

SEASONS

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

Fifth Sunday in Lent— Year A

29th 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

[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

Weekday Mass

Wednesday to Friday No Masses

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil Church open for
Sunday Quiet Prayer only (see above)

Reconciliation

Saturday 5:00 pm - 5:30 pm

HOMILY

HOPE IN THE NEW LIFE



In the Gospel, we hear about people grieving and weeping over the death of a loved one. Jesus is present among the weeping people to offer them hope and comfort. Many people in our world are weeping loudly over the death of the loved ones due to Covid 19. Let us be certain that Jesus who is the Resurrection and the Life is present with us during this time of grief and loss.

Sometimes, sadness, grief, anger and desolation can make us blind to the presence of Jesus among us. We may feel that Jesus does not love us or care about us etc. This is how Mary and Martha feel at the time of Lazarus' death. However, the fact is that Jesus is always with us, especially during times of pain and suffering. As a good, merciful and compassionate Shepherd, Jesus does not abandon us. We need to trust that we are not alone during times of darkness - Jesus is with us. Jesus comes to Mary and Martha at the height of their grief to share their sorrow and to give them hope. Jesus will also come to us during times of distress. The one thing that we ought never to do during difficult times is to stop praying. When we persevere in prayer during times of hardship, we will experience the nearness of Jesus with us.

What I like about this Gospel narrative of the raising of Lazarus is that the evangelist John tells us that Jesus – God alone has the power of life over death. Do you believe this? Perhaps, it can be challenging us to believe that Jesus has the power of life over death during this time of the Corona Pandemic, when we hear about so many deaths in our country and in countries like America, Italy, France, China and many other places. Jesus could have prevented death from occurring due to illnesses like Corona Virus– if he wants to. But, we do not know why Jesus does not intervene and bring to the end the Corona Virus that kills so many people in the world. Perhaps, Jesus might have another plan that we may not be able to comprehend, yet. Nevertheless, we can be assured that just as Corona Virus has wiped away so many lives in such a short time, Christ will raise all those who have unfortunately have died from Corona Virus to a new life. The life of glory that Jesus gives to those have died will never be destroyed again.

May we all remain steadfast in our faith – knowing that Jesus will not leave us alone during the darkest time of our life.

We pray for...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Mary Russell, Bartolo Vino, Patricia Lawton, Adolf Wigger, Janet Lindner, Melinda Flahive, Nancy Smith-Johnston, Nancy Fiume

the sick... 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.**

Fifth Sunday in Lent—Year A

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

Responsorial Psalm

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he will give life to your own mortal bodies.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 11:1-45

I am the resurrection and the life.

Next Week's Readings - 5th April Passion Sunday

1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel: Matthew 26:14-27



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 next week's **Seasons**.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while Vicki has been on leave.

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 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 parishioners to come 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 intentions of the sick and suffering
 - 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.

"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*?

Baptisms

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

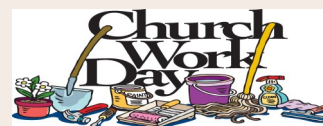


HOT CROSS BUN DRIVE

The Hot Cross Bun Drive which was promoted a couple of weeks ago in- *Seasons* has been cancelled, unfortunately.



Working Bee



The STM Parish Working Bee which was scheduled for next weekend has been postponed until further notice.

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.

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

Parish Welcome Dinner

On Friday the 13th of March, before the 1st stage lockdown, we welcomed new parishioners Bernadette & Lloyd Smith, Pat Lehane, Paulina & Tony Olthof at a dinner at Fr Joe's house. Many thanks to Anne Davey and John Bruitzman, Brian & Rosemary Ivey, Margaret Jamieson and Tom & Maree Shelton for the delicious meal.



**Next Sunday: 5th Apr 2020
Daylight Saving Time Ends**

Turn your clocks
backwards one hour



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.

Parish Fundraising Raffle

All raffle books (including unsold tickets) must be returned to the Parish office with payment by this Friday, April 3rd.

If you have raffle tickets to return, or if you'd like to buy more (please!), please drop into the parish office Tuesday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm.