

Monty & Eltham



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.

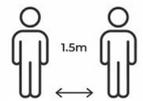
Welcome & Happy New Year!

On this feast during our Christmas time - the Epiphany of the Lord, we start our new year! Naturally, I hope that this year is a wonderful time for our catholic community to grow and learn to be Covid Safe during these important months ahead. Our year will not be a normal time - as things and our way of life adapt to the necessary changes required by health authorities and our government. I hope that we never have to return to those 'Lockdown' periods of last year and thus continue to respect the space that we are required to maintain as we gather together! My thoughts and prayers for all those people and countries whose experience of this Pandemic is now at a critical stage! Below are a few simple guidelines and reminders of these requirements.



The Key points for our Communities of Eltham & Montmorency are:

- Please carry an appropriate **face covering** at all times - and use it when necessary;
- Please **socially distance 1.5m** (families not included) for appropriate spacing;
- Please **record your presence** via: QR Code on your phone, or on paper, this is essential for Record Keeping and if necessary, tracing and numbers;
- Please use **Hand Sanitiser** provided or other personal appropriate cleaning agent.



Please note that Density Regulations allow for **160 people** in the Churches of St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady Help of Christians.

Incarnation - The Trajectory of Incarnation

Christianity's true and unique story line has always been incarnation. That means that the *spirit* nature of reality (the spiritual, the immaterial, the formless) and the *material* nature of reality (the physical, that which we can see and touch) are one. They have always been one, ever since the Big Bang took place 13.7 billion years ago. The incarnation did not just happen when Jesus was born, although that is when we became aware of the human incarnation of God in Jesus. It seemingly took until 2,000 years ago for humanity to be ready for what Martin Buber (1878-1965) called an I/Thou relationship with God. But matter and spirit have been one since "the beginning", ever since God decided to manifest himself/herself as creation.

Our outer world and its inner significance must come together for there to be any wholeness and holiness. The result is both deep joy and a resounding sense of coherent beauty. What was personified in the body of Jesus was a manifestation of this one universal truth: matter is, and has always been, the hiding place for Spirit, forever offering itself to be discovered anew. Perhaps this is what Jesus means when he says, "I am the gate" (John 10:7). Francis of Assisi and his female companion, Clare, somehow knew that the beyond was not really beyond, but in the depths of *here*.

John Duns Scotus (1266-1308) took the intuition of Francis and made it into a philosophy. He said that Christ was not Plan B; God did not plan to remain absent until Adam and Eve ate that darn apple and Jesus had to come save us. Rather, Duns Scotus said that Christ was Plan A from the very beginning, the very first idea in the mind of God, as it were (John 1:1-4). God, the formless, eternal, and timeless One essentially said I am going to manifest who I am in what we now call physicality, materiality, or the universe.

This means that everything you have ever seen with your physical eyes is the mystery of incarnation. The Christian word we give to that is *the Christ*, which comes from the word Messiah, or the Anointed One, used by Jewish people. The Anointed One is the one who would come to reveal what God is doing, everywhere and all the time. For Christians, that became manifested in Jesus of Nazareth. Walter Brueggemann, my favourite scholar of the Hebrew Scriptures, would call this "the scandal of particularity". God is in a vulnerable newborn baby in a feeding trough. We need to see the mystery of incarnation in one ordinary concrete moment, and struggle with, fight, resist, and fall in love with it there. What is true in one particular place finally universalises and ends up being true everywhere.

Adapted from Richard Rohr (www.cac.org)

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.





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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Jack Steele

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

Kate Boyce

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

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



Baptisms

This weekend we welcome to:

Montmorency Parish Community

on Sunday at 12 noon:

Santiago Abel Remitar, son of John & Abigail

We pray for *Santiago*, his parents & Godparents.
May God keep them always in His love.

Rosters - 9 & 10 January

Eltham

Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Ryan Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 2nd

6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Sunday 3rd

8:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Santiago Montmorency

Tuesday 5th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Wednesday 6th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Thursday 7th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

11:00am Funeral: Jack Steele Montmorency

Friday 8th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Saturday 9th

6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Sunday 10th

8:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

Break Open the Word 2021

*The quiet month of January
(office hours!)*

The office will be open on Thursday each week from 9am to 3pm.

During the month of January, we hope to have a bit of a break.

Michael and Terry will be around to answer phone calls, return phone messages and respond to emails.

Have a restful, safe & blessed holiday time,
Kate



#188244378