

SEASONS

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

18th December, 2011



Let What You Said Be Done

In this beautiful and much painted scene, the miracle is announced. God is entering our history by becoming one of us. This is the quite extraordinary claim of Christianity. The great divine mystery behind and beyond our world has become a human being. No other religion dares to make so bold a claim. Even as we listen to this announcement today, it is important to realise that it was only possible to make such a claim in the light of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. It was the life of this man, culminating in the Easter events that led a group of Jewish men and women to say, 'We have seen God with us'.

Gabriel's announcement in today's Gospel brings heaven and earth together in the womb of a young girl, Mary. The little village of Nazareth

is suddenly filled with wondrous titles, son of the Most High, ruler of the house of Jacob, the power of the Most High, the Holy Spirit, and the Son of God. All heaven's hopes are focused on this not-yet woman, awaiting her reply. Mary's response enables the impossible to happen, 'Let what you have said be done'. Life comes even to the barren womb of Elizabeth.

What would happen if Mary's words became my words? What hopes might heaven have, still unfulfilled, awaiting my readiness to say, 'Let what you want be done to me'? Mary said these words and Christmas happened. Jesus said them and Easter happened. What might happen if I said them?

*Sundays Under the Southern Cross
Mary Coloe PBVM*

313 Canadian Bay Rd
Mount Eliza Vic. 3930
Phone: 9787 7777
Fax: 9787 9734
Email: MountEliza@cam.org.au
Web: www.stm-mteliza.org

Parish Priest
Fr. Laurie Pearson
Pastoral Associate
Maria Newbigin

Parish Planning Team
Fr. Laurie
Maria Newbigin
Mary Cameron
Margaret Carr
Tim Hogan
Peter Whyte
Adel Cowie

Mass Times
Tuesday 9:15am
Wednesday, followed by Holy Hour 9:15am
Thursday 9:15am
Friday 9:15am
(No School Mass)

Saturday, Christmas Eve
(Refer to Mass Times Opposite)
Sunday, Christmas Day
(Refer to Mass Times Opposite)

Reconciliation
Please Note that there will be no Reconciliation until 31st December.

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.



CHRISTMAS MASSES 2011

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, 7th January Epiphany (Vigil Mass)
8am & 10am Sunday 8th January Epiphany (Mass)

We pray for...

Those who have died recently

Diane Wilcox, Graham Russell, Don McCartney

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Tom Shannon, David Duff, Margaret Wunder, Marie Peters, Jason Sutton, Frank Sheehy

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 B & M Hausen, Mercia Gleeson, P & G Lamb.

Liturgy - Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord:
may His will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

You will conceive and bear a son.

Next week's readings:

Isaiah 62:1-5

Acts 13:16-17. 22-25

Matthew 1:1-25



The Annunciation - Painting by Fra Angelico

Financial Matters...

Thanksgiving

Amount received last week.....	\$1788
Average 2011	\$3105
Pledged per week	\$3345

Presbytery

Amount received last week.....	\$870
--------------------------------	-------

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

Morning Tea



This week, John Bruitzman and Anne Davey warmly invite you to linger for a cuppa and an opportunity to get to know some other members of your parish community better.

There will be no morning tea next week as it's Christmas Day.

Parish Group Activities



St Vincent de Paul Society
Good Works

Membership & Development Officer

The St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria is seeking someone to support our members and volunteers in their work assisting those in need in the East Melbourne suburbs.

For full details go to Ad & Position description www.vinnies.org.au/vic or Tel: Patricia McCourt, Manager Membership & Development, on 9895 5882.

Applications close: 13th January 2012

STM Social Club

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

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.

Thank You from Brosnan Youth Services

Many thanks go to all supporters and volunteers from Brosnan Youth Services including St Thomas More Social Club and St Thomas More parishioners.

As a result of the **Peninsula Music Festival Fund-raiser** held on Sunday 27th November, we raised a generous and overwhelming **\$5,591.00** ... an outstanding amount! This fundraiser was a fantastic ... not to mention, very entertaining & fun filled event for all involved!!

