

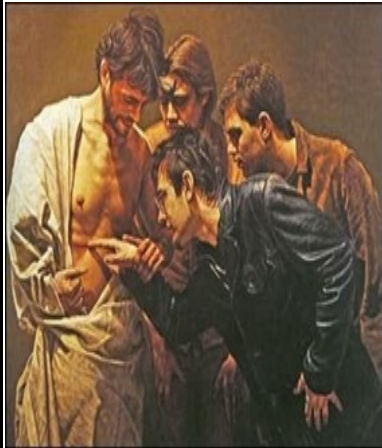


SEASONS

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

Second Sunday of Easter— Year A

19th April 2020



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

No Public
Gatherings in
Victoria under
Stage 3
coronavirus
guidelines

Homily

The Scriptures for this second Sunday of Easter offer insight into the early Christian community as it began its Resurrection life in Christ. Also, we continue to hear about the encounter between the risen Jesus and his apostles.

In the first reading St Luke gives us some understanding of what communal life was like in the early church. "The faithful lived together and owned everything in common, they sold goods and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to prayers". It is obvious in the writing of St Luke that communal life was highly valued in the early Church. The early Christians were committed to the teaching of Jesus about the need to reach out to others especially those who are in need. We can say that faithfulness, fellowship, solidarity and charity are the characteristics of the early Christian community. Would we not have loved to say that faithfulness, fellowship, solidarity and charity are also the characteristics of our Catholic parishes throughout the world? We do have much to learn from the early Christians. In particular, we need to learn from the early Christian community that we cannot live out our faith alone. We need others to help us to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ.

On every second Sunday of Easter we listen to the Gospel narrative about the special encounter between Jesus and the doubting Thomas. Thomas refuses to believe in the testimonies of the other apostles about the resurrection of Christ. In fact, Thomas says quite boldly, "unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe". Surprisingly, the risen Lord makes another appearance to the apostles in order to meet Thomas' conditions for believing in his resurrection. Does Jesus really need to prove anything to Thomas? In this Gospel account we can learn two things. Firstly, that our Lord is willing to meet us where we are on the journey of faith and he will give to us the grace that we need to come to a more perfect faith in him. Secondly, Thomas wants to have an absolute certainty about the resurrection of Jesus. However, the thing is we cannot be absolutely certain about anything in life (except for our death). There is no such thing as absolute certainty in the realm of spirituality! Faith demands that we do take a risk. During the course of life we take the risk on a number of different things. Why not taking the risk of trusting in Jesus and in his promises?

May the risen Jesus fill us with his peace and help us in our life of Christian discipleship.

We pray for...

Those who have passed away recently...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time..

Dr Harry Hodgson, Harold Hoare, Robbie Sinclair,
Frank Bracken, Jos Gobel...

the sick... Joanne O'Brien, 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.**

Easter Sunday: Sunday of the Resurrection— Year A

First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

*The faithful lived together and
owned everything in common*



Responsorial Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he
is good, his love is everlasting.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

*He has given us a new birth as his children, by rais-
ing Jesus Christ from the dead.*

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have
seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but
still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31

After eight days, Jesus came in and stood among
them.

Next Week's Readings - Third Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 2:14,22-33

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel: Luke: 24:13-35



**The Bishops of Victoria have suspended the
Sunday Mass Obligation for all Catholic
Faithful during Stages 2 and 3 of lockdown.**

Mass is broadcast via the **Ten Network (6am, Sun-
day)** for any one who would like to participate.

Family Reflection Time

Gospel: John 20:19-31

1– Nominate a member of the family to read
out the Gospel passage. You may like to have
a short pause to give everyone the opportunity
to reflect upon the Gospel message.

2A -What is your initial reaction to this Gospel
passage?

2B- Have you heard of St Thomas—the apos-
tle? Perhaps, you might like to 'google' to find
out more about this special apostle.

3- Is there a particular theme from the Gospel
that your family would like to explore? Per-
haps, there are questions that you want to
raise?

4– What is God saying to your family through
this Sunday's Gospel? What is God saying to
you– personally ,through this Gospel?

5-Prayer of intercession: you may like to pray
for the needs of each member of your family...

6– Your family may like to bring this family re-
flection time to a close by saying together
1 x the Hail Mary for your family and 1 x the
Our Father for the end to Covid 19.



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

What's Happening Here...

ANZAC DAY 2020

Almighty, everlasting God,
 who sent your Son
 to die that we might live,
 grant, we pray, eternal rest
 to those who gave themselves
 in service and sacrifice for their country.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.



Lest we forget



**Fr Joe will be celebrating the
 Anzac Day Mass in private
 on Saturday 25 April
 at 12 noon.**



A special welcome to Seminarian Alex Chow !!

Alex is a seminarian (student for the priesthood) of our Archdiocese of Melbourne. Alex is sent to the Beda College in Rome (seminary for late vocation) for his formation for the priesthood. However, due to the Corona Virus outbreak in Italy our beloved Archbishop Comensoli has given Alex the option to return to Melbourne to continue his studies via online lectures. Obviously, Alex needs a suitable accommodation where he can continue his study without the unnecessary distractions. I have welcomed Alex to come and reside with me at STM presbytery. The Archbishop has approved this arrangement. Alex has been staying with me for about 3 weeks and he may need to remain in STM Parish to the middle of June or longer depending upon the situation with Corona Virus.

