



# 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.



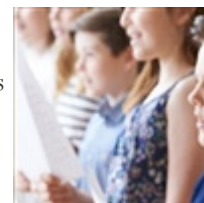
## PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST: CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 2020

Catholic Communications Office

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Child Protection Week (6-12 September). The theme for 2020, 'Putting Children First', was chosen by the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) and underscores the need to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children in all aspects of our community and family life.

The occasion is of great significance for the Catholic Church in Australia as it emphasises the need for a continuous commitment to effectively safeguard children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

Partnered with the commitment to safeguard those most at risk, the Church also acknowledges the devastating harm caused by the sexual abuse of children by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic settings.



**OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**  
We commit to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protecting them from harm.

**You are special and will always be welcome in our Church.**

What you think and feel is important to us.

We will make sure our leaders and helpers understand their responsibilities to keep you safe.

We respect you just the way you are.

If you feel unsafe or are worried about someone else's safety, we will listen and take this seriously.

We will help you to be safe. This means that if you are being hurt or are in danger of being hurt, we will speak to the Police or another person who can help you.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT  
Phone 0622 5621 Email psu@melb.catholic.edu.au

'Although the Pandemic has changed the way we are all living and working, it doesn't change what is most important,' said Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.

'For Christians, the Lord Jesus shows us that at all times, the most vulnerable among us are those requiring our greatest care. Our priority is to ensure the safety and the protection of children at all times.'



I am sad and angered that the Church has not always been a place that has put children first. We continue to address the horror of abuse, and I will continue to meet with survivors of abuse, hearing and trusting them, and helping our Church be continually converted.'

In the lead up to and during Child Protection Week, the Professional Standards Unit of the Archdiocese will be offering some resources to ensure all of our local parishes and ministries can become places that support children and young people, and their right to be safe and feel safe.

To grow up well, children need to feel safe and loved, have a chance to play and explore, have a say in decisions that affect them, and access to essential things like food, shelter and healthcare. For children to thrive we need to come together as a community and put children's needs first during National Child Protection Week and every week.

(Further information and resources available at: [MelbourneCatholic](http://MelbourneCatholic)), submitted by Peter Williams, Child Safety Officer, SFX & OLHC

It is not flesh and blood,  
but the **heart** which makes us fathers and sons.

Friedrich Von Schiller



This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community.  
For more information visit [pol.org.au/eltham](http://pol.org.au/eltham) or [pol.org.au/montmorency](http://pol.org.au/montmorency).  
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](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)

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

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

Gina Ang:

Pastoral Worker & Caring Group Co-Ord—**Eltham**

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

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

[SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

Website:

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

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

(pol stands for Parish OnLine)

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)

#### **RECONCILIATION**

Saturday, 10:30am Monty ~ Terry

1/2 hr prior to any mass said by Michael

#### **Collections last weekend: 30 August 2020**

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham		
Montmorency		

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

**CDFPay:** (alternate thanksgiving options)

Montmorency - <https://bit.ly/MontyCDFPay>

Eltham - <https://bit.ly/ElthamCDFPay>

#### **Montmorency**

For the recently deceased:

*Geoffrey Harris (SA), Merv Thomas*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Antonia Capuana, Ivy May Caulfield, Ursula Doss, John Elliott, Don Horne, Noreen & Eric Wohlfahrt,*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Baby Kylie, Sriyani Algama, Nikki Attwood, Robert Baker, Justine Best, Fr Glen Bourke, Ray Bowman, Kristina Brazaitis, Desmond Deehan, Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Julian Forrester, Gennie Hannon, Samuel Hauser (Kyabram), Val Hayes, Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tina Inserra, Adrian Jones, Kate Lagerewskij, Erin McLindon, Hasti Momeni, Therese Moore, Patricia Mulholland, Montagna Mustica, Hyler Nagapatan (Philippines), Graham Neal, Geoffrey Nyssen, Mercy Ocon, Ron Pfeil, Susan Phelan, Andrew Pighin, Terry Said, Anthony Salvatore, Mary Salvatore, Maria Schroeders, Jeanette Steward, John Tobin, Bruno Treglia, Isaac Treglia, Aldo Viapiana, Sheryn Zurzolo.*

#### **Eltham**

For the recently deceased;

