



# SEASONS

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

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

4th September, 2011

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

## Diary

- **Monday**  
St Vincent de Paul, 9:30am, U  
Poetry Group, 1:30pm, PCC  
Choir Practice, 7pm (note new time), C
- **Tuesday**  
Social Club Meeting, after 10am Mass, U  
Baptism Preparation, 7:30pm, PCC
- **Thursday**  
Rosa Mystica Mass, 7:15pm, C  
Finance Committee, 7:30pm, PCC
- **Friday**  
Welcome Dinner, 7pm, Fr. Laurie's house

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**Parish Priest**  
Fr. Laurie Pearson  
**Pastoral Associate**  
Maria Newbigin

**Parish Planning Team**  
Fr. Laurie Tim Hogan  
Maria Newbigin Peter Whyte  
Mary Cameron Adel Cowie  
Margaret Carr

## Mass Times

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday (Social Club)	10:00am
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 5.00-5.30pm

## 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.

## Migrant & Refugee Sunday

*Migrant and Refugee Sunday last week was intended to help us put human faces to those who seek a new life in our land. These "facts", produced by the Edmund Rice Centre, are for our consideration. For the sake of brevity and given the decision of the High Court on Thursday I have omitted two items: 6. Boat people are not "queue jumpers" and there is no queue in Malaysia 7. Australia's deportation deal with Malaysia is not a regional solution.*

## 10 ESSENTIAL FACTS ABOUT ASYLUM SEEKERS

(produced by the Edmund Rice Centre - June 2011)

### 1. Asylum seekers are not illegal immigrants

Asylum seekers are people seeking international protection, whose claims for 'refugee status' have not yet been determined. They are not 'illegal immigrants' because under both international and domestic laws, they have a legal right to enter Australia to seek asylum. Whether they arrive by plane or by boat is immaterial, as they are not supposed to be penalised for the manner of their entry.

### 2. A person does not require a passport or official papers to seek asylum

The Refugee Convention provides the right to seek asylum in any place one can reach. Applying for a passport, or approaching UN offices or an Australian Embassy, can be far too dangerous for some refugees. These actions can put their lives, and their families', at risk. In such cases refugees may have to bypass regular migration channels and travel using forged documents. Presenting false documents in asylum countries might be considered an offence. Therefore, it might often be wise to discard these life-saving, yet falsified documents, before approaching foreign officials. By arriving & seeking our protection without papers they commit no offence.

### 3. Australia's share of the world's asylum seekers is tiny

According to UNHCR's figures 1,181,215 asylum seekers sought recognition in 2009 but Australia received only 6,206. This was only 0.53% of global asylum applications. Of 44 industrialised nations Australia ranked 16th overall - but on a per capita basis ranked 21st.

### 4. Other countries have far greater numbers of refugees than Australia

Australia with 22,548 refugees and people in refugee-like situations, ranks 47th in the world. This is compared to Pakistan (1,740,711), Iran (1,070,488), Syria (1,054,466) Germany (593,799), Jordan (450,756), Kenya (358,928), Chad (338,495), China (300,989), USA (275,461) and UK (269,363). On a per capita basis, Australia is far behind poorer countries such as Jordan, Syria, Republic of

(Continued on page 4)

# We pray for...

**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time**  
 Leslie Russell, Timothy Bruitzman, Nancy Wraight,  
 Joshua Young, Francis Quinn, Jesse White

**and the Sick**

Corey (Russ) Macgregor, Dee Rorke, John Nuttney,  
 Samantha, Tracey Jamieson, Jenny Morrison, and all of  
 the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Ranelagh  
 Gardens Nursing Home.



## Liturgy - 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 33:7-9  
*If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.*

**Responsorial Psalm:**  
 If today you hear his voice harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading:** Romans 13:8-10  
*Love is the fulfilment of the Law.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
 Alleluia, alleluia! God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 18:15-20  
*If your brother or sister listens to you, you have won that person back.*

**Next week's readings:**  
 Sirach 27:30 - 28:7  
 Romans 14:7-9  
 Matthew 18:21-35

**A Father's Day Reflection on God the Father**  
 'We expect a dad to have an intimate, affectionate relationship with his children, to spend "quality time" with them. To call God "Father" means, then, that he is near to us, fond of us, even crazy about us. He is not the distant, clockmaker God of Thomas Jefferson and the Deists. No, the God whom Jesus calls Father cares about us and knows us intimately. "Every hair on your head is numbered (Matthew 10:30)." He loves us more than we love ourselves and knows us better than we know ourselves.

Now, this does not mean that He makes all things go smoothly for us. A good father doesn't protect his children forever from the harsh realities of life, but helps them as they progress through various stages of development to face the challenges and grow through the difficulties. So as a true Father, he loves us too much to take us out of the fray. But there's one thing we can be sure of - he'll never leave us to fight our battles alone.'

Excerpts from a reflection by Dr Marcellino d'Ambrosio. Full text at [http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/library\\_article/634/God\\_The\\_Father.html](http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/library_article/634/God_The_Father.html)

## Financial Matters...

**Thanksgiving**  
 Amount received last week..... \$2164  
 Average 2011 ..... \$3157  
 Pledged per week ..... \$3429

**Presbytery**  
 Amount received last week.....\$1205  
*Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.*

### Morning Tea



This week, Beatrice Rodriguez and Gui Hone 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 John Bruitzman and Anne Davey.

# Parish Group Activities



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

### **Overseas Development**

Most St Vincent de Paul Society Conferences are "twinned" with sister Conferences in the developing world. This involves forwarding regular payments, via the Overseas Development Committee, to assist with projects within their Conference area. Morning Star Conference has twinned conferences in Myanmar and the Philippines. However, the political situation makes it impossible to have direct contact with our Myanmar twin.

