

Monty & Eltham

The Catholic Parishes of
St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation.

The First Sunday of Advent—Matthew's Gospel

Friends, welcome to this great journey of Advent, the liturgical season of vigilance - or, to put it more mundanely, of waiting.

Waiting is very hard for most of us. I suppose we human beings have always been in a hurry, but modern people especially seem to want what they want when they want it. We are driven, determined, goal oriented, fast-moving. I, for one, can't stand waiting. So when I'm told that waiting seems to belong to the heart of the spiritual life, I'm not pleased, for here, too, I want answers, direction, clarity - and I want them pronto!

So, what sense can we make of the counter-cultural and counter-intuitive spirituality of vigilance? The first thing we have to realise is that we and God are, quite simply, on different timetables. "To you, O Lord, a thousand years are like a day" (2 Peter 3:8). What is a long time to us, is an instant for God.

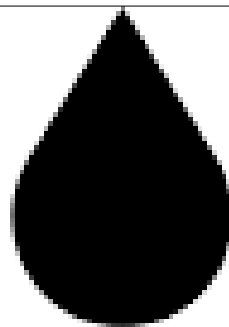
Also, it is possible that we are made to wait because the track we are on is not the one God wants for us? G.K. Chesterton said that if you are on the wrong road, the very worst thing you can do is to move quickly. Maybe we're forced to wait because God wants us seriously to reconsider the course we've charted, to stop hurtling down a dangerous road.

Or perhaps we are made to wait because we are not yet adequately prepared to receive what God wants to give us. Saint Augustine argued that the purpose of unanswered prayer is to force an expansion of the heart. And even if we desire with sufficient intensity what God wants to give, we still might not be ready to integrate a particular grace into our lives or to handle the implications of it.

So may we embrace the spirituality of Advent, and may we spend these holy days together waiting - in prayer, penance, and hope - for the appearance of Christ our Saviour.

Peace,

Bishop Robert Barron



Release of new Child Safety Policies

This Advent our thoughts focus on preparing for new birth, it is an opportune time to talk about the latest changes to our parish approach to Child Safety. It is also a great time to thank all our wonderful volunteers for the amazing work they do. It's the efforts of all our volunteers that enriches and enlivens our parish communities.

Both our parishes have now introduced new policies and procedures to strengthen our approach to keeping children safe from harm in our parish environments. Therefore, these policies and procedures now apply to **all** parish staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy.

This Sunday members of the Child Safeguarding Committee will speak at all Masses about the changes that are being introduced, and on the following Sundays of Advent more information will be provided on; how to apply for Working with Children Checks (if needed) and the signing the new Parish Code of Conduct.

This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community.

For more information visit www.sfxmonty.org

We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.



PARISH TEAMS & INFORMATION

OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



Parish Priests

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum

terry.kean@cam.org.au

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

Barry Caldwell

Parish Office

86 Mayona Road

9435 2178

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

montmorency@cam.org.au

Ana Solic

Pastoral Worker & Baptism Co-Ordinator

ana.solic@cam.org.au

Gina Ang

Pastoral Worker & Caring Group Co-Ord

gina.ang@cam.org.au

Beth Krolkowski: Secretary

beth.krolkowski@cam.org.au

Kate Kogler: Secretary & Bulletin

kate.kogler@cam.org.au

Child Safety:

montmorency.chilfsafety@cam.org.au

Website: www.sfxmonty.org

www.olhc.info

Facebook:

[St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency](#)

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:

kate.kogler@cam.org.au

Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

★ *Principal:* Mr Philip Cachia: 9435 8474
principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au
www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Holy Trinity Primary School

★ *Principal:* Mr Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888
principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au
www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

★ *Principal:* Mr Chris Ray: 9439 7824
school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au
www.olhceltham.edu.au

Religious Education Co-ordinator:

Ms Marguerite Jones 9439 7824



Let us pray for all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith ...

