



# SEASONS

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

22nd December 2019

*Wishing all our  
Parishioners  
and visitors*

*Merry  
Christmas*

*Fr. Joe, Lys,  
Vicki & Margaret*

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**Pastoral Leadership Team**

Fr Joe Truong (Parish Administrator)  
Lys Crowe (Pastoral Associate)  
Pat McConvill (Principal)  
Jacinta Griffin (Chairperson)  
Sue Carr Carolyn Gascoigne  
Paul Stinear

**PPLT Email:**

[MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au](mailto:MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au)

**Weekday Mass**

Monday No Mass

Tuesday

**Christmas Eve** 7.00 pm  
9.30 pm

Wednesday

**Christmas Day** 9.00 am

Thursday No Mass

Friday 9.15 am

**Sunday Mass**

Saturday Vigil 6.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am

10.00 am

**Reconciliation**

Saturday 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

**By whom we have  
received grace and  
apostleship, for obedience  
to the faith among all  
nations, for his name:**

**—Romans 1:5**

*For Advent this year, the Liturgy Team  
decided to focus on the themes  
from our 2<sup>nd</sup> Readings each week.*

**This week our theme is  
GRACE**

*As 2019 comes to an end,  
and as our Parish 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year comes to an end,  
what have been the moments of grace for you this year,  
and for us as a community?*

*Perhaps we can take some time this week to look back and reflect.*

**Son of God, you came to us from David,  
into our flesh, and into our time.  
You suffered all that we suffer daily.  
We are yours. We belong to you.  
Bestow grace upon grace.  
Send us, with your love,  
to the whole world and make it holy.**

# We pray for...



**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time...** Jason Sutton, Frank McConvill, Marie Peters, George Vines, Tom Shannon, Margaret Rutherford-Smith, Marianna Landman, Jason Lowndes, Margaret McLoughlin

**the sick...** Bernard Dee, Eileen O'Beirne, Helen Steinbach, Raymond Reynolds, 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.**

## Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A

**First Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-14  
*The virgin will conceive.*

**Responsorial Psalm**  
Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

**Second Reading:** Romans 1:1-7  
*Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God-is-with-us. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 1:18-24  
*Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.*

### Next Week's Roster: 28 / 29 December

	6pm	8am	10am
<b>Lector</b>	M Cameron	A Moloney	L Crowe
<b>Comm.</b>	J Hannan	L-A Gibson	B Smith
<b>Min Euch</b>	<u>Book</u> H Steyn <u>Gifts</u> B Hunt N Davies	<u>Book</u> T Woods <u>Gifts</u> M Alaimo M Goss	<u>Book</u> A Ferguson <u>Gifts</u> G Hone P Royal
<b>AV</b>	D Coyne	I Owsianka	A Ryan
	<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	School Holidays	
	<b>Morning Tea</b>	K Rodgers L Moore	
	<b>Counters</b>	R Lindner D McKenzie Y Minton	

### Next Week's Advent Readings - 29th December

1st Reading: Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14  
2nd Reading: Colossians 3: 12-21  
Gospel: Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23



**Christmas Rosters** If you would like to be a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Commentator, AV Operator etc at any of the Christmas Masses, please write your name on the sheet at the back of the church.

**Morning Tea** Your hosts this week will be John Bruitzman and Anne Davey. You are all warmly invited after 10am Mass to linger for a cuppa and an opportunity to get to know some other members of your parish community better.



### Last 'Seasons' until 25/26 January

The next edition of Seasons will be 25/26 January 2020. If you would like something included in this edition please have it to the Parish Office by 9am on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

### Financial Matters

#### Stewardship

Received last weekend ..... \$2454  
Pledged last weekend..... \$2306  
Church Loose collections.....\$300

#### Presbytery

Received last weekend .....\$537

*(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.*



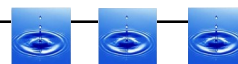
### Baptisms

These are held on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month at 11:15 am or at any of the Parish Masses on the 2nd, 4th or 5th Sundays. A compulsory preparation night for parents takes place on the first Tuesday of each month in the **Parish Community Centre at 7:30 pm**. The next one will be on **Tuesday 4th February 2020** Children to be baptised, and their families, are then invited to a Welcome Mass prior to Baptism where they are introduced to the Parish Community and welcomed by them.

### Contemplative Prayer.

*"Let tiny drops of silence fall gently through your day"*

Silent prayer in the Church each Wednesday from 8:30 am to 9:15 am, followed by Mass.



# What's Happening Here...

## STM Social Club

### Fun & Friendship For All

**New members are always most welcome!**

Membership fee is \$20. All enquiries to:  
Brian 0428 776 202 or Grevis 0414 527 172

## Coming up in January 2020.

We would love to welcome some prospective new members at one or both of these activities. Speak to Brian 0425 776 202 or Colleen on 9787 2479

**Thursday 16th January** Lunch at Steeples Mornington at 12 noon. Let Brian know by the 14th if you are able to come.

**Tuesday 21st January** Coffee Morning at 'The Sober Mule', Peninsula Lifestyle Shopping Centre at 10am.

### Films for January at Mornington Cinema

**Sunday 12th** Little Women

There will be a film on **Thursday 23rd** more information closer to the time.

