



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.



Easter Liturgy Timetable

Holy Thursday, 1st April

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:30pm @ OLHC, Eltham,
7:30pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Good Friday, 2nd April

The Way of the Cross

11:00am @ OLHC, Eltham

The Celebration of the Passion

3:00pm @ OLHC, Eltham
3:00pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Easter Saturday, 3rd April

Easter Vigil

7:30pm @ OLHC, Eltham
7:30pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Easter Sunday, 4th April

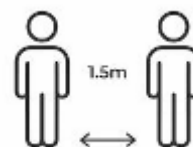
Easter Mass

8:30am @ SFX, Montmorency
10:00am @ OLHC, Eltham

Reminder regarding CovidSafety during our Easter Ceremonies:



- 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.



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: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Acting Principal: Therese Stewart: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

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



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Irena Mietus, Adam Rischitelli, John Weir

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

John Hedigan, Teresa Pfeil

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert)

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

Diana Jackson

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Catherine Alphonse (1st anniversary)

Peter Donnellan (4th anniversary)

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

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

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

CALLING MEAL DONORS :

Parishioners have spoken to me over the last few weeks asking if they could provide a meal for a long-residing and generous family who have tested out the health system at the same time :Mum had a stroke and dad had a heart attack. Both are now home, on the slow road to recovery but remarkably well considering the scare they gave us!!! Contact me if you would like to assist with a meal , then I'll return your call to arrange a delivery day.

Frances Toscano

ftoscano@netspace.net.au - 0408 369 599

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

Collections last weekend: 21 Mar 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$246.00	\$470.30
Montmorency	\$440.00	\$396.25

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>



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



Catholic Theological College

Newman and the Nineteenth Century Church

Online unit via zoom on
12 Saturday mornings

Lecturer:

Rev. Prof. Austin Cooper OMI AM

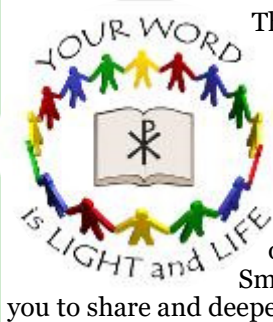
Audit, Undergraduate and Post-graduate Options available

Enquiries:

Dr Rosemary Canavan, Academic Dean

T: 9412 3333 E: dean@ctc.edu.au

Small Church Community



The invitation to join a Small Church Group is always open to all. Now may be the right time for you to join one of these small groups. Two of John's disciples saw Jesus walking by and asked him 'Where do you live?' Jesus replied 'come and see'. Here is an open invitation to come and see if Small Church Community is a way for you to share and deepen your relationship with Jesus.

Contact Patsy Skipper (0429 439 675) or
Anne Cotter (9431 0295).

**Meeting of SCC Facilitators this Sunday,
28th March at 9:45am at Val Hayes' home.**

Dear Parishioners

Thank you for your generous donation to the ASRC Foodbank.

Our Foodbank operates as a free grocery store for people seeking asylum who live in our community. The ASRC Foodbank's unique model enables people to choose their own items, providing access with dignity to food they can't afford to buy. With your support, we provide food to approximately 700 people each week, most of whom rely on us as their sole source of food. Many of these people are denied the right to work and earn an income, while others receive insufficient income to cover their basic needs. Sadly, this is increasingly the case, and the call on our service is growing.

Giving food is the most immediate and tangible way to support people seeking asylum, and your generosity inspires us. The majority of all groceries and material aid is donated by generous supporters just like you. We can't operate our programs without your compassionate contribution.

Thank you once again for your support and generosity. It truly is invaluable.



Karen and the Foodbank team.

Volunteers for assistance with Easter Liturgies.

Thank you very much to all those of you who have offered to assist with the Easter Ceremonies. Due to continuing Covid restrictions, our celebrations will be more simple this year but no less prayerful. We apologise to you if you placed your name on the list but have been not been called. We are very grateful for your offer of assistance. *Liturgy Team*



**Palm Sunday
28th March 2021**

For over half a century, generations of Australians have participated in Project Compassion, making it one of the nation's longest running charity campaigns.

Throughout five decades of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, Caritas Australia has worked alongside vulnerable communities with the generous support of Australians. Project Compassion has also helped with access to education, health services, agricultural training and through programs that reduce maternal and infant mortality.

This year, we have presented five stories from people striving to 'Be More' – just a few amongst the millions who have been helped through Project Compassion.

As we celebrate this Australian icon, we would like to thank generations of supporters nationwide for their generosity, which allows us to move forward with lifesaving strategies to tackle new challenges.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



You are invited to an Easter Blessing of Food at 12 noon at St Francis Xavier Church on Easter Saturday, 3rd April. This is very much a European tradition where people bring for to be blessed for their Easter table.



REFUGEE and ASYLUM SEEKER NEWS.

Our church family has generously befriended and supported refugees and asylum seekers for many years.

We all know their journeys are long and painful. They miss family and country, but to go back could lead to imprisonment, torture or worse.