*John Gonzales*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

*Ada Beech, Rosemary Lee*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Robyn Atherton, Francisco Azarcon, Hugh & Iris Azzopardi, Baby Harriet Banks, Ray Bowman, Geoff Bunton, Andrew & Lucinda Collier, Albina Croce, Eileen Culbertson, Jon D'Crux, Claire Dakwar, Ruth Decker, Marlis Dopheide, Maria George, Dennis Goddard, Luke Hawthorne-Smith, Mary Irani, Diana Jackson, Jeanette Jenkins, Maureen Jenkins, Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen, Jo Porter, Barry Scully, Kath Wheelahan.*

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

#### *Gina's Update...*





# Father's Day

What is most precious/special for me about being a father? The thing I find most special and precious about being a father (right now – because it has changed over time and I suspect it will continue to change!), is receiving the gift of faith and trust that two little people can have in me. It is quite overwhelming to see, experience and feel the sense of safety and belief that these little beings can have in me at times. As they jump on me, argue with me, hug me, wrestle with me, ask questions of me, tell me they love me ... I truly feel blessed. I hope I can continue to be the father they need me to be – prepared to evolve, morph and work alongside their beautiful mum – my wife – in ways most useful for them (and in manners that I can deal and cope with)!!  
Mark Kulkens

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It was thirty-nine years ago this week that I first became a father. It was one of the most significant events in my life and I still remember the day as clearly as if it was yesterday. When I held my daughter that day, I felt an overwhelming sense of wonder. I remember for the first time I finally understood what life was all about. Becoming a father gave me a sense of understanding, a purpose in life, a clarity of vision and a clear direction in life. I thought I knew what love was at that time but when I held that little baby, I fully appreciated what pure love was all about. Throughout the years and the trials and tribulations of being a parent, that love has never faded and is as strong as ever for all my children and now my grandchildren. If this love is only a miniscule of the love our Heavenly Father has for us, then we are truly blessed.  
Greg Northrop

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**What does it mean to be a father? Your life is not about you!** To be perfectly honest, I did not always want to be a father. In fact, as I became an adult, surrounded by the cultural views around me, I was more focused on getting a good job, having a successful career and all those worldly things that, not being bad in themselves, really distract you from thinking about what really your life is about. I spent years from one project to the next, from one job to another, even moving from country to country. Living a “nice” worldly, self-centred life, which was not really taking me any closer to God.

But God did not give up on me and simply allow me to go my own way; instead God knew what was best for me better than I did. So, everything changed when I met my beautiful wife and soon got married; in a few years God blessed us with three amazing daughters. Since then, God keeps working in my heart in very small increments, one nappy change at a time, one sleepless night at a time, one very early morning drive to sports practice at a time. Like a patient craftsman working on very unworthy raw material, God keeps showing me that my life as a father is to follow the steps of the silent and generous St. Joseph, supporting all in my family in their growth, reflecting the light of God in so many ways.  
Carlos Rodriguez



Father's Day is not Parent's Day. I am writing about the outstanding aspects of, literally, paternalism. I will try to explain it so you can understand. It's been said that a man is more able to remain childlike than a woman. I have enjoyed wrestling with my son and piggybacking my daughters into their teens. I love the traits we share. For us there's mutual interest in words, in the details, in 'planes and games. I trust you delight in some common ground with your father. Sometimes I get to be the villain, when my wife tells a miscreant “Dad's coming up the stairs, better watch out”. Then I stomp a little harder on those boards. It is not all meant to be easy. Joseph was a refugee tradie wed in awkward circumstances, who lost his Son on a caravan trip. Parents can be complementary guides towards a child's own adulthood. The happiness a child gets from an achievement is multiplied by the pride we parents feel. Though that guidance is reward enough, my parents also lovingly cared for my weakening grandparents. Maybe parenting can be disability insurance too! Please do something your dad would like today. Whether nearby or not, he will be proud.

John McClelland

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We were married at 21 and had our first child of ten when we were 22. In those days, I would leave Barbara at the door of the hospital and wait for the call to come and see her and our new born. I soon discovered that love has not limits and each baby was as precious as the last. I was blessed to have Barbara as a wife as we worked together to bring up our kids.

