



SEASONS

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

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

21st August, 2011

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

Diary

- Monday**
St Vincent de Paul Meeting,
9.15am, U
Choir Practice, 7.30pm, C
- Wednesday**
1st Eucharist Class 7.30pm C
Israel Pilgrimage Info Night,
7:30pm, U
- Thursday**
Lit Planning Team, 7.30pm, PCC



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Parish Priest

Fr. Laurie Pearson

Pastoral Associate

Maria Newbigin

Parish Planning Team

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

Mass Times

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	9.15am
Wednesday, followed by Holy Hour	9.15am
Thursday	9.15am
Friday	9.15am
Prep School Mass	12.15pm
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00pm
Sunday	8.00am 10.00am

Reconciliation

Saturday 5.00pm - 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 Do You Say I Am?



Caesarea Philippi is in the far north of Israel at the base of Israel's highest mountain, Mt Hermon. At the foot of the mountain there is a large cave from which issues the Jordan River. The mountain, the cave and the river have provided a sacred site for many people. The Greek god worshipped here in the centuries before Jesus was Pan, the god of nature and fertility. The large mouth of the cave was seen as an entrance to Hades, the underworld realm of the dead. Standing before this cave, looking up at the rocky cliffs it is very clear that Jesus draws on the physical setting of this place in his words to Peter.

In this remote setting, away from the more populous villages Jesus asks the critical question of his disciples - 'Who do you say I am?' These disciples have been with him how for some time, witnessing his deeds and hearing his words. The question probes their perception and their faith. Have they grasped Jesus' identity? Simon Peter's reply indicates his growing

awareness and elicits from Jesus words of commendation.

Jesus gives Simon the title 'Peter', from the Greek word 'rock' - *petros*. Perhaps looking at the rocky cliff-face with its dark cavern he speaks of the gates of the underworld and promises that the community founded on Peter the Rock will stand firm against the powers of death. Like a faithful steward with the house keys, Peter is given authority within the community.

What answer would you give to Jesus' question? Who is Jesus to you?

*Sundays Under the Southern Cross
Mary Coloe PBVM*



First Communion Masses

Children from St Thomas More School will celebrate their First Communion at Mass at 2pm this Sunday and Sunday August 28th.

Children from other schools will celebrate at **10am Mass on Sunday August 28th.**

Please remember all our young people in our prayer.

Fr. Laurie

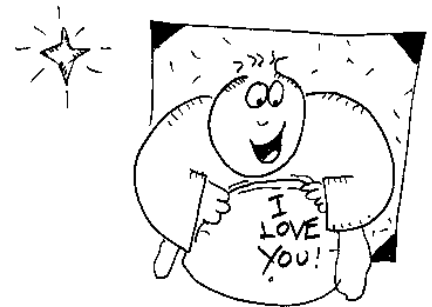
We pray for...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time
 Eric Fox, Valerie Crowe, Kevin Sheehy, William Lindner, Dr. Trevor Connolly, Ida Smeeton, Frederick Taylor, Rex Swann, Doris A. Hill, John Bourke, Helene 'Nell' Hellard, Corrie Grootcholten, Kathleen Power, Merlyn Coop

and the Sick
 Corey (Russ) Macgregor, Dee Rorke, John Nuttney, Samantha, Tracey Jamieson, Jenny Morrison, and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Ranelagh

Gardens Nursing Home.

DEAR God
 Graffiti on the
 walls of my
 heart!
 Amen



Liturgy - Twenty First Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23
I place the key of the House of David upon his shoulder

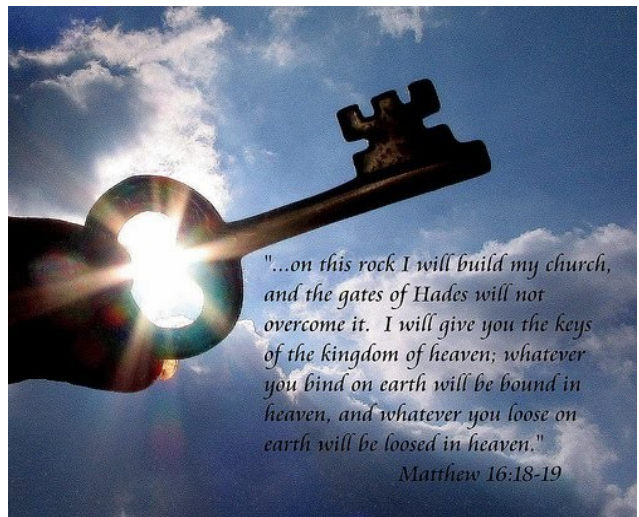
Responsorial Psalm:
 Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Second Reading: Romans 11:33-36
From him, through him, and in him are all things.

Gospel Acclamation:
 Alleluia, alleluia! You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20
You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

Next week's readings:
 Jeremiah 20:7-9
 Romans 12:1-2
 Matthew 16:21-27



"...on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
 Matthew 16:18-19



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.

Financial Matters...

Thanksgiving

Amount received last week..... \$1195
 Average 2011 \$3216
 Pledged per week \$3450

Presbytery

Amount received last week.....\$803
Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.

Morning Tea



Your hosts this week are Tim and Catherine Hogan.

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 next week will be Debbie Bradford and Val Finnigan.

Parish Group Activities



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

The Mornington Regional Council of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be celebrating a Festival Meeting and Mass at St McCartans, Mornington commencing at 11 am on Sunday, 28th August. The guest speaker will be John O'Brien from the Society's Overseas Development Committee. Eight members of the Morning Star Conference, Mt Eliza, will be presented with long service awards at this Festival. Members and their families are invited to attend.

