



SEASONS

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

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7th August, 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
Music Group, 2.00pm, PCC
- **Tuesday**
Sip'n'Sew Meeting,, 2pm, PCC
PEB Meeting, 7.30pm, SSR
- **Wednesday**
1st Eucharist Workshop,
7.30pm, U
- **Thursday**
Finance Committee Meeting,
7.30pm, PCC

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Parish Priest
Fr. Laurie Pearson
Pastoral Associate
Maria Newbigin

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

Mass Times

Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	9.15am
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 5.00pm - 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 compulsory preparation night for parents takes place on the first Tuesday of each month in the **Parish Community Centre** at 7:30 pm.

I Wonder At The Universe You Have Created



Reflection by Br. Bill Firman

In 1997, the comet Hale-Bopp reached its closest point to our sun. Comet Hale-Bopp's speed varies according to what part of its orbit it is in, from 4000 km per hour to 156,800 km per hour. Its fastest, 156,800 km per hour, sounds very fast. It is, in fact, about five times faster than a speeding bullet, and about six times faster than the greatest speed at which any human has ever travelled (in the space shuttle) but this is still not quite one hundredth of the speed of light.

If by some unimaginable cataclysm Hale-Bopp was 'kicked out' of the Milky Way Galaxy and headed off to the Andromeda Galaxy, our nearest neighbouring galaxy, then it would take Hale-Bopp, travelling at its maximum speed, 2200 million years to swap galaxies. Of course, how it would find an energy source to do this would be a major problem as its present

maximum speed is generated by drawing on the gravity of the planets it passes.

It is not seriously conceivable that it will ever be possible to visit the Andromeda Galaxy nor any of the fifty million or so galaxies outside our own Milky Way, each containing billions of stars and planets. Such numbers of stars and planets are so immense the numbers are incomprehensible. In mathematical terms it is correct to say the number of stars is approaching, but not equal to, infinity.

The distance to the more distant stars might as well be infinite. In fact, at least one scientist has postulated that since the rate of expansion of the universe is increasing, some of the more distant galaxies are 'disappearing over the horizon'. In other words, the galaxies are so far away and moving away increasingly faster, that the light from those galaxies will never reach earth. So we will never be able to see them and never know they exist.

Prayer

Thomas Carlyle wrote: 'Wonder is the basis of worship.' I wonder at the universe you have created, O God, and, indeed, pray to you in humble worship. Amen

We pray for...

Those who have died recently

Tom Alaimo (Marie's husband)

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time

Michelle Collins, Catherine Vines, Maria Lindner, Dan Dee, Anne Green

and the Sick

Dee Rorke, John Nuttney, Helen Sorensen, Samantha, Tracey Jamieson, Jenny Morrison, Mel Hoban and all of the sick at the George Vowell Centre and Ranelagh Gardens Nursing Home.



Liturgy - Nineteenth Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

Responsorial Psalm:

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! I hope in the Lord, I trust in his word. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33

Command me to come to you over the water.

Next week's readings:

Isaiah 56:1 6-7

Romans 11:13-15 29-32

Matthew 15:21-28



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.

Financial Matters...

Thanksgiving

Amount received last week..... \$2417

Average 2011 \$3204

Pledged per week \$3455

Presbytery

Amount received last week.....\$900

Thanks to all of you who give so generously to support our parish.

Morning Tea



Your hosts this week are Kate Hyland & Sally Cooper.

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 Ruth Pusic and Katie Rodgers.

Parish Group Activities



St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Good Works

The Effects of Winter

The plight of the disadvantaged in our community has been increased by the cold weather conditions encountered this winter. While the energy costs of some have been eased by the winter concessions payable to those connected to mains energy sources, of greater concern to our members are those people we see who do not have any heating at all, or alternatively, are using outdoor gas appliances indoors. Apart from this being illegal the risks of doing so are considerable. Our rules prevent us from providing second hand electrical appliances. However, we do endeavour to assist these people in whatever way we can to help them get new appliances, meet energy costs or providing them with firewood.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Conference will be held in the Undercroft on Monday, 8th August 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 **Music Group** will meet on Monday, 8th August at 2pm in the Parish Community House.

The **Sip'n'Sew Group** will meet on Tuesday, 9th August, commencing at 2pm in the Parish Community House. Your hostesses this month are Barbara Hunt 5975 2818 and Aileen Calley 9787 9652.

Lunch @ Manyung, Thursday, 11th August, 12.30pm.

The welfare officers for August are Lois Bracken 9787 2970 and Gui Hone 9787 1449.

Also, we have a male member of our Social Club requiring urgent temporary (approx 3months) accommodation of any kind. Money negotiable. If you feel you can help please contact me or Irene at the Parish Office 9787 7777.

