

SEASONS

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

Ascension of the Lord— Year A

24th May 2020

New Stages of re-opening Churches for public Mass and other liturgical services

Dear parishioners,

With the initial easing of some lockdown restrictions for Victorians, Churches are now permitted to open for Masses and liturgies (under strict number and hygiene limitations). Each Church service can have up to 10 people – not including the clergy and the people who are required to run the service – i.e. Lectors and AV Operators.

I would like to advise you of the following arrangements for Masses at STM Parish:

Weekday Masses (Resuming Wed 20 May 2020)

Wednesday: 9:15 AM and Friday: 9:15 AM **Please Note: 10 people is the maximum limit.**

Weekend Masses (Saturday 30 May – Sunday 31 May)

Saturday 30th May @ 4:00 PM – Vigil Mass

@ 6:00 PM – Vigil Mass

Mass arrangements for June—TBA

Sunday 31st May @ 8:00 AM

@ 10:00 AM

@ 5:00 PM

The new Mass arrangements will be reviewed after 31 May 2020 when the Premier gives further guidelines. The Sat 4:00PM Vigil and Sunday 5:00PM Masses are added to make it easier for more parishioners to attend Sunday Mass – if this is what they want to do. **The Sat 4:00 PM Vigil may not continue beyond May and Sunday 5:00 PM Mass will cease when Churches return to 'normal' services.**

Parishioners who wish to attend any of the Weekday or Weekend Masses **MUST** make a booking with the STM Parish Office. Upon arriving at the Church, parishioners **MUST** sign - in the Mass Attendance Register. These are the essential requirements that the Government has asked all Churches and Parishioners to comply with if we want to re-open our churches. People who do not make a booking with the Parish Office **may not be permitted to participate in the Mass.**

I understand that these are very strict rules – but, we must observe them in order to re-open our church for service. I do ask for your pardon and understanding during this difficult time that the diocese and parishes are living in.

From Tuesday 19 May 2020 the Parish will start taking booking for weekday and weekend Masses. Booking for weekend Masses close on Friday @ 5:00PM. **Vicki and I will do our best to make sure that all the people who wish to attend Mass will have a fair opportunity to do so.**

Finally, I would like to make it clear that **all Catholics living in Victoria are still being suspended from the Sunday Obligation until further notice.** Therefore, I do sincerely encourage that the people who are in the vulnerable groups (i.e. over 60 or with other underlining health issues) to consider attending Mass/Prayer online or Mass which is broadcast on the 10 Network. You are the best person to make the decision as to whether or not you should be coming to Church during this time of Covid 19 Pandemic.

It is the most difficult time for all and we are in it together. Fr Joe Danh Truong

We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

Patricia Letcher

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Marie Fulton (Sr Patricia rsm), Sam Ransom, Sydney Jackson, Ted Marshall, Francis Lindner, Kevin O'Grady, Leslie Galley, Violet Hoare, Estelle Tracey



the sick... Joanne O'Brien, Ron Congues, Maree Bracken, Maria Truong, Fr Theo Rush, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Helen Steinbach, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Luke Carroll, Betty Corke, Chloe, David Dole, Maria Kelly, Helen Gibson, 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,**

Ascension of the Lord — Year A

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven



Responsorial Psalm:

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1: 17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

God and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.



Next Week's Readings - Pentecost Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23



The Bishops of Victoria have suspended the Sunday Mass Obligation for all Catholic Faithful during Stages 2 and 3 of lockdown.

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 Paul Stinear

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: Tuesday to Friday 9am—5pm

After Hours: Please leave a message on 9787 7777

What's Happening Here...



Dear Father and Parishioners,

Our greetings of good health and wellbeing to you and your families.

PAF is unable to run the Mothers' Day envelope drive this year so instead we are suggesting that if you would like and are still able to donate to our annual appeal, you can do by paying cash to the parish office, or the centre; by cheque or by a direct payment into our account at **WESTPAC BSB: 033 272 ACC: 318726**.

If you would like a receipt, then please provide your name and contact details which you can email to pafcares@gmail.com

We thought that this year we could extend the appeal run the length of May, the month of Our Lady, Our Saviour's Mother. She is the mother of all mothers and knows full well the struggles and needs of disadvantaged pregnant women and their babies and families.

Warm regards from the PAF Committee and Volunteers

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

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

Financial Matters

Stewardship	Actual	Pledge	Presbytery	
17th May	\$2099	\$ 2167	17th May	\$301



(Please note that the majority of our contributions are done electronically via Direct Debit & Credit Card Payments)

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

What's Happening Here ...

Pastoral Care for STM Parish during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic

This plan will be revised upon further restrictions from the Government.

