



SEASONS

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

The Body and Blood Of Christ

26th June, 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**
First Eucharist Class, 7.30pm, U
- **Thursday**
Rosa Mystica, 7.15pm, C



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Parish Priest

Fr. Laurie Pearson

Pastoral Associate

Maria Newbigin

Parish Planning Team

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

Mass Times

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday (Lit of the Word with Holy Comm)	9.15am
Wednesday, (Lit of the Word with Holy Comm foll by Holy Hour)	9.15am
Thursday	9.15am
Friday	9.15am
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.



Children at the Orphanage, Venilale, East Timor

From Little Things....

Dear Friends

As I mentioned at Mass last weekend, the trip to East Timor was one of the most confronting experiences I have encountered. I was left feeling decidedly uncomfortable but it was an absolutely worthwhile venture. My thanks once again to Les Harper and to all who contributed in many ways to enable this to happen.

I am more convinced than ever that our Parish and Deanery commitment to East Timor is worthwhile. These are just a few reflections on what **I** think may happen in the future.

Our initiative began quite a few years ago with a decision to send

rice to the small village / parish of Nunira in the ET highlands, part of the large parish of Laga. Shortly afterwards, Les Harper initiated a fund-raising effort to support the children of Nunira – do you remember the photos of the children and the request to help them with their education? The money raised from that project was actually used to build new classrooms there. More recently money from the estate of the late Pat Browne was used to complete another classroom block and it was our privilege to be present for the opening of the new school. We were able to meet some of the children who were “sponsored” by many of you

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We pray for...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Vittorio Forlin, Melinda Mitchell, Alfred Bardsley, Maria Knuckey, Lillian G. Oakes

and the Sick

Edward Riordan, Marianne Connelly, Kaye Coughlan, John Noal, Ann Marie Murdoch, Mitchell Gleeson, Fr. Lou Heriot, Jake Noonan, John Moore, Mary McKenzie, Ria Wilson, Dee Rourke, Lewis Lewis, Bill Oakes, Ron Child, Adrian Gobel, Margaret Ryan, Fr. Peter Fulton and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Ranelagh Gardens Nursing Home.

Thank You

Sr. Patricia Daniels sent a note thanking everyone who organised, prepared & served refreshments for Noel's funeral last week, apologising for not speaking to you personally on the day.

'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

John 6:51-58

Liturgy - The Body and Blood Of Christ

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3.14-16

He gave you food which you and your ancestors did not know.

Responsorial Psalm: Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 10:16-17

Though we are many, we form a single body because we share this one loaf.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live for ever. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 6:51-58

My flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.

Next week's readings:

Zechariah 9:9-10

Romans 8:9. 11-13

Matthew 11:25-30



Financial Matters...

Thanksgiving

Amount received last week\$4839

Average 2011\$3246

Pledged per week\$3554

Presbytery

Amount received last week.....\$1100

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

Morning Tea

Your hosts this week are Beatrice Rodriguez and Val Finnigan.



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 John Bruitzman and Anne Davey.

Thanksgiving Receipts

Final receipts for the current financial year will be distributed **next weekend**. For your pledge to "balance" with your contributions, quarterly, half-yearly and annual contributors are reminded that your total annual pledge must be paid by this weekend at the latest. We remind you that no portion of your contributions for this financial year is tax deductible.

Parish Group Activities



St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Good Works

The bitterly cold weather we have at the moment, combined with the higher food costs after the floods and the rising costs of essential services is creating even greater hardship for the less fortunate in our community. Consequently, the demands being made on the resources of the St Vincent de Paul Society are greater than ever.

Thanks to Fr Laurie, we will be having a leaving collection at all Masses on the weekend the 2nd & 3rd July for our annual winter appeal. We are seeking the continued generous support of St Thomas More's parishioners for this appeal.

The members of our local Conference will be attending, as a group, the 10am Mass on the 3rd of July to give an indication of the effort being made by our Parish in helping those in need in this area.

The **next meeting** of our Mt Eliza Conference will be held in the Undercroft, on **Monday 27th June commencing at 9.30am**. Those interested in the work of the Society are welcome to attend.

STM Social Club

The **Social Club Committee Meeting** will meet on Monday, 27th June at 1.30pm in the Parish Community Centre.

Christmas in July, Grand Hotel, Main Street, Mornington, 3rd July @ 12 noon. Cost \$25, **please have correct money**. For inquiries contact Pauline Hook 9787 9907.

