

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 New Season - A New Start Welcome Back & Welcome Home

As if the Covid19 virus knows our Church timetable - we start again, with the first Sunday of Advent - this new season of the church's calendar year leads us all to the possibility of new birth in Jesus Christ.

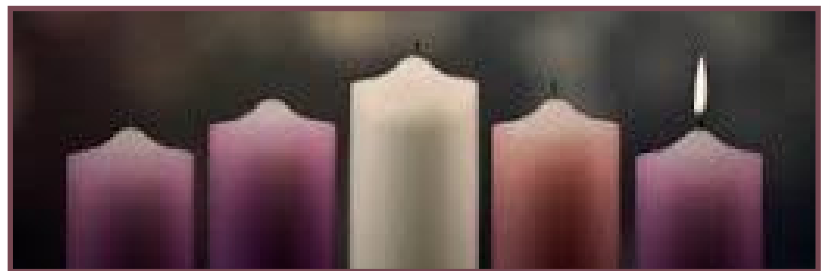
In the Southern Hemisphere we also start the warm summer season too!

As a nation, with limited numbers of the Coronavirus present in our society, we also begin a new way of living in society - Covid Normal - until the availability of a vaccine for our population is rolled out, several months from now! This vaccine, once in our community, will be our only hope to a normal way of daily life that we took for granted 12 months ago, before this Covid19 virus spread so rapidly throughout our world.

What you need to know:

80 people can now attend Sunday and weekday Masses at Monty & Eltham.

Our Church area inside allows for the appropriate spacing requirements from the Health Authorities, Government & Archdiocese of Melbourne.



Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals also follow this 80 people threshold while inside our churches of St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady Help of Christians because of our given footprint (density quotient of 1 person per 4sq.m.). If this social spacing changes in the next few months to half that, as in Queensland & New South Wales - we will be able to double our numbers!

What you need to do:

- Please: **Sign In** - on the sheets provided.
- Please: continue to wear a **mask/face covering** - while inside our churches.
- Please: use **hand sanitizer**.
- Please: socially distance from each other **1.5 metres apart**.

Please: **leave every second pew vacant** - so that no one sits directly behind or in front of you during any service. Obviously, families can sit together, but must socially distance from another family or person unknown to them - out of respect for their health and yours too.

This is all wonderful news for our strong Catholic Communities of SFX and OLHC, but it is certainly **NEW** and definitely not the Normal way - but for now it is an acceptable way forward to pray and be together!

Michael

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 or pol.org.au/montmorency.

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



PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION

OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



Parish Priests

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum

terry.kean@cam.org.au

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

Barry Caldwell

Parish Office

86 Mayona Road

9435 2178

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

montmorency@cam.org.au

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

eltham@cam.org.au

Gina Ang:

Pastoral Worker &

Caring Group Co-Ord—**Eltham**

gina.ang@cam.org.au

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au

Website:

www.pol.org.au/montmorency

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

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

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

Collections last weekend: 22 Nov 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$420.00	\$250.00
Montmorency	\$1,205.00	\$264.20

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/CDFpayMontmorency>
Eltham - <https://bit.ly/CDFpayEltham>



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Alan Anderson, Joe Ciavola, John Crimmins, Christopher Kenny

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, Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Julian Forrester, Gennie Hannon, Samuel Hauser (Kyabram), Val Hayes, Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tania Inserra, Tina Inserra, Adrian Jones, Angus Kossatz, Kate Lagerewskij, Erin McLindon, Hasti Momeni, Therese Moore, Patricia Mulholland, Montagna Mustica, Graham Neal, Geoffrey Nyssen, Mercy Ocon, Ron Pfeil, Susan Phelan, Andrew Pighin, Anthony Salvatore, Mary Salvatore, Sr Amor Samonte RGS (Philippines), Maria Schroeders, Jeanette Steward, John Tobin, Aldo Viapiana, Sheryn Zurzolo.