STM Social Club
Fun & Friendship For All
New members are always most welcome!
 Membership fee is \$30. All enquiries to:

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

Financial Matters

Stewardship	Actual	Pledge	Presbytery	
12th April	\$ 1649	\$1900	12th April	\$179



(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 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 offering Mass in private as follows:
 - Tuesday—for private intentions—9AM
 - Wednesday—for the victims of sexual abuse—8:30AM
 - Thursday—for the end to Covid 19—8:30AM
 - Friday—for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed—especially those have died from Covid 19—8:30AM
 - Saturday—**ANZAC Day Mass—12noon**
 - Sunday—for the spiritual/temporal needs of the parishioners of STM Parish—10AM

Baptisms

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



Something to Think About

The Easter season reminds us that we are not alone, that we have never been alone. Jesus is with us now and forever. We have reason to hope and to help! We have cause to celebrate! There is life in abundance and we are called to make a difference! By the way—how is your next door neighbour coping during this period of lockdown???

For more ideas: <https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>

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.

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

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.



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

LETTER
TO THE LAITY, RELIGIOUS AND CLERGY
OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE
from Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

7 April 2020

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

This week, Holy Week, we have entered into the journey with Jesus towards his passion, death and resurrection. As disciples of Jesus Christ we make this journey with him to the foot of his Cross. His is the suffering, yet we accept our own part in it. This journey with Jesus can be confronting.

Our faith community in Melbourne over these past two years has been caught up in another hard and difficult journey as we have followed the court proceedings involving Cardinal George Pell and the person identified through the Courts as 'J'. It has been an intense and painful time for so many, especially all those personally involved in this case. But most particularly, this has been a hard road for all those whose wounds of abuse have been re-opened and laid bare— our relatives, friends and fellow travellers.

At the heart of this trial and appeal process have been the people involved. I want to firstly acknowledge 'J', who brought forward his story of abuse for examination in the courts of law. This is a right we value and honour.

I also acknowledge Cardinal Pell who has steadfastly maintained his innocence throughout. Rightly, he has been afforded the full possibilities of the judicial system. This decision means the Cardinal has been wrongly convicted and imprisoned, and he is now free to live his life peaceably within the community.

As a Christian disciple, and taking my lead from the Gospel (Matthew 25.31-46), I have striven to uphold the dignity of 'J' and Cardinal Pell throughout this time, both in my private thoughts and public statements.

The sole matter for examination in this case was whether Cardinal Pell committed certain despicable crimes, of which he has now been acquitted, and not about the broader question of how Church authorities have dealt with sexual abuse. Yet, I fully appreciate that people have seen in this case another emblematic story of sexual abuse by a Catholic priest. And it has brought a deeper weariness of soul to people of faith.

I am acutely aware of the division this matter has created in our community.

Even now, at the end of this process. Some will be comforted; others will remain distressed.

I have lost count of the conversations I have had with our people, who continue to draw strength and purpose from following in the way of Jesus Christ, yet whose anguish and anger towards the institutions of the Church and her leaders is visceral. While each allegation of abuse should rightly be addressed individually, the accumulative effect of the nature and extent of it has left most Catholics, and people of goodwill generally, utterly ashamed of what continues to emerge. You tell me of your outrage that this has been allowed to happen. Yours is a righteous anger and I share it with you.

But this journey to the Cross points us to a particular place – one of restoration and Christ's promised hope. Healing the damage done to those who have suffered Church-related sexual abuse, and building a culture of life, trust, care and goodness for all in the Church, is the task I lead. It is something in which we all have a part to play.

As Archbishop of Melbourne I re-dedicate myself and our Archdiocese to finding new ways of listening attentively to victims of sexual abuse, and accompanying them on pathways to justice, redress and healing. We continue our efforts to protect and care for our young people and for those who are vulnerable, and to make our faith communities safe, as Jesus Christ expects of us. And, I commit myself to encouraging and supporting the many faithful Clergy who currently serve in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

I invite you to join me in walking with our brothers and sisters who have experienced abuse in helping them to find recovery in their lives. This means active support for rigorous safeguarding policies and practices, respectful listening to survivors of abuse, and our own conversion. Let us pray for 'J' and his family; pray for Cardinal Pell and his family; pray and work for survivors of abuse; and build a Church that is centred on God's love for each person, with a special care and concern for the weakest, the most vulnerable, the most hurt.

In Jesus Christ, whose life is our hope and healing, I make the following words my prayer today.

For God alone my soul waits in silence,

for my hope is from him.

He alone is my rock and my salvation,

my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

On God rests my deliverance and my honour;

my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.

Trust in him at all times, O people;

pour out your heart before him;

God is a refuge for us. (Psalm 62:5-8)

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter A. Comensoli', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli

Archbishop of Melbourne