

SEASONS

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

The Most Holy Trinity— Year A

7th May 2020

New Stages of re-opening Churches for public Mass and other liturgical services

Dear parishioners,

With the further easing of some lockdown restrictions for Victorians, Churches are now permitted to open for Masses and liturgies (under strict number and hygiene limitations). From **1st June 2020** each Church service can have up to 20 attendees as well as the clergy and the people who are required to run the service – i.e. Lector, Commentator, AV Operator, and Registration Officer.

I would like to advise you of the following arrangements for Masses at STM Parish:

Weekday Masses

Wednesday: 9:15 AM and Friday: 9:15 AM

Weekend Masses (Saturday 6th June – Sunday 21st June)

Saturday

5:00 –5:30 PM— Reconciliation

6:00 PM – Vigil Mass

Sunday

8:00 AM

10:00 AM

Due to the lack of interest, the Sunday 5:00PM Mass (which was added in order to provide further opportunity for parishioners to attend Sunday Mass) will be taken off our STM Mass Timetable from next weekend.

Parishioners who wish to attend any of the Weekday or Weekend Masses **are required** make a booking with the STM Parish Office. Upon arriving at the Church, parishioners **are required** to sign - in the Mass Attendance Register. These are the essential requirements that the Government has asked all Parishes to comply with if we want to re-open our churches.

I understand that these are very strict rules – but, we must observe them in order to re-open our STM church for services. I do ask for your pardon and understanding during this difficult time that the diocese and parishes are living in.

From Tuesday 19 May 2020 the Parish will start taking booking for weekday and weekend Masses. Booking for weekend Masses close on Friday@ 5:00PM. **Vicki and I will do our best to make sure that all the people who wish to attend Mass will have a fair opportunity to do so.**

Finally, I would like to make it clear that **all Catholics living in Victoria are still being suspended from the Sunday Obligation until further notice.** Therefore, I do sincerely encourage that the people who are in the vulnerable groups (i.e. over 60 or with other underlining health issues) to consider attending Mass/Prayer online or Mass which is broadcast on the 10 Network. You are the best person to make the decision as to whether or not you should be coming to Church during this time of Covid 19 Pandemic.

It is the most difficult time for all and we are in it together.

Fr Joe Danh Truong

We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

Fr Theo Rush ofm, Doris Maibaum

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time...

Frederick Eggins, Peter Hellard, Jo Clarke, Peter Jackson, Bill Marshall, Barbara Owsianka, Joan Mitchell

The sick... John Curwood, Salve Caleo,



Evonne Paddison, Les Smith, Jeff Hone, Joanne O'Brien, Ron Congues, Maree Bracken, Maria Truong,, Bill Luscombe, Brigitte Rohner, Eileen O'Beirne, Helen Steinbach, Ava Macias, Michael MacKenzie, Luke Carroll, Betty Corke, Chloe, David Dole, Maria Kelly, 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.**

The Most Holy Trinity — Year A

First Reading: Exodus 34:4,6,8-9

The Lord God, ruler of all, merciful and loving.



Responsorial Psalm:

Glory and praise forever!

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:: to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 3:16-18

God sent his Son to save the world through him.



Next Week's Readings - Body and Blood of Christ

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16

2nd Reading: I Corinthians 10: 16-17

Gospel: John 6:51-58



The Bishops of Victoria have suspended the Sunday Mass Obligation for all Catholics in Victoria until further notice.

Mass is broadcast via the **Ten Network (6am, Sunday)** for any one who would like to partici-

Catholic Parish of St Thomas More

**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

Leonie Bourke Carmel Huggard

Margaret Jamieson Michael Robertson

PPLT Email: MountEliza.PPLT@cam.org.au

Mass online

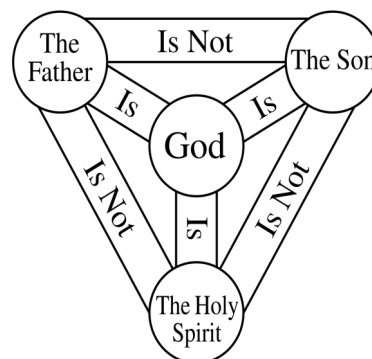
www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass

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 Iam Mass live streamed; it is also available as a recording on-demand.