Eltham

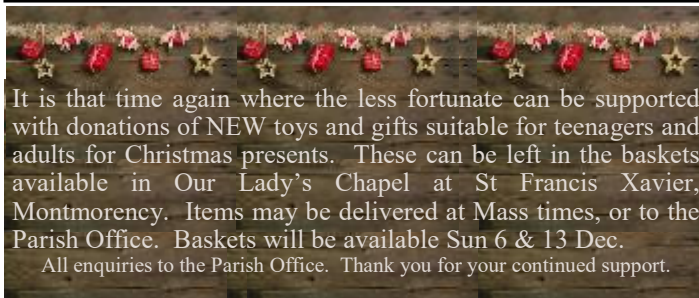
For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Robyn Atherton, Ray Bowman, Kate Boyce, Geoff Bunton, Andrew & Lucinda Collier, Albina Croce, Eileen Culbertson, Jon D'Cruz, Ruth Decker, Dennis Goddard, Luke Hawthorne-Smith, Jack Issai, Diana Jackson, Jeanette Jenkins, Maureen Jenkins, Moira Lyons, Val McDonough, Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen, Kath Wheelahan.

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



It is that time again where the less fortunate can be supported with donations of NEW toys and gifts suitable for teenagers and adults for Christmas presents. These can be left in the baskets available in Our Lady's Chapel at St Francis Xavier, Montmorency. Items may be delivered at Mass times, or to the Parish Office. Baskets will be available Sun 6 & 13 Dec. All enquiries to the Parish Office. Thank you for your continued support.

November Remembrances...

Leo & Penny O'Connor; Eileen & Albert Nioa;
Ellen Bentley; Bernie Farrell;
Maria, Vladyslav & Janina Rygala;
Ryszard, Teresa & Zbigniew Cichacki;
Janina Vrszcz;
Kyszard Klepacz;
Anthony & Elizabeth Corera;
Denis Morganti;
John & Flo Morganti;
Martin Shelley;
Irene Shelley; Kevin Shelley;
Margaret Dalton;
Carol O'Keeffe;
Neil O'Keeffe



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT 2020

Restrictions are easing and life is opening up again. Some of us are already finding there's too much to do as we prepare for Christmas. Yet for many of us, we are relieved that the long days of home isolation are over and we can see people again. We are so glad to have more to do as we prepare for Christmas.

Right now we come to this season of Advent, sometimes called 'the season of waiting', as we prepare for the Christmas Feast. Waiting has certainly been very much a feature of this 2020 year. We have waited for the restrictions to ease, for the chance to gather as families again, for being able to welcome someone into our homes, for shops to open and businesses to resume trade, for a chance to holiday again. We are waiting for a vaccine.

We spend so much time waiting. We wait in queues at supermarkets. We wait for a bus, a tram or a train. We wait for a phone call. We wait in a doctor's or a dentist's surgery.

We wake up in the early hours of the morning and wait for the dawn to come and the alarm to ring. Children wait for their birthday and count down the sleeps. We wait to see if we have an interview for a job and then we wait to hear if we were successful. Parents await the birth of their child. An old person in a nursing home waits for a visit from family or a friend. How difficult this has been in Covid19 times, when for the last 7 or 8 months, no-one could visit.

Waiting is part of life, and we ask ourselves how well do we wait? Do we become impatient and frustrated or can we make these waiting times into spaces of listening and presence? Maybe even those moments of waiting in a queue can become a chance to be still and awake to the gift of life.

Poet and philosopher Michael Leunig wrote a poem entitled: 'We must make do with scraps'. Here are a few of his lines:

"Little scraps of peace and quiet. A few crumbs of fun, a tiny flake of beauty, one teaspoon of enthusiasm. Off cuts of each other. A skerrick of community. A snippet of eye contact. A wisp of good humour. A sample of compassion.

Left-overs, oddments, remnants of the glorious situation. A fragment of God. Not much really. Sorry. Time's up."

Can we in our waiting time catch a skerrick of community, a wisp of good humour, a tiny flake of beauty, a fragment of God? Maybe these times are 'leftovers and oddments, not much really', as Michael Leunig says. Yet perhaps they are more important than we can ever imagine.

For these times can also be sacred moments where we sense the presence of God among us, ever inviting us into the mystery of living. We are to be present to the now.

In a way, our Gospel for this first Sunday of Advent takes up this invitation. We listen to Jesus saying to his disciples, 'Be on your guard, stay awake because you never know when the time will come'. Jesus then tells the story of a man travelling abroad, leaving his servants in charge, and asking them to stay awake in carrying out their responsibilities, always prepared for his return.

