

# 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.



## Terry Kean and Gina Ang



Dear Parishioners of Montmorency and Eltham,

It is only now that we are hearing of the sad departures of two much-loved people from our local Catholic communities.

At the recent parish Lenten Sunday sharing times: *A Time to Listen, a Time to Talk and a Time to Pray*, Terry shared with us his retirement plans and desire to finish up ministry across the parishes of Montmorency & Eltham - effective from the month of November. He has been Parish Priest of SFX for some 15 years - starting in January 2007.

Gina Ang was appointed as the Eltham Pastoral Worker about 8 1/2 years ago - starting in September 2012 and has effectively enjoyed ministry among this community in a variety of ways. Gina is well loved and will be sadly missed by the Eltham Catholic community.

Gina's departure is a direct result of the Coronavirus impact upon our small parish financial position and obviously with the withdrawal of the JobKeeper Federal Government support we are unable to offer Gina the ongoing Pastoral Worker position moving forward. The serious impact of this terrible virus Covid19 across the Australian workforce is immense, and it is only now that thousands of employed people are realising this pain.

Naturally I would encourage all the parish members of the Eltham Catholic Community to show their appreciation in a variety of ways during these Covid-Safe times, and we hope to be able to present Gina with a lovely 'gift' in appreciation of her ministry among us.

Terry Kean celebrates his 50th Anniversary of Priesthood on the weekend of 22nd / 23rd May ( Pentecost ) and we hope to congratulate Terry over that weekend with the Masses being the primary focus.

*Michael*

### Easter Mass Times:



<b>Holy Thursday</b> 1st April	7:30pm @ OLHC, Eltham, 7:30pm @ SFX, Montmorency
<b>Good Friday</b> 2nd April	3:00pm @ OLHC, Eltham 3:00pm @ SFX, Montmorency
<b>Easter Vigil</b> Saturday 3rd April	7:30pm @ OLHC, Eltham 7:30pm @ SFX, Montmorency
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 4th April	8:30am @ SFX, Montmorency 10:00am @ OLHC, Eltham



*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: 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: 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

Acting Principal: Therese Stewart: 9439 7824

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

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

#### ***ASRC — Donate Food and Goods***

Our Foodbank is operating to support people seeking asylum. Most-needed food and groceries:

- Tuna in oil 400g
- Sweet or savoury biscuits
- Dishwashing liquid 1 litre
- Pasta 500g packs penne, spirals, shells
- Tinned vegetable peas, corn, carrots
- Tinned legumes chickpeas, lentils, red, black & white beans
- Full cream UHT milk 1 litre
- Soap bars
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Tinned tomatoes 400g
- Honey small bottles
- Coconut cream
- Black tea bags



#### **Montmorency**

For the recently deceased:

*Yvonne Abakumenko, Irena Mietus, Angelina Monteiro*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Marianna Cantone, John Frawley, Maria Muscat, Carol Said, Stella Skehill, Maxwell Vanderwert*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert)*

#### **Eltham**

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Violetta, Fr Barry Caldwell, Lidia Marazzato, Christine Scott, Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zylewicz*

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

### **Baptisms**



This weekend we welcome to our

Eltham Parish Community on Saturday at 11am:

**Asher Brooke & Leo Daniel Nankervis**

children of Daniel & Brooke



Montmorency Parish Community on Sun at 12noon:

**Milla Sue Jackson**

daughter of Kara & David



**Jack Lyle Poore**

son of Matthew & Fiona

**Ella Rose Vorpasso**

daughter of Matthew & Sarita



**Maeve Sylvie Taranto**

daughter of Marc & Marguerite

We pray for *Asher, Leo, Milla, Jack, Ella & Maeve*, their parents & Godparents.

*May God keep them always in His love.*

#### **RECONCILIATION**

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

#### **Collections last weekend: 14 Mar 2021**

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$106.00	\$654.15
Montmorency	\$500.00	\$768.30

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



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



## A Time to Pray Together Final Gathering this Sunday - 1pm at SFX Hall



Dear Parishioners and Friends of St Francis Xavier, Montmorency and Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham - these are sensitive days, as we continue to adjust to a CovidSafe way of life, knowing that serious changes to our daily routine might occur at any time! (What to do?)

For the past 4 weeks of this Season of Lent, and held on a Sunday, early afternoon, at both Montmorency and Eltham Churches, we have shared some special times: 'To Listen' and 'To Chat' - much has been shared and the listening was powerful! The numbers of people at each session has been impressive too - with roughly 30 people at each Sunday 'Time'. As we continue to walk together in faith - with our future, not so clear given these terrible Covid19 times. Now is an invitation to come together and pray.

