



# SEASONS

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

Third Sunday of Easter— Year A

26th April 2020



## [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>

**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 Paul Stinear

No Public  
Gatherings in  
Victoria under  
Stage 3  
coronavirus  
guidelines

## Homily

One of the loveliest Easter stories in the Gospel is the story of Jesus walking with his disciples on the road to Emmaus. The risen Jesus too is walking with us on our journey in life.

The disciples left everything to follow Jesus who they thought to be the Great Liberator for the Israelites. However, the death of Jesus has shattered their hope and dream. The disciples could not see the prospect of Jesus' rising from the dead. Therefore, it was out of despair, grief and frustration that two of the disciples decided to turn away from Jerusalem (the centre of faith) and to make the journey towards Emmaus in search for a new beginning. These two disciples have lost faith in Jesus as the promised messiah – the son of God. However, just as the disciples thought that they were walking 'alone' Jesus came and walked beside them. Jesus listened attentively to the disciples' story and tactfully guided them to reflect upon the events of his life and mission. Jesus walked with the disciples on their journey of despair and hopelessness in order to guide them back onto the road of hope and joy. Having encountered the risen Jesus the two disciples made a U-turn to Jerusalem and resumed their discipleship.

"Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him". This 'something' that prevented the disciples from recognising Jesus could be anything – grief, prejudices, and unrealistic expectations and so on. Sometimes, there may be things that hinder us from recognising Jesus walking beside us. Do we know what they are? Perhaps, in order to see Jesus' loving presence with us we must have openness and be ready to let go of the unrealistic expectations we have of Jesus. We do need to allow Jesus the liberty to come to us just as he wants to.

All of us must feel at times like leaving Jerusalem to look for an Emmaus with more 'greater' promise. How often have we like the two disciples want to turn away from the Church – the centre of our faith? No one will be stopping us from leaving the Church or turning away from Jesus. However, before we make the decision to walk away from Jesus or the church it is necessary that we have it clear in our mind the reasons that make us want to look for hope and meaning elsewhere. Personally, I do not think that it is justified for me to turn away from Jesus because some of the leaders in the Church are corrupt – I do not profess my faith in my bishop or even the Pope. I profess my faith in the One who died on the Cross for my salvation! Similarly, I do not leave the Catholic Church because of some scandals. The Catholic Church is not made up of the clergy alone. I am a member of the Catholic Church. However, I would consider renouncing Baptism if I no longer convinced that God exists and that Jesus established the Catholic Church.

Dear friends, sometimes we may feel that we are going through life alone. However, the reality is that Jesus is walking with us always. It is up to us as to whether or not we would want to welcome him as our faithful companion in life!

## We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

**Win Guatta (dec March)**

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.. Margaret Smith, Joseph Can Truong

the sick... Joanne O'Brien, 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**

## Third Sunday of Easter — Year A

**First Reading:** Acts 2:14,22-33

*It was impossible for him to be held by the power of Hades.*



**Responsorial Psalm:**

Lord, you will show us the path of life.

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 1:17-21

*The ransom that was paid to free you was the blood of the lamb, Jesus Christ.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us; make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Luke 24: 13-35

They recognised him at the breaking of the bread.



### **Next Week's Readings - Fourth Sunday of Easter**

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 36-41

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:20-25

Gospel: John 10: 1-10



**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.

### Family Reflection Time

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

1— Nominate a member of the family to read out the Gospel passage. You may like to have a short pause to give everyone the opportunity to reflect upon the Gospel message.

2—Who are the two disciples walking to Emmaus?

3- "When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it<sup>(2)</sup> and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him...." **What is it about Jesus' actions that lead the disciples to recognise him?**

4— What is God saying to your family through this Sunday's Gospel? What is God saying to you?

5-Prayer of intercessions: you may like to pray for the needs of each member of your family...

6— You may like to bring this family reflection time to a close by saying together 1 x the Hail Mary for your family and 1 x the Our Father for the end to Covid 19.

Perhaps, you might like to send an email to Fr Joe with your responses to questions 2 & 3.

**More activities for children on page 6.**



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

# What's Happening Here...

## 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:

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

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family every blessing from the risen Christ.

Fr Joe Truong

### A special welcome to Seminarian Alex Chow !!

Alex is a seminarian (student for the priesthood) of our Archdiocese of Melbourne. Alex is sent to the Beda College in Rome (seminary for late vocation) for his formation for the priesthood. However, due to the Corona Virus outbreak in Italy our beloved Archbishop Comensoli has given Alex the option to return to Melbourne to continue his studies via online lectures. Obviously, Alex needs a suitable accommodation where he can continue his study without the unnecessary distractions. I have welcomed Alex to come and reside with me at STM presbytery. The Archbishop has approved this arrangement. Alex has been staying with me for about 3 weeks and he may need to remain in STM Parish to the middle of June or longer depending upon the situation with Corona Virus.

