

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.

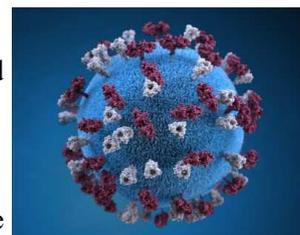
A State of Emergency

On Monday - the Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, called for a State of Emergency.

On Wednesday - the Prime Minister of our land blocked travellers into Australia, and invited all Australians travelling or working overseas to return home.

On Friday - the Archbishop of Melbourne suspended public liturgies - including Mass.

This COVID-19 Coronavirus Epidemic is beginning to force us all to be very careful in the way we live and move. Can things get any worse?



Naturally, I am interested to hear from our Catholic community as we move forward.

How to cope? What to do? What 'issues' are urgent and need to be attended to, and importantly, who needs our care and help? Can we dream a new way forward as a supportive community?

Exactly what is possible to do for those in need and what is not available as we all move to some form of personal isolation and importantly follow health restrictions for the foreseeable future. Thus I have plenty of questions and in some way need your help to navigate through these terrible months. (How to celebrate Easter too!)

Please, help Terry and me with your creative ideas - if you have any!

At this time, I need to hear the 'voices of wisdom' that are present in our Community.

Contact us via our [email](mailto:monty@sfmonty.org) or phone (9435 2178). And nothing is off the agenda if you dream it!

Terry and I will make ourselves available for a chat next Tuesday night at 7pm in the Eltham Gathering Area to those who might like a 'Face to Face' conversation! Given our new restrictions and need for health protection, I am not expecting many people!

It might surprise you to know that we enjoy each other's company - thus I will offer Terry a cup of coffee, while Terry might open a bottle of Red. Who knows!!!.

Michael



And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

~ Kitty O'Meara

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



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

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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Eleanor (Nellie) Molan, Gianluca Salvitti, Alinka Spencer, Maxwell (Maxie) Vanderwert (Sri Lanka)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Isabelle Borg, Lawrence Borg, Terry Boyd, Marianna Cantone, John Frawley, Mary Greenwood, Joyce Jakubik, Maria Muscat, Stella Skehill

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, Sheryn Zurzolo.

Eltham

For the recently deceased;

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Baby Harriet Banks, 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.

Another Prayer Answered!

Ak Callaghan informed us this week to tell us the good news - his is now **cancer free!**

Ak would like to thank everyone for their prayers during his long battle with cancer. Your prayers and your thoughts during the long fight were his strength and comfort. He is so grateful and is looking forward to driving again, and definitely joining us in church when Masses resume.



RECONCILIATION

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

Collections last weekend: 14 & 15 Mar 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$281.00	\$771.80
Montmorency	\$909.00	\$1,596.55

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



Love Alone Overcomes Fear

Theme: A Message from Richard Rohr about COVID-19

Thursday, March 19, 2020

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

A Message from Richard Rohr about COVID-19

It is shocking to think how much the world has changed in such a brief time. Each of us has had our lives and communities disrupted. Of course, I am here in this with you. I feel that I'm in no position to tell you how to feel or how to think, but there are a few things that come to mind I will share. A few days ago I was encouraged by the Franciscans and by the leadership team here at the CAC to self-quarantine, so I've been in my little hermitage now for three or four days. I've had years of practice, literally, how to do what we are calling "social distancing". I have a nice, large yard behind me where there are four huge, beautiful cottonwood trees, and so I walk my dog Opie every few hours. Right now I'm trying to take in psychologically, spiritually, and personally, what is God trying to say? When I use that phrase, I'm not saying that God causes suffering to teach us good things. But God does use everything, and if God wanted us to experience global solidarity, I can't think of a better way. We all have access to this suffering, and it bypasses race, gender, religion, and nation.

We are in the midst of a highly teachable moment. There's no doubt that this period will be referred to for the rest of our lifetimes. We have a chance to go deep, and to go broad. Globally, we're in this together. Depth is being forced on us by great suffering, which as I like to say, always leads to great love.