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Valeria Perosin

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Alan Anderson, Ellen Bentley, Ivan Buultjens, Sybil Masson, Eileen Nioa, Suashini Jeyakumar

For those in need of healing,

remembering especially:

Baby Kylie, Sriyani Algama, Nikki Attwood, Justine Best, Kristina Brazaitis, Daniel Brewis, Jan Collins, Desmond Deehan, Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Marilyn Fairbank, Julian Forrester, Danielle Gray, Gennie Hannon, Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tina Inserra, Adrian Jones, Patsy Leed, Pat Longton, Hasti Momeni, Therese Moore, Patricia Mulholland, Montagna Mustica, Graham Neal, Geoffrey Nyssen, Mercy Ocon, Ron Pfeil, Susan Phelan, Andrew Pighin, Mary Said, Anthony Salvatore, Mary Salvatore, Maria Schroeders, Jeanette Steward, John Tobin, Remi Vulich, Sheryn Zurzolo

Eltham

For the recently deceased;

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

Neil Patrick Donahoo

For those in need of healing,

remembering especially:

Ak Callaghan, Ruth Decker, Fay Dobson

Eltham Vinnies Giving Tree



It's that time of year again when we provide assistance to those less fortunate than ourselves. You can help this Christmas by donating to the Giving Tree located in the Gathering Area. Please take a tag from the tree and attach it to your gift/food item. Home-made items are not acceptable under OH&S regulations. Gift cards or vouchers are acceptable for teenagers but should be placed in an envelope with tag attached and handed in at the Piety Stall or to a member of St Vinnies. Please return all presents and food NO LATER THAN THE WEEKEND of 14/15 December. Thank you for your generous support.

RECONCILIATION

**Saturday, 10:30am Monty ~ Terry
1/2 hr prior to any mass said by Michael**

Collections last weekend: 23 & 24 Nov 2019

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$291.00	\$928.55
Montmorency	\$1,358.00	\$1,516.55

Please note the above figures are monies banked & do not include visa/mastercard or direct debits.
Thank you so much for your contributions.

Our Lady Help of Christians News & Events

MALAWI GROUP



Advance notice that the traditional **Christmas raffle** tickets will be on sale for the 2 weekends only of 30 Nov/1 Dec & 7/8 Dec at the same old price of \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Once again we will have really good prizes to win and these will be drawn after mass on Sunday 8 December so they will be all ready for the lucky families in time for a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Parishioners are advised that the Group would happily receive donations of any appropriate goodies that could be used in our raffles for the benefit of our St Kizito's family. Any donations could be passed to Lindsay or Mike Croft and would be truly appreciated.

You do need to be in it to win it so Group members will be on duty after each mass over those two weekends.

THANK YOU again for your continued support over the year for Father Frank and our Sister Parishioners at St Kizito's.

~~~~~ Giving Back — Eltham Bread Run

Anyone with a couple of spare hours on a Thursday afternoon would be warmly welcomed to join our roster of loyal volunteers delivering bread in the local area.

If interested, please call Mary or Des on 9439 5921 for further details.



Thank You, Vicki!

Vicki Jordan has resigned as Chair to our Liturgy Team, a position she has held since 2016. Vicki was secretary to the team several years prior to that. Apart from the weekly liturgies, Vicki also played a major role in the Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter celebrations. Thankfully Vicki is still a member and very much involved in the Liturgy Team. We thank you Vicki for your time, dedication and commitment not just to our Liturgy team, but also to our Parish.

Apart from the Liturgy Team, Vicki also resigned as OLHC Child Safety Officer for the Parish. Again thank you Vicki.

*Elisabeth Edwards has taken on the role as Chairperson for the Liturgy Team.

*The Child Safety Committee of Montmorency and Eltham will handle all enquiries pertaining to child safety issues.

Child Safety Committee:

montmorency.childsafety@cam.org.au



St Francis Xavier News & Events

St Vincent de Paul Montmorency Conference Christmas Appeal 2019

Today we once again ask for your support for our annual Christmas appeal which helps families within our local communities of Lower Plenty, Montmorency, Briar Hill, Eltham North & St Helena that find Christmas a struggle both emotionally & financially. At what is a time of joy & celebration for many of us, some in our community face the prospect of a bleak Christmas as they struggle to pay bills & provide for the basics for their family, let alone cope with the extra costs associated with Christmas.

We are also supporting the Young Vinnies who will be taking two children from the families in need in our community on a short holiday at a camp down the peninsula.

As Christmas should be a special time for everyone, we will be providing hampers to the families based on the needs of each family, hoping to be able to brighten their Christmas day.

All monies raised by the appeal are used exclusively within the local community and will go toward sharing the spirit of Christmas with those where daily life is a struggle. As is the custom of SVDP Montmorency, there are no administration costs associated with the preparation and distribution of the hampers.

The St Vincent de Paul Montmorency's conference sincerely wishes to thank everybody for their continued support of our work.

We wish all parishioners and their families every blessing and happiness for Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year.



Advent Reflections at St Francis Xavier Church

Last Monday we had a stimulating and encouraging night of discernment around the goals of the 2020 Plenary council. Tackling the challenges ahead will require continued prayerful discernment and sharing in our Advent reflections is such a way for prayerful discernment to grow. This week we shall meet John the Baptist who gives us a wake-up call to what the growing presence of Jesus Christ can mean.

We gather in St Francis Xavier church at 9:45am following the morning's liturgy.



