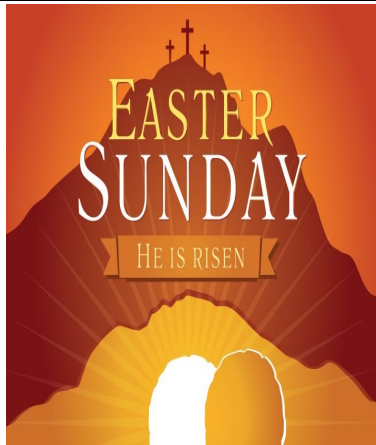


SEASONS

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

Easter Sunday— Year A

12th April 2020



[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>

**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

No Public
Gatherings in
Victoria under
Stage 3
coronavirus
guidelines

Homily for Easter Sunday 2020

The feast we celebrate today is one of victory- the victory of the son of God, Jesus – our Saviour. On this day, our crucified Lord defeats sin and death for all of humanity. Therefore, let us join the whole Church praising the Father by signing: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!

On Good Friday, the Passion Narrative left us weeping at the tomb. Today, the Gospel takes us back to the tomb where we are expecting to find the lifeless body of Jesus. However, all that we can find in the tomb are the burial cloths. The tomb is empty. Jesus' body is not there! Our sorrow is now turned into wonder and awe. We begin to ask the questions - who could have taken the body? What are we to make of this? The feelings of wonder and awe lead us into the Easter mystery.

Every year at Easter time, we celebrate the most profound mystery of our Christian faith – the resurrection of Jesus. In faith, we believe that Jesus rose from the dead. But, we do not know how this happened. There is no eyewitness who could tell us how the resurrection of Jesus occurred. The apostles and the early Christians could only share with us about their encounters with the risen Jesus over a period – not the details about the resurrection of Jesus. The human mind can never comprehend the mystery of God. Therefore, Like St John – the one who Jesus loved, we are encouraged to accept and celebrate Jesus' resurrection in faith. *He [John] saw and he believed...* (John 20:8).

Perhaps, during this Easter Week we might like to reflect upon this question, do I believe that the risen Jesus is presence with me and that he is abiding in my heart? Sometimes, we can forget that our heart is a beautiful dwelling place for Jesus. During this period of lockdown when we are ban from coming to the Church to receive Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist let us turn to the risen Lord who is abiding in our heart – let us pray to him for all the grace that we and the people of our world need during this strange and challenging time.

This week we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. However, we know that our world is desperately waiting for another resurrection – a resurrection from such an infectious Covid 19 that has caused millions of people to be unwell and thousands of deaths around the globe. Let us be united in prayer and pray that the risen Lord who has conquered all things to himself come to our aid by putting to the end this deadly disease.

By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ the Lord guard us and protect us always! Amen

We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Harry O'Beirne, Laurie Pendlebury, James Bourke, Terence Phillips, Chas Pay, Patricia Bourke.

the sick... Ron Congues, Maree Bracken, Maria Pham, 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, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.**

Easter Sunday: Sunday of the Resurrection— Year A

First Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.



Responsorial Psalm:

This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Look for the things that are in heaven, where Christ is.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:1-9

The teaching of Scripture is that he must rise from the dead.

Fr Joe's Easter Message

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

We too are in lockdown during these days of Corona Virus Pandemic. Peace and healing are what all Australians, and indeed all people throughout the world are longing for during this strange time of Covid 19. Our Lord may appear to be slow in answering our prayers for healing and peace in this time of need. However, there are enough evidences in both the Old and New Testament to tell us that the merciful Father never abandons his children during the time of distress and affliction. Let us remain steadfast in our faith and trust that the good God will come to our aid in this time of health crises.

Parishioners, teachers, support staff, parents, and our dear children, please be assured of my thoughts and prayers for all of you during this difficult phase of our life.

On behalf of our parish staff, Vicki Abbatangelo and Margaret Jamieson, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a peaceful and blessed Easter. May the loving presence of our risen Lord and Saviour—Jesus Christ free us from all fear and anxiety.

