

Monty & Eltham

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

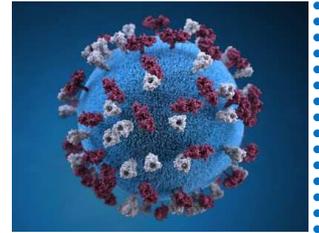


We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay respect to the elders past, present and emerging of the Kulin Nation.

Coronavirus now a Pandemic - Update

Dear Parishioners and Parish friends,

Over the past few short months, and on an ever-changing daily basis - this Coronavirus has been growing and spreading around the World, with devastating effects. No one country or person knows or can predict its future with any certainty, thus we are in 'uncharted waters'. These are sad and strange days indeed.



Common-sense informs us as a community to be mindful of the weak and vulnerable people in our neighbourhood at this time and to practice normal hygiene routines - like 'washing hands' when visiting and travelling around.

As 2 parish communities we have put into practice simple & easy measures to support us as we gather for prayer and pastoral meetings - thus the normal practice of 'Blessing' ourselves with 'Holy Water' as we enter and leave the churches is not appropriate at this time, along with the 'Sign of Peace' as a normal opportunity to 'shake hands' with parishioners in our near vicinity. The Chalice will be reserved for only 'one person' during masses and this is a wonderful and powerful symbol of our unity with each other in the shared Cup.

Thank you for your support and co-operation, solidarity and prayers over these coming weeks.

Michael

You're Invited on a Journey - Sunday 22nd & 29th March

The Transition Leadership Community (TLC) and Chris Pearson as co-ordinator, invites the Catholic Community of Eltham to their 'First Reflection' time together on Sunday 22nd March, 11am to 1pm, in the church Gathering Area.

The TLC invites the Catholic Community of Montmorency to their 'First Reflection' time together on Sunday 29th March, 12noon to 2pm, in the Parish Hall.

For your interest and reflection: 3 questions are at the core of these 2 meetings:

- What is the experience of being Catholic like for you today - both the light and the dark?
- What do you hope your future faith community might look like?
- What concerns do you have as we move to a joined parish in the future?



Your participation in these special events will be gratefully appreciated as we Journey.

Baptisms

This weekend we welcome to our Montmorency Parish Community on Sunday at 12 noon:
William Banjo, River Bernard & Darcie Clodagh, children of David Thompson & Erin McLindon, & **Thomas**, son of Vanessa & Michael Motta

Baptism Welcomes

This weekend we welcome to our Montmorency Parish Community on Sunday at 10:30am Mass:
Harvey Alexander, son of Robert & Amy Johnstone
Audrey Mabel, daughter of Jared & Gabrielle Kitney, &
Leo Jack, son of Blake Clancy & Brooke Ryan

We pray for *Banjo, River, Darcie, Thomas, Harvey, Audrey & Leo*, their parents & Godparents.
May God keep them always in His love.



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 TEAM & 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

Gina Ang: Pastoral Worker & Caring Group Co-Ord
gina.ang@cam.org.au

Beth Krolkowski: Parish Manager & Pastoral Worker
montmorency@cam.org.au

Kate Kogler: Parish Secretary & Finance
eltham@cam.org.au

Peter Williams: Child Safety Officer
montmorency.childsafety@cam.org.au

Website: www.sfxmonty.org
www.olhc.info

Facebook:

St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:
eltham@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.catholic.edu.au



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Ennio Vendramini (Italy), Remi Vulich

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Angelina Casonato, Giuseppe Chiara, Margaret McKinley, Michael Morabito, Benjamin Charles Vincent

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

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

Eltham

For the recently deceased;

Ennio Vendramini (Italy, cousin of Vali Hall)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

Angelina Casonato, Giuseppe Chiara

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Baby Harriet Banks, Ak Callaghan, Jon D'Cruz, Ruth Decker, Fay Dobson, Jeanette Jenkins, Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen, Jo Porter, Paul Rushbrook.

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House
 9435 2178 or eltham@cam.org.au.

RECENTLY DECEASED

St Francis Xavier Community offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of:

Remi Vulich

St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians Communities offer their sincere condolences to the family and friends of:

Ennio Vendramini

brother of Luigi Chiara (Montmorency) & cousin of Vali Hall (Eltham)

our thoughts & prayers are with you at this time.

