



# SEASONS

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

Second Sunday of Advent

4th December, 2011

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

**Diary**

- **Monday**  
Poetry Group, 12noon, U  
Choir Practice, 7:15pm, C
- **Tuesday**  
Social Club Meeting, after 10am  
Mass, U  
Baptism Prep, 7.30pm, PCC
- **Thursday**  
Rosa Mystica, 7:15pm, C  
Finance Committee Meeting,  
7.30pm, PCC
- **Friday**  
Carols on the Oval, 5.30pm,  
St Thomas More Oval

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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 (Social Club)	10.00am
Wednesday, followed by Holy Hour	9:15am
Thursday	9:15am
Friday	9:15am
School Advent 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.

## Get Ready

Here we have the first written proclamation of the Gospel - the Good News of Jesus the Christ, the Son of God. Mark wastes no time in his announcement with a long introduction but instead immediately introduces John. Since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls scholars now know that at this time there were some in Israel who had a strong sense that God's Kingdom was about to break into history. The community of Qumran by the Dead Sea lived with this expectation and they also practised rituals of cleansing. While there is no evidence that John was part of this group, his message and manner are similar. God's reign is coming. Prepare for it by seeking forgiveness.

Baptism, immersion in water, was a common Jewish practice as a way of purifying oneself before participating

in major religious festivals. John applied this ritual to a desire for repentance as preparation for the coming Kingdom. John was remembered as a great and holy man of God. He too attracted disciples and even Jesus came to him seeking his baptism. These historical facts must have puzzled the early Christians, particularly if some of John's disciples were now part of the Jesus group How were they to speak about John, recognising his greatness while acknowledging that Jesus was even greater? In trying to understand John's role in Jesus' story, Mark looks back to the Jewish Scriptures and uses the prophets Malachi and Isaiah to clarify that John's role is one of preparation for another greater figure who is on the way.

*Sundays Under the Southern Cross  
Mary Coloe PBVM*



## CHRISTMAS MASSES 2011

- 7.30pm Thursday, 15th December .....Ritual of Repentance
- Christmas Eve (Saturday, December 24th)
- 7.00pm ..... Mass on the Oval.  
Carols start half an hour beforehand
- 9.30pm ..... Mass in the Church.  
Carols start half an hour beforehand.

**Christmas Day (Sunday, December 25th)**

9.00am ..... Mass in the Church

*Please note that there will be no 6pm vigil Mass on Saturday December 24th and no weekday Masses between Christmas and New Year.*

- 6pm Saturday, 31st December ..... Mary Mother of God (Vigil Mass)
- 8am & 10am Sunday 1st January ..... Mary Mother of God (Mass)
- 6pm Saturday ..... Epiphany (Vigil Mass)
- 8am & 10am Sunday 8th January ..... Epiphany (Mass)

# We pray for...

**Those whose anniversaries fall at this time**  
 Jim & Ella Hutchinson, Teresa O'Brien, Leonard Budny, Lorna Young, Clarence Wearne, Lloyd Beard, Audrey Hussey

**and the Sick**  
 Ria Wilson, 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 Grant & Spry Families, B. Rodriguez and Julian & Sharon Collins.

# Liturgy - Second Sunday of Advent

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11  
*Prepare the way for the Lord.*

**Responsorial Psalm:**  
 Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

**Second Reading:** 2 Peter 3:8-14  
*We wait for new heavens and a new earth.*

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
 Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8  
*Make straight the paths of the Lord.*

**Next week's readings:**  
 Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11  
 I Thessalonians 5:16-24  
 John 1:6-8.19-28

## 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.....\$2418  
 Average 2011 .....\$3104  
 Pledged per week .....\$3345

**Presbytery**  
 Amount received last week..... \$951  
*Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.*

## Morning Tea



This week Anne-Marie Lark 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 Alicia and Michael Canning.