Next Week's Readings - Second Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 2:42-47

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31



Radio Port Philip Presents - Two Hours of Reflection RPP Peninsula Radio 98.7 fm (or 98.3 fm) will be presenting between 8am - 10am a Good Friday Catholic program for reflection. On Easter Sunday as normal, 8am - 9am.

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9am—5pm
After Hours: Please leave a message on 9787 7777

What's Happening Here...

Dear Parishioners,

These are difficult and uncertain times for all, and I want to let you know that all of us here at the Parish Office are keeping you and your family in our prayers.

As the COVID-19 situation develops over the coming weeks and months, please be assured that STM Parish Office will remain open during business hours (until further notice) in service to the parishioners of our beautiful parish. We will continue discussions with the PPLT and others to work out ways by which we can reach out to you during these difficult times. We will continue to publish the *Seasons* on the parish website and sending them out to you by email. We understand that not everyone has access to the internet or has an active email account. Therefore, if there is someone who you know would prefer to receive a copy of *Seasons* by post, please can you let us know. Please, be assured that you can still reach us by phone or via [email](#).

Sadly, the reality of this unprecedented crisis is that many people and businesses will be affected in different ways. With public gatherings prohibited for the time being, you can still participate in Mass through Mass for You at Home across the [Ten Network \(6am, Sunday\)](#) or via [online streaming](#).

May I take this opportunity to invite you to consider continue supporting our parish –financially- during this time of health and economic difficulties. Perhaps, the parishioners who are contributing to the STM Stewardship by envelope might like to continue your contribution by direct debit. Please give Vicki a call at the Parish Office during business hours, and she can easily arrange for you to make your contributions electronically.

Please be assured that we will continue to pray for your health, safety and security, and I urge you to seek out support should you need it.

Yours in Christ,

Fr Joe Truong

"We are separated, but not alone"

During this time of lockdown and social distancing why not consider:

- Give your elderly next door neighbour a phone call to find out how he/she is doing...
- Why not discuss the Sunday Gospel with the people you live with
- Send an Easter message to all the people who you love. **We are separated physically but closer at heart!**
- Have you other ideas to share with our community? Why not consider submitting them to *Seasons*?

STM Social Club
Fun & Friendship For All
New members are always most welcome!
 Membership fee is \$30. All enquiries to:
 Brian 0428 776 202 or Grevis 0414 527 172

Due to the Corona Virus pandemic, the Social Club has decided to suspend all activities until further notice.

Financial Matters

<u>Stewardship</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Pledge</u>	<u>Presbytery</u>	
5th April	\$4820	\$5340	5th April	\$229

(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.



Thank you for supporting our parish during this challenging time

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 Closed until further notice**
2. **Seasons** will continue to be published online, send out by email, or by post, copies of *Seasons* will be available on the church door for people to collect. 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 over the phone...
6. If you are elderly/living alone and need assistance with shopping—please call Fr Joe at the Parish Office.
7. **Private Mass of the Priest:** Please be advised that Fr Joe will be offered Mass in private as follows:
 - Tuesday—for private intentions
 - Wednesday—for the victims of sexual abuse
 - Thursday—for the end to Covid 19
 - Friday—for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed—especially those died from Covid 19
 - Saturday—for peace and social justice
 - Sunday—for the spiritual/temporal needs of the parishioners of STM Parish

To make spiritual communion with Fr Joe's private Masses, place yourself in the presence of God, and say: Loving Father, it is my desire to participate in the Mass that Fr Joe offers on this day.

Baptisms

Due to lockdown, all Baptism Information/Preparation evenings are postponed until further notice.



Silent Prayer in the Home

This is an opportunity to pray for our individual and the wider Parish Intentions. The readings of the day are accessible via the Internet or maybe you have a special spiritual reading you wish to recite. "Where two or more gather in God's name, God is among them". A simple but suitable exercise as we continue to live out our Pastoral Plan during this time of self isolation.

