



SEASONS

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

First Sunday of Advent

25th November, 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
Choir Practice, 7:15pm, C

Thursday

Rosa Mystica, 7:15pm, C



"Advent and Triumph of Christ" Hans Memling, 1480. Munich.

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Parish Priest

Fr. Laurie Pearson

Pastoral Associate

Maria Newbiggin

Parish Planning Team

Fr. Laurie Tim Hogan
Maria Newbiggin 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
No School Mass	
Saturday (Vigil)	6.00pm
Sunday	8.00am 10.00am

Reconciliation

Saturday 5.00-5.30pm

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.

Wake Up!

The vestments change, the Gospel changes as the Church moves into a new cycle recalling and celebrating God's coming to our world in Jesus. This year we will hear the earliest written Gospel, that of Mark. These were years of conflict for the early Christians. The Emperor Nero had begun to persecute Christians and they were considered to be practising a new and superstitious cult. In Palestine things were no better for there had been a Jewish uprising against Rome that had led to the destruction of Jerusalem. Mark's community was under threat and beside all these external factors, Jesus had not returned to them as they had been expecting. For forty years they had kept faith but as time passed the waiting became harder.

The Gospel speaks into this situation. Be Alert. Stay awake. The Master will return. Living now, so

many centuries distant from the Gospel events, these words take on a special urgency. Complacency and routine can replace alertness and watchfulness. After such a long time perhaps we run the risk of failing to recognise the Master. Last week's Gospel revealed this difficulty. 'When did we see you hungry and thirsty, sick or naked?' 'Of course we would have welcomed you - but we didn't know it was you.' This is the alertness that we are called to; to recognise our God's coming.

As the carols ring out around the shopping centres, watch out, be alert. You never know the time when God will come to you.

*Sundays Under the Southern Cross
Mary Coloe PBVM*



We pray for...

Those who have died recently

Helen Davenport (Cathy McKay's sister), John Clark

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Dr John Hamilton, Jane Collins, Wilfred H. Oakes, Vernon Hussey, Rita Fisscher, Millicent Leydin, Lola Lamm

and the Sick

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 family, friends and benefactors of S. Foote, C. Coop and Judy Pessato.

Liturgy - First Sunday of Advent

First Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8

The Lord will gather all nations in eternal peace in the kingdom of God.

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 1:3-9

The time has come, our salvation is near.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

He will take his seat on the throne of glory, and he will separate men one from another.

Next week's readings:

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

2 Peter 3:8-14

Mark 1:1-8

Mount Eliza Inter - Church Council Presents "Carols On The Oval"



When: Friday, 9th December, 5.30pm - 7.30pm

Where: St Thomas More Parish Oval
Entrance by donation with proceeds to the Christmas Bowl

A special opportunity to prepare for Christmas with members of the other Christian churches of Mt Eliza.

Financial Matters...

Thanksgiving

Amount received last week.....	\$2932
Average 2011	\$3118
Pledged per week	\$3354

Presbytery

Amount received last week..... \$1428
Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our par-

Morning Tea



This week, Debbie Bradford and Val Finnigan warmly invite you 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 Anne-Marie Lark and Irene Owsianka.

Parish Group Activities



St Vincent de Paul Society **Good Works**

Christmas Hampers

Immediately before Christmas, Morning Star Conference members take on an additional workload with the delivering of Christmas hampers. This is as well as their usual home visitation activities. The St Vincent de Paul Society has a rule that members must always visit in pairs. Therefore, Christmas time can become difficult for Conference members. If there are any St Thomas More Parishioners willing to join with a member in delivering Christmas hampers they can contact Dennis on 9787 3609 and be included in the roster.

Christmas Cards, Calendars and Toys

Christmas cards and calendars will be on sale outside the church this week. There will be a box placed in the Church entry for the next few weeks in which donations of toys and gifts can be placed. There is no need to wrap gifts or toys.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Morning Star Conference will be held in the Undercroft on Monday, 28th November 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

The next **Committee Meeting** will be held on Monday, 28th November at 1.30pm in the Parish Community Centre.

The **Monthly Meeting** will take place in the Undercroft after the 10am Mass on Tuesday, 6th December.

The **Welfare Officers** for November are Judy Jones 0425 787 327 and Mercia Gleeson 5974 1552.

A Message from Maria



Today we start our Advent journey. Last week I mentioned some of the distractions that prevent us from having time to be open and aware of God speaking to us in our lives due to the distractions of everyday life. Let me then repeat from last week the changes during the liturgy over Advent to allow all of us to **really** listen to what God is saying to us at this time.