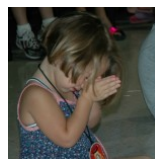
May you all have a beautiful Christmas and thank you once again ... Maree Bannister.

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

Catherine Hogan and Gabrielle Dole will lead the children in an exploration of this week's Gospel. Please encourage your children to join them.

A Word from Maria



Christmas is almost upon us and still we need some ministers for the various services over Christmas. Could you help in one of the roles still to be filled? For those who have already put down their

names as Eucharistic ministers, please check if you are bringing up the book or gifts as well.

- **7pm Christmas Eve** Mass on the oval – lector and 3 more Eucharistic ministers;
- **9.30pm Christmas Eve** Mass – 2 Eucharistic Ministers;
- **9am Christmas morning** Mass - 2 Eucharistic Ministers.

There is a clip board at the back of the church to sign up for any of these ministries. Thank you to all who have offered their services to make these occasions run smoothly, effectively and reverently.

I was struck by the newsletter in my own parish last week by the number of times the phrase 'thank you' was inserted, in some unlikely places as well. They had taken the opportunity to during the 'joyous' Sunday in Advent to say thank you to all those who help out in any way. That in itself was not unusual. What struck me was the odd places it popped up. I was reminded of the unexpected and often unusual ways people help out in parish life. Those who may not be seen and whose contribution may be unknown to just about everyone. It takes many people doing a multitude of tasks to keep a parish functioning well. Thank you to all who contribute to the parish life here at St Thomas More, to make it the special place of welcome, acceptance and practice of faith it is.

Are You Alone For Christmas?

Join us for Christmas Day Lunch at the Community House, Orwil Street, Frankston, **no cost involved.**

Call Marg Devis on 9787 1627 and leave a message.

What's Happening Elsewhere

Situations Vacant

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

- Parish Secretary, St Mark's Parish, Fawkner
- Pastoral Associate - St. Agnes Parish, Highett
- Cleaner, Corpus Christi College
- Retail Assistant, St Patrick's Cathedral Shop
- SVDP Eastern Central Council - Membership & Development Officer



Further details can be found on either the Archdiocese website at: <http://www.cam.org.au/jobs>

Not Sure of Christmas Mass Service Times?

Christmas Mass and service times throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne are now available online www.cam.org.au/christmas/2011-christmas-mass-times.html

St Patrick's Cathedral Christmas Eve Carols & Midnight Mass LIVE on the INTERNET.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) will stream carols and midnight Mass live to the Archdiocesan website. To view, visit www.cam.org.au at from 11pm on Christmas Eve for Carols, or midnight for Mass. More Information go to info@cam.org.au

Christmas Nativity Scene



Visit the beautiful Christmas Nativity diorama handmade by artist, Wilson Fernandez, from 17th December - 14th January at St Elizabeth's Parish, 107 Bakers Rd, Dandenong North.

Now in its seventh year at St Elizabeth's, the Nativity Scene has grown each year, to keep onlookers constantly interested and aware of the true meaning of Christmas.

For more details, call 0428 927 110 or 9795 6217.

Advent Reflection with Mary MacKillop Melbourne CBD

Like 30 minutes of quiet in your busy day? Join us as we reflect with Mary MacKillop at this Advent Time. A time of looking forward with new hope. A time of waiting and preparation as we invite Jesus to come and be 'born in our hearts'.

When: Wednesday, 21st December

Time: 12:15pm – 12:45pm

Where: Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, 362 Albert Street, East Melbourne.

RSVP: 9926 9300

We Wait In Hope

2011 Advent Resource for Young People

The Archdiocesan Office for Youth (AOY) has created an Advent Resource based on the Gospel readings for each day. Created to assist young people, both individually and in youth groups, to enter more deeply into the season of Advent.

It can be downloaded from the AOY website: www.cam.org.au/youth/programs/

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

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



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