



SEASONS

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

Third Sunday of Advent

11th December, 2011

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

Diary

- **Monday**
St Vincent de Paul Meeting,
9.30am, U
Choir Practice, 7:15pm, C
- **Tuesday**
Sip'n'Sew Group 2pm, PCC
- **Thursday**
Rosa Mystica, 7:15pm, C
- **Thursday**
End Of Year School Mass,
12noon, C

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Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
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Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au
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Parish Priest

Fr. Laurie Pearson

Pastoral Associate

Maria Newbiggin

Parish Planning

Team

Fr. Laurie

Maria Newbiggin

Mary Cameron

Tim Hogan

Peter Whyte

Adel Cowie

Mass Times

Tuesday 9.15am

Wednesday, followed
by Holy Hour 9:15am

Thursday 9:15am

E.O.Y School Mass 12noon

Friday 9.15am

Saturday (Vigil) 6.00pm

Sunday 8.00am

10.00am

Reconciliation

Thursday

(Ritual of Repentance) 7.30pm

Saturday 5.00-5.30pm

Baptisms

are held on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month at 11:30 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.

Who Are You?

This Sunday again focuses on John the Baptist and the question continues - who are you? This is the question being asked in the early communities. Who was John? How can we understand his mission and its connection to the mission of Jesus? The questioners put to him the names of key Jewish figures who were expected to come in the final days - the Christ, Elijah and the Prophet. 'The Christ,' is a Greek translation of the Hebrew title, 'the Messiah'. This was someone in the line of David who was expected to restore the Kingdom of David. Elijah was one of the great prophets who was believed to have been taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot and would return at the end of time. The Prophet refers to a promise made to Moses that God would raise up in the future, a prophet like Moses

to lead the people. Some thought John fitted one of these hoped-for figures. But John turns down these roles.

John knows his place in God's scheme. He humbly attests that there is another, even greater, who is coming. This is John's greatness, to know and accept the particular role he is given for the Kingdom. For some this can take years of searching and pondering. We don't know what John was doing before this ministry, and it seems that Jesus only began his mission around the age of thirty. As Christmas draws near, may it be a time of quiet reflection on the particular gifts God has given to me, and in what particular way I may further God's kingdom.

*Sundays Under the Southern Cross
Mary Coloe PBVM*



CHRISTMAS MASSES 2011

7.30pm Thursday, 15th DecemberRitual of Repentance

Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24th)

7.00pm Mass on the Oval.

Carols start half an hour beforehand

9.30pm Mass in the Church.

Carols start half an hour beforehand.

Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25th)

9.00am Mass in the Church

Please note that there will be no 6pm vigil Mass on Saturday December 24th and no weekday Masses between Christmas and New Year.

6pm Saturday, 31st December Mary Mother of God (Vigil Mass)

8am & 10am Sunday 1st January Mary Mother of God (Mass)

6pm Saturday Epiphany (Vigil Mass)

8am & 10am Sunday 8th January Epiphany (Mass)

We pray for...

Those who have died recently

Dr. David Churcher, Heather Churcher

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Tyler Cassidy, Harry Knuckey, Catherine Farrell, Fr. John Pierce, Henry Haines, Wayne Jackson, William Green, Richard Shea

and the Sick

Ria Wilson, Pauline Esler, Andy Gray, Chris Malone, Marcia Fiume, Little 8yr old Bonnie, Dee Rorke, John Nuttney, Samantha, and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Ranelagh Gardens Nursing Home.



November Mass Offerings

Mass will be offered this week for friends, relatives and benefactors of Anne Sutton, Fleur Smith and Anon.

Liturgy - Third Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

I exult for joy in the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:6-8.19-28

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

Next week's readings:

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14.16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Ritual Of Repentance



Our Advent Prayer Service will be held on Thursday, 15th December at 7.30pm.

This is always a very special part of our preparations for Christmas and a most reflective time of prayer and reconciliation has been prepared by

our Liturgy Team.

We look forward to sharing this time with you.

Financial Matters...

Thanksgiving

Amount received last week.....\$4491

Average 2011\$3132

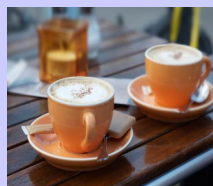
Pledged per week\$3345

Presbytery

Amount received last week..... \$874

Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.

Morning Tea



This week Alicia and Michael Canning warmly invite you to linger for a cuppa and an opportunity to get to know some other members of your parish community better.

Your hosts next week will be John Bruitzman and Anne Davey.

Parish Group Activities



St Vincent de Paul Society

Good Works

STM Social Club

Christmas Cards, Calendars and Toys

Christmas cards and calendars will be on sale outside the church this week. There is a box in the Church entry for donations of toys and gifts. There is no need to wrap gifts or toys.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Morning Star Conference will be held in the Undercroft on Monday, 12th December commencing at 9.30am. This will be our last meeting before Christmas. A major task will be to finalize our Christmas Hamper arrangements. Any St Thomas More Parishioner willing to join with our members in delivering Christmas hampers is welcome to attend the meeting. Alternatively, they can contact Dennis on 9787 3609 to be included in the roster.

Music Group will meet at 11am on Monday, 19th December at the Purcells'.

The **Sip'n'Sew Group** will meet at 2pm on Tuesday, 13th December in the Parish Community Centre.

The **Welfare Officers** for December are Fred and Margaret Purcell.

Contemplative Prayer Group



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

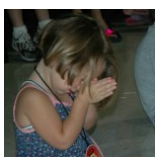
Silent prayer in the Church each Tuesday (except the 1st Tuesday of the month) from 8.45am-9.15am, followed by Mass.