As the disciples of Jesus today, are we awake to the opportunities and responsibilities of being his servants in our world today? In our waiting times, even though they may be oddments and fragments, can we sense an invitation to recognise the presence of Christ?

As we prepare for another Christmas, we await again the presence of Jesus Christ, born among us again and again. This same Jesus Christ, calls on us to be awake and ready to welcome him into our lives. And even and especially our waiting times can be opportunities to recognise him in our midst.

Terry



Baubles

Thank you for participating in coloring the baubles. I am sure they look lovely. If you have some time, please cut them up but otherwise hand in the whole sheet. I will put a brown paper bag in both churches and the presbytery for you to drop them in this weekend and next.

If you wish to DIY: A sample is attached to the bag and some color paper. Help yourself to the color paper & stick your bauble to it as in the sample, write a note at the back if you wish and drop it in letter boxes down your street or any street you choose.

Please put your name & the street/s down on the sheet available, so we won't double up.

If you just want to hand it in, drop them into the paper bag with the word **Baubles**

*You may put down your contact if you would like to help drop them into the letter boxes, during your walks and I'll drop them off to you once ready.

For further info, please feel free to contact me at

Gina.Ang@cam.org.au or 0423 947858

Happy 80th Birthday!

We congratulate
Bernadette Swindon
on the occasion of her
80th Birthday
celebrated on
24th November

Our love, prayers and best wishes
go with you Bern.

INTERESTING FIND!!!!!!



This Monstrance was recently found stored away in a cupboard in the SFX Church. On reading the engraved message, it is clear that it contributes to the long history of our SFX Parish.

Presented by
EMANUEL ANTONIE
to
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER'S
MONTMORENCY
24 - 5 - 1933



Please help our parish continue
our important pastoral activities.

You can give an offering online today with CDFpay.

Find our parish by visiting:

<https://bit.ly/CDFpayEltham> <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMontmorency>

SVDP Montmorency Christmas Appeal 2020 and Christmas



This year we once again ask for your support for our annual Christmas Appeal which helps families within our local communities of Lower Plenty, Montmorency, Briar Hill, Eltham North and St Helena who find Christmas a struggle both emotionally and financially.

This year's Christmas Appeal theme is:

'A Christmas Like No Other'

with a focus on the ongoing impact that COVID-19 is having on Australian families who have previously never needed assistance. As the long-term repercussions of the pandemic come to light,

we expect the pressure on individuals and families to worsen and more people than ever will turn to Vinnies to help get them through these difficult periods.

Christmas can be such a magical time but for quite a number in our local community, Christmas doesn't mean magic, it means hunger, hardship and stress. At what is a time of joy and celebration for many of us, some in our community face the prospect of a bleak Christmas as they struggle to pay bills and provide for the basic needs of their family, let alone cope with the extra costs associated with Christmas.

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

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

The St Vincent de Paul, Montmorency conference, sincerely wishes to thank everybody for their continued support of our work and wish all parishioners and their families every blessing and happiness for Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year.

Envelopes are available in the St Francis Xavier church pews or online <https://bit.ly/2JAsUaz>. **If you choose to donate online, please ensure you nominate Montmorency or Eltham in the Comments/Conference box** to ensure your donation stays local. It would also be appreciated if you email msaid@netspace.net.au so that our conference can acknowledge your generosity.

Montmorency Conference:

SVDP Charity Christmas cards

With the further lifting of restrictions, Montmorency SVDP members will have a table outside all weekend Masses at St Francis Xavier to enable people to purchase cards. This year the cards are in packs of 5 rather than 8 as in previous years. With just 5 cards per pack we have reduced the cost to \$2.50 per packet. This is slightly cheaper per card than last year but all we wish is to do is to cover our costs and offer cards about the real meaning of Christmas.

Eltham Conference:

Christmas Cards and **Columban Calendars** are NOW available after Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians - please visit the St Vincent de Paul shop or see one of the SVdP members for more information.

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

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



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Advent Reflections: Waiting in hope

In the first of her meditations for the journey towards Christmas, Sr Teresa White considers the poignant signature tune of this time of year

God's promises are accomplished within the boundaries of time. The promise of a Saviour was made in the Garden of Eden, but it was fulfilled slowly, and many centuries were to pass before the coming of Jesus.

