

SEASONS

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

Fourth Sunday in Lent— Year A

22nd March 2020

PCC=Parish Community Centre U=Undercroft
C=Church MPR=School Multipurpose Room
SSR=School Staff Room

Diary

- **Wednesday**
Church open 8:30am-10am
- **Thursday**
Church open 8:30am-10am
- **Friday**
Church open 8:30am-10am
- **Saturday**
Church open 5pm-7pm
- **Sunday**
Church open 8:30am-10am

Mass online

www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

OR

<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand>

OR

<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

Weekday Mass

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	No Mass
Wednesday	No Mass
Thursday	No Mass
Friday	No Mass

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil	Church open for
Sunday	Quiet Prayer

Reconciliation

Saturday 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm



HOMILY

FROM UNBELIEF TO FAITH

The story about the blind man in the Gospel is not about physical blindness. This is a story about faith. The man's progress from blindness to sight symbolises the journey from unbelief to faith. The journey from unbelief to faith is a difficult one –we cannot do it alone and certainly not without the help of God. In the New Testament, we read that Jesus leads people to come to faith in him: his own disciples, the Samaritan woman at the well (3rd Sunday of Lent), Lazarus and his sisters, the man born blind, etc. Jesus also calls us to come to faith in him.

Faith is about having a personal relationship with Jesus – God. In order to develop a relationship with someone we would need ample time to get to know the person. The effective way to get to know someone is by interacting with that person over a period. Similarly, we need to have regular interaction with Jesus if we want to get to know Jesus for who he is and to enter into a relationship with him. Sometimes, we can forget that nurturing our relationship with Jesus is just as important as caring for our family, reaching out to the disadvantaged, or engaging in works of charity or social justice. It is very important that we do get the balance right so that we do not overly engaging in our missionary activities and forgetting to spend valuable times deepening our personal relationship with our special friend – Jesus. Even Jesus, in the midst of the business of his life, puts aside the time for spiritual bonding with his heavenly Father. Our good and strong relationship with Jesus will give us the energy and motivation for all our missionary activities. There may be time in the course of our life when we do not feel connected with Jesus – not being able to experience his loving presence with us. Whenever we have this experience we might want to ask ourselves – when was the last time that I had a good interaction with Jesus? Our relationship with Jesus is very similar to our relationship with other people. It can be difficult to feel connected with a friend or a relative who we do not see or talk to for years and years.

When we consider faith in terms of having a personal relationship with Jesus – we can see that faith is always relevant to our life in spite of the advancement of technology or medical science. Our true friendship with Jesus does not have an expiry date... or does it???

The season of Lent is the good opportunity for us to re-connect with Jesus – especially if we for whatever reasons have not put aside valuable time to be with Jesus.

Fr Joe Truong

We pray for...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Unah Burr, Gwen Murtagh, Geoff Wines, Kate Gloury, Jack Hooker, Betty Sullivan

the sick... Maree Bracken, Maria Pham, Maria Truong, Fr Theo Rush, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Bernard Dee, 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, Tequimomata, East Timor, St Therese Parish, Bathurst Island and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Alice Springs.**

Fourth Sunday in Lent—Year A

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7, 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you. Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you. Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 9:1-41

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

Next Week's Readings - 29th March—LENT

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45



Weekly:

- **Thursday 8.00pm: Rosa Mystica** *suspended until further notice*
- **Friday 8.30am: Silent Prayer in Church**

Financial Matters

Stewardship and Presbytery statistics for the month of March will be displayed in SEASONS 29th March issue.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while Vicki is on a Holy Land Pilgrimage.

Prayer to St Joseph

You were receptive to God working in your life.
Help us by your prayers at this time of trial.

You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care:
may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers:
help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity:
assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service:
may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation:

help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father,

Thy will be done.

Amen



Parish Pastoral Leadership Team (PPLT) is recruiting new members.

Those interested, please get in touch with Jacinta Griffin, Paul Stinear, Sue Carr or Fr Joe.

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

What's Happening Here...