Over the time of Advent there will be some slight changes in the Eucharistic Liturgy. After the Homily Fr Laurie will return to his seat for a time of silence. We ask you to respect this time as an opportunity for each of us to reflect on what God is saying to us at this particular moment in our lives: be that consolation; a jab of conscience; time to rest in God's embrace; an awareness of God's presence among us; or how far we are from the Kingdom of God, even as we live it. The liturgy is an expression of our love and faith and it also reminds us that there is no love without sacrifice. The Eucharist is about transformation: the bread and wine are transformed and we too are transformed. This is the tension of life that is played out at every Eucharistic celebration. This is the tension that we try to avoid when we avoid the silence. In preparing the liturgies from Advent this is the reality of life we hope to allow space for over the coming weeks as we prepare for the coming, again, of Christ into our hearts this Christmas.

Lectors, Commentators & Ministers of the Eucharist

We sent out letters this week to everyone on the 2011 roster, asking if they'd like to continue in 2012, and their preferences for Mass times and holidays etc. Responses are due back on Monday, 5th December.

We need more **Ministers of the Word, particularly for the 8am Mass**, and more Ministers of the Eucharist for any of the weekend Masses. We'd be more than happy to train anyone who hasn't any experience, or who may feel a little "rusty". Perhaps your children are now old enough to sit quietly while you come to the altar or lectern. If you can help, please let Fr. Laurie or Irene know as soon as possible.

Counters wanted

We also sent out letters this week to our counters, asking for any change of intentions or holiday preferences to be in by this Monday, 5th December.

We need **more counters** too, to restore each of our teams to at least 3 (ideally 4) people. Training is, of course provided, and what's involved is 2 rostered months for the year, for 1½ hours after 10 am Mass each week. Emergencies are available for those weeks when a swap cannot be arranged: if you don't want to go on the regular roster, the emergency list could also do with some topping up. If you can help, please call Irene on 9787 7777 as soon as possible.

What's Happening Elsewhere

Stella Maris F.C.J Friends & Associates Families and Friends of John Paul College.

Mass to remember our loved ones who have died during the year, will be celebrated on Thursday, 8th December at 7pm, in the John Paul College Chapel, McMahon's Road, Frankston.

All most welcome.

World AIDS Day 1 December 2011

'HIV is still here' is the theme for World AIDS Day this year. HIV remains a huge problem with 33.3 million people living with the virus worldwide.* HIV+ people are not visually identifiable and in Australia,

most have learnt to carefully guard their status with secrecy. They do this to avoid the discrimination and social stigma that sadly still accompanies the illness. HIV+ people can find themselves socially isolated, and their reduced ability to work can lead to poverty. Modern treatment is highly effective, and HIV+ people can expect to live longer, but not without increasingly complex medical intervention.

Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry is an agency of Catholic-Care that supports HIV+ people. Phone 8417 1280 or email am23@ccam.org.au. Mass will be celebrated at St Francis Church Lonsdale St Melbourne at 5:30pm on 30 November.

*World Health Organisation estimate

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Another slight change is during the Prayers of the Faithful. Before each prayer ends with the words "Lord hear Us" there will be a short pause. This is to allow us to really prepare to respond deeply to the prayers and not just say the words. Hopefully this will help us make our prayers more alive; in our hearts and on our lips.

I also ask you to keep in your prayers the RCIA candidates who have formally, this weekend, begun their journey in faith. In order to celebrate this special occasion and for all to meet our candidates there are refreshments after the 6pm Mass this weekend.



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.

In Celebration Of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception



Please join us on Thursday, 8th December at St Thomas More Church, 313 Canadian Bay Rd, Mt Eliza at 7.15pm.

Program:

Confession, Holy Mass (Celebrant Rev. Fr Francis), Cenacle, Benediction.

Supper will be served in the Undercroft. All most

welcome.

Please note that this is the last meeting for the year of the Rosa Mystica Prayer Group. We will be recommencing on the 9th February 2012.

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.

Choir Practice

Choir Practice will take place this Monday, 28th November at **7:15pm. Please note the new starting time.**

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.

Thank You

Sofia Adlam baked cookies for sale after Mass last Saturday evening to raise some money for the parish. She "sold out" very quickly and collected \$21.50 for the Church.

Thank you, Sofia, for your generosity and of course for your culinary skills. The cookies were delicious.

Thanks also to all who filled out and returned the Church Life Surveys. The responses will be most valuable in our planning and your patience and reflection is appreciated.

Fr. Francis