The next meeting of the Morning Star Conference will be held in the Undercroft on **Monday 22nd August** commencing at 9.30am. Any parishioner interested in the work of the Society or in contributing to the work of the Society is welcome to attend.

STM Social Club

FAC Bobby Darin Story on Friday, 14th October @ 10.30am. Cost \$18. Book at next Social Club Meeting.

Tour & Lunch @ Parliament House on Monday, 22nd August, 11am tour 12.30pm lunch.

We will be catching the 9.15am train from Frankston. If interested, call Carolyn Gascoigne 9775 2315.

The welfare officers for August are Lois Bracken 9787 2970 and Gui Hone 9787 1449.

A Journey To Jordan & Israel



Here is a wonderful opportunity to visit those places with names so familiar to us...Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem.

Our pilgrimage to Jordan and the Holy Land will begin on 11th April next year.

You are warmly invited to an **information night** in the Undercroft on **Wednesday, 24th August at 7.30pm** (alternatively, you may wish to attend the evening at St Macartan, Mornington, on Wednesday, 31st August).

Fr. Laurie will speak about the attractions of these sacred sites and Steven Green (ETM Travel) will explain the details and answer your questions. We would love to see you on one of those evenings.

Copies of the itinerary and application forms are on the table at the back of the church.

Fr. Laurie

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.

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.

Holy Hour

All parishioners are invited to 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.

A Message From Maria



I have officially started my holiday although I do not fly out until later in the week. I did want to mention the liturgy group and the wonderful work they do before I leave. This small group meet each month to

prepare the various special liturgies over the year. Currently they are busily working on Advent and Christmas and related services. They are a dedicated band of workers and put a lot of effort into making the liturgies come alive with a new depth of meaning for those participating. Some have a gift of working with the beauty of the words of the scripture, some are talented in being able to present this visually while others are creative in the ability to set the scene with appropriate decoration and visual adornment. We also have someone with artistic ability, which is very handy! You are most welcome to join this group, whether you think you have a particular attribute or not. You can speak to Fr Laurie or one of the group; Adel Cowie, Colleen McNamara, Alexandra Rodriguez, Jim Bourke, Maureen & Dennis Mirabella, Maree Shelton or Peter O'Halloran. The purpose of the group is to present the liturgies in the most prayerful, and meaningful way possible that we may all experience the Word in a deeper and more intimate way.

Thanks to all who have put their names down to assist with the refreshments for funerals. We still need a couple for people who can be available to operate the AV system for funerals. If you may be able to help with this ministry please speak to Fr Laurie or Irene. You will be taught how to use the system and everything will be prepared ready to go. The funerals take place during school hours and the service takes approximately 1 hour.

Maria



The Caritas Network is responding across the region.

In Kenya the network is

- providing food relief to 40,000 people in the worst affected areas in Eastern and Coastal Kenya
- Ensuring children and new mothers are being reached first with aid.
- Instigating veterinary programs in the hope to keep 15,000 cattle healthy.

In Somalia the network is

- reaching 7000 people through Operation Lifeline with food aid. This includes over 1400 children and the elderly.
- providing supplementary feeding to over 4000 people, targeting new mothers and children and the elderly
- providing 70,000 semi-nomadic people with access to clean water in Eastern Somaliland

In Ethiopia the network is

- reaching over 80,000 people in Haraghe and Meki with food distributions
- supporting livestock programs in the southern Borana region, helping 25,000 households to maintain the health of their cattle.

Caritas Australia's East Africa Crisis Appeal

"Then the Spirit will be poured out from above, the land will flourish and the desert will become fruitful, and justice and righteousness, peace and confidence will abound (Isaiah 32.15-18).

The drought gripping East Africa is a humanitarian catastrophe. Caritas Australia and the Catholic Community must stand in solidarity with prayers and support for the 12.5 million men, women and children in urgent need of assistance. Caritas Australia is engaged in Kenya and Somalia and is working towards ensuring families have access to health care, food rations, clean water and nutrition for the sick.

Through the East Africa Crisis Appeal, you can help provide food relief, clean water and basic necessities in this time of crisis. For more information or to donate please visit www.caritas.org.au/eastafricacrisis call 1800 024 413; or post donations to GPO Box 9830 Melbourne.

What's Happening Elsewhere

In Pursuit of Passion

A conference for young adults & singles of all ages.

Topics include: living passionately - being single & fulfilled, processing through disappointments, intimacy, relationships & sexuality. **Excellent keynote speaker:** Anna Krohn, BTheol (MCD), Interactive, live music and time for fellowship and reflection.

When & Where: Weekend of 24th & 25th September St Clement of Rome, Clifton Centre, Bulleen, VIC.

For more information and flyer please email pursuitofpassion2011@gmail.com or phone 0413 398 528.

Jazz for East African Drought

Fundraiser Jazz Concert for the drought in Kenya and Somalia.

Featuring the **Simon Pilbrow Trio** (Simon Pilbrow on piano, Leon Heale on bass & David May on drums).

When: Saturday, 3rd September @ 8pm

Where: New Peninsula Church, 370 Craigie Rd, Mt Martha (Mel 146 A11)

Cost: Adults \$20, Children \$10, Family \$60

All welcome, with **all proceeds to Red Cross East Africa Drought Appeal 2011.**