### A Time to Pray - Montmorency & Eltham Together

- **Fifth Sunday of Lent (March 21st) at the SFX parish hall - 1pm**

So, a final opportunity is now being offered to the Catholic Communities of Montmorency and Eltham to get together - to 'Pray' in response to these Covid days, our future difficulties and possibilities!

If you are available, please consider this final important Sunday time - together in prayer,

warmest thanks, *Michael*



### Plenary Council Update

The Plenary Council 2021-22, postponed because of Covid-19, is now in full swing again. Here is the revised timeline:

1. Recently published: The Plenary Council Working Document (Instrumentum Laboris) as Approved by Rome. Now available for reading and discussion on <http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/instrumentumlaboris>. At top of page click on Discernment, and that will lead you to the text.
  2. To come in Jun/Jul: agenda 1st assembly of the PC
  3. 3-10 Oct: 1st assembly of the PC in Adelaide
  4. Nov 2021-Jun 2022, Discernment on the outcomes of the 1st Assembly. Preparation of papers and proposals for the 2nd Assembly
  5. 4-9 Jul 2022: the 2nd Assembly of the PC in Sydney
- The Sense of the Faithful website is being updated and revised to be more interactive. It will be available for comments on the Plenary Council Working Document which can then be channelled to delegates to the Assemblies.

Any OLHC Eltham or SFX Montmorency parishioners interested in discussions of the Working Document, please let Kate know over the next week. (9435 2178; [eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au); [montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au))

**Rowan Ireland**



### Fifth Sunday of Lent 21st March 2021



Halima is raising her two children in a refugee camp in Bangladesh while caring for her mother, who has a disability. Widowed at 21, Halima fled violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State and arrived at the camp with nothing.

Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, helped Halima out with a shelter, cooking equipment, hygiene and sanitation training. She took on the role of community trainer herself, organising the cleaning of washrooms, wells and toilets.

Halima aspired to 'Be More'. She is proud that she is now able to earn a small income while maintaining the health of her family and the cleanliness of the camp community.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 so this transformational program can continue to empower vulnerable women, men and children, and strengthen the communities around them.**

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.



### Small Church Community

Small groups of people in our Community continue to gather to reflect on the Word and life of Jesus. We have been blessed to be able to continue to connect throughout 2020 via zoom or other technologies. Those who belong to a small group found this a great support through what was a difficult and challenging journey. Now we are again enjoying the gift of being present to each other in our homes... and appreciate so much the gift of that presence.

As a result of the pandemic the world has changed. We too have changed and it may be that you are looking for another way now to nurture your faith and deepen your relationship with Jesus in Scripture. The invitation to join one of these Gospel Reflection groups is always there and open to everyone. Contact Patsy Skipper (0429 439 675) or Anne Cotter (9431 0295) for more information.

There is a gathering of **Small Church Facilitators, Sunday 28th March, 9:45am** at the home of Val Hayes.

It will be great to gather again in 'real life'!



Every week through Lent, a writer will reflect on a journey through a wilderness to an unexpected grace. Here, **Sean Hewitt** reflects on nature's healing powers in the face of his father's death

# Irreconcilably changed

It's late summer in Dublin (which hardly means much - still the same grey, muggy weather, the dull, dispersed light), and I am walking home from the gym, where I've been going more to take my mind off things than to get fit. I take the usual route past the Spar, over the Liffey, jogging a little to beat the traffic lights, and then I turn up the hill to my flat, and a blue transit van is driving down towards me, to the junction at the main road. He flashes his headlights and my heart soars. Instinctively, I jump up, wave, smile, my whole body lifting - my Dad, driving down the road, flashing his lights at me - but then I feel a sudden flush of panic, or grief, and I almost step into the traffic to hide myself, horns beeping everywhere, and I run off uphill all the way home, where I lock the door behind me, and cry, uncontrollably, on the floor of the bedroom until my head is aching and my breathing has settled enough for me to stand up again.

My father has been dead for six weeks. But I only half-live in a world where that fact is true. I see him everywhere. Or rather, I expect to see him everywhere. Each time I turn the corner of a busy street, I imagine him walking up to me. Or when I come home, I expect to find him there, returned, as if nothing had happened. A cliché, yes, but I never knew how true it was until now. The blue transit van, the van my Dad drove every day, was just flashing its lights to let me cross the road, but right now my mind doesn't know that. Right now, when I see a blue transit van, I see my Dad driving it, and time collapses around me and I am woken momentarily into a different world and my whole body wakes along with me.

