

# 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.

## Welcome Home

We have started on the road back - small steps, yes - weekday and some Sunday masses are now being celebrated, and naturally I am delighted to see and celebrate the Eucharist with people in attendance.

Unfortunately, because of health restrictions - we need to follow the Government & Church guidelines with regard to our 'Numbers' - **Ten** parishioners only at each Mass.

- On entering the Church, first - Hand Sanitise.
- Only **10** people - you **MUST** print your name and phone number on paper supplied.
- The special **10** participants need to socially distance from each other in church.
- Holy Communion is available to all - 'Host' only.
- No 'Sign of Peace' after the Our Father.
- Please 'Hand Sanitise' on leaving the church.
- Church will be cleaned after the service.
- Please do not attend these small special masses if you are feeling 'unwell' or do not want to comply with the above regulations.
- *The above points are not negotiable.*



These restrictions will only last one more week before the next 'stage' will be released by Premier Dan Andrews on Monday 1st June. Our hope is that all things will get easier! We have started back after these difficult months and thus there is light at the end of this dark tunnel. Our prayers for those many countries that are clearly less fortunate than we are with this Virus.

This week, from **Ascension Sunday to Pentecost Sunday** is our second Holy Week.

The daily readings are spectacular: calling upon the Holy Spirit to give us life!

How appropriate and necessary at this time in the life of our world to be open to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Just remember this journey started some 100 days ago on Ash Wednesday when Jesus was 'led' by the Holy Spirit out into the desert to start the sacred 40 days of purification leading to Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Now 40 days after Easter we move into this Holy Week, preparing for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Just a reminder that: 10:00am Mass at Eltham on Ascension Sunday is being [LIVE-STREAMED](#).

And on Pentecost Sunday, so is the 8:30am Mass at SFX also [LIVE-STREAMED](#).

Use the following link to access both Masses - <http://tiny.cc/lbe4oz>.

Gentle steps back into a new way of life!

Keep well, warmest love,

Michael

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

*For more information visit [www.sfxmonty.org](http://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](mailto:terry.kean@cam.org.au)

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

[michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au](mailto:michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au)

Barry Caldwell

#### Parish Office

86 Mayona Road

9435 2178

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

[montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au)

Gina Ang:

Pastoral Worker & Caring Group Co-Ord

[gina.ang@cam.org.au](mailto:gina.ang@cam.org.au)

Beth Krolkowski: Parish Manager & Pastoral Worker

[montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au)

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

[montmorency.childsafety@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency.childsafety@cam.org.au)

Website:

[www.sfxmonty.org](http://www.sfxmonty.org)

[www.cam.org.au/montmorency](http://www.cam.org.au/montmorency)

[www.olhc.info](http://www.olhc.info)

[www.cam.org.au/eltham](http://www.cam.org.au/eltham)

Facebook:

St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

#### Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Mr Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

[principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

[www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Mr Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

[principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

[www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Mr Chris Ray: 9439 7824

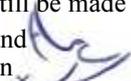
[school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

[www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

### Asylum Seekers Resource Centre

Under the current circumstances the needs of the people assisted by the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre are even greater. Donations can still be made at the Parish Office.

These will be collected and delivered to the collection centre at Alphington each Thursday morning.



**ASRC** Asylum Seeker Resource Centre



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

#### Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Denis Hogan (Canberra) & Pat Longton

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Tom Barnsley, Valentina Di Benedetto, John Moylan

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Baby Kylie, Sriyani Algama, Nikki Attwood, Justine Best, Kristina Brazaitis, Desmond Deehan, Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Julian Forrester, Gennie Hannon, Samuel Hauser (Kyabram), Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tina Inserra, Adrian Jones, 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:

Robyn Atherton, Baby Harriet Banks, Albina Croce, Jon D'Cruz, Claire Dakwar, Ruth Decker, Fay Dobson, Rob Hutton, Diana Jackson, Jeanette Jenkins, Maureen Jenkins, Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen, Jo Porter, Sally Price, Paul Rushbrook.

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House 9435 2178 or [eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au).

