



SEASONS

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

Seventeenth Week Ordinary Time

24th July, 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
Social Club Committee Meeting,
1.30pm, PCC
- **Wednesday**
1st Eucharist Class, 7.30pm, U
- **Thursday**
Liturgy Planning Team., 7.30pm,
PCC



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Parish Priest

Fr. Laurie Pearson

Pastoral Associate

Maria Newbiggin

Parish Planning Team

Fr. Laurie

Anne Davey

Maria Newbiggin

Mary Cameron

Margaret Carr

Tim Hogan

Peter Whyte

Adel Cowie

Mass Times

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	9.15am
Wednesday, followed by Holy Hour	9.15am
Thursday	9.15am
Friday	9.15am
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.

God's Reign Is Like....

There is a story of an Indian monk who found the world's largest diamond. In a nearby village a man had a dream that if he went to a certain monastery he could gain enormous wealth beyond all his hopes. The villager arrived at the monastery and told the monk his dream. The monk explained, 'The dream probably refers to this,' and handed over the diamond to him. The villager returned home with great joy, but that night tossed and turned. The next week he returned to the monastery, utterly exhausted and begged, 'Give me the wealth that enables you to give away this diamond so easily.'

Two parables today remind me of this Indian tale. Jesus says that the reign of God is so great a treasure that it is worth giving up all you have. People who have had profound experiences often struggle to find the words to describe this for others. They find themselves resorting to images - 'It was like...', 'it was as if...' In the parables Jesus tries to find ways of explaining why the reign of God has so captivated his own imagination. Of course Jesus speaks of a treasure and a pearl he has already found while the disciples and later Christians only glimpse the God's reign in moments of insight. And yet even these brief and veiled glimpses have been enough to sustain disciples for two thousand years and even today there are

many prepared to give all they have in following Christ. These men and women have found the wealth that enabled the monk to give away the diamond.



A worker found a treasure buried in a field. In a time without a sophisticated banking system, people buried their treasure away from their dwelling to save it from thieves. Occasionally, people did hear of others finding treasure, but no one ever sold what little they had, regardless of the reason. (Never mind a field worker could never really raise the cash to buy the plot.)

In addition, simply owning the field did not guarantee ownership of the treasure. It merely ensured access to the treasure. Ownership of the field and the treasure were two separate legal issues under ancient law. Why would anyone risk all to ensure access to a treasure they did not own? [13:44]

'Jesus painted the absurd images found in these parables to reveal the risk factor of God's Kingdom. God's Kingdom demanded everything from the believer. Loyalty to family or neighbours, the desire for financial security, the drive for political power, all came second. The believer must put God first in all things, even if he or she looked like a fool. The Kingdom cost everything but had the greatest value.'

From word-sunday.com, a Lectionary Resource for Catholics

We pray for...

Those who have died recently

John Goddard, Win Newson

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Prof. Bill Walker, Dr. Raymond Hennessy, Anne Pierce, Pamela Phillips, Emma Kelly

and the Sick

Samantha, Tracey Jamieson, Jenny Morrison, Ita Koppenol, Mel Hoban and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Ranelagh Gardens Nursing Home.



Win Newson was one of our very early Social Club Members who for health reasons moved to be near family in Werribee some years ago, she passed away yesterday. Check papers for funeral details.

Liturgy - Seventeenth Sunday Ordinary

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

You have asked for wisdom.

Responsorial Psalm: Lord, I love your commands.

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Next week's readings:

Isaiah 55:1-3

Romans 8:35. 37-39

Matthew 14:13-21

Father,
You are the potter,
I am the clay.
Remold me
by your Spirit
for Jesus' sake.
Amen.



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..... \$2535

Average 2011 \$3270

Pledged per week \$3514

Presbytery

Amount received last week.....\$1051

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

Morning Tea

Your hosts this week are Anne-Marie Lark and Margaret Gallagher

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 Tim and Catherine

Parish Group Activities



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

Winter Appeal

The members of Morning Star Conference, Mt Eliza would like to thank St Thomas More's parishioners for their generosity in contributing to our winter appeal. A total of \$2,279 was raised in the leaving collections taken up at the Masses on the 2nd and 3rd of July. We would also like to thank the children and teachers of St Thomas More's School for the food donated to our winter appeal. This is currently being distributed to those less fortunate in our community.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Conference will be held in the Undercroft on Monday, 25th July 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

Frankston Arts Centre, **Choir of Hope & Inspiration** (Melb Street Choir) on Friday, 23rd September @ 10.30am. Bookings will be taken at the Social Club Meeting on Tuesday, 2nd August.

Tour & Lunch @ Parliament House on Monday, 22nd August, 11am tour 12.30pm lunch, details next Social Club meeting on Tuesday, 2nd August.