My guidelines were LOVE, RESPECT, FREEDOM within set boundaries, ACCEPTANCE of their choices, while exercising a firm discipline. My children knew I have no favorites and I would treat each differently according to needs. This led to lots of fun and laughter and the best parties, BBQs and holidays that live long in their memories. Money was scarce but I was able to impress on our children that family is all important and I witness everyday how our children live by that mantra and I am overawed by how they have put the hard times and my mistakes in the past, and how they treat each other and are rewarding me a hundredfold.  
Ian Bibby

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No one warned me that being a dad would be so complicated, or exhausting, stressful, full on, challenging, amazing, incredible, beautiful, enriching, or fulfilling. Our children (young people) are the second most amazing gift that God has blessed me with (Nat, is of course, the most amazing). God's beautiful circle of life gives us many opportunities to live fully and to grow and being a dad is one of those particularly busy but amazing parts of living life fully. I remember being out and about with our first-born, Dom when he was still very new to the world and someone (probably at church) commented that they grow up fast and advised me to make the most of it while they are still around. Many of you won't be surprised to read that those 17 years have passed in a blink of an eye. It's precious precious time while they're still living with us and (so I am told) precious in a different way once they move out. My prayer for all dads today is that we make the most of every moment, tuned into God so that we can help our children to make the most of their lives – and so help to make God's light shine through.

Duncan Bucknell



Timothy Radcliffe: All we can do is listen to the Lord who speaks in a low whisper

As he approaches the age of 75, a former master of the Dominican order finds himself pondering the eternal question - the same question God put to Elijah / BY TIMOTHY RADCLIFFE

# ‘What are you here for?’

I suppose that nearly everyone asks the question “What should I do next?” at some time in our lives; as one finishes one’s education, perhaps, or when struck by some sort of mid-life crisis, or as one nears the end.

My latest book, and probably my last, *Alive in God: A Christian Imagination*, was published last autumn. It includes most of what I have been wanting to say during the last few years. Of course, there is no reason to expect that God would want anything in particular from me now. Even in the gerontocracy of the Catholic Church, bishops offer their resignation at this age and hang up their mitres. But I had a feeling that there might be some new task to be done, or question to explore, or challenge to which I must respond. So I asked for six months’ sabbatical to ponder this. My idea was to listen to the Lord by studying the Scriptures, to have times of silence and see what, if anything, I might hear.

I began with a month in the Dominican Biblical School in Jerusalem, and flew back to England a couple of days before lockdown. Then the sabbatical was gobbled up in responding to a tsunami of emails and Zoomed meetings, preparing articles and homilies. As for so many people, social isolation did not turn out to mean endless free time. But in the rare moments of silence and tranquillity, the question continued to haunt me: what, if anything, comes next? What does the Lord want of me?

**When I preached** on Elijah’s visit to Mount Horeb in 1 Kings 19, I found a sort of non-answer which may resonate with others. Elijah flees the horrible Jezebel who, infuriated by his slaughtering of the prophets of Baal, seeks his life. He staggers to the Mount of God, seeking God’s help. The narrative pivots around the question that God puts to Elijah both before and after the great epiphany. In the RSV this is translated as “What are you doing here?” In the Hebrew, there is no reference to *doing* anything: “What are you here for?” It has an uncanny resemblance to the question I had been putting to myself.

God’s questions are far more disconcerting than his commandments. At the beginning there is God’s question to the fallen Adam who is hiding in the Garden of

Eden, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:9). There are God’s terrifying questions to Job: “Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me” (38:3). Jesus concludes the parable of the Good Samaritan with a question: “Which of the three proved neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?” (Luke 10:37). John concludes his Gospel with an enigmatic question to Peter: “If it is my will that he [the Beloved Disciple] remains until I come, what is that to you?” Revelation is usually thought of as God telling us what to do but more often it is being put on the spot by God’s probing, disconcerting questions.

So alone on the mountain, Elijah is confronted with the question we all ask sometimes: “What are you here for?” He thinks he knows the answer. Unlike God, Elijah rages and roars like a mighty storm, a great fire, a human earthquake. “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts.” “I alone am left, and they seek to take my life.” I, I, I. It’s all about *him*. He thinks it is time for God to pull his weight in the Elijah story.

But God subverts his narrative. He commands Elijah to play his part in a story that is not primarily about him. He must go and anoint the King of Syria and the King of Israel. And then there is the real blow. He must anoint his successor. He is about to be replaced. And it is simply untrue that it is he and he *alone* who has been faithful. Seven thousand knees have not bowed to Baal nor mouths kissed him.

