



SEASONS

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

31st January, 2010

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

Diary

- **Monday**
Poetry Group, 1:30pm, PCC
- **Tuesday**
Social Club meeting, after
10am Mass, U
Baptism Information Night,
7:30 pm, PCC
- **8 February**
RCIA & choir resume
- **17 February**
1st Reconciliation Info & Enrolment
- **2 March**
Social Club AGM

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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 (Soc Club)	10:00 am
Wednesday (Foll. By Holy Hour)	9:15 am
Thursday	9:15 am
Friday (No School Mass)	9:15 am
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.

A Scandalous Message

Last Sunday's Gospel saw Jesus announce his goal in the Synagogue of Nazareth; today we see the reactions to his words. Jesus' message was, "God keeps Jubilee. You are all welcomed home by a God who loves you". Some are touched by this proclamation of a most gracious God but others, not surprisingly, are enraged. Judaism had a long tradition of law which spelled out quite clearly who was a righteous person, and who was a sinner, who was a person loved by God and who would God turn away from. The categories were clear. Good people tried to live out the Law and so knew themselves worthy to be loved by God. Sinners knew themselves as worthless and outcasts. Jesus' proclamation cut through these presumptions. He announced a God who broke the rules set by Judaism. "All are welcome; righteous and sinner alike. You are welcome not because you've made yourself worthy,

not because you're better than others; you are welcome because God loves you - all of you".

Jesus' words shocked and scandalized the good, religious people of his time. The God he was describing simply did not fit within their religious categories and so they mocked him, "This is Joseph's son, what right does he have to speak like this?" Jesus' only defence is to point to the history of how his people treated other prophets. The prophet's hardest audience is his own people. Elijah and Elisha's greatest miracles were for foreigners, the outsiders.

If Jesus preached this message in our churches today, what response would he receive? Who would listen and welcome his startling words? Who would be scandalized?

Sundays Under the Southern Cross
Mary Coloe PBVM

'Jesus was doubly offensive to his hearers, and for opposite reasons: first, he was too familiar: the man who had grown up in their midst and apparently not been remarkable, is suddenly speaking about the meaning of the Scripture, as if he *knew* at first hand what it was all about, as if he was at the cutting edge of God's revelation. 'This text is being fulfilled today, even as you listen.'

'Secondly, Jesus offended by showing that God's love and care were not restricted to the people of Israel. In fact in the two cases he mentioned he suggests that God neglected people in Israel in favour of foreigners, and, in one case, in favour of an enemy soldier.

'The question is, quite simply, whose voice do we listen to? If we listen first to the voice of our family, our tribe, our nation, our allies, we may not be ready to hear the voice of God. If we try to listen first to God's voice, then we could find ourselves in conflict with that family voice. It happens now: there are many heroic Christians -- and others -- who are working hard to offer dignity and help to asylum seekers; it's not a popular line to take, but it's one of those instances when you have to choose between your faith and the *Daily Mail* or the *Sun*, to put it bluntly.

'We can either be on the side of outcasts, with Jesus; or we can make him an outcast, as the good religious people of Nazareth did on that occasion.'

Excerpt from a homily by Fr Colin Carr OP

We pray for...

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Pedro De Barbosa-Mendonca, John M. McCartney, Adelheid Behrenbruch, Jeremy Lourey, Charles Brown

and the Sick

Harry O’Beirne, Alan Pursell, Martin Herrmann, Carmel Levitt, John Dale, Anne-Marie Corcoran, Baby Peter Kost, John Courtney, Trish Sanders, Barbara Leary, Baby Kate Cameron, Fr. Dan McMahon, Cheryl, Bill Oakes, Linda Watschur, Mary McKenzie, Noeleen Walker, Agnes Hogan, Carmel McKane, Sr. Helen Nichols, Jo Pendlebury,

Leonie Bradley, Frank Butler, Anne Horton, Kylie Mazoletti, Gloria Sisson, Margaret Hill, Carolyn Royal, Diana Espino, Edward Riordan, Gillian Richards, Eve Parker, Susan Jones, Pamela Wilson, Rod Van dewert, Judy Linton, Lorraine Curtain, Laurie Pendlebury, Henrique Mendonca, Margaret Beale, Alex Kelly, Mary Lauren, Michaela Baker, Fr. Peter Robinson, Fr. Joe McMahon, 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 - Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19

In the first reading Jeremiah is called by God to be a prophet.

Responsorial Psalm:

I will sing of your salvation.

Second Reading: I Corinthians 12:31-13:13

In the second reading St. Paul spells out that Christian love means self-sacrifice and concern for others.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

The Gospel tells us that Jesus was rejected by his fellow Jews and townspeople at Nazareth.

Next week’s readings:

Isaiah 6:1-8
I Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Altar Servers for next week

Mass Time	Altar Servers
6 pm Sat	Lewis Fitter Lachlan Bazyk
8 am Sun	<i>Volunteers please?</i>
10 am Sun	Laura Smith Rebecca Landman Olivia South



Morning Tea

Your hosts this week are Ruth Pusic and Katie Rodgers. 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 Kate Hyland and Sally Cooper.

Financial Matters...

Thanksgiving

Amount received last week.....\$1998
Average since start of Campaign.....\$3499
Pledged per week\$3766

Presbytery

Amount received last week.....\$1146
Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.



Parish Group Activities



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

Any parishioners who have a few hours to spare each week and would like to do something for those less fortunate than themselves please come along to our meeting or ring the Parish House for more information on 9787 7777.

Choir

The choir will commence practice at 7.30pm on Monday, 8th February in the Church.