For quite a while, in those months after his death, I had thought to myself: "I am losing my mind." If I revisit that version of myself, I can see why: I am seeing ghosts, apparitions, hauntings of memory, thinking reality is unreal and knowing on some unreachable level that unreality is the truth - but then in my kinder moments, I remind myself that minds don't give up on patterns that easily. Each day of my life, I have spoken to him. Until now. Each day, it has been a fact of life that he might be there, right there, in front of me. What seems miraculous to my conscious mind seems like a plain, reliable fact for my



subconscious, and the two have stopped communicating. There's a threshold there, between two levels of my being, and I spend my days trying to hop over it, relaying messages from one stubborn mind to another, trying to get one to listen to the other. I will never see my Dad driving towards me, waving, in his blue transit van. That will never happen again, and I know that, but the greater part of me, the stronger, more instinctive part, hasn't learnt it yet.

And so I am living in a sort of afterlife, projecting images into the world, startling myself with visions of my father, then crying, or getting angry at my own mind for not learning the bare facts more quickly. In fact, I've started to think that I'm living in something approximating a religious state. I am adamant, in my less reasonable moments, that my father is there, just somewhere beyond the world I'm held in. I have never really been religious, much less superstitious, but there it is. My mind has split - one half lives in the spirit world, the other in the "real" world. One half things my father is there, living just parallel to me, and the other knows that not to be true. Inside my head, in other words, there is this situation analogous to the distinction between earth and heaven, material and divine, and I'm trying to learn how to settle myself in the interplay between the two.

Though it is something I wish I never had the occasion to learn, I came to realise that the death of a parent leaves a child utterly, and irreconcilably, changed. The world is different; and you yourself are

no longer the person you were. This change occurred, for me, in so many ways that it is hard to locate a central thread: in one sense, it made me braver (though, perhaps, bravery in this case is merely a disregard for consequences); in another sense, it made small things insignificant. Perhaps the most overreaching change, though, was in my relationship to the world around me, a spiritual and intellectual change.

In the months after my father died, before the real tide of grief hit me, I was struck with a sort of epiphany that replaced any lingering religious thought I had left inside. It wasn't that I lost faith (truly, I never had much faith to lose); in fact, I gained faith, not in God, or not in God as I was brought up to know him, but in the world around me. Before my father began a brutal and debilitating series of whole brain radiations, he had called me from the hospital. He and my mother had met with the consultant, who had laid out the facts as best she could. The radiation was needed - there was a high risk that the tumours in my father's brain would result in a stroke if they weren't dealt with now. There were several of them, and some of them were so small ("seeded", she said, throughout the tissue) that no more localised approach would work.

The problem was that, in the meantime, the other tumours in my father's body could not be treated, and so they would be left to grow, to do further damage, while the radiation on his brain took effect. Only once those tumours were remitting could the others be dealt with, and by then it might be too late. The other risk of the whole brain radiation was that it might leave his brain damaged, less able to function. He might lose memory, or some speech, and they didn't know if he would be able to regain it. He called me from the waiting room, his voice quiet, and I could hear how frightened he was, and I was frightened too. "All I want is my boys," he said, his voice trembling, and I started to cry. "I know, Dad, I know." "I love you." "As long as I can still be with my boys, and can still sit in the garden, and hear the birds. That's all I want."

After he died, I thought of that often. The garden, the birds - that was his idea of heaven, a man who didn't believe in God, didn't know where he was going when he left. Really, that is the only heaven that makes sense to me, too. One might call it pantheism, or a doctrine of rebirth, or a sort of ecological enchantment. When we buried him, we planted flowers on his grave, and every time I visited I saw that those flowers were my father, were made out of him. He was being born again into the earth, in

## Homily - Fr Terry

The story is told of an old lady who was very depressed and her family thought it a good idea for her to visit a psychologist. Reluctantly she acquiesced and the day came for her appointment. It didn't take very long for the psychologist to notice that one of her fists was clenched ever so tightly and he asked her to open her hand. She refused, but gradually the psychologist with the help of her family gently prized open her hand and to the ground fell two small coins.

She was quite distressed when this happened. Yet it was time for her to let go...to let go of her fears that she had so tightly clung to in her life. It would only be when she began to talk about her fears that the process of healing could commence. She had held on to those coins, symbol of her fears and even though she didn't want to let go, somehow in their release she found a way to talk about those fears. Her health improved significantly once she did this.

