

SEASONS

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

5th Sunday of Lent

21st March, 2010

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

Diary

- **Monday**
RCIA, 9.30am, PCC
Choir practice, 7:30pm, C
- **Tuesday**
Contemplative Prayer, 8.45am, C
Play Group, 9am, U
Prayer Group, 11am, Jud Lintons
- **Wednesday**
Ritual of Reconciliation, 7.30pm, C
- **Thursday**
Lenten Group, 4.30pm, PCC
Rosa Mystica, 7.15pm, C

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Parish Priest

Fr. Laurie Pearson

Pastoral Associate

Maria Newbiggin

Parish Planning Team

Fr. Laurie Margaret Carr
Anne Davey Tim Hogan
Maria Newbiggin Peter Whyte
Mary Cameron

Mass Times

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	9.15 am
Wednesday (Foll. By Holy Hour)	9.15 am
Thursday	9.15 am
Friday	9.15 am
No School Mass	

Saturday (Vigil)	6:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am
	10:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday	5.00pm - 5.30pm
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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.

Neither Do I Condemn

The episode of the woman taken in adultery is clearly an important story in the life of the early Christian communities. Some very early manuscripts place this episode in Luke's Gospel, others place it at some point in John's Gospel. The variations testify to an uncertainty about where the episode belongs, but they also testify that the story is so significant that it must appear within the Gospel tradition.

There is hypocrisy in the actions of the scribes and Pharisees. Firstly, they only bring along one of the guilty parties, the women, while the male partner is free from public condemnation. Secondly, their concern is not really with this woman. She is a pawn in their real purpose, which is to find something against Jesus. In this, they have no real respect for the Law they claim to uphold. And finally, as Jesus points out, they too are sinners.

Why might this story be so important for the early Christian communities, so that even though there is uncertainty about its location there can be no doubt about its inclusion within the good-news Jesus offers? Perhaps John's or Luke's community needed to be reminded that for all our Christian ideals and desires, we are all frail followers of Jesus. Sin is no barrier to discipleship. The only barrier is the despair that

comes from self-condemnation and a failure to trust in God who refuses to condemn. As the journey of Lent moves to its end, let us place our confidence in the loving mercy of God.

*Sundays Under the Southern Cross
Mary Coloe PBVM*



"If there is one who has not sinned let him throw the first stone".

John 8: 1-11

We pray for...

Those who have died recently

James Cross, Sr. Mercedes Toraso

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Lillian Moon, Unah Burr, Gwen Murtagh, Kate Gloury, Jack Hooker

and the Sick

Miguel De Barbosa-Mendonca, Liz Wheeler, Arie Peeperkoorn, Margaret Hill, Bill Oakes, Gunter Herrmann, Harry O'Beirne, Allan Pursell, John Dale, Anne-Marie Corcoran, Baby Peter Kost, John Courtney, Trish Sanders, Barbara Leary, Baby Kate Cameron, Fr. Dan McMahan, Cheryl, Linda

Watschur, Mary McKenzie, Noeleen Walker, Carmel McKane, Sr. Helen Nichols, Jo Pendlebury, Leonie Bradley, Frank Butler, Anne Horton, Kylie Mazoletti, Diana Espino, Laurie Pendlebury, Edward Riordan, Gillian Richards, Eve Parker, Susan Jones, Pamela Wilson, Rod Van dewert, Judy Linton, Lorraine Curtain, Henrique Mendonca, Margaret Beale, Alex Kelly, Mary Lauren, Michaela Baker, Fr. Peter Robinson, Fr. Joe McMahan, Sonia Webb, Nina Lion, Baby Matilda, Robert Fitzgerald, Steven Daniels, Giovanni Lazzaro, Carol Mason and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Ranelagh Gardens Nursing Home.

Liturgy - Fifth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Next week's readings:

Isaiah 50: 4-7, Philippians 2: 6-11, Luke 22: 14-23: 56

Financial Matters...

Thanksgiving

Amount received last week.....\$1761
Average since start of Campaign.....\$3475
Pledged per week\$3723

Presbytery

Amount received last week.....\$1026
Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.

AV Operators Needed

We're looking for some responsible year 5s or 6s (or older!) who regularly attend our weekend Masses to operate the PowerPoint slideshows and recorded music from the AV desk, **especially at 6pm on Saturday nights and 8am on Sunday mornings.**

We can arrange for you to sit with one of our experienced AV operators for 1 or 2 weeks before you go solo.

We will be drawing up a roster, but you would need to be **very reliable**, as there would probably be no one else on hand to do it if you don't turn up or arrange a replacement for yourself.

If you'd like to help, please speak to Fr. Laurie, or contact Irene Owsianka at the Parish Office on 9787 7777 or stm@satlink.com.au.



Morning Tea

Your hosts this week are Alicia & Michael Canning.

You are all warmly invited to linger for a cuppa and an opportunity to get to know some other members of your parish community better.

Your hosts for next week are Debbie Bradford and Val Finnigan.

Quote

An old priest was giving a talk to seminarians: 'During your life you will do many things that you will regret – but there is one thing you must NEVER EVER do! Never ever put a limit to the mercy of God!'

Parish Group Activities



St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria **Good Works**

Our next meeting will be held in the Undercroft at 9:30 am on Monday the 29th of March.

If you can spare an hour of your time and would like to do something for those less fortunate than yourself in our community, come along and learn more about the work of the St Vincent de Paul Society.

STM Social Club

The new committee will meet at 1.30pm on Monday, 29th March in the Parish Community Centre.

Outings

A visit to **Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre**, Wednesday, 24th March.

Cost \$23.00 - morning tea, lunch & entry included, **please note that the train fare is extra.**

For travel details contact Judy Jones 9783 1130.