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 Ruth Pusic will lead the children 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.

A Message From Maria



Again this week you will notice we have some changes to the wording in the Mass. This, you will be glad to know, is pretty much all of it now. The main changes in what the congregation says are in the proclamation of faith, we now have three to choose from and not four; and the "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

You have now experienced all the regular weekly changes that we are implementing here. There may be a slight difference to the norm when we have a visiting priest but that will all be worked out beforehand. You can now relax and adjust to the new wording. After having said the same responses for over 40 years it will take a little time to adapt for all of us. Thank you all for your co-operation so far as we move forward.

Your help is needed!



Our Funeral Ministry provides refreshments for funerals in the parish. There has been a great demand on it since its inception and those who have put their names on the list have been very generous. What we now need is more people to help.

The system is easy. A co-ordinator contacts the names listed when a funeral is planned and asks for a plate. If the person can help out they bring along a plate on the day of the funeral. If they cannot help with it they just say so. Those who provide a plate are moved to the end of the list. The next request starts at the new top of the list. As you can see, the more people on the list the less frequently each person will be contacted. Currently we need many more to share the load.

Another aspect we need to further develop is people to help set up, pour the teas and clean up afterwards. These are not huge jobs but important ones. We want to make it as welcoming and pleasant as possible, so a little preparation is needed. Another person to assist with the co-ordination would also be extremely helpful. You never know when someone will be ill or on holiday, leaving a gap in the process. Last week we heard about Jesus feeding the five thou-

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What's Happening Elsewhere

Parent Seminar - Valuing Girls

Raising girls to be confident and resilient young women is a fine art, given the demands placed upon them. This seminar will cover the following:

- The active ingredients of resilience
- How to promote confidence in young women
- Friendship skills
- Concentration and memory skills
- Creating happy girls
- Building self-esteem and dealing with the anxieties that are toxic to girls
- How to communicate with girls

Seminar Cost: \$10 per person, to be paid in advance. Held from 7pm-9pm (registration 6.30pm) on the 18th August at St Francis de Sales, 626 Pascoe Vale Rd, Oak Park (Mel Ref 16 H6).

For registration and further information please contact Mrs Shirley O'Sullivan on 9464 5225 or email Shirley@stclaresthomastown.catholic.edu.au

Can You Help?

Allana is a 2nd year nursing student, studying at Deakin University in Geelong. She has just been given work experience in Frankston and is looking for some accommodation. It is for 4 weeks starting Monday, 22 August, with a week's break from 5th September, resuming 12th September for two weeks. It would be wonderful if someone could offer her some accommodation. She is happy to pay board and to help out as much as she can between shifts. She has a car so can be very independent. Please call 5229 2751 if you can help: if you leave a message she will ring you back.

A Time For Reflection & Sharing

You are warmly invited to attend the Dromana Parish Retreat Day on 15th August. A time of reflection as we contemplate Mary in her visit to Elizabeth. We reflect on Mary's song of praise. Our facilitator for the day is Sr. Therese Quinn rsj, a sister of St Joseph, with long experience in giving days of reflection. Time 10am-3pm in our Parish Hall, BYO lunch, tea & Coffee available. Donation appreciated. For enquiries contact Sr. Mary 5981 4350



Caritas Australia's East Africa Crisis Appeal

"If there is hunger anywhere in the world, then our celebration of the Eucharist is somehow incomplete everywhere in the world. In the Eucharist we receive Christ hungering in the world. He comes to us not alone, but with the poor, the oppressed, the starving of the earth." Pedro Arrupe SJ. 1976

Caritas Australia invites the Catholic Community to pray for and support the victims of the worst droughts in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and across East Africa in 60 years which has left at least 10 million people in need of food, water and basic facilities. Half of those are children. Tanzania and the new state of South Sudan are experiencing serious food and water shortages too.

Through Caritas Australia's East Africa Crisis Appeal, you can help provide food relief, clean water and basic necessities, and help the most vulnerable families to maintain their livelihoods in this time of crisis.

For more information or to donate please visit www.caritas.org.au/eastafricacrisis or call 1800 024 413; or post donations to Caritas Australia, GPO Box 9830, Melbourne, Vic 3001 or 383 Albert Street East Melbourne 3002.

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sand. In comparison we are only asked to feed a tiny group, and we have some warning. Could you help in this ministry?

If you are willing to help in any of these areas please fill in one of the forms in the foyer. If you have more questions you want answered first then feel free to speak to me or Mary-Lou Mansour.

'Lord! Save me!' he cried.
Jesus put out his hand at
once and held him.
'Man of little faith,' he
said 'why did you doubt?'