Last Sunday the President of the Society's Overseas Development Committee, John O'Brien spoke at the Festival Meeting in Mornington and gave members an insight into the conditions under which our twinned conferences work and the benefits gained through our support.

The State President of the Society, Tony Tome, also attended the Festival Meeting and presented many members with long service medals. Our Conference was well represented in this group.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Morning Star Conference will be held in the Undercroft on Monday 5th September 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 Social Club will meet in the Undercroft after 10am Mass this Tuesday, September 6th. New members and visitors are always welcome.

**FAC Bobby Darin Story** on Friday, 14th October @ 10.30am. Cost \$18. Book at this week's Social Club Meeting.

**The Poetry Group** will meet this Monday, 5th September in the Parish Community House at 1:30pm. Host Jim Bourke 9775 4507.

**Fitzroy Gardens**, Thursday 15th September. Meet at Frankston Station, catch 9:32am train to the city. Wander through the beautiful gardens, followed by lunch at the gardens' cafe/restaurant.

Tom and Maree Shelton will be **Welfare Officers** in September.

### **Choir Practice**

The choir will meet in the Church to practice this Monday, 5th September at 7pm -- please note the new time from now on.

### **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.

### **Children's Liturgy**



Maria McKenzie and Bernd Dremel will lead the children this week in an exploration of this week's gospel. Please encourage your children to join them.

### **Holy Hour**



All parishioners are invited to 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.

### **Rosa Mystica**



The Rosa Mystica Prayer Group will recommence this Thursday, September 8th, on the Feast of Our Lady's Birthday at 7:15 pm.

#### **Program:**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
Rosary & Cencle & Confession  
Holy Mass - Celebrant Rev. Fr. Edwin

Supper in the Undercroft *All welcome!*

### **World Vision 40 Hour Famine**



My name is Sophie Ng and I completed the 40-hour famine on the 19th-21st of August by giving up food. I would love it if people could sponsor me and donate any amount, as it all goes to a

good cause. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.



# What's Happening Elsewhere

## One Human Family Across Borders



Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office, in association with Australian Catholic University, invites you to attend the first annual Bishop Joseph Grech Memorial Colloquium on Ethics and Migration 'One Human Family Across Borders'

- Welcome:** Fr Maurizio Pettena,  
Director of Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office
- Keynote Speaker:** Bishop Christopher Prowse (Bishop of Sale) and  
The Hon Chris Bowen (Minister for Immigration & Citizenship)
- My Story:** A refugee journey to Australia
- Facilitator:** Anton Enus  
(SBS Television Presenter)
- When:** Thursday, 8th September @  
7pm - 9pm

**Where:** Central Hall  
Melbourne Campus ACU,  
24 Brunswick St, Fitzroy

**RSVP asap** by email [adminassistant@acmro.catholic.org.au](mailto:adminassistant@acmro.catholic.org.au)

## Don Bosco Mother & Daughter Camp



Calling all mothers and daughters! Are you looking for something fun and interesting to do for a few days over the coming school holidays?

We'll look no further, the annual Don Bosco Mother and Daughter camp is on again. There will be time for relaxation, time for activity, time for fun - and best of all, quality time to spend together in a cosy and welcoming environment. The camp is open to all daughters aged 8-16 and their mothers/grandmothers/aunties. It's only less than a month away so you'd better get in quick!

**When:** Monday 26th- Wednesday 28th September

**Where:** Don Bosco Camp Safety Beach

For more information contact Emily on 5987 2692 or go to [www.donboscocamp.org](http://www.donboscocamp.org)

(Continued from page 1)

Congo, Chad and Iran, and is also well behind other wealthy countries such as Sweden, Norway, Canada, and Germany.

### 5. Asylum seekers and refugees do not receive more favourable treatment or higher benefits

Claims that refugees in Australia are entitled to higher benefits than other social security recipients are unfounded. All boat arrivals are subject to the same assessment processes as those who come by air. Charities and churches often provide support to settle in. How much money an asylum seeker had in their home country is immaterial to determining their 'well-founded fear of persecution'.

### 8. Mandatory detention system needs urgent reform

Australia's system of mandatory detention jails people who have committed no offence regardless of age, sex, or state of health. The greatest sanction our nation has is to withdraw someone's liberty and is usually reserved for serious crime. At the very least, detention should be limited to 30 days for health, ID and security checks, and any extension of that should require the permission of a court.

### 9. Refugees have been good for Australia

Over 750,000 refugees and displaced people have settled in Australia since nationhood. Australia has a good record in receiving people from across the world. From Sir Gus Nossal, Frank Lowy, Nick Greiner, Hon Jim Spiegelman, comedian Anh Do, Dr Victor Chang, former Young Australian of the Year Tan Le, SBS' Les Murray, artist Judy Cassab, and Dr Karl Kruszelnicki, to thousands of hard-working former refugee families across the nation – clearly refugees have been good for Australia. Let's not forget it.

### 10. To silence racism towards refugees and asylum seekers we need bipartisan political leadership

On her recent visit, UN Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay commented that when it came to the mandatory detention system, 'there is a racial discriminatory element here in the inhumane treatment of people'. Former PM Malcolm Fraser seemed to concur when he commented that 'we wouldn't do this to boatloads of white Zimbabwean farmers'. The country urgently needs a return to a bi-partisan approach to the issue of asylum seekers and refugees. Our leaders need to stop appealing to fear where there is no basis for it, and once again build policy based in facts - consistent with our international obligations, including taking human rights seriously.