But for God to reach us, we have to allow suffering to wound us. Now is no time for an academic solidarity with the world. Real solidarity needs to be felt and suffered. That's the real meaning of the word "suffer" - to allow someone else's pain to influence us in a real way. We need to move beyond our own personal feelings and take in the whole. This, I must say, is one of the gifts of television: we can turn it on and see how people in countries other than our own are hurting. What is going to happen to those living in isolated places or for those who don't have health care? Imagine the fragility of the most marginalized, of people in prisons, the homeless, or even the people performing necessary services, such as ambulance drivers, nurses, and doctors, risking their lives to keep society together?

Our feelings of urgency and devastation are not exaggeration: they are responding to the real human situation. We're not pushing the panic button; we are the panic button. And we have to allow these feelings, and invite God's presence to hold and sustain us in a time of collective prayer and lament.

I hope this experience will force our attention outwards to the suffering of the most vulnerable. Love always means going beyond yourself to otherness. It takes two. There has to be the love and the beloved. We must be stretched to an encounter with otherness, and only then do we know it's love. This is what we call the subject-subject relationship. Love alone overcomes fear and is the true foundation that lasts (1 Corinthians 13:13).

Richard Rohr

Notice to all Parishioners, Visitors and Friends of: Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham & St Francis Xavier, Montmorency

Given the seriousness of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) the Most Rev. Peter Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, together with the other Victorian Bishops, has determined the following actions:

- Immediate suspension of public liturgies & celebrations of Mass, until further notice. There will be no Masses available on weekends and during the week.
- All other gatherings are suspended.

The Archbishop continues:

‘I am very aware that these restrictions will be particularly difficult for families who are planning liturgies such as funerals, weddings and baptisms. At this time, so long as appropriate precautions are able to be put in place, such as distancing between participants, it may be possible for these liturgies to proceed with a carefully limited congregation.

I encourage you to continue active participation in the life of the Church, through activities such as time in personal and family prayer, reflecting on the Scriptures, making a spiritual communion, or participating in Mass online. (<http://bit.ly/MassOnDemand> or <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass> or www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass).

Terry and I will offer Masses privately for YOU.

Hopefully, we can join a ‘Team’ of wonderful parishioners to make available the distribution of Holy Communion and all the opportunities for healing through Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation, and any necessary visitations and phone calls too. It is my intention to open our beautiful churches for your personal prayer - should you like to pay a visit. During these difficult times we are not ‘closed’ but ‘open’ for love and ministry among our wonderful faith communities and schools at OLHC and SFX.

For further information please ring the Parish Office: 9435 2178 or email us: eltham@cam.org.au / montmorency@cam.org.au

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator



The following guidelines apply throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne:

- all but priests are dispensed from attending Sunday Mass (canon 1248): the faithful can keep holy their Sunday by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, watching Mass on television or online, and asking God for the graces they would normally receive in Holy Communion
- priests should celebrate daily Mass without the physical presence of the lay faithful and offer it on behalf of those who cannot attend and for the whole nation
- churches should remain open for private prayer as much as possible
- the Second and Third Rites of Reconciliation should not be used; First Rite of Reconciliation should only be heard through a protective screen (made of plastic or similar) ie no direct face-to-face reconciliation other than the sick in hospital or in their home
- other instructions will be issued to clergy regarding Baptisms of several children, the RCIA and the various rites of the Triduum
- as far as possible, churches should remain open to allow private prayer; the Blessed Sacrament might be exposed in the monstrance for this purpose (as long as fewer than 100 are attending and with the usual provisions for reverence and security of the Sacrament)
- on days when this is liturgically permitted (see Ordo pp. 10-11), priests should offer the Mass for the Sick, the Mass for Any Need or a votive Mass such as that of Our Lady of Lourdes or St Joseph
- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals may be celebrated if necessary, restricted to immediate family (and small bridal parties etc); baptisms and weddings can, of course, be postponed
- preparation for and celebration of First Confession, First communion and Confirmation for children should be postponed until the pandemic is over
- all ministers should follow precautions recommended by health authorities when visiting people's homes, aged care facilities, hospitals, prisons and detention centres

Priests will abide by all civil restrictions while seeking to be as pastorally available as possible.