# Parish Group Activities

## December Rosters

Mass Time	Lector	Commentator
6 pm Sat	John Noal	Chris Young
8 am Sun	John Kinnaird	Merrilyn Salisbury
10 am Sun	Jim Bourke	Marg Ulbrick
Mass Time	Ministers of the Eucharist	
6 pm Sat	Trish Young (Book) Helen Steyn (Gifts) Margaret Jamieson (Gifts)	
8 am Sun	Raye Darrer (Book) Del Seletto (Gifts) John Gallagher (Gifts)	
10 am Sun	Judy Jones (Book) Adrian Coughlan (Gifts) <b>Volunteer Please?</b> (Gifts)	
Counters	Colleen McNamara Marie Alaimo Margaret Gallagher	

## STM Social Club

The next meeting (Christmas Party) of the **Poetry Group** will be held in the **Undercroft** (Please note the change of venue) on Monday, 5th December, commencing at 12 noon.

Your hostess for this month is Dorothy McKane, phone 9787 6970.

**Music Group** will meet at 11am on Monday, 19th December at Purcells'.

A special **Sunset Meal** is being arranged for Tuesday, 10th January 2012 with everything provided.

Cost \$15 per head. Bookings are essential. Details at the next meeting on the 6th December. Book and pay at the meeting.

The **Monthly Social Club Meeting** will take place in the Undercroft after the 10am Mass on Tuesday, 6th December. We will be celebrating Peggy Fox's **95th birthday** at this meeting.

The **Welfare Officers** for December are Fred and Margaret Purcell.



## St Vincent de Paul Society Good Works

### 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 12th December 2011 commencing at 9.30am. This will be our last meeting before Christmas. A major task will be to finalize our Christmas Hamper arrangements. Any St Thomas More Parishioner willing to join with our members in delivering Christmas hampers is welcome to attend the meeting. Alternatively, they can contact Dennis on 9787 3609 to be included in the roster.



## In Celebration of Our Lady's Immaculate Conception

Please join us on Thursday, 8th December at 7.15pm in the church.

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## Lectors, Commentators & Ministers of the Eucharist

We sent out letters last 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.

## Scholarships

Xavier College is offering a range of scholarships for students entering Years 7, 9 and 11 in 2013. The closing date for applications is 3rd February 2012.

For registration and information see Xavier's website [www.xavier.vic.edu.au/scholarships](http://www.xavier.vic.edu.au/scholarships) or contact The Registrar, Mrs Di Odgers at Xavier on 9854 5307.

## Bayside Young Disciples Presents End Of Year BBQ

Sunday, 11th December 12noon until 3.30pm. Meet at St Francis Xavier Church Narthex, 60 Davey St, Frankston to walk to BBQ @ the beach.

Come and celebrate the end of the year, and the beginning of summer! We'd love to see you there! **Food and drinks provided.**

Bayside Young Disciples: find us on Facebook or call us on 9783 3484.

## Feast of Our Lady Of Guadalupe

**When:** 11th December, 3pm Adoration & Prayer, 4pm Mass for Prolife, 5.30pm short version of Prolife Musical "Call of Guadalupe". Entry by donation. St Peter's Church, Clayton Rd, Clayton. Ph 9544 1516.

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### 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.

### Children's Liturgy

Margo O'Callaghan and Joanne McEvoy will lead the children in an exploration of this week's Gospel. Please encourage your children to join them.

### Thank you - Children's Liturgy Team

Members of the Parish Liturgy Team would like to thank the Children's Liturgy Team for their work with the children of our Parish. It has been a privilege working with them during the planning for the first week of Advent and to see how your children respond to them.

### Church Life Survey

My very sincere thanks to all who completed the Church Life Survey.

The response was excellent and the time you took to deal with this is appreciated.

We will try to 'Feed Back' the Parish Profile when it is received.



## A Message from Maria



I do hope you are all managing to find some quiet time during this Advent to reflect on what this Christmas means to you, what the waiting is bringing up for your faith journey.

On a very practical level we have to do some Christmas preparation and planning for the various services. There are no ministries allocated over 24th and 25th December so everything needs to be allocated as yet. I have put a sign-up sheet in the foyer. Please put your name and contact details if you can fill one of these roles.

A date to note on your calendar is Thursday, 15th December. This is the Ritual of Repentance which we have each Advent. Come and join us for this part of our Advent journey.

Last week we had our RCIA candidates come for the Rite of Welcome, the formal start to their journey of faith in relation to the Catholic Church. Please remember to keep these two women in your prayers over the coming months. Also remember in your prayers those who are involved with the preparation of these candidates; the RCIA team members (who fulfil a variety of roles), their sponsors, and family members. If you see them at church, or anywhere else, introduce yourself, make them welcome in our faith community.