Holy Hour



Every Wednesday, at the conclusion of Mass (9:45am), we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our Church. Quiet time and reflective music is followed by the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. All Parishioners are welcome to spend some time

or stay for the hour to pray for the many intentions and needs of our Parish, our families and our community of St. Thomas More.



Children's Liturgy

Joanne Gorka and Ruth Pusic will lead the children in an exploration of this week's Gospel. Please encourage your children to join them.

Copies of **Kairos** are on sale at the back of the church. Please leave \$2 in the container marked KAIROS.

East Timor Update



Congratulations to all on the wonderful achievements for East Timor for 2011. Over the last twelve months two more containers were transported to East Timor – bringing the total sent since

2002 to 22. The latest container was filled with about 4 tons of rice, 125 bags of cement, 100 bikes, 75 Baby boxes, ten large boxes of medical syringes etc, clothing and furniture (many of the items have been donated by other Parishes and businesses as well as our own). It should arrive in East Timor before Christmas.

The 23rd container will be delivered for filling in the next few weeks.

We also sent the \$7,400 you donated for the completion of the church in the village of Tequinomata. The building will commence after Christmas.

Four schools were built or refurbished with money from the *Patrick Browne Estate*, during the year, in the villages of Nunira, Tequinomata, Samalari and Saelari (see photos at back of Church). These schools educate more than 1,500 children.

The village of Tequinomata has adopted St Thomas More as patron saint for its church and school. We hope this 'twinning' will develop into wonderful opportunities in the future for our Parishes.

We are now challenged to find furniture in 2012 (1000 desks) for the completed schools. In addition we hope to rebuild two more schools during 2012 using the last of the funds from the *Patrick Browne Estate*.

Please keep bringing a bag of rice each week as part of your Sacrificial Offering – your rice now feeds nearly 500 children each day. These children would starve without it.

Many thanks for the great effort. If you would like to assist in any way, contact Les Harper at lesharper@optusnet.com.au

A Message from Maria



Thanks to those who have put their names down for ministries over the Christmas weekend. We do still need more to fill all the necessary ministries for these masses. The sign-up sheet is

(Continued on page 4)

What's Happening Elsewhere

Who Are The Bayside Young Disciples?



BYD is a Catholic youth group for young people from the ages of 15 - 25. We meet on the first and third Sundays of the month at St Francis Xavier Parish Hall in Frankston at 7pm.

Do you want to join other young people to:

Discover your faith?

Have Fun?

Socialise?

Ask Questions?

Then come along to Bayside young Disciples.

St Francis Xavier Parish, 60 Davey St, Frankston, Ph: 9783 3484

BAYSIDEYOUNGDISCIPLES@HOTMAIL.COM

Bayside Young Disciples Youth Retreat

"I am the light of the world" John 8:12

A time to pause in prayer and reflection. Immerse yourself in the sacraments. Encounter God in divine friendship and in communion with others.

Put these dates in your diaries!!!!

Friday 13th January - Sunday 15th January 2012 at the Golden Valley Lodge, Flinders. We hope to see you there.

For more information contact Bayside Young Disciples: find us on Facebook or call us on 9783 3484.

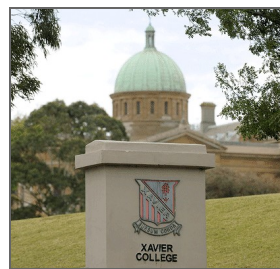
Speed Dating for 35-55s

Catholic Speed Dating for 35-55s is being held at Sacred Heart Kew on Saturday, 28th January 2012 at 7pm.

The cost is \$45 and proceeds go to the Jesuit Mission. Wine and cheese is provided.

For more information or to secure your place now (by sending us an RSVP), please go to www.meetup.com/melbourne-single-catholics

Scholarships



Xavier College is offering a range of scholarships for students entering Years 7, 9 and 11 in 2013. The closing date for applications is 3rd February 2012.

For registration and information see Xavier's website www.xavier.vic.edu.au/scholarships or contact The Registrar, Mrs Di Odgers at Xavier on 9854 5307.

Are You (Fairly) New To Our Parish?



Are you new to our Parish? We would love to invite you to a meal at Fr. Laurie's house to enjoy the company of other parishioners, both old and new.

Just fill in the form in the folder at the Church porch and we will be in touch.

(Continued from page 3)

at the back of the church again this week. One particularly difficult position to fill is the AV Operator for the 9.30 Mass on Christmas Eve. If you think you might be willing to take this on there is time to train you in it if you haven't done it before. It is not terribly hard. Maybe this could be your gift to your faith community this Christmas.

I noticed today that December 10th is the anniversary of the Redfern Speech by Prime Minister Paul Keating, at the launch of International Year of the World's Indigenous People. He said *"This is perhaps the point of this Year of the World's Indigenous People: to bring the dispossessed out of the shadows, to recognise that they are part of us, and that we cannot give indigenous Australians up without giving up many of our most deeply held values, much of our own identity - and our own humanity."* Further on in his speech he said

"We failed to ask: how would I feel if this were done to me? As a consequence, we failed to see that what we were doing degraded all of us." I was moved as I read these words and felt I could apply them to many situations ranging from dealings within families through local communities to worldwide issues. It captures for me what Jesus was doing in his life and what we are called to do as Christians, 'bring the dispossessed out of the shadows', whoever they may be and wherever we may find them.

I hope you are finding some time during this busy Advent Season to be quiet, be still and listen to God speak to you.