For all bookings contact Carolyn Gascoigne 9775 2315.

Frankston Arts Centre, Australian Ballet School, Friday, 14th May @ 10.30am. Cost is \$16.50 and tickets are available at next weeks Social Club Meeting on the 6th April or for bookings you can contact Carolyn Gascoigne 9775 2315.

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.



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



All parishioners are invited to the Holy Hour every Wednesday directly after Mass. Some may wish to stay for the full hour, others may come for a few minutes or a short time.

Everyone is most welcome to spend a little time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.



InvitationThe **Rosa Mystica Prayer Group** will next meet on Thursday, 18th March, at 7.15pm in the **Undercroft**.



Just a reminder I will not be in the office during the day this Thursday as I will be attending the Pastoral Associate's AGM.

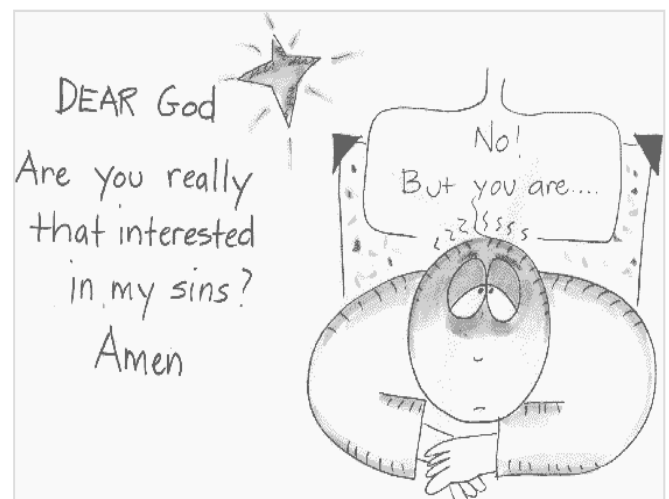
The **Lenten Group** will be going ahead at **4.30pm** this week.

Holy Week and Easter are almost upon us. An email was sent out to lectors, commentators and special ministers regarding availability for the various services over this period. If you are not on email, or have not received one, and are available to perform your ministry on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or at the Easter Vigil please leave details at the parish office by Thursday, 25th March. Rosters will be sent to all those required when they are finalised.

March 21st each year is **Harmony Day**, as set out by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. The purpose is two fold: promote the benefits of living in a diverse culture and celebrate the inclusive nature of Australia. Each year a new theme is presented but the continuous message is **'Everyone Belongs'**.

So often we are confronted with the idea of being white Anglo Saxon descent somehow make a person more important or better than others. Apart from the obvious lack of truth in this as Christians we know that we are all made in the image of God, not just some of us. As Christians we are called to love our neighbour as ourselves, not just the nationalities of which we approve. Maybe today we could all pray for a more accepting heart so that we can be more open to learning from the differences in others rather than looking for the sameness.

Anna



What's Happening Elsewhere

Let's Talk About Peace



Catholic bishops and human rights activists, Archbishop Orlando Quevedo and Bishop Cornelius Korir speak with Jamie Davies of Caritas Australia, about how to bring about reconciliation in times of crisis - war, violence and the displacement of refugees.

When: Monday, 15th March, 7pm

Where: Newman College, Parkville.

This is a free invitation to attend a public conversation on Peace-making, please come along. For more information contact Br Mark O'Connor 0401 222 596 or email markoconnorfms@gmail.com

The Gospel of Life

Australian Catholic University invites you to attend a time of prayer (lead by Bishop Costelloe SDB) and a public forum on Thursday, 25th March, from 6.30-9.00pm.

The event will commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the encyclical - Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) by Pope John Paul II and will be held at the Christ Lecture Theatre, ACU - 115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy.

For more information and to RSVP email: jo.grainger@acu.edu.au

A Moving and Prayerful Journey

With Peter Kearney at Our Lady of Fatima Church, 16 Hinton St, Rosebud, 14th April at 7pm.

Donations welcome. Peter's CD's & music available.

Life Works Group Programs

Life Works are offering the following Programs:

Step Parenting

Mondays, 26th April - 31st May from 7-9pm. Cost is \$140 or \$200 per couple (concession available).

Grief Kids

Thursdays, 6th May - 17th June, from 4.30pm - 6pm. Cost is \$30.

Parenting After Separation - Men

Thursdays, 20th May - 17th June from 7pm - 9pm. Cost \$140 (concession available).

Parenting for Couples

Mondays, 31st May - 21st June from 7pm - 9pm. Cost \$140 or \$200 for couples (concession available).

To register call 9783 7611 or go on line at www.lifeworks.com.au

Urgent Billeting for "Life Walk"

Walkers taking part in the annual "Life Walk" will be coming through Frankston on Friday, 9th April which is only 3 weeks away.

Your help is urgently needed.

We are looking for accommodation for approximately 40 people. If you could provide a bed for one or more people for the night, and their evening meal/breakfast, could you please ring Margaret on 9783 7271 or 0417 535 028? Thank you.

Free copies of *Australian Catholics* are available at the back of the church.

You're invited to take one with you as you leave today.



EASTER TIMETABLE 2010

Wednesday, 24th March, 7.30pm.....A Ritual of Reconciliation
(Fr. Laurie will be available afterward for individual reconciliation)

Saturday, 27th March, 6.00pmMass with Blessing of the Palms

Sunday, 28th March, 8.00am.....Mass with Blessing of the Palms
10.00am.....Mass with Blessing of the Palms

Holy Thursday, 1st April, 8.00pm.....Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, 2nd April, 3.00pm.....Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, 3rd April, 8.00pm.....Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection

Easter Sunday, 4th April, 8.00am.....Mass
10.00am.....Mass