Ferry Trip to Williamstown Friday, 8th July. We will be meeting at Frankston Station to catch the 8.55am train into the city. The ferry leaves for Williamstown @ 10.30am. **(Please note change of date)**.

Frankston Arts Centre, **The Complete Beatles**, Friday, 5th August @ 10.30am. Tickets \$18.

The welfare officers for June are Pauline Hook 9787 9907 & Lynda Reid 9787 4483.

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

Rosa Mystica Prayer Group



Every Thursday at 7.15pm, with a Mass celebrated by a visiting priest on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

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.

July Rosters

Mass Time	Lector	Commentator
6 pm Sat	Margaret Emond	Judy Swann
8 am Sun	Emergencies	Irene Owsianka
10 am Sun	Lois Bracken	David Dole
Mass Time	Ministers of the Eucharist	
6 pm Sat	Maureen Dennett (Book) Dennis Cleary (Gifts) Anne-Marie Hyde (Gifts)	
8 am Sun	Tricia Woods(Book) Raye Darrer (Gifts) Marie Alaimo (Gifts)	
10 am Sun	Peter Royal (Book) Valerie Finnigan (Gifts) Judy Jones (Gifts)	
Counters	Mike Symes Peter Royal Sandor Egyed	

Message From Maria



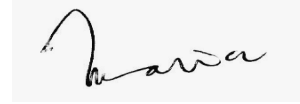
This week we had Inquiry Sessions for the Rite of Initiation of Christian Adults (RCIA). The exciting news from that is that we are going ahead with RCIA in the parish this year. Our first session will be on Thursday, 21st July. If you think you may be interested in finding out more about

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what is involved in becoming a Catholic you are welcome to come and join us on this journey. You may like to pass this information on to someone you know. For further information or if you have any questions you can speak to Fr Laurie or Maria via the parish of-

rice or Mary Cameron. Please keep all involved in your prayers.



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when we visited the Catholic High School in Laga. There we saw the “outdoor kitchen” where the mothers were preparing a meal for the students - and on the table nearby.... bags of Home Brand, Sun Rice, Black and Gold and Koala rice etc. from our parish collection!

Nunira is now probably the envy of the other schools and missions in the area. Some of the people have a kind of “cargo cult” mentality and are inclined to say “What about us?” Some seem to think that money grows on trees in Australia..... That’s why Les does not take on a task until he is satisfied that the people themselves really want the project and are prepared to provide land and labour.

But the needs of those communities and especially those of the children are very real. We visited the parishes / villages of Nunira, Teqinomata, Saelari and Salamari. The latter two are in the same situation as was Nunira a few years ago. In all of those places the need for rice and lentils for the children is obvious. It would be terrific if we could seriously take up the challenge for every person to bring one bag of rice or lentils to Mass each week as part of our “Thanksgiving”. Once we get the food to Laga, the Salesian community there is more than able to distribute it appropriately.

At Teqinomata the school has been partly refurbished and will soon be completed. A rather nice Church has been built there thanks to money donated from Spain. But it is incomplete and is presently being used as part of the school. It needs a cement floor before being used for its real purpose – and the money from Spain has dried up! Using the Les Harper principle, we need to determine whether the people really want this (I think they do), whether they will provide the labour and properly maintain the building. If so, this might well become a fund-raising project for the Parish / Deanery.

We visited Orphanages in Laga and Venilale. Many of the children in these places are victims of broken families or are children whose parents

(single mums very often) are simply unable to support them. The children, of course, were a delight and the “welcome ceremony” in each place was memorable. But it was the dedication and commitment of the Salesian sisters that was most impressive for me. They clearly loved the little ones that God has put in their care. The need for rice and lentils (at Venilale in particular) was very obvious. While some subsidy is given from Government, it is clearly insufficient.

Sr Caroline’s Clinic at Venilale - she spoke here a couple of weeks ago – is impressive. There were no “Baby Boxes” to photograph. They have all been given away. But Sister keeps a record of who receives the Boxes, how many children in the family and so on – and it’s quite a list!! Perhaps our School community will continue the task of supporting this part of our mission to ET.

I’ve removed the specific reference to “Nunira” from our Offering Prayer when we bring our gifts to the Altar each Sunday. The needs go beyond any one place, but even small efforts can reap a rich harvest. *Let us always remember the people of East Timor in our prayer and ask that God will continue to bless our humble efforts.*



Nunira students at Laga Secondary School (St. Anthony)