~~~~~ Pet Bunnies - free to good homes...

Breed: 3/4 Mini Lop & 1/4 Rex

Age: *available now*: 4 x 8 week old (male & female)

Available in 6 weeks: 6 x newborn (male & female)

Perfect pets: quiet, gentle clean, cuddly

All enquiries to Tereza - 0404 856 068



PC 2020 Discernment Gathering Report

At a busy time of the year, a good number (26) of parishioners from Montmorency and Eltham, including Frs. Michael and Terry gathered on Monday 25 November to follow the PC 2020 discernment program advertised in *Monty & Eltham* over recent weeks.



On the evening, three groups were formed to consider prayerfully what God is calling the Australian Church to address under two of the themes identified in the first round of PC 2020 consultations – Governance, and Service/Outreach. The groups reflected on short Scripture passages, quotes from PC2020 Snapshot reports on the two themes, and the Joint Parishes Statement as stimuli for our discernment. In coming weeks reports on the discernments of the groups will be presented in *Monty & Eltham*.



Philippines Outreach Visit

On Feb 21, 2020, a social outreach visit will leave for a special grass root visit to the Philippines. The trip is for 2 weeks. This will be to Manila, Cebu, Fr Shay Cullen & Val Smith-Orr where THE most amazing work takes place that we all need to be aware of. Issues such as poverty, human trafficking and child sexual abuse along with learning about positive programs to alleviate poverty are part of the learning & sharing. There are a couple of places still available if anybody is interested. Kadasig Aid & Development runs a sponsorship program to educate children which is THE most positive way out of poverty. The cost is \$260 per year. There are currently 8 children waiting. For information on either of these issues please contact Glenys Gayfer: papel-imports@bigpond.com or 0411 196 395.



Montmorency & Eltham Google Calendar!

If you would like to keep up to date with *all* the happenings, events and special occasions in the Montmorency & Eltham parishes, please subscribe to our Google Calendar. <https://bit.ly/37K1nuM>



The SFX Parish Community extends their blessing to all the children celebrating their birthday in November & December



St Vincent de Paul Society

Assistance is always promptly available to the community by contacting 1800 305 330 between 10am and 3pm weekdays.

Collection of quality household goods/furniture can be arranged by calling 1800 621 349.



An update on Asylum Seekers in the Eltham Parish area...

Maureen

To remind you, Maureen almost died at the hands of a violent husband and corrupt police before being brought to Australia by a cousin to attend a family wedding. Whilst here, she sought asylum. Maureen was separated from her 4 children, whom she had left in the care of her aging parents in a mountain village near Mt Hagen. Her husband went to the village, beat up Maureen's father, burnt down the hut and took the children to his family village and left them in the care of his aging parents. He then went to live in Port Moresby and failed to support the children.

The eldest son Ricky has learning challenges due to some brain damage he sustained from the constant beatings his father gave him around his head. Although 17 years of age, Ricky is repeating year 4 in the village school in 2020. Quenten is 15 years of age and by all accounts intelligent and determined. She has been the glue to hold the family together in her mother's absence. But already she has warded off two attempts by men to abduct her as she travels by bus to school each day. I don't need to tell you what happens to these girls, but the "trade" is rampant, unpoliced and unconscionable. To be safe Quenten MUST move to a Catholic boarding school where she will live safely in a dormitory in a protected school compound. Shantel is 13 years old and has Downs Syndrome. To get to the only available special school she catches a bus and is escorted by her younger brother. But even in his care, she narrowly missed death when she walked in front of a car when alighting the bus. So now Shantel remains in the village with no schooling. Emelton is 10 years old and will advance to year 3 in 2020. He is protected as a boy and attends a catholic primary school in Mt Hagen.