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>



**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:

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

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

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



Financial Matters

Stewardship	Actual	Pledge	Presbytery	
31st May	\$ 1804	\$ 887	31st May	\$520
Monthly Average:				
\$2063				

(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 easing of restrictions from the Government.

1. **STM Church Open for limited services . 20 Attendees—Max.**
2. **Seasons** publish online, send out by email, or by post,. 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 .
6. If you are elderly/living alone and need assistance with shopping—please call Fr Joe at the Par-

Baptisms

All Baptism Information/Preparation - Please contact Fr Joe at the Parish Office. Limit to ONE family per session



STM Parish Ministry Groups.

STM Parish Ministry Groups may reconvene from 22 June 2020. In consultation with the Government, the Archdiocese has put together strict guidelines for meeting of parish ministry groups (similar to the guidelines for Mass Attendance). The diocese has advised that the Victorian Police have been monitoring parishes and places of worship to make sure that we are complying with the regulations. In some instances, these have resulted in fines. Convenor/Chair of any ministry group is required to contact the parish office for a copy of the guidelines.

PLEASE BE ASSURED THAT FR JOE DOES NOT EXPECT ANY STM MINISTRY GROUP TO RECONVENE AT THIS STAGE .

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

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.

Community Corner



R.I.P

Dear parishioners,

I wish to convey the sad news that **Fr Theo Rush** ofm passed away on Sunday 31st May 2020. Fr Theo was much loved and respected by the parishioners of St Thomas More, MT Eliza. He used to celebrate Masses and provided pastoral/ spiritual care for the parishioners during Fr Laurie Pearson's annual leave. Fr Laurie, members of PPLT, parish staff and parishioners of STM appreciated greatly the kindness, and dedication Fr Theo had for our parish community. During this time of loss and grief, our thoughts and prayers are with Fr Theo's family, especially Mercia Gleeson. His funeral was in NSW last Friday and he will be buried in Melbourne during the week.

*'O God, listen favourably to our prayers offered on behalf of your servant and priest, and grant that **Theo**, who committed himself zealously to the service of your name, may rejoice forever in the company of your saints. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen'*

The Miracle of Life

Congratulations to Anthony and Monica Hansen who have just had a baby girl!!! Anthony and Monica have named their daughter, "**Danyu**". Danyu means Rainbow in Acholi—Monica's tribal language.



Thank you from the Cresswell Family

"To the wonderful and thoughtful community at STM, thank you so much for your generous donation. We miss being amongst the STM community but at the same time we have been welcomed warmly into The Upper Murray community. We have decided to put the money towards installing new, efficient and more powerful water pumps here on the farm, and also increasing our water holding capacity by installing more tanks. Fires are an ongoing risk so we want to keep our farm, our family and our community safe. Thank you once again."

God Bless. Love The Cresswell's.