These directives will be reviewed as required.

Given on 19 March 2020, the Feast of St Joseph.

St Joseph, Protector of the Church, *pray for us.*

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor.1.23

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

All public meetings are postponed at this present

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.

CANCELLED

Prayers of the Faithful for 21st & 22nd March 2020 Fourth Sunday of Lent - Marisa

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, the healing of the blind man by Jesus speaks of his concern for his health and his faith. In this trying time of the coronavirus, we pray for healing of bodies and for a renewal of faith in people's hearts. With trust in You Lord, we pray...

That we will stand with Pope Francis in prayer for all affected by the coronavirus. Lord, hear us.
Lord, hear our prayer.

Most of us are lucky enough to have our sight but we can be spiritually blind like the passers-by in the story of the Blind man. Awaken in us Lord a care and concern for those around us, our relatives and friends. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

May bishops, priests and deacons, religious and pastoral workers be devoted to the pastoral and spiritual needs of people in this time of high anxiety. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves Lord, may we place you at the centre of our lives by devoting some time to you in prayer every day. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That all involved in the continuing war in Syria will seek the way of reconciliation and peace, and that the people who live there, as well as refugees in great poverty, will receive respect and assistance. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all of those listed on our sick list in Newhouse and for all others who are suffering in mind, body or spirit. May they experience the healing touch of Christ. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those whom God has called to new life especially *Nell Molan, Gianluca Salvitti, Alinka Spencer and Maxwell (Maxie) Vanderwert (Sri Lanka)*. We remember those especially whose anniversaries occur about this time, including *Isabelle Borg, Lawrence Borg, Terry Boyd, Marianna Cantone, John Frawley, Mary Greenwood, Joyce Jakubik, Maria Muscat and Stella Skehill*. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus, we see the light which guides our way. In this time of apprehension and confusion, may Jesus show us true wisdom, deep compassion, and total trust in you, for he is Lord, forever and ever.

Amen

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 21st

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

Sunday 22nd

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

Monday 23rd

Tuesday 24th

9:15am CANCELLED: Liturgy of the Word with Communion (Gina) Eltham
 9:30am CANCELLED: Mass Montmorency

Wednesday 25th

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

Thursday 26th

9:15am CANCELLED: Liturgy of the Word with Communion (Beverly) Eltham
 9:30am CANCELLED: Mass Montmorency

Friday 27th

9:15am CANCELLED: Mass & 5/6OP Class Eltham
 9:30am CANCELLED: Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Saturday 28th

6:00pm Private Mass Montmorency

Sunday 29th

8:30am Private Mass Montmorency
 10:00am Private Mass Eltham



Fourth Sunday of Lent

22nd March 2020

Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. Until now Sakun, an indigenous Gond woman, has been isolated in her community, unable to earn a livelihood and without knowledge of government schemes that could help her. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. Through their strategic guidance and support, Sakun now earns her own income and makes a small profit which goes towards her family's basic needs. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 to help uplift vulnerable communities and support the rights of indigenous peoples around the world.

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.



St Joseph,

A PRAYER to ST JOSEPH

You were receptive to God working in your life. Help us by your prayers at this time of trial. You kept Jesus and Mary under your watchful care: may your prayers assist our local Church to respond to those in need.