### May - The month of Mary, Mother of God

Every year during the month of May, the statue of Mary is brought up to the Altar at Our Lady's in Eltham, and Barbara Bibby leads the rosary on Monday nights throughout the month. This year, sadly the church building is closed, but Barbara would like to invite all of us to join her in reciting the Rosary together at home on Monday nights at 7 pm. She will be reciting the Glorious Mystery, praying for the community. Together we can be united in prayer through the Rosary.



If you would like further clarification, please contact Gina: 0423 947 858, or Barbara: 9439 8594.

#### RECONCILIATION

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

#### Collections last weekend: 17 May 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$100.00	\$55.00
Montmorency	\$50.00	\$50.00

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



## Child Safeguarding Policies

As we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 lockdown it is a good time to review where we stand with our compliance with parish Child Safety requirements. Unfortunately, at this time only 25% of those on the parish rosters have both a current Working with Children Check and signed the new Code of Conduct Declaration.

As a faith community, we continue to stand united in embracing compliance with our policies and pursuing best practice in safeguarding children and all vulnerable people, in this way we are respecting the inherent value of everyone.

As you are aware it is now a requirement that all volunteers hold a current Working with Children Check or VIT registration that nominates one of our parishes. Also, to have signed the Parish Code of Conduct Declaration.

It is important to understand that it is not possible to undertake a volunteer role within our parishes if you have not complied with these Child Safety requirements.

Copies of the Policies and the Code of Conduct Declaration can be found on both parish websites. In addition, printed copies are available in the parish office.

If you have not had a chance to apply or amend your Working with Children Check/VIT registration or signed the new Parish Code of Conduct Declaration, the links to following Websites may assist:

To apply for a Working with Children Check:

[https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply#Complete\\_online\\_application](https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply#Complete_online_application)

To renew your Working with Children Check:

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/current-cardholders/renew-my-card>

To add the parish to your current Working with Children Check:

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/current-cardholders/update-my-details>

To add the parish to your VIT:

<https://service.vic.gov.au/services/teachers-notifications/>

To access Parish Code of Conduct Declaration:

<https://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=ZGVmYXVsdGRvbWFpbXZzZngzMDk0fGd4OjQyYTY0ZDNjZDU5MzllN2Y>

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who currently comply with Parish Child Safety requirements.

I encourage all other wonderful volunteers to arrange for or included the parish on your Working with Children Checks or VIT registration and to sign the Parish Code of Conduct Declaration as soon as possible.

Signed copies of the Code of Conduct Declaration can be left in the parish office.



# There's no place like home

[Kate Galloway](#) | 13 May 2020

Over the weekend in most Australian states, rules requiring people to stay home were relaxed somewhat. The country has commenced its easing of the significant restrictions on venturing out in public. As we begin to reacquaint ourselves with life outside, it is useful to reflect on the new resonance of 'home' — but also on its inherent limits.



Since the 'soft lockdown' started some weeks ago, 'home' has featured in our consciousness like never before. We have had to stay home, work from home, learn from home, isolate at home. Borders in four states and territories have contained us within our home jurisdiction. Our social interaction has been limited to those ordinarily resident within our homes.

The entire premise of the lockdown — soft or not — is based on home as sanctuary. A place of retreat from the danger posed by engagement outside our bubble, where everyone is a stranger and all strangers are suspect. According to this narrative, inside the home we can perform our work and education, as well as enjoy our leisure activities and our intimate lives. But as home and work merge, their close relationship has become apparent, revealing the limits of our comprehension of home.

At all times, but particularly during the pandemic, home is not safe for everyone. [Family violence was](#) not going to take a break simply because of a virus. The pressures of remaining in effective isolation with limited respite, together with financial pressures associated with job losses and the economic slowdown is likely to have made matters worse. The sanctuary of home has been further challenged by a reported [rise in alcohol consumption](#).

Further, not everyone has a home and during a pandemic many aspects of life for the homeless become exponentially harder. Already shunned in wider society, [physical distancing including in shelters and at communal](#) meals compounds existing isolation experienced by the homeless. Personal

safety of those living rough is compromised where they are now unable to congregate due to physical distancing measures. As homeless people generally suffer worse health than other demographics, the [risk of the virus](#) is amplified by their lack of adequate housing.