For many, their request for residency and citizenship in Australia has been ignored year after year.

BUT. We are now seeing a tiny crack in the wall. We have two Hazara "sons" who came to us as unaccompanied minors. Javid still lives with us and Ayoub comes home any time there is something important to discuss! After 3 years of applications, Immigration has asked Javid's and Ayoub's wives; (still in Afghanistan); to travel to the Australian Embassy in Pakistan for their 'pre-visa' biometric/health checks. The trip is long and dangerous. They will be escorted by Javid's father and the boys will fund the journey. In time, this may lead to reunification.

And Mulu; an Asylum Seeker from Ethiopia who arrived with our Oromo men; has been granted an interview with immigration in Melbourne, which hopefully will lead to her permanent residency. Our Oromo men; Abrham and Tamrat; desperately miss their wives and young families. They work LONG hours and pray constantly that they will soon be reunited with their loved ones.

All these beautiful people are thankful for our parish's love and support.

Please continue to pray for them to find peace and reunification in our land.

Marlis and Miranda

Before his entry into Jerusalem, Jesus was anointed with oil as the royal Messiah. Yet the act is almost forgotten, and the person who performed it is usually left unnamed / **By Margaret Hebblethwaite**

The woman turned prophet

On Palm Sunday we will celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as the Messiah-king. In a normal year, it is done with pomp: a procession, the waving of palms, and the reading of the Passion, which reinterprets the kind of king that Jesus will be - a Messiah who is to die. But there is another event at the start of Holy Week that proclaims Jesus as the Messiah who is to die: the anointing at Bethany. Yet we do not celebrate it. It is systematically ignored, and some theologians even dispute its importance. Why?

Was it because it was the act of a woman? This is what the US feminist theologian Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza maintained in the famous introduction to *In Memory of Her*, back in 1983: "Even her name is lost to us ... forgotten because she was a woman." It set us all thinking.

The anointing at Bethany was enormously significant according to Jesus, and was to form part of the core proclamation of the Gospel - what theologians call the *kerygma*: "Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." The words are similar to what he said about the Eucharist: "Do this in memory of me." We celebrate the Eucharist daily, Palm Sunday annually - but the anointing at Bethany? Never.

Messiah (Hebrew) and Christ (Greek) simply mean "the Anointed One", and, in the Psalms, "the Lord's Anointed" is used as a synonym for the king. If challenged about when Jesus was anointed, commentators tend to refer to his baptism, although that could only be metaphorical. But the moment when Jesus actually *was* anointed is in all four gospels - something that can only be said of the most crucial events: his baptism, the miraculous feeding, his Passion and Resurrection.

There are variations of details, which is what you would expect of an event that happened several decades before a written record was made. Jesus spoke of its importance, but different reasons are highlighted by different evangelists for what it meant: anticipation of his burial,



The thirteenth-century Besançon Psalter, produced by Cistercian nuns

outpouring of love, outpouring of gratitude mixed with agonised grief for his coming death. In truth, the anointing belongs to the Passion cycle (in all but Luke's Gospel), because it happens just a few days before the Passover (two days before in Matthew and Mark, six days before in John) and it sets into motion the Passion (because it prompts Judas to go to the chief priests to betray Jesus).

The most notable difference between the accounts is that in Matthew 26 and Mark 14 the woman pours oil on the head of Jesus, as Samuel poured oil on the head of Saul (1 Samuel 10:1), while in Luke 7 and John 12 she anoints Jesus on the feet and wipes the oil with her hair, in a way that stresses sensuous, physical contact and powerful emotions of love and thanksgiving. But far more striking than the differences are the similarities. The accounts in Matthew and Mark are almost identical, but Mark's is the fuller account. Together they share a number of common features with John but not Luke: the proximity to the Passion, the huge quantity and expense of the perfumed oil, the words of Jesus about the poor being "always with you", and about the anointing being a preparation for his burial. Mark and John share the detail of the value being 300 denarii. Matthew and Mark also share common

features with Luke but not with John: the name of Simon as host, and the alabaster flask.

And there are features common to all four gospels: perfumed oil, the indignation of the onlookers and Jesus' firm defence of the woman's behaviour. For these reasons most commentators, though not all, consider that we have four versions of the same event.

There is one important detail, however, that only appears in John, and that is the name of the woman. She is Mary, the sister of Martha, and of Lazarus whom Jesus raised from the dead - Mary of Bethany. Her name may have been omitted in the other gospels (as Schussler Fiorenza says) because she was a woman, but the English biblical scholar and theologian Richard Bauckham has another explanation: "protective anonymity". Because "the woman is acknowledging or even designating Jesus as the royal Messiah", it would have placed her "in danger were she identified as having been complicit in Jesus' politically subversive claim to messianic kingship". Protecting the earliest Christian community also led the evangelists to downplay the dangerous, messianic implications of the anointing, he says in *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* (2006).