Beleura House & Garden "Opera in the Garden", either Friday, 25th November or Saturday, 26th November. There is a 5.30pm courtesy bus for 6.30 performance. Also Sunday, 27th November with a 4pm courtesy bus for the 5pm performance. Bookings (\$65) next club meeting Tuesday, 2nd August.

The welfare officers for July are Jim and Betty Bourke ph: 9775 4507.

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.

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.

Bible Study



The **Bible Studies Group** will meet on Wednesday, 27th June at the Parish Community Centre 1.30pm - 3pm. All most welcome. Any inquiries please contact Gui Hone 9787 1449 or Lois 9787 2970.

Children's Liturgy



Sarah & Damien Harland will lead the children in an exploration of this week's Gospel. Please encourage your children to join them.

A Message From Maria



For those who were not here over the past few weeks this is a quick update on the change to wording being used in the Mass. Last week we started to implement the new translation changes. These will be

used each week from now on. Others will be introduced in the coming weeks. The two we have introduced so far are:

The response "*And with your spirit*" is used in the Introductory Rites after any one of the three choices of wording (listed below)

1. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. The Lord be with you.

It is also used each time the priest says "*The Lord be with you*" which happens **A/** before the proclamation of the Gospel, **B/** at the start of the Eucharistic Prayer and **C/** at the start of the Concluding Rites. The other place we use the response is at the sign of peace in response to "*The peace of the Lord be with you always*"

Also introduced at this point is the Creed and, as we did last week, we are using the Apostle's Creed, which is printed below for those who wish to take it home to familiarise themselves with it.


I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, and was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

What's Happening Elsewhere

Padua College School Tours

2011-Terms 3 & 4

 See Padua College in action.... You're invited to bring your child to Padua College for a guided tour of the school. Tours begin at 9.15am and conclude at approx 10.20am. Please book by telephoning Reception at either Mornington 5976 0100 or Rosebud Campus 5982 9500.

Please note that places are allocated according to where you live.

If you live east of Humphries Rd, Frankston, your child would not be eligible to go to Padua College as your home address is in the zone for John Paul College, Frankston - for further information on John Paul College please visit their website www.jpcvictoria.catholic.edu.au

Mornington Campus Term 3

Monday 25th July
Tuesday 2nd August
Wednesday 17th August

Term 4

Wednesday 2nd Nov
Thursday 10th Nov
Tuesday 22nd Nov

Rosebud Campus Term 3

Tuesday 26th July
Wednesday 3rd August
Thursday 18th August

Term 4

Thursday 3rd Nov
Tuesday 15th Nov
Monday 21st Nov

Pastoral Associates' Reunion

This is an opportunity for all past and present Pastoral Associates to get together and celebrate this lay ministry.

Let's catch up with each other's journey, share a liturgy & just enjoy being together. Kindly pass this on to former PA's you know or those who have preceded you in your current parish. Don't presume someone else will do this. Please let Carol Harris know the details of whom you have sent it to so we can update our database.

A \$20 donation on the day would be appreciated to defray the costs of organisation & catering (finger food, juice / soft drink, etc). BYO hard drink!

When: Sunday, 21st August from 2pm onwards

Where: St Brendan's Hall, Church St, Flemington

RSVP ASAP (by Australian horses' Birthday - on the 1st August) to carolharris@hetspace.net.au

Please bring photos / clippings to be copied for inclusion in our Archives.

Honouring God the Father

You are invited to honour God The Father in a special way on Sunday, 7th August at -

St Benedict's Church, 295 Warrigal Rd, Burwood.
1.30pm Adoration & Prayers, 2.30pm Mass & Homily on God the Father

Holy Family Church, 100 Power Rd, Doveton
2.30pm - 3.30pm Hymns & prayers to God the Father

Of Interest Perhaps To Those Who Are Looking To Go To Jordan And Israel Next Year.

It stands in the city of Madaba and is the first mosque to be dedicated to Jesus in the Arab world. The imam came up with the idea himself: "There are mosques named after all of the prophets except Jesus"

Vatican insider staff, Rome



"The mosque of Jesus Christ" is the exact name given to the mosque in the city of Madaba, south of the Jordanian capital Amman. **It is the first to ever be named after the central figure of Christianity in the modern Arab world, a name which in Islam is identified with one of the most important prophets.**

But the fact that such a Christian name was chosen for a Muslim place of worship, did not fail to provoke the curiosity of Muslims, Christians and the mass media alike. According to the newspaper "Al Quds Al Arabi" that published the story, what makes Jesus' mosque so special is that both Muslims and Christians have shown appreciation for it.

The mosque of Jesus Christ is situated near a famous Church in the city of Madaba. According to ANSA reports, **the idea for the name came from**

Jamal Al Sufirati, the mosque's imam. "It occurred to me, the imam stated, that the Arab world is full of mosques that are named after all prophets **except Jesus.**"

The imam explained that "the mosque wishes to send out a **message of togetherness** and tolerance, particularly after the tensions between the two religions over two offensive caricatures of Prophet Muhammad.