Full article available in the *Christmas Marian Magazine*

Abrham

Abrham is an asylum seeker from Ethiopia. Unlike most Ethiopian refugees, who are Oromo people, Abrham is Tigrian. The Tigrian people have dominated the political parties for years and wrecked atrocities upon the Oromo people. Abrham did not approve and spoke out against the government. As a result he was imprisoned several times, tortured and as a result of violent blows about the head while in custody, he is significantly deaf.

Abrham has a wife and 5 year old twins. When the twins were 18 months, he decided to go to China to complete a PhD in Agricultural Science. China and Ethiopia have an alliance, so this was a way of staying safe whilst advancing his prospects.

With only his oral defence to complete, Abrham was invited and sponsored to give a paper at an agricultural conference in Melbourne. Whilst here, the political situation in Ethiopia worsened and it was clear to him, that if he returned to China, and completed the PhD, he had no option other than to return to Ethiopia (to certain imprisonment).

So Abrham remained. China refused to help him complete his PhD because Ethiopia would assess that as China assisting someone to denigrate the government.

Full article available in the *Christmas Marian Magazine*



Presentation to Both Parishes – Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures

- ◆ In this time of Advent where our thoughts focus on new birth and the baby Jesus, it seems an opportune time to think about the latest changes to our parish approach to Child Safety.
- ◆ It is also a time to thank all our wonderful volunteers within both parishes. Without your invaluable and wonderful support, you and all our other volunteers provide, we would not be such lively and inclusive parishes or able to undertake such a broad range of service to parish and the wider community.
- ◆ As I am sure, you will be aware the world community and in particular the Catholic Church continues to deal with a very painful and challenging situation, that of child sexual abuse by members of the clergy and others in power.
- ◆ In response to the final findings of the Royal Commission, the Victorian Government and the Melbourne Church have put in place new policies, structures and protections to safeguard children and vulnerable persons.
- ◆ Pope Francis continues to urge the whole Church to ‘find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated’.
- ◆ Montmorency and Eltham Parishes, along with all other parishes, are introducing new policies and procedures to ensure the care, safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.
- ◆ These revised policies and procedures have been developed to strengthen our approach to keeping children safe from harm, including all forms of abuse in our parish environments, online and in other locations provided by the parishes. These policies and procedures now apply to all parish staff, volunteers, contractors and clergy.
- ◆ The parish policies and procedures are based on:
 - ◇ Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework; and
 - ◇ Relevant legislative requirements within the state of Victoria, including the specific requirements of the Victorian Child Safe Standards.
- ◆ Consequently, it is now a requirement that parish staff, ALL volunteers and contractors within Montmorency and Eltham Parishes require a Working with Children Check and need to sign the Parish Code of Conduct.
- ◆ This requirement may seem onerous and a lot of red tape, but it is there to protect **you** as a volunteer, as well as the **children** of our parish.
- ◆ I know a lot of you already have a WWCC so that is great. All you need to do now is sign the new Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct Declaration.
- ◆ For those volunteers who currently do not have a WWCC - can I ask that you arrange for a Working with Children Check, by accessing www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/, as soon as possible.
- ◆ I would stress that Working with Children Checks are free for those undertaking volunteer work. Also, can I ask you to read and sign the new Code of Conduct?
- ◆ I know many are feeling - Do I really have to do this? Unfortunately, under current Victorian Legislation and the requirements of the Archdiocese, we do.
- ◆ So, to help over the next 3 weeks we have arranged for a number of Laptops along with a few members of the Child Safeguarding Committee to be available in the Foyer/Hall after each mass to assist with applying for the Working with Children Check or clarification about the Code of Conduct.
- ◆ Thank you for listening and being a part of a parish that will not shy away from asking the difficult questions, reflecting on current practices and listening to the voices of those who have been hurt.
- ◆ We are confidently making our stand visible. The safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in our parish is paramount.
- ◆ Both parishes currently have in place effective processes and procedures dedicated to Child Safety. With current legislative and Archdiocese changes that are enhancing each parish’s approach to child safety. This is a good time to further develop our policies and procedures to achieve best practice.



Eltham & Monty Rosters

If you need to make changes, please arrange a swap. Thank you.