RECONCILIATION

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

Collections last weekend: 7 & 8 Mar 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$486.00	\$749.40
Montmorency	\$1,477.00	\$1,211.15

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

Lectors & Commentators



Lectors and Commentators from the communities of both Our Lady Help of Christians and St Francis Xavier are warmly invited to a gathering on Saturday 21st March at 4pm to 5pm in the Gathering Area at OLHC.

In the interests of promoting One Parish/Two Communities, we are holding this gathering to come together as one to prepare for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies by refreshing 'best practice' of our important roles as ministers of the Word or as welcoming commentators.

All those who are currently on the rosters, and anyone who may be interested in becoming involved in either of the two roles, are encouraged to attend.

This initiative is the result of a decision at the OLHC Liturgy Group meeting on Feb 27th.

Light refreshments will be provided to add to the warm communal spirit we hope to engender on this occasion.

For the purposes of 'catering', please RSVP your intention to join the gathering by emailing Kathleen Nolan at maeka@optusnet.com.au.

Lower Plenty Garden Views Aged Care

This Sunday at the 8:30am Mass we will take the opportunity to thank Pam Mitchell for her 13 years of Pastoral Care at Lower Plenty Garden Views. We thank her for her gently, loving dedication and commitment in caring for the spiritual needs of the elderly residents there every Monday afternoon. Pam's presence has been such a gift there and she will be sorely missed by residents, their families, staff, Fr Terry & myself.

Fr Peter Matheson, Fr Terry and more recently Fr Michael have celebrated Eucharist there monthly, but now with another aged care facility in Eltham and the work load of two Communities, Mass will become less frequent. With Pam's departure, the residents are left in real need of visitation and a Faith connection.

We would like to invite you to consider this Ministry of Visitation of the Sick and Elderly. It would involve an hour and a half of your time on a Monday afternoon once a month. If we could manage a small team, that would be wonderful. This is our Faith in Action and would be so appreciated by the residents and the families of Garden Views.

If you feel you would like to know more about this Ministry and be part of a team, please contact the Parish Office: 9435 2178 or Patsy: 0429 439 675.

We would love to hear from you.

As a follow up to **The SFX Social Justice Group's** recent presentation on climate change and electric vehicles, there is a free event presented by the Manningham Council on 26th March.



This includes:

Electric Vehicle Display - 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Join us in the Civic Centre car park and view approximately 12 new electric vehicles on display by local manufacturers/dealerships.

Exhibition and Seminar - 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Information on the advantages and disadvantages of various vehicles, car charging and car sharing, presented by Bryce Gaton, Australian Electric Vehicles Association.

Where: Manningham Civic Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, 3108

Cost: Free, but bookings are essential via www.manningham.vic.gov.au/electric-vehicles

Info: environment@manningham.vic.gov.au

Lenten Celebrations for the Month of March:

- **Communal Rite of Forgiveness**
Thursday 19th March, St. Francis Xavier - Montmorency Time: 7pm
- **Healing/Anointing Mass & Lunch**
Tuesday 31st March, St. Francis Xavier - Montmorency Time: 11:30am



Special Prayer Request

Over the weekend I was made aware that one of our Vic. Volunteers, Lindsay Troth and his wife were involved in a pretty serious car accident on Thursday last week.

They were both taken to the Alfred Hospital. Lindsay's wife seems to be less severely injured and will be released this week. Lindsay will be in for quite some time. I spoke to his son this morning and he said that Lindsay is conscious now and breathing independently but has suffered severe internal injuries.

Could you please keep Lindsay and his wife as well as their children and families in prayer?

Thank you.

Blessings, Richard Boonstra (PFV Volunteer Coordinator)

MONDAY: The School of St Jude



One of our parish dads, Duncan and his son Dom, spent some time in Tanzania late last year visiting a school that their family have been supporting since 2004 – one of the most amazing schools/communities on the planet – The School of St Jude.

The spirit of the school and the international community around it is inspiring and beautiful - come and experience it for yourself.

Come and hear St Jude's Australian founder, Gemma Sisia talk about her journey and **St Judes**.

Supper provided afterwards.

