangelo Parish Office Manager

Gracious God, as we celebrate the Lord's coming this Christmas, may we prayerfully:

Give thanks anew for your providence and presence:

Seek your grace, amidst COVID-19 to cope with the challenges that we may face in the future:

Ask you to strengthen and sustain all persons in great need:

Help us to be more sensitive to the wants of other and have a generous heart:

Pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in our personal lives, our families and friends, the Church, and our leaders:

Amen

(author: salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au)