<i>Eltham</i>		<i>Monty 30 Nov/1 Dec</i>	
Saturday 30 November - 6:00pm			
Commentator	David Scannell	Agius, Suzanne	W10:30
Lector	Dianne Zylstra	Brewer, Jenny	W10:30
Eucharistic Ministers	Beverley Gillard	Brincat, Victor	CLNR
	Marianne Hadley	Cassidy, John	CNTR
	Yvonne Iliffe	Costanzo, Brenda	W10:30
Sacristan	Carmel Saltalamacchia	Davidson, John	W8:30
Sunday 1 December - 9:30am		Dean, Mary	E10:30
Commentator	Peter Reardon	Egan, Clem	E6:00
Lector	Julie Craw	Egan, Tess	E6:00
Eucharistic Ministers	Hugh Azzopardi	French, Jossie	W8:30
	Paul Crowle	Gayfer, Glenys	E10:30
	Anne Stevens	Hally, Laurie	E8:30
	John Stevens	Hannon, Gennie	E8:30
	Frans Zylstra	Hannon, Kevin	E8:30
Sacristan	Marian Goss	Kozak, Jan	E10:30
Altar Society	Kathy Reardon Helen Scully	Lister, Kerry	E8:30
Morning Tea	Medeira Family	Longton, Pat	E8:30
Pilgrim Rosary Statue	Rigg Family	Love, Philip	E10:30
Counters	Rick Dunell Trish & Roger Daw	McKenna, John	CNTR
Saturday 7 December - 6:00pm		McShane, Jill	E8:30
Commentator	Lorraine Furtado	Meredith, Jeanette	BPTZ
Lector	Lionel Furtado	Meredith, Shane	BPTZ
Eucharistic Ministers	John Gaspersz	O'Connor, Pat	GRDN
	Karen Gaspersz	O'Dowd, Mark	E10:30
	Natisha Gaspersz	Percy, Julie	W6:00
Sacristan	Ramos Furtado	Roy, Rob	E10:30
Sunday 8 December - 9:30am		Roy, Yvonne	E10:30
Commentator	Peter Beckford	Skipper, Patsy	E8:30
Lector	Claire Walker	Smith, Patricia	E6:00
Eucharistic Ministers	Greg Scully	Stanton, M	W6:00
	Helen Scully	Vincent, Donna	E6:00
	Claire Zavadil	Walter, Alan	E6:00
	Sheilah Arneson	Walter, Kathleen	E6:00
	<i>Volunteer Please</i>	Williams, Anne	PRYR
Sacristan	Jane Medeira	Williams, Peter	PRYR
Altar Society	Carmel Saltalamacchia & Linda Dunell	Zerjal, Frida	E6:00
Morning Tea	O'Brien Family		
Pilgrim Rosary Statue	Rough Family		
Counters	Peter Garriga Colin Leahy		

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 30th

6:00pm Mass: *SVdP Christmas Appeal* Eltham
 6:00pm Mass: *SVdP Christmas Appeal* Montmorency

Sunday 1st December

8:30am Mass: *SVdP Christmas Appeal* Montmorency
 9:30am Mass: *SVdP Christmas Appeal* Eltham
 10:30am Mass: *SVdP Christmas Appeal*
 & Baptism Welcomes Montmorency
 9:30am SFX Primary Christmas Market Montmorency
 11:15am First Sunday of the Month BBQ Montmorency
 12:00pm Baptisms Eltham
 12:00pm Baptism Montmorency

Monday 2nd

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Tuesday 3rd

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
 (Gina) Eltham
 9:15am Mass - St Francis Xavier Feast Day Montmorency
 9:45am Reflections on the Gospels of Advent Eltham
 9:45am Craft Group Montmorency
 11:00am Prayer Shawl Eltham
 7:30pm Malawi Support Group - Christmas Celebration
 7:30pm Finance Committee Meeting Montmorency

Wednesday 4th

9:15am Mass Eltham
 9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
 11:00am Healing Mass & Luncheon Eltham
 1:00pm Small Church Community Meeting Montmorency

Thursday 5th

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
 (Barbara) Eltham
 9:15am Mass Montmorency
 9:45am Advent Reflections Montmorency
 10:30am St Vincent's Care Mass Eltham
 7:00pm Holy Trinity Graduation Mass Montmorency
 7:45pm Book Club Montmorency

Friday 6th

9:15am Mass Eltham
 9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
 12:30pm SFX School End of Year Mass Montmorency

Saturday 7th

6:00pm Mass - *Melbourne Overseas Mission* Eltham
 6:00pm Mass - *Melbourne Overseas Mission* Montmorency

Sunday 8th

8:30am Mass - *Melbourne Overseas Mission* Montmorency
 9:30am Mass - *Melbourne Overseas Mission* Eltham
 10:30am Mass - *Melbourne Overseas Mission*
 & Baptism Welcomes Montmorency
 12:00pm Baptism Montmorency

Monday 9th

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Tuesday 10th

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion
 (Peter) Eltham
 9:15am Mass Montmorency
 9:45am Reflections on the Gospels of Advent Eltham

General News & Events



Advent Sunday 1 - 1 December

"Stay Awake". Jesus urges us to be ready. Today let us pray for the young people in our parish community, that they may be ready and alert to hear the Lord calling them to the faithful vocations of marriage, priesthood, consecrated or single life.