**Elijah has a** pivotal role to play in the story of our salvation. So much so that in the time of Jesus, many awaited his return from heaven. They even wonder if John the Baptist or Jesus might be Elijah come back. But that is not the role that Elijah thought he had, which revolved around himself. “What are you here for?” Not for what he thought.

St John Henry Newman famously said: “God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught.”

Every one of us, I expect, comes to our Mount Horeb from time to time to ask what is the purpose of our lives. It may be as we finish our education and ponder our career choices. In Richard Linklater’s marvellous film, *Boyhood*, Mason is sitting in the desert with a new friend, wondering what it is all about. She replies that although people often are told to seize the moment, “it’s the moment that seizes us”, as it seized Elijah on the mountain.

Halfway through our working life, we wonder whether we need radically to change direction. Think of people who have startled their friends by giving up lucrative jobs in the City to become school teachers. Or maybe when we are old, like me, we ask whether there is any last task or project I should take up. But in every case, the liberation is to find oneself in some narrative which is not about me. We know that we are not created for naught, but what we are created for is to play some walk-on part in God’s universal drama.

**We may never** know for what we are here. All we can do is to listen to the Lord who does not bellow but speaks in a low whisper, a still small voice, in what Lukasz Popko OP of the Biblical School tells me is best translated as “a thin silence” (1 Kings 19:11-12). What I hear may be some major new orientation of my life, or just a small nudge to do something today.

“And the end of all our exploring / Will be to arrive where we started / And know the place for the first time” (T.S. Eliot, *Four Quartets*). This has been the experience of my non-sabbatical. The question remains: what am I here for? It does not matter that the answer is no clearer. Terry Eagleton claims that “the most flourishing acts are those performed as though they were one’s last, and thus accomplished not for their consequences but for their own sake”.

I just know what I must do *today*, which is to answer the editor’s request to write for *The Tablet’s* 180th anniversary year on what it is like to turn 75.

**Timothy Radcliffe OP** is a former master of the Dominicans. *Alive in God: A Christian Imagination* is published by Bloomsbury.

## OBITUARY

# Pedro Casaldaliga

A key figure in the Brazilian Church since the 1960s and a keen promoter of the 'option for the poor' who was not afraid to defend liberation theology in the face of hostility from Rome

FRANCIS McDONAGH

Pedro ("Pere" in his native Catalan) Casaldaliga y Pla, who died on 8 August, was one of the generation of Brazilian bishops who made the "option for the poor" the cornerstone of their ministry.

Born in 1928 in Balsareny, in the province of Barcelona in Catalonia, Spain, Casaldaliga joined the Claretian order in 1943 and was ordained priest in 1952. He left for Brazil in 1968, where the dictatorship which had begun in 1964 was entering its most brutal phase. He spent his first years getting to know his mission territory, which meant that on the day he was ordained as bishop of the diocese of Sao Felix do Araguaia in 1971 he was able to publish his first pastoral letter, which a leading sociologist was to describe as "one of the most important documents in the social history of Brazil". The title was his personal manifesto: "An Amazon Church in conflict with large landholdings and social exclusion".

The big landowners feared and loathed him. That same year brought the first assassination plot, thwarted when the designated assassin confessed the plot to Casaldaliga and was smuggled out of the area. Pope Paul VI, who had appointed him, declared: "Anyone who touches Pedro touches Paul." In 1976 there was another attempt, when Casaldaliga and the Jesuit missionary, Joao Bosco Penido Burnier, went to investigate a report that two women were being tortured. The Jesuit, being bulkier and taller than the frail Casaldaliga, was mistaken for the bishop and killed with a shot to the head.

Casaldaliga was a poet, and amongst his best-known works are the contributions he made to "The Mass of the Quilombos" (the settlements founded by runaway slaves), which gives a voice to the experience of Afro-Brazilians; and the "Mass of the Land without Evil", a celebration of ecological redemption in terms of Amerindian mythology. Despite



the pleas of the Brazilian bishops, the Vatican refused to allow these works to be used in the liturgy. Some of the songs, however, have become a fixed part of the celebrations of Brazilian base communities, especially one that addresses Our Lady as an Afro-Brazilian, "Negra Mariama", described by the theologian Clodovis Boff as "a black Magnificat". Pope Francis quoted one of Casaldaliga's poems - "Carta de Navegante (Por el Tocantins amazonico)" - in *Querida Amazonia*. Casaldaliga's work can be sampled in English in *The Spirituality of Liberation*, published in 1994 and now available as a free download.