The scripture readings of Advent invite us to recall our faith history, to assume the posture of the expectant people of Israel, waiting in joyful hope for the coming of the Messiah. Seeing what is happening in our world today, we realise, like our ancestors in the faith, that we have a very real need of a Saviour. So words like waiting, yearning, hoping, longing, listening, praying, and staying awake are Advent words, Advent concepts. Through them, we enter into the wistful atmosphere of the Advent season.

Three times in chapter 13 of Mark's Gospel (which is read on the First Sunday of Advent), Jesus tells us, "Stay awake!" When we're *waiting*, we're "awake", we're on the alert for something or someone:



news, a bus or a train, a dear friend, a family member, a letter, an email, a phone call, a Skype or text message, a sign or a sound, some information that is important to us. While we wait, if we have eyes to see and ears to hear, we will experience God's presence in what is happening around us.

Waiting can give us the opportunity to see and hear and feel things we're often too busy to notice. And while we wait, we may see other waiting people, pensioners, parents, disabled people, teenagers,

Sr Teresa White belongs to the Faithful Companions of Jesus. A former teacher, she spent many years in the ministry of spirituality at Katherine House, a retreat and conference centre run by her congregation in Salford.

young children, and notice the look in their eyes, the joy, the pain, the hope, the despair; we may see beautiful things, ugly things; we may hear a kind word, a cruel word, a baby's cry, a shout of rage, a snatch of music... Such experiences are all part of the Advent journey.

"Waiting in hope" is the signature tune of Advent, and this year, perhaps more than ever because of the pandemic, we long to hear the melody of hope in our lives. Anna's waiting for a word from her doctor on the results of a biopsy, fearful that "it" has come back... Richard watches daily for a letter, expecting word from the university, wondering if he's been accepted... Ellen's invited her husband to sit down and talk, realising that their marriage is on the rocks, but he's left the house in a rage, and now she's asking herself if he'll ever come back... Ted's firm closed down six weeks ago, and he's anxious and exhausted, looking for a new job... Marie, at the

end of a long queue, all her belongings in two black bin bags, is afraid that by the time she gets to the door of the Salvation Army night shelter, all the beds will be taken... Alan wants a drink badly, it's been three months since his last one, and he can sense himself falling... This morning, Meg had an interview for a job she really wanted, and now she's waiting to hear the outcome... These are all Advent people. They're waiting in hope.

In his book, *Dynamics of Faith*, Paul Tillich says that often it is in moments of helplessness that we experience the transforming power of grace: "Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness... It strikes us when, year after year, the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair destroys all joy and courage."

When grace "strikes" us in this way, things may not be outwardly better than before, but we know in the depths of our being that God has touched us, and that our time of waiting in hope has not been in vain.



ASRC Gift Guide

We are excited to share with you our amazing new range of ASRC merchandise and gifting items - perfect for those who want to wear their support on their sleeve.

Our new range of ASRC merchandise also makes giving a gift with heart and impact easy this gifting season, as 100% of proceeds from each sale help fund the ASRC's core programs that support and empower people seeking asylum.

[So give a gift that really matters and makes lasting change possible for people seeking asylum. \(www.shop.asrc.org.au\)](http://www.shop.asrc.org.au)

Christmas 2020

Wow - Christmas is just 4 weeks away and the Advent season is now with us. To assist parishioners and their families with their preparation for Christmas, the Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul have a selection of small booklets which may be of interest:

- ***Expecting Jesus – A Daily Advent Devotional***
- ***Advent Reflections for Peace and Healing***
- ***Praying with Scripture During Advent***
- ***Advent and Me***
- ***Prayers around the Advent Wreath***

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

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

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul through our conference, perhaps at our Vinnies shop in Briar Hill, or is some other administrative capacity? If so please contact Mike on 0417 221 245 or the Parish Office