**STM Social Club**  
**Fun & Friendship For All**  
*New members are always most welcome!*  
 Membership fee is \$30. All enquiries to:

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

## Financial Matters

### Stewardship

19th April

### Actual

\$ 1852

### Pledge

\$2326

### Presbytery

19th April

\$236



(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 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 offering Mass in private as follows:
  - Tuesday—for private intentions—9AM
  - Wednesday—for the victims of sexual abuse—8:30AM
  - Thursday—for the end to Covid 19—8:30AM
  - Friday—for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed—especially those have died from Covid 19—8:30AM
  - Saturday—**Social Justice—12:00 noon**
  - Sunday—for the spiritual/temporal needs of the parishioners of STM Parish—10AM

## Baptisms

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



### Something to Think About

The Easter season reminds us that we are not alone, that we have never been alone. Jesus is with us now and forever. We have reason to hope and to help! We have cause to celebrate! There is life in abundance and we are called to make a difference! By the way—how is your next door neighbour coping during this period of lockdown???

For more ideas: <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

## 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.*

### 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**

### 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.

## STM PPLT News

Back in February, before the Covid-19 pandemic and crisis, the PPLT put out a call for parishioners to indicate their interest in joining us on the Parish Pastoral Leadership Team as our numbers over the last two years have begun to wane. We have been blessed with a number of people who have put their hand up to help our Parish in this way. In the past, new PPLT members have introduced themselves at a Parish meeting but that is not possible at the moment. We would also have photos taken which would be on display at the back of the church so that you know who we are. At the moment this is not as easy as it sounds, so instead of the usual face to face meeting we would like to introduce some of the new PPLT members to you here in Seasons.

Dear Fr. Joe and members of the PPLT,

I would like to apply to join the PPLT. I enjoyed the meeting I attended and I feel, with the years that I have attended this parish of St. Thomas More, I have something to bring to the meetings.

I first started as house keeper to Fr. Peter Fulton in 1999, to then working for Fr. Laurie Pearson certainly not in the same capacity, as Fr. Peter, but still available, and now with Fr. Joe.

So in my 21 years here I've certainly seen some changes made.



**Margaret Jamieson**

My name is Carmel Huggard. I have lived in the Frankston South area for over 35 years and was an active parishioner at Frankston and parent at St Augustine's PS, Baxter for many years. I am an experienced secondary school teacher of English and Literature. I joined St Thomas More parish 4 years ago and was very pleased to be warmly welcomed at one of the Friday night Welcome Dinners. I am pleased to be part of a caring and active faith community at St Thomas More's, which values and encourages vibrant liturgy and active social groups. As a member of the PPLT, I hope to share my vision and contribute my skills to promote even more inclusive and effective outreach to our parishioners, inter-church groups and the wider community.



**Carmel Huggard**



## PPLT News

Dear Fr Joe and Members of the PPLT,

I'm pleased to have this opportunity to introduce myself to the parish of St. Thomas More.

I have been associated with this parish for the past 16 years, attending the 6pm Vigil Mass, which has been so important to me, being a Special Minister, has been so rewarding. Taking communion to the sick and elderly has been another rewarding task.

I have recently been elected to the Finance Committee, we have some difficult days ahead of us in relation to finances within the parish.

During my time attending St. Thomas More, I have always been keen to support fund raising, as well as assisting in working bees when the opportunity arose.

St. Thomas More under Fr. Laurie Pearson was always able to provide me with the dedicated spiritual needs, in relation to my love for Christ, as well as for the person whom I have been a full time carer Mr. Greg Carew. Fr. Laurie cared and looked after Greg during his long illness. I was just so keen to meet Fr. Laurie, as I nursed and looked after his uncle Fr. Stephen Pearson, many years ago.

In relation to my input to the PPLT, my wishes are that we can all pull together to get parishioners to return to our St. Thomas More masses, as the dwindling attendances over the past few years has been very disheartening and alarming in my opinion.

St. Thomas More along with other parishes are facing some difficult times, I pray to God that we will survive.

Regards,

Michael Robertson



Hopefully we can share some more with you next week. Just a reminder, you can speak to any of the PPLT members at any time with regards to our parish. Fr. Joe, Jacinta Griffin (Chair), Paul Stineer, Sue Carr, Carmel Huggard, Margaret Jameison, Michael Robertson via email to the Parish Office - [MountEliza@cam.org.au](mailto:MountEliza@cam.org.au)

## ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

D	D	A	V	S	U	A	M	M	E
N	E	H	S	I	L	O	O	F	A
E	N	S	S	S	L	E	B	A	T
E	I	R	I	N	E	L	E	S	S
V	A	S	I	N	E	C	A	N	D
E	D	O	R	S	G	C	A	G	A
N	R	E	S	A	N	O	L	F	E
I	O	I	R	W	E	O	C	L	R
N	N	E	O	B	R	L	I	E	B
G	O	D	S	Y	I	S	R	A	R

VILLAGE	EMMAUS	FACES
DOWNCAST	ISRAEL	FOOLISH
ORDAINED	GLORY	EVENING
BREAD	BLESSING	RECOGNISED