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

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

1. **The church will be open for prayer and reflection on:**
 - Sat: 5pm-7pm (The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during this time)
 - Sun: 8am-11am (The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during this time)
 - Wed to Fri: 8:30am-10am
2. Please remember to **sanitise your hands** before entering the church, and when leaving.
3. **Church door handles** will be sanitised at the end of each day.
4. **Seasons** will continue to be published online, and copies of *Seasons* will be available in the church. Homily will be included with *Seasons*.
5. **Pastoral visitation:** Parishioners who would like a visit from Fr Joe are to contact the parish office.
6. **Anointing of the Sick, and Communion for the housebound:** Those who require anointing of the sick, or those who are housebound and would like to receive Holy Communion are to contact Fr Joe at the parish office.
7. **Private Mass of the Priest:** Please be assured that Fr Joe will be offering Masses in private for the spiritual/temporal needs of the parishioners.
8. **Fr Joe is available at the parish office** from Tuesday to Sunday afternoon for parishioners to come and see him for spiritual guidance/prayer etc. Please make a booking at the office.

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 7:30pm** The next one is scheduled for **Tuesday 7th April 2020**, **however, please call the Parish Office beforehand to confirm**



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.

In order for this to happen, preparation needs to begin at least **4 - 6 weeks** before the Baptism, with a call to confirm parents' attendance at the Preparation Night. When children of school age are to be baptised an extended preparation time is required. It is important to remember that Baptism is about the initiation of a child into a community of Faith or a community of Disciples. There is no such thing as a 'private' Baptism... it is something done by the whole Church.

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

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

HOT CROSS BUN DRIVE

The Hot Cross Bun Drive which was promoted in last week's *Seasons* has been cancelled, unfortunately.



Choir Practice

Choir practices which were scheduled for **7:30pm** in the Church on **Wednesdays - 25th March & 1st April** have been cancelled.

What's Happening Here ...



Working Bee

At this stage, we still plan to go ahead with the Parish Working Bee, scheduled for **Saturday 4th April, 8.30am to 1pm**. However, please watch Seasons to check closer to the date. If you haven't already added your name to the signup sheet at last weekend's Masses, please call the office to let us know you can help.

There are plenty of jobs to be done to the church and surrounds, including weeding, a few handy-person maintenance items and church window cleaning.

Quite often we don't make it through the list of projects, however the more pairs of hands we have, the more we'll be able to achieve.

If you can spare some tip vouchers, we would very much appreciate them: whatever we don't use on the day we can keep for the next working bee.

Baptism

Congratulations to **Charlie Martin Richardson, Shiah-Blu & Koa-Jean Redwell**, who will be baptised this weekend.



Parish Fundraising Raffle

Tickets sell for \$2 each. **All raffle books (including unsold tickets) must be returned to the Parish office with payment by Friday April 3rd.** If you have raffle tickets to return, or if you'd like to buy more (please!), please come into the parish office Tuesday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm.

1st, 2nd & 3rd Prizes: Suzuki Baleno GL 1.4ltr Auto including on-road costs valued at \$20,682

4th & 5th Prizes: Coles/Myer Gift cards, each to the value of \$1,000 (x 2)
6th-14th Prizes: Coles/Myer Gift cards, each to the value of \$500 (x 9)

Permit 10722-19/150,000 tickets issued.

2020 Safeguarding Committee

The next meeting date at 7.30pm in PCC is **31st March (Tuesday)** New members and interested people—**always welcome**.

Consistent with the requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards, the Archbishop, through the Professional Standards Unit has requested that all the clergy, staff and volunteers across the diocese to have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC).

Therefore, we invite every volunteer across all parish ministry groups, to apply for a Working with Children Check, if you have not already done so.

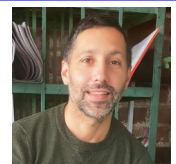
The Working with children Check is **free** for volunteers.

If you have an existing WWCC card created for another organisation, please contact the Department of Justice to **ADD** St Thomas More Parish to your



John Natoli
(Coordinator)

0418 208 778



Julie Carter
(Banda)

0420 923 859



Please call the Parish Office beforehand to confirm that this meeting is still on

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.

GET AHEAD IN ENGLISH

English tutoring available
Year 7 to Year 12

Ask me about "Table for 6"

Call Alicia Canning on 0435 665 477

Current Padua College Staff Member