



# SEASONS

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

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord— Year A

5th 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 for Palm Sunday 2020

The scriptural readings for Palm Sunday take us from joy and triumph to despair and desolation. Palm Sunday Mass always begins with the narrative about Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Sadly, the liturgy of the word concludes with the passion narrative that tells us about the betrayal and unfair trial of Jesus by the religious and civil authorities.

In the second reading St Paul tells us that Jesus chooses freely -1) to take on our humanity (incarnation) for the love of all people; 2) Jesus willingly accepting death on the Cross in order to redeem the world. By his life and passion, Jesus has shown us divine mercy – God's mercy for his unworthy people. How do the people in the bible respond to God's loving kindness? How ought we to respond to Jesus' loving kindness for us?

During his passion, Jesus cries out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Similar to many of us during the time of deep distress and anguish Jesus (in his humanity) is not able to experience the presence of God with him. However, when we reflect carefully on the scripture we can see that the Father does not abandon Jesus – he is always at the side of Jesus to comfort and to give him the strength that he needs. God has never abandoned his beloved Son, Jesus, especially during the time of pain and suffering. The heavenly Father does not abandon us during the difficult moments of our life. Like Jesus, we ought never to turn our eyes away from God even when we cannot feel his presence with us. Our feelings can be deceiving! The people who deserted Jesus during his passion and death are the disciples and friends who he loves ineffably. It is during the time of hardship that we come to know who our true friends are!

The palms that we hold and take home with us on Palm Sunday are signs that we are willing to walk with Jesus, not only in the moments of joy and glory, but also in time of suffering and agony. Even though we are not allowed to congregate for Palm Sunday this year due to lockdown during the time of Corona Virus, we can still renew this commitment to Jesus in the privacy of our home. May we never turn away from Jesus when we are going through challenging time in life.

May the suffering Christ who experiences betrayal and abandonment during his passion come and share with us the joy and disappointment we may experience in the coming weeks and months.

## We pray for...

### Those who have passed away recently...

Greg Carew, Barbara Lipzker

### Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Alma Baxter, Nora Hanmer, Donald Young, James Breen Snr.,

**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.**

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord—Year A

### First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

*I did not cover my face against insult and I know I will not be ashamed.*



### Responsorial Psalm:

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

### Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

*He humbled himself to become like us and God raised him on high.*

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

### Gospel: Matthew 27:11-54

*The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ*

### Next Week's Readings - Easter Sunday

1st Reading: Acts 10:34, 37-43

2nd Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

Gospel: John 20:1-9 Or Matthew 28:1-10

### The Sacred Triduum

We solemnly celebrate the greatest mysteries of our redemption in *one single liturgy* over three days: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The Sacred Triduum comes to its climax at the Easter Vigil when we celebrate Christ's resurrection – his victory over sin and death.

### Holy Thursday:

We commemorate the Lord's Last Supper with his apostles on the eve of his passion and death. During this sacred meal our Lord instituted the **Sacrament of the Eucharist** to perpetuate the sacrifice of the cross until the end of time. On this holy night Jesus also instituted the Priesthood – to consecrate the Eucharist and to be at the service of his holy people. Further, on this sacred night Jesus urges us be servant of each other and to love one another as he has loved us.

### Good Friday:

We commemorate the death of Jesus on the cross. On this day we venerate the instrument of Christ's passion (the Cross) because by his holy Cross Jesus has redeemed the world.

### Holy Saturday/ Easter Vigil:

During the day - we wait at the Lord's tomb – reflecting further upon his passion and death for the sake of all people. We await his resurrection with intense prayer and fasting.

At the Easter Vigil we celebrate Christ's victory over death. The Paschal (Easter) Candle reminds us that the resurrection of Christ has brought light to a world darkened by sin and death.

**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
- Spend time in the garden together—enjoy the beauty of God's creation.
- 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>	
1st March	\$3,867	\$3,791	1st March	\$ 952
8th March	\$1,449	\$1,756	8th March	\$ 742
15th March	\$2,294	\$2,417	15th March	\$ 787
22nd March	\$ 534	\$1,357	22nd March	\$ 101
29th March	\$ 699	\$1,002	29th March	\$ 300

March Weekly Average \$1,769

(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.
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:

Sunday—The Passion of the Lord 10.00am In Private

Tuesday—for private intentions 8.30am In Private

Wednesday—for the intentions of the sick and suffering 8.30am In Private

Thursday—Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 8.30pm In Private

Friday—Good Friday No Mass— Commemoration of the Lord's Passion 3.00pm In Private

Saturday—Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 8.30pm In Private

Sunday—Easter Sunday 10.00am In Private

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.*

*Thankyou!*



A Parish thank you to Margaret Jamieson and Irene Owsianka for keeping the office

running during Vicki's absence.

And a big thank you to everyone for their prayers for our Parish Community.

## 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.