1. **STM Church Open for limited services . 10 Attendees—Max.**
2. **Seasons** publish online, send out by email, or by post,. Homily will be included with **Seasons**.
3. **Pastoral visitation:** Parishioners who would like a visit from Fr Joe are to contact the parish office.
4. **Anointing of the Sick, and Communion for the housebound:** Fr Joe is now only permitted to administer the Anointing of the Sick to the seriously ill, and also, Fr Joe is only permitted to give the Eucharist as Viaticum to the dying
5. **Fr Joe is available at the parish office** from Tuesday to Sunday afternoon for spiritual guidance .
6. If you are elderly/living alone and need assistance with shopping—please call Fr Joe at the Parish Office.

Baptisms

All Baptism Information/Preparation - suspended until further notice.



Community Corner

Dear fellow parishioners,

This is to let you know that we have recently moved into our new home in Mount Eliza.

Love from, Julian and Sharon Collins

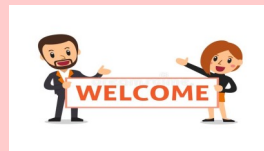


Dear Julian and Sharon,

STM staff would like to welcome you to Mount Eliza—the best part in the Peninsula! We hope that you will enjoy living closer to our beautiful STM Church!

Welcome a new family to STM Parish Community

A very warm welcome to Gerry and Carmel Flood and their three children: Joseph, Patrick and Thomas who have recently joined our STM Parish. We will have the opportunity to meet this beautiful young family when we are allowed to congregate in larger numbers.



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

Combined Catholic Parishes Raffle

Due to the current restrictions imposed by the Victorian Government because of the Corona Virus pandemic, the Gambling Commission has granted approval to extend this raffle. The new Draw Date is 26th September 2020 at 7.15pm. If you still have a raffle book at home—you can drop it back to the office or put it into our locked mail box. Hopefully we can resume with this fundraiser later in the year. Regards Vicki.

Homily

On this Sunday we celebrate the ascension of Jesus. It is a day of joy and hope for the Church. Jesus also wants us to have a share in his victory over sin and death. However, we must remember that Jesus is with us always.

The celebration of the Ascension marks Jesus' physical separation from our human history. However, Jesus says "I am with you always" (MT 28:20). The ascension of Jesus frees him from all restrictions of time and space. Jesus now can be constantly everywhere on earth at any given moment – Jesus is *omnipresent*. Jesus can be present in the sacraments, in the Sacred Scripture, with the patients in hospital, and among the community of faith that gathers in his name all at the same time. Jesus ascended to heaven not to abandon us or to distant himself from us, but this is so he can be more available to all people throughout the world.

As you heard me said it on previous occasions the real challenge for us is to recognise the presence of Jesus within us and around us. Our heart is a special dwelling place for Jesus. Jesus abides in any heart that welcomes him. We need to have some openness in order to recognise the presence of Jesus among us. We need to cast aside all prejudices and 'narrow' expectations and be prepared as Jesus might be coming to us in the most strange and unexpected ways. Sometimes we can put in enormous efforts to look for Jesus when in fact he is present with us in the family member that we do not like, or a colleague that we do not get along with, or the homeless person who we walk pass on the street. We do not need to break an arm and a leg in order to find Jesus.

Before Jesus ascended to heaven he gave the apostles (and through them to the Church) three special commands" 1) to make disciples of all nations; 2) to baptise the new members in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; 3) to teach the new members to observe all the commands I gave you. Jesus allows the Church to have a share in his universal mission for the world. In the name of Jesus the Church is to gather together the scattered people of God, to initiate new members into the family of Jesus and to teach them everything that we have learnt from Jesus.

There is a trend in the modern Church to adopt new ways to fulfil the mission which Jesus entrusted to the Church. This is encouraged by the Second Vatican Council. Pope John XXIII when he opened the Second Vatican Council said it was time to "open the windows and let in the fresh air." We should take the word of Pope John XXIII seriously. However, we must have our eyes fixed on Jesus whenever we want to adopt new approaches because ultimately it is the mission of Jesus that we are sharing in. We must always, think, feel and speak with the mind and heart of Jesus.

Dear friends, Jesus has honoured us by entrusting us with the task of carrying on his mission. May we always remain faith to Jesus and know that he is with us until the end of time.



New Members of PPLT



Margaret Jamieson



Leonie Bourke



Michael Robertson



Carmel Huggard

THE MONTH OF MAY- the Month of Mary



Our Lady, Help of Christians—Patroness of Australia

Solemnity: 24 May

“This is your mother”. Under the title of help of Christians, Mary was chosen as Patroness of Australia by the First Provincial Synod, convened by Archbishop Bede Polding, in Sydney in 1844.

Let us pray,

Almighty, ever-living God, who placed the love of Our Lady, Help of Christians in the hearts of those who brought the Catholic faith to these shores, grant, through her intercession, wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens, so that, under her protection, Australia may know harmony, justice and peace.

Our Lady, help of Christians, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross, pray for us.

Amen.

Activities for Children

The Ascension of Jesus

Acts 1:6-11



Men of Galilee, why are you
standing there looking at the sky?



Find the
hidden
words