Date: This Monday, **16 March** 2020 at 7:00pm

Venue: Our Lady Help of Christians Church,
2 Henry St, Eltham, Vic 3095

Please use the trybooking link to book we have limited space.

www.trybooking.com/BIDFM

LENT 2020

Should you wish to further your Lent experience you may wish to give **Christian Meditation** a try. Every Saturday morning at 8:15am a group of like-minded people meet at St Margaret's in Pitt Street [opp. pub]. This ecumenical meditation group began 25 years ago. There are between 5 and 12 regular meditators and 5 are from **OLHC**. We listen to a CD talk of 5 to 15 mins, usually from Father Laurence or John Main. This is followed by 20 minutes of silent meditation. Some people come and dip their toes in the water and go away to think about it.

Renowned German theologian, Karl Rahner, prophesied that the church of the future would be contemplative or wouldn't exist. I joined St Margaret's group right back at the start. In those days Fr Barry was also a member and is still a meditator, and on the committee of the World Community of Christian Meditators. If you want further information google **WCCM** or Fr Laurence Freeman and it is all there for you. I am available also on 0402 914 817.



We invite you to dip your toes in.

Trish Taylor

The Stamp Unit — Jesuit Mission Centre

We thank you for your gift of stamps to help support the Australian Jesuit Overseas Missions. Each year the Stamp Unit raises a substantial sum of money for our Missions from the sale of stamps donated by people like you.



The Missions you help are grateful for your support as it enables them to continue their valuable work with the people of India, Southern Africa and South East Asia.

Yours sincerely,

Angelo Andronis

If anyone has contacts to get a few palm branches in the week before Palm Sunday, the Liturgy Group at Our Lady's would be most grateful.

Contact Marlis: 0407 940 528 or Elisabeth: 0414 673 607. Many thanks!



A Charismatic Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 19th March at St Thomas the Apostle, 251 Diamond Creek Road, North Greensborough.

Please note: Mass will be celebrated in the Parish House, commencing at 8pm, following praise and worship at 7:30pm.

Prayer Ministry and supper will be available afterwards.

For further details, please contact:

Rose - 0411 650 339; or Emilia - 0418 120 902.



MALAWI CRAZY WHIST



Thank you to all concerned who contributed to the fantastic amount of \$440.00 being raised for this great social event., that was a little more than the amount raised last year.

We actually sold 22 tickets but only had 20 card players on the night. We also had a further \$220 contributed in very kind donations through the Jelly Bean Box from parishioners unable to attend on the night.

Winners of the various prizes were:

Mike Croft (again!) taking the Door Prize at the Supper Break; and

Neil Walker, just pipping Debbie Slade, last year's winner, with a top score of 117 points at the end.

With a spare bottle of wine sitting on the bench, it was felt we needed to present this as an encouragement award, and this went to Vicki Evans, with 78 points.

Thank you to all, again, for the continued support of our sister Parishioners at St Kizitos, especially those who donated the various prizes.



The Journey Catholic Radio Program

Airs 15 March 2020

This week on the Journey, The Gospel reading by Bishop Brian Mascord, reflections on physical and spiritual thirst by Fr Chris Sarkis and Sr Anastasia Reeves. Your favourites, Mother Hilda Scott, Pete Gilmore and Trish McCarthy and great music!

Go to WWW.jcr.org.au or www.itunes.jcr.org.au and to ensure that you never miss a show it can be sent to you each week as a podcast via email – for free.

If you love the show, let your local radio station know that you'd like to hear it broadcast locally each week.

Montmorency News & Events

St Vincent de Paul – LENT 2020

We are nearly half way through *Lent* and with the Easter eggs and Easter buns in the shops, and school holidays just 2 weeks away, it is not too long before we celebrate the biggest feast in our faith. To assist parishioners and their families with their preparation for Easter, the Montmorency Conference of St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) have a selection of small booklets which may be of interest. Below are just a few of the new titles:

- Fasting - A Positive Approach
- 40 Simple Ways to keep *Lent* Meaningful
- Family Meal Prayers for *Lent*
- *Lent* and ME
- *A Woman's Way of the Cross*

Please feel free to browse these and other related booklets together with the many other topics of interest. They are located in the racks on the pillar in the front porch (between the two entrance doors in the foyer) opposite the morning tea table. We hope you enjoy the selection.