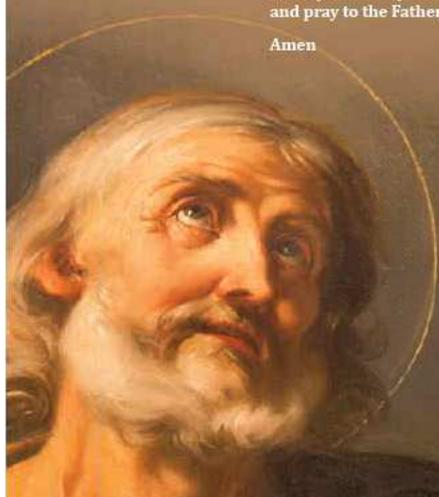
You taught the Christ Child your trade and prayers: help us to follow his example of love.

You were part of God's plan for all humanity: assist us to be vigilant and responsible this day.

You spent your life in service: may we be mindful of others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable, caring for them in these difficult days.

You trusted in the clear primacy of God over all history and every situation: help us to grow in faith and pray to the Father, *Thy will be done.*

Amen




RECENTLY DECEASED

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

Eleanor (Nellie) Molan

wife of Jim Molan (dec.)

mother of Anne, Christine, Margaret, Jen, Terese, Kate

Gianluca Salvitta

husband of Rachel

father of Lily

Alinka Spencer

wife of Alan

mother of Annalisa (dec.), Leon & Jamie
 cousin of Maria & Anton Emilianowicz

Maxwell (Maxie) Vanderwert

(Sri Lanka)

brother/in-law of Anton & Jeanne Vanderwert

our thoughts & prayers are with you at this time.

Gospel: John 9:1-41

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered, 'he was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him.'

'as long as the day lasts I must carry out the work of the one who sent me; the night will soon be here when no one can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world.'

Having said this, he spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how do your eyes come to be open?' 'The man called Jesus' he answered 'made a paste, daubed my eyes with it and said to me, "Go and wash at Siloam"; so I went, and when I washed I could see.' They asked, 'Where is he?' 'I don't know' he answered.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a Sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the Sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

However, the Jews would not believe that the man had been blind and had gained his sight, without first sending for his parents and asking them, 'Is this man really your son who you say was born blind? If so, how is it that he is now able to see?' His parents answered, 'We know he is our son and we know he was born blind, but we don't know how it is that he can see now, or who opened his eyes. He is old enough: let him speak for himself.' His parents spoke like this out of fear of the Jews, who had already agreed to expel from the synagogue anyone who should acknowledge Jesus as the Christ. This was why his parents said, 'He is old enough; ask him.'

So the Jews again sent for the man and said to him, 'Give glory to God! For our part, we know that this man is a sinner.' The man answered, 'Don't know if he is a sinner; I only know that I was blind and now I can see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He replied, 'I have told you once and you wouldn't listen. Why do you want to hear it all again? Do you want to become his disciples too?' At this they hurled abuse at him: 'You can be his disciple,' they said 'we are disciples of Moses: we know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this man, we don't know where he comes from.' The man replied, 'Now here is an astonishing thing! He has opened my eyes, and you don't know where he comes from! We know that God doesn't listen to sinners, but God does listen to men who are devout and do his will. Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing.' 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and worshipped him.

Jesus said: 'It is for judgement that I have come into this world, so that those without sight may see and those with sight turn blind.'

Hearing this, some Pharisees who were present said to him, 'We are not blind, surely?' Jesus replied: 'Blind? If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'



Reflection

Today we have the second of the three great dramas from John's gospel that are allotted to these Sundays. Just as we accompanied the Samaritan woman last week on her journey of faith, so now we are invited to walk with the blind man as he gains not only his physical sight, but the in-sight of faith. By contrast, those who claim to have spiritual sight - the religious authorities - are exposed as being truly blind.

Like the Samaritan woman, the blind man progresses in his discovery of who Jesus is. At first Jesus is simply "a man", then "a prophet", then "a man from God", then "Son of Man", and finally "Lord". He also becomes progressively more bold and courageous in his testimony before the authorities. In contrast they become increasingly blind to the truth.

The story is so well told that it invites proclamation by an ensemble of voices: a narrator, Jesus, the blind man, his parents, and the religious authorities.

Break Open the Word 2020