



SEASONS

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent

3rd April, 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
Poetry Group, 1.30pm, PCC
Choir Practice, 7.30pm, C
- **Tuesday**
Social Club Meeting, after 10am
Mass, U
Elio Capra (RCIA), 7pm, Church
Baptism Prep, 7.30pm, PCC
- **Wednesday**
Confirmation Info Night, 7.30pm,
MPR
Lenten Scripture Group,
7.30pm, PCC
- **Thursday**
Lenten Scripture Group,
2pm, PCC

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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 (Social Club)	10.00am
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 5.00pm - 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 **com-
pulsory** preparation night for par-
ents takes place on the first Tues-
day of each month in the **Parish
Community Centre** at 7:30 pm.

I Am The Light Of The World

Light is the great symbol of Easter. The very word we use, 'Easter', speaks of light for it comes from the old Germanic word Oestros, the goddess of the dawn. What is remarkable in the story of this blind man is that he has been blind since birth. He was born in darkness and has never known light. The miracle is not simply a restoration of sight but an act of creation. Once he gains his physical sight the man begins on a journey of gaining spiritual insight, while his opponents journey into blindness. The blind man gradually comes to know the identity of his healer. At first he calls him, 'The man Jesus.' Later he says, 'He is a prophet,' and finally he comes to know Jesus' true identity and worships him. He has completed the journey and come to faith. Meanwhile his opponents are travelling in the opposite direction as they refuse to admit that Jesus could be a man of God and call him a sinner.

The recent months seem particularly dark with death, destruction, and, now, bloodshed in Libya - and our own involvement in these events as the darkness touched our own shores with flood (Queensland and Victoria) and fire (Western Australia). This Gospel episode holds up the possibility of two journeys - towards the light or towards the darkness. The light of Easter invites us forward but we

must first pass through the shadow of the cross. As we make the journey of the blind man we pray this ancient Christian hymn:

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art. Be Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

*Adapted from
Sundays Under the Southern Cross
Mary Coloe PBVM*



Thank You



My sincere thanks to all who supported the Fund-raiser and Barbecue to assist my trip to East Timor in June. The function itself was a most enjoyable one for all who attended.

Thanks to all who bought tickets and donated to the Hamper Raffle. Congratulations to Judy Jones who won it.

In particular I want to thank Michael Robertson and Greg Carew who made their home available and hosted a most pleasant evening.

Fr. Laurie

We pray for..

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time
 Nancy Smith-Johnston, Alma Baxter, Nora Hammer, Peter Simpson

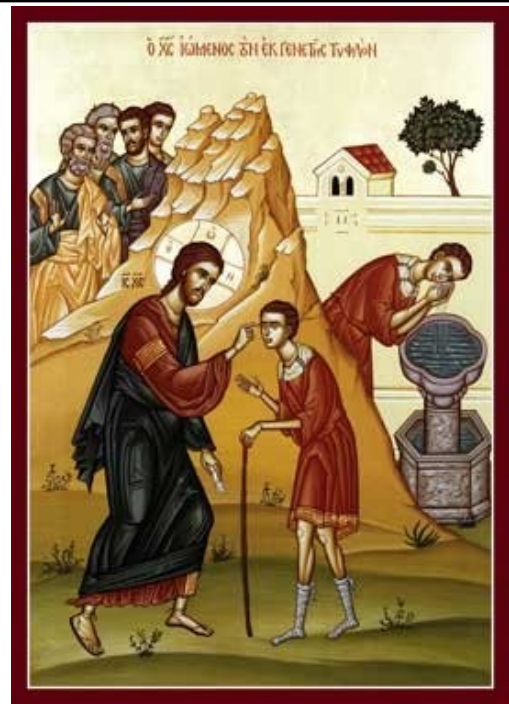
and the Sick

Adrian Gobel and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Ranelagh Gardens Nursing Home.

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.



Liturgy - Fourth Sunday of Lent

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 9:1.6-9. 13-17. 34-38

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

Next week's readings:

Ezekiel 37:12-14

Romans 8:8-11

John 11:3-7.17.20-27.33-45

Altar Servers for next week

Mass Time	Altar Servers
6 pm Sat	Bas Hogan James Burt
8 am Sun	<i>Volunteers please?</i>
10 am Sun	Amy Parker Sophie Canning Abigail Leamon

Financial Matters...

Thanksgiving

Amount received last week.....\$2310

Average 2011\$3309

Pledged per week\$3560

Presbytery

Amount received last week.....\$3560

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 Margaret Purcell and Irene Owsianka.

Parish Group Activities



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

The next meeting of the St Vincent de Paul Society will be held on Monday, 4th April at 9.30am in the Undercroft.

March marks the 30th anniversary of the St Vincent de Paul Society in the parish of St Thomas More. We would like to thank Fr Hilton Deakin and early parishioners who had the forethought and concern for their fellow man who established the Morningstar Conference all those years ago.

Please, Please, Please

If the St Vincent de Paul bin in the top carpark is full **do not** leave your boxes and bags on the ground. They get wet and go mouldy and have to be thrown out. **Please take them down to the shop on Tyabb Rd.** Thank you.

STM Social Club

The monthly **Social Club Meeting** will follow 10 o'clock Mass on Tuesday, 5th April.