Could you be a HOST FAMILY?



In Term One 2020, four students from Tokyo in Japan, aged 16, will be studying at CLC. We are looking for families who could welcome these

girls into their homes for the duration of their eight week stay. The students are very excited about their trip to Australia and are looking forward to improving their English language skills and learning about our Australian culture. This is a marvelous opportunity for families to learn about another culture and show these girls what living in Australia is all about.

As a host family, you will be fully supported by the group co-ordinator and regional manager of AIU (Australian Institute of International Understanding) and will receive a stipend of \$40 per night.

If you are interested in being a host family and wish to find out more information, please contact Susan Maher (group co-ordinator) at susanmaher05@gmail.com.



Festive Music for Christmas.

This will be a very special concert featuring works for ten brass instruments, percussion and organ as well as a selection of favourite Christmas melodies.

Musicians include some of Australia's leading brass exponents who have performed extensively within Australia and internationally, both as ensemble and solo artists and as members of Australia's finest orchestras. The ensemble also includes several wonderful young graduates from the Australian National Academy of Music (ANAM).

Conductor: Brett Kelly

Organist: Anthony Halliday

Wednesday 18 December 7.00pm

Tickets: \$25.00 Bookings:

www.trybooking.com/BGPWW



PLEASE SEND ALL BULLETIN ITEMS TO:
 Kate : kate.kogler@cam.org.au

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left.

'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'



Advent Begins!

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."
Matthew 24:42 (Year A)

"Be watchful! Be alert!" Mark 13:33a (Year B)

"Be vigilant at all times and pray." Luke 21:36a (Year C)

Advent begins with a call to vigilance as reflected in the passages above. There are numerous Scripture passages that call us to this vigilance and anticipation of the Lord's coming' these are only a few. Being vigilant means, also, that we are prepared. We are not caught off guard. Imagine if Christmas morning came and you woke up suddenly realising that you forgot to prepare! Imagine if you had no gifts, no food purchased and no plans were made. Of course you wouldn't allow that to happen, but we do sometimes allow it to happen spiritually speaking. We often are not prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ within our hearts.

The first week of Advent also offers the focus of the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus will return again, in all splendour and glory, to judge the living and the dead. We profess that fact every Sunday in our Creed. So, even though Advent is a time for the preparation of the celebration of the first coming of Jesus in the flesh, it is also a time to acknowledge that His first coming is ultimately fulfilled in His final glorious coming.

As Advent begins, reflect upon how ready you are for Jesus' coming. Are you preparing for it with the same fervour that you prepare for Christmas through shopping, cooking, decorating, etc? Are you looking forward to that day when He will return? Are you preparing for the spiritual celebration of His birth? Are you awake and attentive to the numerous ways that God speaks to you on a daily basis?

If you find that you are not as prepared for His return in glory as you'd like to be, make this Advent a time when you get your heart ready. Commit to prayer, spiritual exercises, reflection and attentiveness to His gentle and glorious voice.

Lord, as Advent begins, help me to put my eyes on You. Help me to open my ears to Your voice. And help me to open my heart to Your glorious presence. May I be attentive to You in every way You desire to come to me. Jesus, I trust in You.

Baptisms

This weekend we welcome to our:

Eltham Parish Community

Sun 12noon

Harvey Taylor Antrobus

son of Blake & Laura

Mia Audrey Gaulke

daughter of Ben & Carley

Montmorency Parish Community

Sun 12noon

Ethan Lucas Divita

son of Paul & Katrina



Baptism Welcomes

This weekend we welcome to our:

Montmorency Parish Community

Sat 6:00pm Mass

Jordan Dale Tinetti

son of Andrew & Shona

We pray for *Jordan, Harvey, Mia & Ethan*,
their parents & Godparents.

May God keep them always in His love.