Rosters - 5 & 6 December

<i>Montmorency</i>	
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Maynes, Phil	GRDN
<i>Eltham</i>	
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Zavakil Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 28th - St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal		
6:00pm	Mass (80 people)	Montmorency
Sunday 29th - First Sunday of Advent		
8:30am	Mass (80 people)	Montmorency
10:00am	Mass (80 people)	
	(live-stream https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)	Eltham
11:00am	Baptism: Mia	Montmorency
12:00pm	Baptism: Amelie	Eltham
2:00pm	Baptism: Leo	Eltham
Tuesday 1st December		
9:30am	Mass (80 people)	Montmorency
Wednesday 2nd		
9:30am	Mass (80 people)	Eltham
Thursday 3rd		
9:30am	Mass (80 people)	Montmorency
Friday 4th		
9:30am	Mass (80 people)	Eltham
Saturday 5th		
6:00pm	Mass (80 people)	Montmorency
Sunday 6th		
8:30am	Mass (80 people)	
	(live-stream https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)	Montmorency
10:00am	Mass (80 people)	Eltham
11:00am	Baptism: Phoebe	Montmorency
12:00pm	Baptism: Leandro	Eltham
Tuesday 8th		
9:30am	Mass (80 people)	Montmorency
Wednesday 9th		
9:30am	Mass (80 people)	Eltham
Thursday 10th		
9:30am	Mass (80 people)	Montmorency
Friday 11th		
9:30am	Mass (80 people)	Eltham
Saturday 12th		
10:00am	Baptism: Imogen	Montmorency
11:00am	Baptism: Griffin	Eltham
6:00pm	Mass (80 people)	Montmorency

Mass attendance numbers are correct at the time of publishing, and subject to change as per Covid regulations. Please call the Parish Office 9435 2178 for any clarification.

Live-Stream Masses

Well, with restrictions lifted overnight, it looks as though the only restrictions we now need to consider for Mass attendance is the size of our Churches! So, the fruit of our efforts has come to bless us... we thank God. We will discuss the future relevance of live-stream masses in the future and keep you informed... Mass will be live-streamed this Sunday from Our Lady Help of Christians on this the First Sunday of Advent at 10am. See you in Church... as we wait in 'joyful hope' for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ! Take care each dear one.

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

1. Go to 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

Patsy & Team (0429 439 675)



2020 Kadasig Christmas Hampers

Celebrate Christmas by making a difference to the lives of others! The [Kadasig Christmas Hampers](#) bring great joy to the receiving family hence in the Philippines they are called Bundles of Joy. Be part of the pleasure of giving. You can choose a special something from our list below and we will ensure it is given to someone in need. After purchasing you will receive a gift certificate of thanks to give to your gift recipient.

[Kadasig Gift Certificates](#) can be used for:

- **Christmas Hamper \$40** - provide food for a family for Christmas & New Year—these are packed and distributed by our staff
- **Galvanised iron roofing \$25** - to provide a roof for a family
- **Coco lumbar for construction \$40** - to provide timber for construction - many houses have been damaged following shocking weather or simply need to be safer
- **Livelihood/seeds \$20** - to provide vegetables for a family - due to recent weather many crops such as rice and vegetables have been lost
- **Medical care \$30** - families can't afford even basic medical care
- **Rice \$10** - 10kg for a family
- **Days for Girls \$20** - a reusable menstrual kit

We have put together a range of options to really make a difference to those in great need, we hope you can find some that interest you! Christmas Hampers guarantee a family has food over the Christmas and New Year time.

When you purchase one of these gift certificates you can request either a physical printed certificate or an electronic version to gift to your loved one. Please let us know which you would prefer.

For more information or to purchase a certificate please contact:
Juanita: 0409 514 565 or jtroemml@bigpond.net.au
Maree: 0430 549 516 or mareekulkens@yahoo.com.au
Fay: 0425 732 992 or fayasinclair@gmail.com

Then please transfer the dollar value to Kadasig No 2 Account:
BSB: 083 276
A/c: 172 040 420
Ref: Your surname & item - eg: Smith 2 Hampers

Prayers of the Faithful for 29 November 2020 First Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: As we begin the Advent journey let us pray together for a deepening awareness of God's presence in our lives.