The next **Music Group** will meet for a Jazz Concert on Monday, 11th April at 2pm at RSL Park, Overport Road, enter Sage Drive. Members and visitors are most welcome.

The next session of the **Poetry Group** will be held at the Parish Community Centre on Monday, 4th April commencing at 1.30pm. Your hostess is Gui Hone 9787 1449.

The welfare officer for April is Lois Bracken, phone 9787 2970.

Working Bee



On Saturday, 9th April, from 8am to 1pm we'll be holding a working bee to prepare the Church and surrounds for Easter and to paint a couple of rooms in the Parish Community Centre.....so we're appealing especially to painters

who would perhaps be able to return in a few weeks to apply a second and third coat. We'd also appreciate contributions from 2-3 people towards morning tea.

If you're able to help (in any capacity), please add your name and number to the sheet outside the church. We'll be in touch in the week beforehand to confirm or allocate tasks to everyone on the list.



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.



Message From Maria

Sorry about the short notice for this invite to what will be an informative evening.

Fr. Elio Capra is coming to speak to us about the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) on Tuesday 5th April at 7:30 pm in the Church. He will explain what it is all about and how we all play a part in the process. Fr. Elio works in the Office for Evangelisation, in the area of RCIA. He has written many books on the topic and is a knowledgeable, interesting and entertaining presenter.

There are sign-up sheets for the various ministries for the Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Vigil services. We still need many people to take on roles in the various services to have them be meaningful and also to run smoothly. Please put your name down for one of the ministries if you can help.

We ask that each person do **one** ministry within a ceremony. Rehearsal for the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services will be held at the church on Wednesday, 20th April, 7pm and for the Vigil services after the Good Friday service.

The Lenten Reconciliation ceremony will be held on Friday, 15th April @ 7.30pm. Remember to put that on your calendar.

It is time to update the Parish Directory as well. If you are a co-ordinator or chair person of a group in the parish could you please put in writing a small piece about what your group is called, what they do, how to make contact and who can be involved and send it to me via the parish office. I would like to have this finalised before Easter so time is short.
Thanks.

He put a paste on my eyes,
and I washed,
and I can see.



What's Happening Elsewhere

Volunteers Needed for National Catholic Family Gathering

From Friday, 15th - Sunday, 17th April, the **National Catholic Family Gathering Share the Dream** is taking place at Xavier College in Kew. We are seeking volunteers. You may be able to offer a morning or afternoon - you may like to join us for the weekend. Tasks may include serving meals, directing traffic, setting up rooms for workshops and other general assistance. People experienced in working with children and who have a current WWC Check would be very welcome.

If you would like to volunteer or would like to find out more, contact Matthew or Penny 9287 5579.



Share the Dream – Registrations close this week - Friday 8 April.

The Melbourne Archdiocese is hosting Share the Dream. Featuring international and local speakers, practical workshops, music, prayer, a full children's program and concurrent youth conference, Share the Dream offers something for every member of the family. The event runs from 15th -17th April, at Xavier College in Kew.

To find out more or to register, visit our website www.sharethedream.org.au

Light To The Nations Easter Pilgrimage

At Light to the Nations thousands of young people have joined together in experiences of personal sharing, prayer, pilgrimage, drama, music and devotion - reviving their love for God.

Who For: Young People 16 and over

When: From 3pm Thursday, 21st April - 12.30pm Sunday, 24th April

Where: The grounds of St Clement's Monastery, Galong, a fantastic rural setting near Yass, NSW

Register at www.lttan.org.au/onlinerego

No need to pay just yet, we will send you an invoice (for registrations after 8th April add \$20). For more information go to www.lttan.org.au

Step away from your everyday life! Rediscover our faith! Return on fire to your local community! You'll never forget it!

A Day Of Reflection

With Spiritual Director - Fr Francis Merlino OFM Cap.

When: Friday, 13th May - Our Lady of Fatima from 10am - 3.15pm

Where: Carmelite Monastery, 94 Stevenson Street, Kew

Details: Donna 9850 2549, or Margaret 9853 1107



Position Available

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

- **Communications Officer** - Catholic Communications
- **Web Services Officer**, Catholic Communications
- **Domestic Support**, St Brendan's Flemington

Further details can be found on the Archdiocese website at www.cam.org.au/jobs/ or you can telephone 9926 5780

Catholic Solo's

In The South Eastern Suburbs

The Catholic Solo's are a social group for singles 45 and over. We meet once a month, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month for dinner/chat/friendship.

We also have other social events on our calendar where you can meet and mingle with new friends. For all inquires please contact Peter 9583 8840

Brunch At Ricketts Point Beaumaris



Melbourne Single Catholics is a free to join social group for single Catholics 35-55 years of age. Our next event is brunch at Ricketts Point in Beaumaris on Saturday, 23rd April @ 11am.

For more information go to www.meetup.com/melbourne-single-catholics

World Youth Day News

The Melbourne Archdiocese's three WYD pilgrimage prices have dropped and are now priced at

- The Real Madrid: \$4850
- Italian road trip: \$6390
- Footsteps of Jesus: \$6290

All registrations and final money need to be paid by Friday, 15th April 2011. (Please note that some pilgrimages may close before this date if all seats are filled).

Visit www.aoy.org.au or call 9412 3300 for more details. See the flyers and posters on display in your parish.