A gold coin donation in either of the St Vincent de Paul boxes at the front or side entrance to the church will help defray costs.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul through our Conference, perhaps at our Vinnies shop in Briar Hill, or in some other administrative capacity?

If so, please contact Mike on 0417 221 245 or the Parish Office.

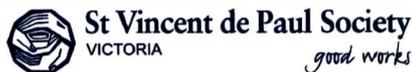


Thank you to the generous people who regularly donate non-perishable food and toiletries for asylum seekers, and to those who take those goods to the pick-up point for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

Please note the change in position and type of containers for collection of these goods in the narthex of St Francis Xavier church. The containers are along the wall beside the Piety Stall.

This change has been made to create more space in the transition from the outside world to the celebration of the liturgy.

Our parish continues to support and reach out to all people in need and this is but one practical way you might choose.



St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria Inc.
 ABN: 28 911 702 061
 RN: A0042727Y
 43 Prospect Street
 Box Hill Vic 3128
 Locked Bag 4800
 Box Hill Vic 3128
 Telephone: 03 9895 5800
 Facsimile: 03 9895 5850
 Email: info@svdp-vic.org.au
 Website: www.vinnies.org.au

February 13, 2020

Mr Michael Said
 Treasurer
 S V D P S Montmorency - St Francis Xavier Conference
 141 Reichelt Ave
 MONTMORENCY VIC 3094

Dear Members

Thank you for your donation of \$9757.60 to the 2020 St Vincent de Paul Society Victorian Bushfire Appeal.

Your donation is supporting St Vincent de Paul Society (Vinnies) volunteers in the delivery of essentials, such as food, clothing and accommodation to Victorian families and individuals impacted by devastating bushfires. You are also providing much-needed guidance and emotional support to people during this time of crisis.

Vinnies is active on the ground today, but we always work with a long-term view. Rebuilding homes, lives and communities can take many years, something we do proudly and have been doing with your support for more than 165 years.

It's thanks to your support that we will continue to be here for Victorians every step of the way.

Thank you again.

Sue Cattermole

Sue Cattermole
 Chief Executive Officer
 St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria

Small Church Community

We continue to gather in each others homes fortnightly. You are always more than welcome to come and see and to join one of these groups...

Enquiries: Patsy 0429 439 675

There is a gathering for Facilitators of Small Church Communities on **Sunday 22nd March** after the 8:30am Mass at Greg & Val's home.

Dear Michael,

The visit of Glenys and her group to Preda children's home was a happy occasion and they shared gifts and brought the donation from your parish. They also went to the community of indigenous people. All were very happy to see the interest that the group brought to them as it increases their sense of self-value and dignity and they appreciate the attention and respect.

My thanks to the parishioners who donated to Preda.

I wish you all the light and love of Jesus, Shay



SFX Passionist Family Groups

Date	Family Group	Activity
15 th March	CASSIDY	Brunch at Taffy's on Looker
17 th March	WOOD	Planning Meeting at Purdy's Cafe
21 st March	EGAN	Morning Tea & Tour – Coombe Farm (Melba's Garden)
4 th April	CASSIDY	Visit Tarrawarra Abbey and Art Gallery; Lunch at Yarra Glen
17 th -19 th April	COTTER	Weekend at Apollo Bay
18 th April	EGAN	V-Line trip to support a rural town

If you would like to join one of the planned activities, if you are interested in learning more about Family Groups OR if you would like to join a Family Group, please call co-ordinators **Joan & David Muller: 9438 2748**

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 14th

6:00pm Mass Eltham
6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 15th

8:30am Mass & farewell to Pam Mitchell Montmorency
9:30am Mass Eltham
10:30am Mass, Baptism Welcomes & farewell to Pam Mitchell Montmorency
10:30am RCIC Class Montmorency
10:30am Children's Liturgy of the Word Montmorency
12:00pm Baptisms Montmorency

Monday 16th

7:00pm St Jude's Presentation Eltham
7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Tuesday 17th

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion (Barbara) Eltham
9:30am Mass Montmorency
9:45am Craft Group Montmorency
10:00am Lenten Reflection Montmorency
11:00am Prayer Shawl Eltham
8:00pm Social Justice Meeting Montmorency