Casaldaliga was involved in the founding of two of the Brazilian Church's key agencies, Conselho Indigenista Missionario (CIMI), dedicated to the support of the Indigenous peoples, and the Pastoral Land Commission, which works to defend small farmers against the violence of large landowners. After the 1979 Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua, Casaldaliga made annual visits to Nicaragua and El Salvador. The bishops, then implacably opposed to the revolution, refused to meet him, so he met and celebrated the Eucharist with communities that supported the Sandinistas.

After Pope John Paul II's visit to Nicaragua in 1983, when he clashed with Catholics who supported the Sandinistas, Casaldaliga wrote to the Pope suggesting that his advisors had misled him. He went on to argue to the fiercely anti-communist Pope that the Church should have a dialogue with the socialist regimes: "Is it only with socialism and *sandinismo* that the Church cannot have a critical dialogue? It dialogued with the Roman Empire, with feudalism and has been happily dialoguing with the

bourgeoisie and capitalism, often uncritically. Isn't it dialoguing with the Reagan administration?"

John Paul's reaction is not recorded, but Casaldaliga, who had not been on the normal five-yearly *ad limina* visits to Rome, was summoned to the Vatican in June 1988, where he was interviewed by the then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in his capacity as prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and other cardinals. A statement was produced for him to sign as an acknowledgment of his errors. He did not sign it. He was ordered not to talk about his meetings, but he refused. "The Church has too many secrets," he said. He later told the press that he was questioned about liberation theology, his Masses and his visits to Nicaragua. He also had 15 minutes with the Pope. Casaldaliga reported that the Pope embraced him, saying in Portuguese: "This is to show you that I am not a man-eater."

Casaldaliga returned to Sao Felix to continue the life he described in one volume of his diaries as "rebellious faithfulness". He was already suffering from Parkinson's disease, "Brother Parkinson", as he described it, and increasingly required help with everyday tasks.

After he retired in 2005, he continued to live in his simple compound in Sao Felix. At the beginning of August this year he began to have breathing difficulties, and was airlifted to an intensive care unit in a Claretian hospital in Batatais in the state of Sao Paulo, but suffered a pulmonary embolism. His body was returned to Sao Felix and buried in a cemetery beside the Araguaia River.

*Pedro Casaldaliga, bishop; born Balsareny, Spain, 16 February 1928, died Batatais, Brazil, 8 August 2020.*

Francis McDonagh writes for The Tablet on Latin America.



Dear God,  
Spring is a metaphor for change. Some changes we eagerly await, and some we abhor.  
Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited. To all these changes we ask the gift of  
Your perspective beckoning us to expectation, hope and rebirth.  
May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the Earth. As a  
God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives too.  
Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new  
life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name.  
Amen

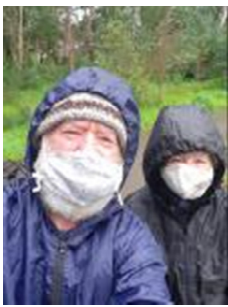
Rev Mark Bekkedahl



Calendar of Events		
<b>Sunday, 6 September</b>		
10:00am	Eltham	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )
<b>Sunday, 13 September</b>		
10:00am	Montmorency	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )

Rosters - 12 & 13 September	
<b>Montmorency</b>	
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Collins, Leo	GRDN
<b>Eltham</b>	
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Rough Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society

## Monty & Eltham : what Lockdown 2.0 looks like for us...



On the hunt for Wattle Scarecrows



### Walking in the rain...

Please send through your pictures of what Lockdown 2.0 looks like for you.

By sending a picture you agree to it's use in the bulletin etc.



### The Nillumbik Trail Sustainable House Day Saturday 19 September

Re-imagine the possibilities for your home to be more comfortable and inexpensive to run.

Insulation, double glazing, solar, heat pumps, draught proofing... sometimes it's hard to know where to start! Join video tours and live online Q&A sessions with home owners to gather inspiration about simple actions that you can take. Their first-hand experience will show you it's possible.