For the presence of God in our world: We pray that nations may be aware of the need to think globally, to act with humanity and compassion, to recognise their responsibility to share resources and wealth and to preserve our fragile environment.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our nation: May our state and national governments work cooperatively towards economic recovery. May they be aware of the pressing need to act with fairness and social responsibility. We pray for those who have lost employment or job security, those who are ineligible to receive government support, those endlessly waiting for asylum in our country.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the presence of God in our community: May we be inclusive people, finding God in all those we meet. Let us embrace the joy of difference between generations, faiths and backgrounds. We pray for those who have felt isolated for so many months, may they begin to feel comfortable once more and to enjoy connection and community again.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For God in our home: We thank God for the gift of home and family, for its simplicity and beauty. May we recognise and welcome God's loving presence in this gift. We pray for those who struggle to find stable and safe homes, and for those organisations who work towards providing them with this security.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember students, teachers and families. May the Lord be with them all as they work towards the end of the academic year. May his presence provide them with a sense of calm and trust in themselves.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick: We pray for all those countries coping with renewed virus numbers and deaths. We pray for their families, carers and medical staff. We remember the sick of our community and those on the parish sick list. May God's gentle healing spirit be with them all.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, including Alan Anderson, Joe Ciavola, John Crimmins & Christopher Kenny. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: "No ear has heard; no eye has seen any God but you". The Lord asks us to be watchful and alert.

All: Amen.

Baptisms

This weekend we welcome to:

Montmorency Parish Community on Sunday at 11am:
Mia Amelia Knight, daughter of Matthew & Stacey

Eltham Parish Community on Sunday at 12noon:
Amelie Anne Yap Abina, daughter of Melchor & Agnez

and

Eltham Parish Community on Sunday at 2pm:
Leo Alby Ustundag, son of Gurjan & Stephanie

We pray for *Mia, Amelie & Leo*, their parents & Godparents.
May God keep them always in His love.



Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



Reflection

All three synoptic gospels include an account of Jesus speaking in Jerusalem about the end times before he enters upon the passion that leads to his death. The language of Jesus' discourse is full of foreboding: he warns of upheavals in heaven and on earth, of destruction and desolation, persecution and betrayal. All of these are features of the apocalyptic literature that seems to have been common enough in Jesus' day. Now it is all but impossible for us to disentangle where he (or the evangelist) is talking about the destruction of Jerusalem, about a final cosmic conflict, or about the coming of the Son of Man.

Three times we are warned to "stay awake!". It's the same admonition that Jesus repeats to Peter, James and John in the garden of Gethsemane, when he is facing his own "end time". His whole mission and his very life are under threat and he has to summon every ounce of energy to go on. Jesus wants us to be under no illusions as to what is at stake when the cost of discipleship confronts us. We need to be alert and ready to choose life.

Break Open the Word 2021

Children's Week Activity: "Just as I have loved you"

As people of faith strive to live by Jesus' message to his disciples: 'Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.' (John 13:34) Jesus' commandment reminds us that we are each loved by God, who created us in his own image and likeness. We are then invited to show that same love to our neighbours - within our families, our local parish, school communities and the wider community.

How to participate

To celebrate Children's Week this year, we are inviting all children and young people (from the ages of 4 years to 17) to participate in an activity. We want you to share with us what the words "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34) mean to you through a drawing or artwork (mixed media).

- [Download the activity flyer & submission form](#)
- [Download activity colouring sheet \(for the little ones!\)](#)
- Along with your artwork, please include an answer (150 words or less) to the following question: *In what ways do you feel part of the parish community and how do you try to make others feel welcome?*

Entries should include the completed submission form and can be sent to psu@cam.org.au before 5pm on 18 December 2020. (Parents are welcome to answer the question on behalf of their child/ren if they are too young to do so.) For more information please visit <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/celebrating-childrens-week-2020>

It is important to note that this is not a competition, but a reflection and an opportunity for adults to hear the voice of our young ones. Those who participate will be invited to an online gathering with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli following the activity.



Adore Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2020

In the day-to-day reality of our lives, especially during the busyness of end-of-year activities, it is easy for us to lose sight of what we are truly preparing for during Advent and celebrating at Christmas - the Incarnation. The magnitude of this event was not lost on the shepherds and the Magi who came to *adore* the Child who is truly Emmanuel: God-with-us.

Adore is an 88-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (29 Nov 2020) through to the Baptism of the Lord (10 Jan 2021).

Copies are available at
Our Lady Help of Christians Church, St Francis Xavier Church & the Parish Office.