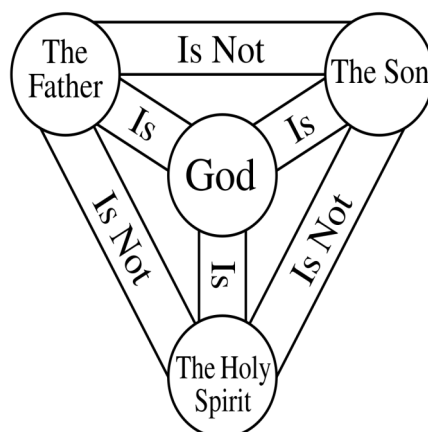
Homily

Today we celebrate the greatest mystery of our faith – the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. In all four gospel accounts we read that Jesus often speaks intimately of his Father and he prays fervently to his Father in prayer. Jesus speaks also of the Spirit who will be with his followers once he has returned to the Father. As we come together to celebrate this feast day let us pray that we will grow in greater love for the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A fourth century bishop and theologian, Gregory Nazianzen, said that “to speak of God is like crossing the ocean on a raft, or flying to the stars with wings of narrow span. Even heavenly beings are unable to speak of God’s decrees or of his government of the world”. It is a real challenge for us to talk about God because our human language is inadequate to talk about the divine and our mind is never great enough to comprehend God and his inner life. God reveals to us only what he wants us to know about himself. God employs holy people like Abraham, Moses and many other prophets to teach humanity about himself. God reveals to Moses that he is “the God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness”. While the OT does give us some hints about the existence of the Blessed Trinity, it is Jesus who reveals most openly to us about the inner life of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Jesus is the final and greatest Prophet – much of what we know about the inner life of God comes from the lips of Jesus). Jesus claims to have a distinguished relationship with God his Father and the Holy Spirit who will come to teach his followers the full truth. However, neither Jesus nor the four evangelists explain to us how there can possibly be a Father, a Son, and a Holy Spirit in the one God. We can only accept in faith the revelation that comes from the lips of Jesus and hoping that when the time comes God will give us the wisdom to understand the Mystery of the One God in three Persons.

At the end of the Gospel of Matthew Jesus gives the Church the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations and to “...baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”. Later on the Church refers to this instruction of Jesus as the Trinitarian Formula for Baptism. Baptism unites the baptised intimately with the Blessed Trinity. We see in this Trinitarian Formula an invitation to share in the life of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The first vocation of every Christian is to know, to love and to grow in the relationship with our Triune God. It is far more important for Christians to know that we have a God who loves us so much that he allows us to have an intimate relationship with himself, than to try and understand the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity. A Spiritual Director at the Regional Seminary once said, we (Christians) always can celebrate the fact that we have a loving Father who loves us beyond comprehension. We have a brother who loves us dearly – he came into our domain not in order to condemn us, but so that through him we may be saved. We have the Holy Spirit – a faithful friend and companion who helps us to understand the teachings of Jesus and help us to be holy. What else can we ask for?

Dear friends, this Trinity Sunday is not about revising our Catechism lessons on the mystery of the One God in three Persons, but, it is about reflecting upon our personal relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



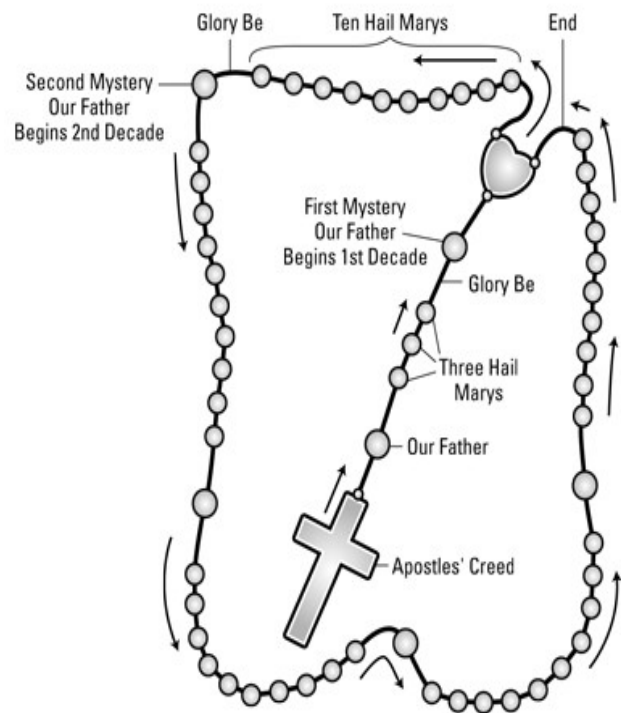
PRAYING WITH MARY



Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.
Amen.



Hail, Holy Queen (*Salve Regina*)

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy. Hail, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To you do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin

God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