Coffee or meal afterwards. Times will be announced at Mass, or contact Christine 0431696084

### The Welfare Officers for ...

**December - Sally and Brian**

**January - Christine**

### Christmas Mass Times



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If you haven't already got a copy of the Christmas Mass times there are extra copies in the Church foyer.



### Rosa Mystica Prayer Group

Invitation to share in Marian Devotion with the Rosa Mystica Prayer Group on Thursday evenings after the 7pm Mass.



### Baptism Welcome

Congratulations and Welcome to **Airlie Harms** (Parents – Andrew & Carly) who will be baptised at the 10am Mass this weekend.

## Thankyou to John Bruitzman

We take the opportunity this weekend to thank John Bruitzman for his many years on the Parish Finance Committee as the Chairperson. John has decided to step down from this Committee. We thank Brett Paton who will come on to the Committee, and take on the role of Chairperson.

Dear Parishioners,



The members of the St Vincent de Paul Conference would like to thank the very generous parishioners, parents of the school children and school children who have given so generously towards the Christmas Giving Tree appeal. In the last few days members have delivered in the vicinity of 80 food hampers and over 100 toy bags. These gifts have been so joyously received.

President St Vincent de Paul Conference.

## Christmas Hamper Raffle

Thankyou to everyone for bringing things along for the Raffle and then buying tickets over the last 3 weeks. It was a fantastic Parish Fundraising effort raising \$755.

### Congratulations to our winners

1<sup>st</sup> prize – Alison Ferguson,

2<sup>nd</sup> prize – David Wirth,

3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Jen Poole.



**Nametags:** The PPLT invites and encourages everyone to please wear a nametag to Mass as a way of us all getting to know each other. You can BYO or stick-on ones are available outside the Church each weekend. **This will be a really helpful way for Fr Joe to get to know us all, so even if it hasn't been something you have been used to doing, please consider wearing one now!**

### Holy Communion

During Communion adults or children who are not Catholic or not receiving Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing to any of the Eucharistic Ministers. Please indicate your wish for a blessing by crossing both arms in front of you.



# What's Happening Here ...

## Fr Joe's Christmas Message

2019 was a year of celebrations and changes for our Catholic Parish of St Thomas More, Mt Eliza. At the beginning of 2019, we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of our Parish. This was a joyous occasion to celebrate the success and growth of our beloved parish. However, 2019 was also a year of changes for our community. Fr Laurie Pearson retired after almost 20 years of dedicated service for the people of Mt Eliza. Similarly, Mrs. Pat McConvill who did an excellent task of leading our Parish Primary School for 12 years decided to retire and to take some time off for discernment and planning for the next phase of her life. It was with openness and excitement that our parish and school communities will welcome Mrs. Martine Verhagen as the new Principal of our vibrant primary school, and I was welcomed in August as the Parish Administrator.

During this time of change and uncertainty, let us turn to the Child of Bethlehem and welcome him into our life. May Christ the Lord take away all our worries and fill our community, our home and our life with his soothing presence, grace and peace. May he who is the Eternal Light enlighten our every thought and action so that whatever we do will be for his glory and for the good of others. May Christ, who comes to gather the scattered, give us the courage to put aside all prejudices so that we may live in harmony with each other and work collaboratively with all for the good of the community in which we live. May we be assured that no matter who we are he who is our Emmanuel (God is with us) will always be with us to protect us from anything that could do us harm!

On behalf of our Parish staff, Lys Crowe, Vicki Abbatangelo and Margaret Jamieson, I would like to wish you and your family a grace-filled Christmas and a happy and safe New Year!

## News from Lys

I just wanted to let everyone know that during this week, with sadness, I resigned from my role as Pastoral Associate.

With all the other changes that have gone on in the Parish over the last 6 months, it seems to be the right time for me to be part of the changes too.

I will finish on the last weekend in January.



## Is your Child safe and happy?



## Would you like to be more involved at Church and are passionate about Safeguarding our Children and Young People?

Here are two opportunities to obtain more information:

Please come along to our first 2020 Children Safeguarding Committee meeting on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> January in the PCC at 7.30pm.

Also, there will be an opportunity to attend an information session 'Effective safeguarding Committee Training' on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February in Frankston at St Francis Xavier Hall. These sessions are organized by the Melbourne Archdiocese Professional Standards Unit (PSU).

There are two different sessions (1pm–3.30pm & 6pm–8.30pm).

Places are limited, please contact the Parish Office if you wish to attend.