**Event:** The Nillumbik Trail – Sustainable House Day

**When:** Saturday 19 September

**What:** Zoom Q&A sessions with local homeowners

**Time:** Choose 30 minute sessions during 9:00am – 4:30pm

**Register:** [www.cleanenergynillumbik.org.au/events](http://www.cleanenergynillumbik.org.au/events)

## Live-Stream Masses

Spring is in the air, every sight and every sound, and as I took my daily walk, I noticed an encouraging chalked message left on the footpath: **'To lose patience, is to lose the fight'** Gandhi. So, it is with patience we continue to connect as best we can without the human touch, that touch which nourishes and sustains our human nature. As we patiently wait to be able to celebrate Eucharist again in a touching, real way, we continue with connecting by way of the live-streaming Mass. Let us unite in prayer today for all you wonderful Fathers, including Fr Terry and Fr Michael, doing a great job, remembering those for whom today will be a painful or difficult day.

We leave the steps below in case you still require them to help stay connected:

1. Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), type: olhc sfx youtube (click search)
2. OLHC SFX YouTube will appear (click on it)
3. You will see the thumbnail of Masses already streamed
4. You will see somewhere on the screen 'subscribe' (red box) (click it)
5. Then click on any of the Masses or watch the live-streaming of Mass of the day

*'Family love is like the wind: instinctive, raw, fragile, beautiful, at times angry, but always unstoppable. It is our collective breath. It is the world's greatest force ... It is our last miracle.'*  
James McBride

Patsy & Team (0429 439 675)



## Season of Creation

Pope Francis is encouraging parishes and schools to participate in a Season of Creation, commencing September 1 and ending October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. We are called to prayer, reflection and action towards care of our common home, the planet Earth.

## Homily

Isn't it interesting how in these Covid 19 times the children in many situations have become the parents: "No Mum and Dad, you have to stay home. We'll do the shopping."

It's rather lovely in a way, as the children are really saying how much they love and care for their parents. They don't want their Mum or Dad to catch the virus and they have become the protectors.

In saying this however, what a different Fathers' Day we have this Sunday and we certainly spare a thought and prayer for all the Dads in our community. Sadly they will not be able to be with their families, unless the children are young and still at home. Many of our Dads will not see their grandchildren, let alone their children and this is a real loss for them.

For those Dads who have children living with them, it may be a very different story. Perhaps Covid 19 has brought an opportunity for them to have more time with their families. In online shopping these days, apparently board games are very popular and isn't this a blessing when families spend more fun times together.

All this reminds me of a Wedding Reception I attended a very long time ago. A large Italian Reception of Robert and Louise, hundreds of guests there and it came time for speeches. Robert's dad was invited to say a few words.

Slowly and nervously he made his way to the microphone and he began to speak his words. He looked at Robert his son and said in words like this, 'Robert, I'm told that as a Dad you are meant to enjoy your children. You do things together, play and have time together. Sadly in your childhood I never really did this. I was out working long hours and thought I was doing the right thing, making sure we had enough money and comforts. Tonight I congratulate you and Louise and wish you all the best in your married life. And I ask your forgiveness for my failures as a Dad.'

As he came back to his table, his wife, Robert's mother, just put her hand over his hand. A profound moment of recognition and support. What a courageous speech from a Dad and who knows how his son responded. Robert didn't say anything in his own speech but perhaps their relationship was very changed, for the better.

We might puzzle as to why Robert's Dad chose this moment of his son and daughter-in-law's Wedding to make his apology. Couldn't he have made his apology to Robert on his own?

That would seem consistent with the Gospel today where Jesus outlines a way of resolving disputes, in talking it out one on one first. If that doesn't work, take one or two others along as witnesses and if that doesn't work, report it to the community. And if that doesn't work, treat the brother or sister who has done something wrong as an outsider.

We don't know all the story of Robert and his Dad and perhaps they had tried to resolve their situation and it hadn't worked. Who knows? But here was the community celebration of the Wedding and here now was a Dad seeking reconciliation, being so honest, putting his son first and his own honour second, being a Dad who could see his mistakes and wanted it to be different in the future.

And this is what the Gospel is really about today, putting reconciliation at the heart of relationships.

Today we say Happy Fathers' Day to all the Dads. You will all tell your own story and for so many of you it will be a very happy story of being a Father. For some others of you it will be a mixed story of ups and downs and perhaps some unfinished agenda that can still find a way to healing and forgiveness. And let's think of those of us who miss our Dads who have died. May they be home in the fullness of God's love.