While we welcome any new members with leadership skills and a knowledge of liturgical music, all new members are most welcome.

STM Social Club

The next session of the **Poetry Group** will be held in the Parish Community Centre on Monday, 1st February, 2010, commencing at 1.30pm.

Your hostess is Gui Hone, phone 9787 1449.

The next **monthly meeting** of the Social Club will be held in the Undercroft after the 10 am Mass.

Notice of AGM

The Social Club AGM is to be held on Tuesday, 2nd March in the Undercroft after the 10am Mass.

All positions on the committee are vacant. Nominations will be accepted for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and all committee positions.

All nominations must be seconded and endorsed by the nominee. Forms can be collected from Judy Jones or the Parish House.

First Reconciliation 2010

An Information and Enrolment Night will be held on Wednesday, 17th February for the parents of **all children** who will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2010.

This Information Night will be held in the School Multi Purpose Area at 7.30pm.

Please note that it is the practice in the Archdiocese of Melbourne that Reconciliation be celebrated prior to First Eucharist (August).



Holidays are over and so it is back to normal hours again. Just a reminder I will be in Mondays and Thursdays, generally.

The first RCIA meeting for the year will take place on Monday 8th February, 9.30 am, in my office. Preparation intensifies from here on as we move towards lent and the various steps and rituals for those in the RCIA process that take place during this period. Easter is not only the most important feast within the church year, it is also of great significance to those joining the Catholic Church.

A Sign up sheet for Lenten Groups is in the foyer. Please put your name, contact number and preferred day and time. Sessions will last approximately 1 ½ hours. Lent starts February 17th so it is not far away. More information on the groups next week.

Remember the next Getting it Rite training session is on February 6th. If you are interested in attending this session I will need to know this week. If you are interested in becoming involved in any of the many activities that take place within our Parish please let me know.

Sale of Surplus Land

An application has been lodged with Council for a boundary realignment of our property. This is with a view to the ultimate disposal of some of our land between the oval and the creek. This surplus land is not being used by the parish/school and its disposal will have no impact on our oval or our view.



I tell you solemnly,
no prophet is ever accepted
in his own country.

What's Happening Elsewhere

Centacare Morning Tea



CENTACARE
Catholic Family
Services

2010 is Centacare Catholic Family Services' 75th Anniversary and to celebrate this milestone, we will be holding a range of events throughout the year.

Our first event of the year is a Diamond Tea Party. This event is taking place from 11am to 1:30pm on Thursday 18 March at Moonee Valley Racecourse.

The morning's celebrations will include entertainment, dancing and a delicious morning tea. All funds raised will be directed to Centacare's Alcohol and Other Drug Family Service.

The ticket cost is \$65 per adult and \$55 for concession holders.

For more information and bookings, contact Centacare Catholic Family Services' Event Coordinator Sarah Hodges Ph: 9926 5722, Email: sarah.hodges@centacaremelbourne.org.au or visit our website: www.centacaremelbourne.org

Conversation and Book Launch

Mark Shea, renowned international Catholic author and commentator will be in Melbourne for one night only on Thursday 4 February to launch his latest trilogy of books on *Mary, Mother of the Son*. Lecture Theatre of the Cardinal Knox Centre at 7.30 pm. Enter from Lansdowne St car park.

Information- Joan, 99265733, joan.clements@cam.org.au. No charge – donation to Anima gratefully received.

Contemporary images of the Cross

Monday 25 Jan - Friday 12 Feb 2010

An exhibition exploring contemporary images of the Cross will open at Australian Catholic University's (ACU) Melbourne Campus, ACU Gallery, 26 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. The Crux exhibition features works of art by more than 35 contemporary artists from Australia and overseas, brought together by curator Lachlan Warner.

A small booklet of meditations on the cross by theologians from ACU will also be available.

Caritas calls for \$46 million to assist 200,000 in Haiti



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

The international Caritas network has called for donations of over AUD \$46 million to assist 200,000 earthquake affected people in Haiti over the coming two months.

"Already we have reached more than 17,000 people with emergency supplies of food, clean water, hygiene kits, shelter and medical assistance. Our rescue teams were still pulling people from the rubble as late as Tuesday and now we are scaling up our response as we manage the challenges", said Jack de Groot CEO of Caritas Australia.

"More than \$35 million has already been pledged by Caritas supporters around the world but we need urgent support so we can ensure we can continue this life saving and life giving work".

"Caritas through our extensive network on the ground in Haiti are coordinating a makeshift camp at a golf course in Port au Prince where up to 50,000 people are already seeking shelter. In addition we have established distribution points across the affected area covering 32 parishes where we will assist an additional 150,000 people. Two hospitals are being supported by Caritas agencies and a further 12 primary care clinics are offering basic treatment".

Mr de Groot concluded, "The response of the Australian public so far to the dire need in Haiti has been very generous and as this disaster fades from our television screens Caritas will continue to work to get the country on its feet. This initial appeal is for the next two months of relief and in that time we will also be assessing the situation to deliver a longer term reconstruction plan".

You can support the Caritas Australia Haiti Emergency Relief Appeal by calling 1800 024 413 or online at www.caritas.org.au

More information Tim O'Connor (02) 8306 3400 or 0417 284 831.

Justin Peters' 2nd CD—Reflections

*Justin Peters (local Tenor), who sings from time to time at our Saturday night Masses, has released his 2nd CD, entitled **Reflections**.*

It is a collection of Songs of Inspiration, featuring "You Raise Me Up" and "The Prayer".

Price: \$20 each.

For a copy, please email justin.peters84@gmail.com or contact direct on 0438 660 684.

I will sing
of your salvation.