But there are other aspects of *home* as a feature of the pandemic that offer a real test for our understanding of how society functions.

Where our homes become our workplace there is a merger of what was private and hidden from the public gaze, with our public persona. Our children are in plain view as we care for them and supervise their learning while we work. Although UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has referred to '[enforced inactivity](#)' of those confined to the home during the lockdown, his statement ignores the daily labour that in normal times prepares us to attend the workplace and that has become visible as it has become co-located with our paid work.

Just as our caring work coincides with our paid work, so too has family violence. What had been a personal safety issue for those in violent homes has now become a question of workplace safety.

And in requiring work from home, for those with inadequate housing, or no housing at all, the very idea of a workplace is thrown into question. This is not limited to homeless people. It extends also to renters, whose claim to home remains somewhat precarious at law.

While the Prime Minister announced [early support for commercial tenancies](#), he left residential tenancies to the state governments. In fact, all tenancies are a state matter. But the Commonwealth government's concern was palpably with restarting the economy rather than supporting home — the very ideal at the heart of its pandemic response.

It was not until late April that the [Queensland parliament](#), for example, passed amendments to its residential tenancy legislation. The amendments provide a definition for hardship arising from COVID-19: illness, or loss of more than 25 per cent of the tenant's income. The provisions allow for a renegotiation of the rent in such circumstances, with conciliation available if the parties cannot agree. There is also a moratorium on evictions for failure to pay rent.

Following [initial strong opposition by the Real Estate Institute of Queensland](#) that the then-proposed amendments went 'too far in favour of tenants', the provisions put in place purport to provide a better 'balance' between the interests of landlord and tenant. This balance seems, however, to be predicated on the importance for landlords of receiving rent. So long [wealth in Australian society depends upon owning property](#), the rights of landlords are likely to continue to override tenants' rights. And this means overriding the importance of home.

COVID-19 has revealed a fracture between concepts of home and safety, home and work, and home and property. As with [short-term responses to homelessness](#) during the pandemic, the residential tenancy moratorium will last only 6 months. And even then, the tenant is left somewhat precariously to negotiate for their home with their landlord, rather than being afforded more substantial protections. And the fiction of home as a synonym for security will continue.

Some are starting to imagine a post-COVID world. The pandemic has allowed a window into a better understanding of the centrality of home to our work and public engagement, and the limits on the concept of home as sanctuary. We should grasp the opportunity of rebuilding to formulate what it means to be home, backed up with substantive policy.



**KATE GALLOWAY IS A LEGAL ACADEMIC WITH AN INTEREST IN SOCIAL JUSTICE. SHE IS PRESENTLY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF LAW AT GRIFFITH LAW SCHOOL.**

## FEAST OF ASCENSION 2020

How will the world change because we have a corona virus? When will air travel resume and countries open their borders? Will a vaccine be found and if so, how long will we wait? How will economies recover and will they recover?

Will we be a more compassionate world as we engage with the stories of people and families who have suffered from the virus? Will we have a deeper appreciation of the medical people who are at risk and have so generously served the community?

On a personal level how are we doing? Have we changed because of the social distancing requirements? Do we miss dearly the hugs, the kisses, the handshakes and when will we be able to do this? Are we more lonely than ever or have we liked the chance to slow down with more time to ourselves?

Are we anxious and fearful of contracting the virus, and even the lifting of some of the restrictions do not bring us joy. If anything this causes us alarm because we are frightened that lifting restrictions will see a spike in the virus.

So many questions and we don't know the answers. Many of us are hoping that our world has changed for the better and many of us also hope that we have become more grateful, compassionate and balanced in our own lives and we are committed to living this way into the future.

What about our Churches? The doors are opening gradually but seemingly it will be a long time before they are fully open to our Sunday gatherings for Eucharist. And what will our Church communities look like when we can come together without restrictions?

So much we don't know and in a strange kind of way today's feast of Ascension can help us find our way. The feast is about Jesus returning home to heaven and passing on the baton to his followers to continue his presence in the world.