Isn't it so true for us? We hold on to past memories and if they are painful and distressing we too can build up fears that stop us living fully and freely. We all have to learn to let go of the coins that may not be in our fists but may well live in our heart. And we may need help to do this.

Not only in our health story. In our lives generally we are called to let go.

Interestingly the older we grow, the more we find ourselves called to let go of the resentments we still hold onto, for parents to let go of their children as they leave home, to let go of work in retirement, to even let go of health in the ageing of our bodies. We have to learn to let go of loved family and friends, as we attend the funerals of those we love. Many of us know what it's like to live on our own.

Ultimately we have to let go of our own lives so that new life can be born in us.

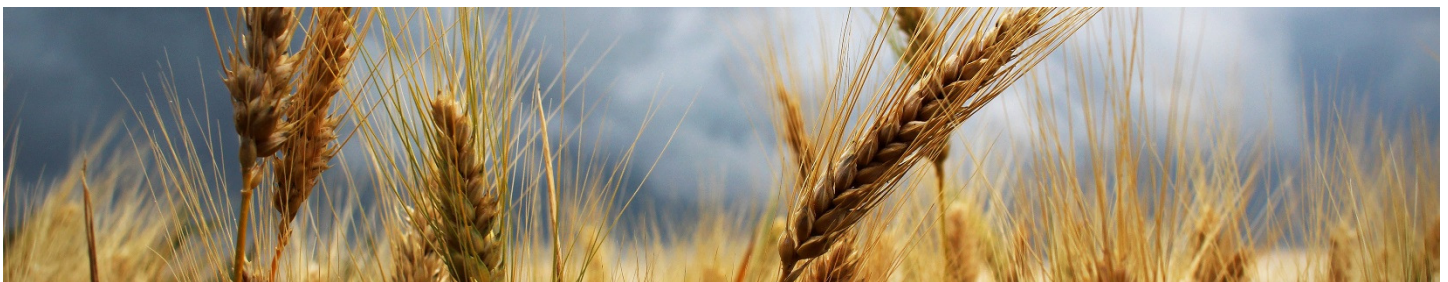
And strangely even though it can be so difficult, the more we learn to let go, we can become more gracious, appreciative and loving. So many things that once mattered, so many worries and anxieties we once had, so many fears and frustrations are no longer enemies but pathways to a new freedom. We learn to integrate our lives and find a wholeness and peace within us we could never have imagined in our younger years.

This wholeness and peace comes in letting go, in not holding onto life too tightly, in quietly, reflectively and gratefully celebrating each day as a gift. Doesn't mean we are not lonely. Doesn't mean we don't still cling tightly to the coins of our fears. It does mean however that we can release those coins and allow a new freedom to emerge.

Is this the invitation of today's Gospel to trust the letting go, and find ways to realise that the harvest of our lives comes through dying to ourselves? The wheat grain that falls into the ground and dies yields a rich harvest. We see this in nature. We see it when a bushfire ravages a forest and the little seeds that fall to the ground become the new life of the forest. How often we marvel at a once devastated land regenerating through the seeds of new life.

Jesus taught so often through nature and he used the cycle of nature to reveal to us the deepest secrets of our humanity. Ultimately he would become that very seed in his own life, buried in the ground and coming to new life in his risen presence among us. That's the story that awaits us in our final letting go of life. We too die so that new life is born in us.

We prepare to celebrate this story as we approach Holy Week this year. We listen again to those words of the Gospel: *"Unless a wheat grain falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest."* So said Jesus of Nazareth many years ago.



(continued...) a new form, and it wouldn't be long until all of his atoms were dispersed across the village, then the country, and then the world, carried off inside birds, growing into plants, and into butterflies. What was the garden, then, if not heaven, if not a place made up of everything that had been lost to us,

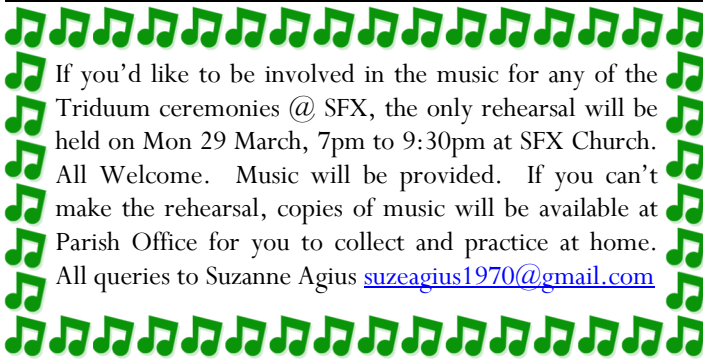
if not an afterlife? After that, the whole world was heaven to me. Still, it seems like the most simple, the most beautiful way I can think of looking at life. I walk out into the world now with a burning sense of its value, its startling variety, its fragile beauty. Everything, all of it, is mimicry. Nothing is lost, only changed.