Terry

## My jar of olives

### March

Every morning I open up my fridge and there you are on the top shelf, my special olive jar. I bought you on the last day of normal shopping. Those times seem a long way off now, when I could take a leisurely stroll around Woollies, always bumping into someone I knew. I allow myself one delicious olive a day. I enjoy the sour and bitter notes and appreciate the unique flavour. I don't know how many olives are in the jar. Each day I wonder if there will be enough to keep up with demand. I fear not as this situation is likely to drag on for some months yet. During this time little things assume great relevance.

### Update on the last day of April!!

First full shop in Woollies at 7 am. Had the aisles to myself and felt quite comfortable in my disposable gloves!! The olive jar has been reduced to one third. I think it will last!

### Update near the end of June

Plunged back into high infection rates... olives are somewhere in the fridge. Toilet paper panic is on again... making tentative plans for a break at Sorrento chez Stuyfbergen's.. Maybe Phillip Island tomorrow...

### 3rd July

All above are cancelled. Now its late July... numbers still rising Elastic is the new toilet paper. So many people are making masks... everyone must wear one outside.

**August 18th...** olives all gone and thinking about buying some more. Linked up to Woollies online shopping... took me an hour to sift through my options and then just before checkout... Sorry you haven't spent enough. What do I need? Nothing! Back to the infernal lists. Lamb is expensive but what the heck, anything to release me from this retail agony. The delivery fee is \$13... a nice little earner for Woollies! Hope those lovely drivers are getting a slice of the action!

Darn!! I forgot the olives!!

Barbara Hermans



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### Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'



### Reflection

After the conclusion from chapter 16 read last Sunday, all of chapter 17 is omitted and we move ahead to the middle of chapter 18. This chapter constitutes the fourth of the five discourses or sermons that Matthew incorporates into his gospel. This one is his discourse on the Church or his Community Sermon.

It soon became evident in the life of the early Church that it was not a perfect society. Individuals sinned and communities splintered. A dispute resolution process needed to be developed. This is what Matthew offers in today's reading. A sinner is to be approached first by the individual, then by two or three others, then by the community. If all this fails, he is to be treated like a "pagan or a tax collector" - an ironic un-Christian use of these terms, given that Jesus' teaching and practice made such people insiders not outsiders!

Matthew adds two further statements. The first one extends to the community the power to bind and loose that had been given to Peter earlier in the gospel. The second combines two fundamental assertions. One, that when two or three agree on what to pray for, their prayer will be answered; and two, that Jesus is present whenever "two or three meet in my name". This last declaration provides a warrant for the Second Vatican Council's teaching on Christ's presence in the worshipping assembly.

**Break Open the Word 2020**

### Prayers of the Faithful for 6 September 2020 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebrant: "Whatever other commandment there may be - you shall love your neighbor as yourself." Let us turn to the Lord and place our needs before the God who saves us.

Help us to be gentle with ourselves and with others during all the difficulties and challenges of isolation and separation. May we be conscious of God's loving presence in our daily lives. Help us to find comfort in simplicity, in the security of the everyday, and in the beauty of our natural environment.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are struggling with a loss of self, who feel isolated and cut off from the support of family and friends. For those who have lost employment or educational opportunities, or who face an uncertain future within our country. Help us to find ways to reach out, to extend friendship, connection, and support. We pray for hope and a renewed optimism for our future.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for teachers and families juggling work, home and schooling, for students preparing for VCE and final assessments. May God's gentle love bring all a sense of calm, confidence and direction.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

"Where two or three are gathered in my name there I am in the midst of them." Unable to gather in community, may we still feel the warmth and connection of God's love for us all. Help us to discover new ways to support, love and be present for each other.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Faced with the heightened challenges and anxiety of restriction and precaution, we remember especially all those who are ill, and those who care for them. We give thanks and pray for all who work in health professions.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our government leaders, especially here in Victoria as we try to emerge from the current lockdown period. Grant our leaders the wisdom to be informed and discerning, and the compassion to act for the safety and welfare of all.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died, John Gonzales, Geoffrey Harris and Merv Thomas; and those whose anniversaries occur around this time including Ada Beech, Antonia Capuana, Ivy May Caulfield, Urszula Doss, John Elliott, Don Horne, Rosemary Lee, and Noreen & Eric Wohlfahrt. We pray for all who have lost a loved one during current restrictions and have been as yet unable to gather together to farewell and celebrate their life story.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Let us place our trust in the Lord.

**All: Amen.**