It's a strange story of Jesus being taken up into the heavens watched by his disciples who do not know what is happening. Two angels come to them asking the disciples, 'Why are you standing here looking at the sky? This same Jesus will come back to you'.

What the disciples will come to realise is that Jesus does come back to them but in a very different way, as the Risen Jesus gifting them with his presence as they go about proclaiming his story. In their meetings in their homes around the Word of God, and their breaking of the bread and sharing of the cup they knew the Risen Jesus was with them.

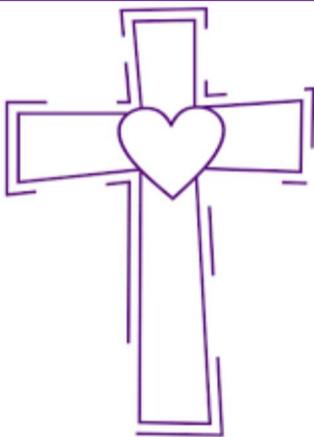
In their courageous witness in the streets of life they knew the Risen Jesus was with them in their courage to speak out the story of Jesus and even give their lives for their faith in Jesus.

How come this Feast of Ascension can help us through these times of corona virus? Can we see a link in our own lives with what was happening to those disciples when they realised their mentor, their friend, their leader had been taken from them? They were surely confused, fearful, without answers but only questions.

It would take time for them to trust the story to come and see where the Risen Jesus was leading them, commissioning them into the future.

Could we say of ourselves that we don't know what the future looks like, but in faith, can we sense the Risen Jesus leading us, commissioning us to be messengers of hope and compassion as we respond to the days ahead of us. How, we do not know as yet, but can we trust that the Risen Jesus is with us as we find our way?

Terry



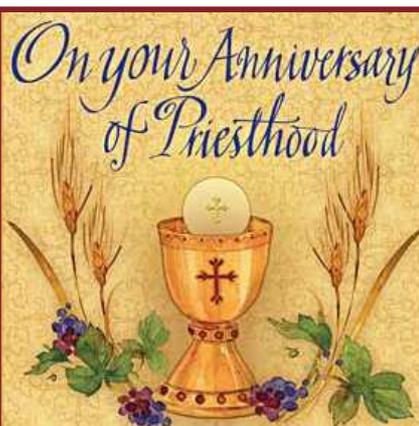
### Caring Group ... spreading God's love to our community.

We practise social distancing, we can't give you a hug or shake your hands, but it doesn't stop us from caring and sending you love.

Our Caring Group spreads God's love and care to the communities of Eltham and Montmorency by preparing and dropping off meals and treats. If you know of a parishioner, a relative, a friend or a neighbour in Eltham or Montmorency, whom you think might benefit from this, please contact Gina Ang, 0423 947858 or [Gina.Ang@cam.org.au](mailto:Gina.Ang@cam.org.au).

If you would like to be part of our Caring Group of Eltham & Montmorency, or to learn more about what we do, please do contact me.

Gina



Fr Kevin Burke

(former Parish Priest at

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham)

is celebrating his 50th anniversary Mass

at St Therese, Essendon

on Saturday 23 May at 5:00pm.

To view this Mass visit [www.stthereses.org.au](http://www.stthereses.org.au)

and click [Mass @ Home](#).

## Prayers of the Faithful for 24 May 2020 The Ascension of the Lord - Jane McKinna

**Celebrant:** On this day when Christ our Lord ascended into heaven, we make our prayers for the Church and the world, trusting that the Father will answer them out of love for his Son.

That the Church through the leadership of Pope Francis, the bishops and all clergy may give witness to the Risen Lord and lead us through this time of significant social change to build a church which is strongly united across all borders. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We remember and give thanks for the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians this week. A special celebration for our parish of Eltham. We pray for all mothers who, like Mary, provide unconditional love to their children and families. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray that our Government continues to keep us safe and make decisions which protect all those and especially those most vulnerable to the corona virus such as our elderly. May we never forget that God cherishes each one of us equally. We pray that we always show God's love, care and acceptance of all, especially the poor and marginalised. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We remember National Reconciliation Week, a week to reflect on the important role of our Indigenous First Australians. May this week bring reflection and prayer to bring us closer to healing historical divides, and bring us towards an Australia which truly recognizes and embraces all cultural differences. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