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.

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

Would You Like To Advertise Your Business In This Space In Seasons?

- ◆ Business card size In colour
- ◆ \$50 for one month

We print 200 copies per week, and distribute to all STM School families by email. It is also available on the Parish website for six months. Please contact the Parish Office on 9787 7777 for further details.



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

LETTER
TO THE LAITY, RELIGIOUS AND CLERGY
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE
from Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

7 April 2020

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

This week, Holy Week, we have entered into the journey with Jesus towards his passion, death and resurrection. As disciples of Jesus Christ we make this journey with him to the foot of his Cross. His is the suffering, yet we accept our own part in it. This journey with Jesus can be confronting.

Our faith community in Melbourne over these past two years has been caught up in another hard and difficult journey as we have followed the court proceedings involving Cardinal George Pell and the person identified through the Courts as 'J'. It has been an intense and painful time for so many, especially all those personally involved in this case. But most particularly, this has been a hard road for all those whose wounds of abuse have been re-opened and laid bare— our relatives, friends and fellow travellers.

At the heart of this trial and appeal process have been the people involved. I want to firstly acknowledge 'J', who brought forward his story of abuse for examination in the courts of law. This is a right we value and honour.

I also acknowledge Cardinal Pell who has steadfastly maintained his innocence throughout. Rightly, he has been afforded the full possibilities of the judicial system. This decision means the Cardinal has been wrongly convicted and imprisoned, and he is now free to live his life peaceably within the community.

As a Christian disciple, and taking my lead from the Gospel (Matthew 25.31-46), I have striven to uphold the dignity of 'J' and Cardinal Pell throughout this time, both in my private thoughts and public statements.

The sole matter for examination in this case was whether Cardinal Pell committed certain despicable crimes, of which he has now been acquitted, and not about the broader question of how Church authorities have dealt with sexual abuse. Yet, I fully appreciate that people have seen in this case another emblematic story of sexual abuse by a Catholic priest. And it has brought a deeper weariness of soul to people of faith.

I am acutely aware of the division this matter has created in our community.

Even now, at the end of this process. Some will be comforted; others will remain distressed.

I have lost count of the conversations I have had with our people, who continue to draw strength and purpose from following in the way of Jesus Christ, yet whose anguish and anger towards the institutions of the Church and her leaders is visceral. While each allegation of abuse should rightly be addressed individually, the accumulative effect of the nature and extent of it has left most Catholics, and people of goodwill generally, utterly ashamed of what continues to emerge. You tell me of your outrage that this has been allowed to happen. Yours is a righteous anger and I share it with you.

But this journey to the Cross points us to a particular place – one of restoration and Christ's promised hope. Healing the damage done to those who have suffered Church-related sexual abuse, and building a culture of life, trust, care and goodness for all in the Church, is the task I lead. It is something in which we all have a part to play.

As Archbishop of Melbourne I re-dedicate myself and our Archdiocese to finding new ways of listening attentively to victims of sexual abuse, and accompanying them on pathways to justice, redress and healing. We continue our efforts to protect and care for our young people and for those who are vulnerable, and to make our faith communities safe, as Jesus Christ expects of us. And, I commit myself to encouraging and supporting the many faithful Clergy who currently serve in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

I invite you to join me in walking with our brothers and sisters who have experienced abuse in helping them to find recovery in their lives. This means active support for rigorous safeguarding policies and practices, respectful listening to survivors of abuse, and our own conversion. Let us pray for 'J' and his family; pray for Cardinal Pell and his family; pray and work for survivors of abuse; and build a Church that is centred on God's love for each person, with a special care and concern for the weakest, the most vulnerable, the most hurt.

In Jesus Christ, whose life is our hope and healing, I make the following words my prayer today.

For God alone my soul waits in silence,

for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honour;

my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people;

pour out your heart before him;

God is a refuge for us. (Psalm 62:5-8)

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A. Comensoli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop of Melbourne