Wednesday 18th

9:15am Mass Eltham
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
1:00pm Small Church Community Meeting Montmorency
7:30pm St Vincent de Paul Society Diamond Valley Regional Council Meeting Eltham

Thursday 19th

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion (Trish) Eltham
9:30am Mass Montmorency
7:00pm Communal Rite of Forgiveness Montmorency

Friday 20th

9:15am Mass Eltham
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Saturday 21st

10:00am Baptism Preparation Meeting Eltham
6:00pm Mass Eltham
6:00pm Mass & Baptism Welcome Montmorency

Sunday 22nd

8:30am Mass Montmorency
9:30am Mass Eltham
10:30am Mass Montmorency
10:30am RCIC Class Montmorency
11:00am First Parish Meeting Eltham

Monday 23rd

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Tuesday 24th

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion (Gina) Eltham
9:30am Mass Montmorency
9:45am Craft Group Montmorency
10:00am Lenten Reflection Montmorency
11:00am Prayer Shawl Eltham
8:00pm Social Justice Meeting Montmorency

Wednesday 25th

9:15am Mass Eltham
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Combined Parish News & Events

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

*Invest in your most precious asset...
Your Marriage!*



Married couples, come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing!

The weekend is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

Next weekend is on 17-19 April 2020 in Melbourne

Other weekends on 17-19 July and 13-15 November 2020

Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au

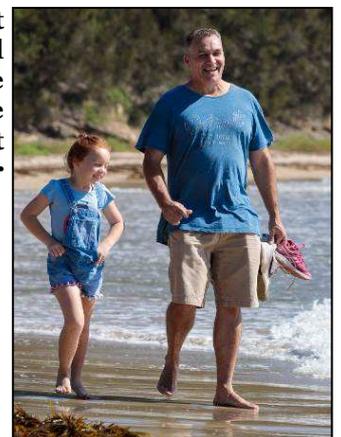


Third Sunday of Lent 15th March 2020

Father of four, Barry, embodies resilience and strength. Growing up in a tough environment, he had to look inside himself to make the right choices for himself and his family. Barry, and others like him, were able to take part in a cultural healing program called Red Dust Healing. This program encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within, addressing family and personal relationships and what may be life-long patterns of violence, abuse and neglect. Today, thanks to the Caritas support, he's an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help vulnerable people like Barry, so that they are empowered to assist members of their communities in Australia.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



What can I do for vocations ?

The best and most important thing is to pray. From March 20-22, there is 23 hours of prayer for vocations to the consecrated life and priesthood in parishes and religious communities around Melbourne. To find out where you can join in the 'Triduum of Prayer', go to www.cam.org.au/vocations and click on 'Resources'. Consider joining in one hour around Melbourne for prayer for more vocations.



Gospel: John 4:5-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water.' 'Go and call your husband' said Jesus to her 'and come back here.' The woman answered, 'I have no husband.' He said to her, 'You are right to say, "I have no husband"; for although you have had five, the one you have now is not your husband. You spoke the truth there.' 'I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'My food is to do the will of the one who sent me, and to complete his work. Have you not got a saying: Four months and then the harvest? Well, I tell you: Look around you, look at the fields; already they are white, ready for harvest! Already the reaper is being paid his wages, already he is bringing in the grain for eternal life, and thus sower and reaper rejoice together. For here the proverb holds good: one sows, another reaps; I sent you to reap a harvest you had not worked for. Others worked for it; and you have come into the rewards of their trouble.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'



Reflection

The author of the gospel of John is a master dramatist. The story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well is built up from a succession of exchanges between them. Little by little the tension grows until the climax is reached with Jesus' declaration, "I am he".

We are drawn into the story as companions on the woman's journey of faith. We find ourselves asking her questions and listening to Jesus' answers. What may be disconcerting for modern readers is that these sorts of dialogues do not develop in a strictly logical order. Jesus often replies to questions with responses that are meant to provoke puzzlement and further questioning.

The woman's willingness to engage with Jesus leads her step by step to faith until she finally becomes a missionary for her people. It's worth noting the progression of her enlightenment. She first addresses Jesus as "a Jew", then as "sir", then as "a prophet", before concluding that he is "the Christ". Our journey with her gives us the opportunity to pay fresh attention to our own inner thirst and to renew our faith in Jesus as the answer to all that we long for.

Break Open the Word 2020