In this time of great social change, we pray that we remain open and accepting of the new ways to remain a spiritual and prayerful co-parish. May we be guided by the Holy Spirit to seek and question how to build strong faith communities at Eltham and Montmorency even in times of physical separation. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for our first responders who provide health care at this time. In particular we pray for doctors, nurses, researchers, public officials and all who contribute to monitoring and managing our health needs in this difficult time. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are sick and listed in our bulletin. May the spirit of the risen Christ bring them comfort and healing. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who have died recently and give thanks for the lives on earth and the eternal life given by a risen Christ. We pray for their loved ones, acknowledging the feelings of loss and loneliness felt by their families and friends. We pray especially for Pat Longton & Denis Hogan, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Tom Barnsley, Valentina Di Benedetto and John Moylan. Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant:** Father, just as your Son ascended to you, may our prayers rise up before your throne, and may our requests be granted, through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**



Dear Friends,

Mass will be live streamed this weekend, Sunday 24th May, at Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham at 10.00am - **THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD.**

Monday 25th May is the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, at this time of great need in our world we seek her help.



### MASS LIVE-STREAMING

**PENTECOST SUNDAY** - next weekend, Sunday 31st May at St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, Mass will be live streamed at 8.30am.

When the time came for Jesus to leave his Disciples, he promised he would not leave them orphans, but would send an Advocate to be with them, to set their hearts on fire and help them spread the Message of God's love to all. At Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Spirit of God with us.

As we heard last week the restrictions are easing and **10 people** are now able to attend either of these Masses. For those of us who are unable to be physically present just yet, we are able to join in from our own homes.

Click on this link <http://tiny.cc/lbe4oz> to join in one or both of these Masses.



## Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



## Reflection

The gospel text consists of the last five verses of Matthew's gospel. It does not contain a description of the ascension, though the commission Jesus gives the Eleven implies his imminent departure. This is the paradox: Jesus is to become absent even as he promises his disciples to be "with you always; yes, to the end of time".

As is true of many of the stories of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection, there is a tantalising degree of obscurity and ambiguity. Why did Jesus direct them to Galilee (28:10)? On what mountain are they meeting and what significance might this have? Why were some overcome with awe while others hesitated?

For all this uncertainty, Jesus' commission to the Eleven is crystal clear. They are sent on a universal mission, with a mandate to teach and to baptise. The Trinitarian formula is exceptional in the New Testament; its inclusion here may reflect baptismal practice in Matthew's own community. The whole gospel concludes as it began: with the absolute assurance of the enduring presence of Emmanuel, God with us.

**Break Open the Word 2020**

Rosters - 30 & 31 May	
<i>Montmorency</i>	
Ramsdale, John	PRYR
<i>Eltham</i>	
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Ryan Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Calendar of Events		
<i>Saturday, 23 May</i>		
6:00pm	Montmorency	Mass
<i>Sunday, 24 May</i>		
8:30am	Montmorency	Mass
10:00am	Eltham	<a href="#">Mass - live-streamed</a>
<i>Tuesday, 26 May</i>		
9:30am	Montmorency	Mass
<i>Wednesday, 27 May</i>		
9:30am	Eltham	Mass
<i>Thursday, 28 May</i>		
9:30am	Montmorency	Mass
<i>Friday, 29 May</i>		
9:30am	Eltham	Mass
<i>Saturday, 30 May</i>		
6:00pm	Montmorency	Mass
<i>Sunday, 31 May</i>		
8:30am	Montmorency	<a href="#">Mass - live-streamed</a>
10:00am	Eltham	Mass

## The Swag Winter 2020 edition

With the suspension of Sunday Masses around the country, copies of the Winter edition of The Swag will not be available for collection.

**However, the National Council of Priests of Australia Inc are offering free online access to a Page Turner and a PDF of the Winter 2020 edition.**

Go to [www.theswag.org.au](http://www.theswag.org.au) and on the home page click on the yellow box (see image above).

Hopefully by the Spring edition we will all be back to some sort of normality.