**Sean Hewitt** was born in 1990. His debut collection, *Tongues of Fire*, is published by Jonathan Cape. He is a book critic for *The Irish Times* and teaches modern British and Irish literature at Trinity College Dublin.



Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

ROSTERS:	
<i>week ending 21 March</i>	
<b>Eltham</b>	
Beckford, Peter	Reader
Haines, Geoff	Commentator
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Scannell Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Scully, Helen	Altar Society
<i>week ending 28 March</i>	
<b>Montmorency</b>	
Ramsdale, Sue & John	ASRC
<b>Eltham</b>	
Armstrong, Miranda	Reader: others
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Reardon, Peter	Reader: Gospel Narrator
Saltamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Scully, Greg	Commentator
Zavadil Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Zylstra, Diane	Reader: 1st & 2nd reading

 If you'd like to be involved in the music for any of the Triduum ceremonies @ SFX, the only rehearsal will be held on Mon 29 March, 7pm to 9:30pm at SFX Church. All Welcome. Music will be provided. If you can't make the rehearsal, copies of music will be available at Parish Office for you to collect and practice at home. All queries to Suzanne Agius [suzeagius1970@gmail.com](mailto:suzeagius1970@gmail.com)

**Gospel: John 12:20-33**

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus'. Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him'. Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

- Saturday 20th**  
 9:30am Child Safety Meeting Eltham  
 11:00am Baptism: Asher & Leo Eltham  
 6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency
- Sunday 21st - Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
 8:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency  
 10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham  
 12:00pm Baptism: Leo, Jonas, Ellie & Charlie Montmorency  
 1:00pm Listen & Chat & Pray (OLHC&SFX) Montmorency
- Monday 22nd**  
 6:30pm Sisters & Mistresses of Song Eltham
- Tuesday 23rd**  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency
- Wednesday 24th**  
 6:30am Meditation Montmorency  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham  
 7:30pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation Eltham
- Thursday 25th**  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency  
 10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency  
 10:30am Garden Views Mass Garden Views
- Friday 26th**  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham
- Saturday 27th**  
 6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency
- Sunday 28th - Palm Sunday**  
 8:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency  
 10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham  
 12:00pm Baptism: Milla, Jack, Ella & Maeve Montmorency
- Monday 29th**  
 6:30pm Sisters & Mistresses of Song Eltham  
 7:00pm Music Rehearsal for Easter Triduum Montmorency
- Tuesday 30th**  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency  
 10:00am Craft Group SFX Parish Hall
- Wednesday 31st**  
 6:30am Meditation Montmorency  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham
- Thursday 1st April - Holy Thursday**  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency  
 10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency  
 10:30am St Vincent's Care Mass St Vincent's Care Services
- Friday 2nd - Good Friday**  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham
- Saturday 3rd - Holy Saturday**  
 6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency
- Sunday 4th - Easter Sunday**  
 8:30am Mass (160 people) & Baptism: Lily, Arlo & Luna Montmorency  
 10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham
- Monday 5th - Easter Monday**  
 Parish Office Closed
- Tuesday 6th**  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency  
 10:00am Craft Group SFX Parish Hall
- Wednesday 7th**  
 6:30am Meditation Montmorency  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham
- Thursday 8th**  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency  
 10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency
- Friday 9th**  
 9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham
- Saturday 10th**  
 6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency

## Daily Reflections for Lent - Not By Bread Alone 2021



**Reflection:** We live in a culture that wants life to be picture perfect on a constant basis. We look around at other people - in the house across the street, the office down the hall, a world away on social media - and think, "Why can't my life be like that?" As if the photos from beautiful locations around the globe or of the house with the white picket fence mean that person has beaten the odds and found the happy ending we all long for. But the reality is that every life has suffering, no matter how beautiful it looks from the outside. We don't like to think about that because it means we have to suffer too. In today's second reading, we hear that Jesus himself had to learn "obedience" through his suffering. Those are two words we don't like to see ever but especially not put together. Obedience makes us recoil, but when we view obedience through the lens of Jesus, we see it a new way. It is not something to dread but a softening that comes from accepting what is and not what we think should be. Suffering will come to all of us. We can let it destroy our inner peace or we can come through the fire burnished and better than we were before, maybe not on the outside but inside where it counts, even if no one else can see it.

