



# SEASONS

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

All Saints Day — Year A

1 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 any parishioners who would like to attend Mass to register your interest with the parish by phone . **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



## 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>	\$ 1504	\$ 1342
Average weekly for October		- \$ 2313
<b>Presbytery</b>	\$ 358	

*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.***

### **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.

**Sunday 1 November 2020**

**8:00AM** Parish Mass on Zoom

**Monday 2 November 2020**

**7:00PM** **Parish All Souls Mass on Zoom**

**Tuesday 3 November 2020**

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

**Wednesday 4 November 2020**

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

**Tuesday 10 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—Wednesday 4 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 Charles Borromeo, Bishop •**  
on Wednesday of week 31 in Ordinary Time

### **First reading**

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.**

My dear friends, continue to do as I tell you, as you always have; not only as you did when I was there with you, but even more now that I am no longer there; and work for your salvation 'in fear and trembling.' It is God, for his own loving purpose, who puts both the will and the action into you. Do all that has to be done without complaining or arguing and then you will be innocent and genuine, *perfect children of God among a deceitful and underhand brood*, and you will shine in the world like bright stars because you are offering it the word of life. This would give me something to be proud of for the Day of Christ, and would mean that I had not run in the race and exhausted myself for nothing. And then, if my blood has to be shed as part of your own sacrifice and offering – which is your faith – I shall still be happy and rejoice with all of you, and you must be just as happy and rejoice with me.

**The word of the Lord.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

***The Lord is my light and my salvation.***

The Lord is my light and my help;  
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
before whom shall I shrink?

***The Lord is my light and my salvation.***

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
for this I long,

to live in the house of the Lord,  
all the days of my life,

to savour the sweetness of the Lord,  
to behold his temple.

***The Lord is my light and my salvation.***

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness  
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord!

***The Lord is my light and my salvation.***

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

If you are insulted for the name of Christ, blessed are you,  
for the Spirit of God rests upon you.

**Alleluia!**



## HOMILY

All saints day is a day of celebration to honour all the saints who have been canonised as well as the saintly people who have not being recognised by the Church for a variety of reasons. However, this beautiful feast day also reminds all of us of our common call (vocation) to be holy.

The first and fundamental vocation of every Christian is to be holy. To be holy involves living in right relationship with God and others. Jesus is a model of holiness for us to follow. We are called to live in union with Jesus and to follow in his example of holy living from the day of our Baptism. Jesus teaches us the truth about who we, and where we stand before God the heavenly Father who gives us life. Jesus also shows us the proper way to relate to other people that we meet in life. In today's Gospel Jesus gives us the Beatitudes as the pathways that help us to grow in holiness. Instead of being overwhelmed by the Beatitudes, we ought to discern the one that is most appropriate for us and to embrace it in our daily life.

The saints are those who persevered in their Christian vocation to be holy. When we reflect upon the life of the saints we can recognise how they gradually grow to maturity in their relationship with God and others. We can recognise also the enormous efforts and sacrifices that the saints made in order to live in union with Jesus, and to practice the Beatitudes. The saints teach us that becoming holy doesn't happen overnight, but it is a lifelong commitment. Certainly, the saints teach us that it is only with the grace of God that we can become holy. The recent Beatification of Blessed Carlo Acutis (May 1991 - October 2006) by Pope Francis attests that even in this modern and secular world it is still possible for us to be holy, if we want to. Blessed Carlo Acutis teaches us that as long as we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, we will be able to live truly a human life as we are called to do.

On this weekend let us ask the saints to pray for us who are still persevering on this road to holiness. May the examples of the saints be the source of inspiration for us to be holy.



### **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**

# 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**

Please contact the parish for logon details



## 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](mailto:peta.murphy.mp@aph.gov.au)

Greg Hunt MP for Flinders. Electorate Office Tel 59779082.

With Kind Regards

Ron Congues

**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.