**Meditation:** What do you feel when you hear the word "obedience"? Do you think of being a child, perhaps punished for not obeying a house rule or curfew? Does it stir up resistance? Try to view obedience from a new place today. Can you be obedient to God's plan for you, can you be obedient to your true self, the person you are meant to be, scars and flaws and all? In her book *Everyday Sacred*, Sue Bender talks about what happens when the plans we laid out are thwarted by something beyond our control. "When circumstances can't be changed, *I* can change. I can learn from obstacles placed on the path... Nothing is wasted time. If I can learn from a mistake, then it is not wasted time."

**Prayer:** God of light and love, give me the open heart I need to accept what is put before me, the joys and sorrows, the pain and laughter, knowing that life will always contain both, all.

## Prayers of the Faithful for 21 March 2021 Fifth Sunday of Lent

Celebrant: Lord, we offer you our prayers.

We pray for Pope Francis, the clergy and all the church that we will follow Christ's teaching and give light to the world. *We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are suffering the many injustices in our world, especially the people of Myanmar, the Uyghur people in China, Christians in Syria and Iraq and the women and girls who are still being trafficked in many places throughout the world. May they find a way through the darkness that surrounds them. *We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the courage to walk with Jesus and to work towards overcoming the evils of the world, especially child abuse and domestic violence. We pray for those who see violence as the only answer to society's ills. May we be given the wisdom to find peaceful ways to bring about change and to trust in God's mercy and love.

*We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are pushed to the edges of society and whose value and potential are not recognized; we remember especially Halima and the Rohingya people of Myanmar. May our support of Project Compassion assist their silenced voices to be raised in hope. *We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, Debbie Edgley (Vanderwert) and those listed in our bulletin. May God's love comfort them and bring healing of mind and body.

*We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died, Yvonne Abakumenko, Irena Mietus and Angelina Monteiro, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, Marianna Cantone, John Frawley, Maria Muscat, Carol Said, Stella Skehill and Maxwell Vanderwert. May they rest in the arms of the Lord. We pray that those who mourn for them will be comforted by Jesus' promise of eternal life with Him.

*We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of light and love, give us the open heart we need to accept what is put before us, the joys and sorrows, the pain and laughter, knowing that life will always contain all of those.

*We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God our Father, may we listen to your voice and always be open to your Spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**



# Monty & Eltham

The Catholic Parishes of  
St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians

15 / 03 / 2021

Dear Parents and Students of Grade 6 Class 2020,

I trust that you are now settling into your new Secondary School environment and beginning to enjoy all the extra options that are now available to you beyond the Primary School experience.

I wanted to share with you some great news regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation that is now possible for 2021 within our Parishes of St. Francis Xavier, Montmorency and Our Lady Help of Christians in Eltham. The Archbishop of Melbourne with the support of our Regional Bishop is allowing Priests in our local parish and school settings to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation to Students while in this Covid Safe time.

Beginning over the Easter Weekend and concluding at Pentecost, students who wish to be confirmed at a parish Sunday Mass, may do so, and be supported by their families, sponsors and friends. This is a wonderful opportunity now available to us that was not possible last year because of the Coronavirus and severe restrictions that were in place at that time.

Naturally, there are some restrictions during these Confirmations but we will try to help you navigate them with ease and support.

- 4 Confirmation Candidates per Mass
- 10 Adults per Family
- A choice of three Masses
- SFX Saturday Night, 6pm
- SFX Sunday Morning, 8:30am
- OLHC Sunday Morning, 10am

Starting on the Easter Weekend with the Vigil Mass ( 3 April ) at SFX and for the next 8 weekends inclusive, and concluding on Pentecost Sunday ( 23 May ).

That is 24 Mass opportunities to consider with your family & friends during the months of April and May.

Booking a Confirmation time will require a phone call to the parish office ( 9435 2178 ) or sending an Email. ( [montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au) ) Office booking times for the Sacrament of Confirmation are Wednesday to Friday ( 10am - 2pm ).

I hope that each student and their family from SFX & HT take up this opportunity to Celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with us.

Warmest thanks for your ongoing support during these Covid19 times,

Michael F. Sierakowski  
Moderator



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