None of the evangelists hails the event *explicitly* as a messianic anointing, comparable to the anointing of kings in the Old Testament: Saul, David, Solomon, Hazael, Jehu, Joash, Jehoahaz. However, the accounts in Matthew, Mark and John may *imply* this meaning: the first two, because they have Jesus anointed on the head, which was the way a royal anointing was done; John, because he immediately follows it with the entry into Jerusalem, when the crowds hail Jesus as the King of Israel. This is reminiscent of Saul, David and Jehu, who were anointed by God's prophet privately, even secretly, but were then acclaimed by the people as king.

In the 1970s, two scholars wrote articles arguing that the Bethan event was a messianic anointing: J.K. Elliott, of the University of Leeds, and Elizabeth E. Platt, of Rutgers University. Elliott's article was criticised by J.F. Coakley, and the idea was summarily dismissed by Robert H. Gundry in his hefty commentary on Mark, objecting that "anointing by an uncommissioned woman, in contrast with anointing by a prophet, would hardly be recognised as a royal anointing". Gundry's objection is extraordinary. Is not Jesus the king

whose cradle was an animals' feeding trough? Whose courtiers were fishermen? Whose triumphal entry was made on a donkey? Whose banquet was bread and wine? Who was crowned with thorns? Who was enthroned on a cross, in the place of a skull? What could be more appropriate than that he should be anointed as the Messiah by a mere woman, one who was despised for what was seen as unseemly behaviour? And in the hose of a leper (Matthew, Mark)?

Other scholars were slow to take up the idea. In 1980, the German theologian Elisabeth Moltmann-Wendel was a clear advocate. As "the prophet Samuel anointed Saul (and later David) as king, pouring a flask of oil on his head", so "the unknown woman is at the same time a prophet who anoints the Messiah, consecrates him and equips him for his task" (*The Women Around Jesus*).

Then in 1994, three books came out in the same year, which all claimed Bethany was a messianic anointing: my own; *Six New Gospels*; *Women and Jesus in Mark* by the Japanese biblical scholar Hisako Kinukawa; and *Seeing the Lord* by Marianne Sawicki, and scholar in many disciplines. Kinukawa points out the "unfathomable contrast between her and Peter, who confesses, 'You are the anointed one', without understanding

what it means". Sawicki says that "Jesus unconditionally affirms what she has acted out concerning the character of his Christhood, by making her gesture constitutive of the Gospel".

The idea of the messianic anointing at Bethany slowly began to gain ground, with a growing number of women scholars affirming it, and notable contributions made by Susan Miller in 2004, Holy Hearon in 2005 and Julie M. Smith in 2013. Some male scholars, too, have argued for it: to Richard Bauckham we can add Michael Ball, J.N. Sanders and Santiago Guizarro, professor at the Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, who wrote an article on it with Ana Rodriguez in 2011. Two scholarly commentaries, by C. E. B. Cranfield and Craig A. Evans, hold that Mark intended a messianic significance. The Jesuit biblical translator Nicholas King has put it succinctly: "An unknown woman is anointing Jesus as Messiah, and Jesus is explaining that she is anointing him for burial (so it is a dying Messiah)."

As we enter Holy Week this year, it is time to remember this courageous act, denounced at the time and subsequently almost forgotten, and to name the woman who did it: Mary of Bethany. Those who have written about the anointing have tended to speak of the "nameless

woman", out of a scholarly hesitancy to muddle up different gospel accounts. But given the reasons for identifying John's event with that of Matthew and Mark, it is time to give the woman the name that was undoubtedly hers: Mary of Bethany.

Her act has even been attributed to a different woman, Mary of Magdala, along with the unsubstantiated allegation that she was a repentant prostitute. Anyone with half an eye open to theology over the past decades will have noticed the explosion of studies to rehabilitate Mary of Magdala. But Mary of Bethany has been left in a darkened corner. The ignoring of the anointing of the Anointed One by Mary of Bethany is a sin of omission that all of us have had a part in perpetuating. It is time to put it right.

I end with some eloquent words of Marianne Sawicki about the "vial", or alabaster flask, broken to release the perfumed oil (Mark 14:3): "When you hear the hammer strike and the victim scream, you have to hear the vial snap and the loaf tear. You have to hear all of them when you haer any of them. And that sound will also be the impossible sound of the tombstone creeping back. Your tombstone."

Margaret Hebblethwaite is writing a book about the women in the gospels.

St Francis Xavier
Catholic Primary School
Montmorency

2022
ENROLMENTS
NOW OPEN

JOIN OUR NEXT PRINCIPAL LED SCHOOL TOUR
BY CALLING OUR REGISTRAR ON **9435 8474**

>> OUR EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE IS UNSURPASSED <<

- ✓ 7 SPECIALIST TEACHING AREAS EACH WEEK FOR PREP - YEAR 6
- ✓ INTERVENTION SUPPORT (ENGLISH/MATHS) AT ALL LEVELS
- ✓ STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN
- ✓ L.O.T.E - MANDARIN
- ✓ VISUAL ARTS
- ✓ PERFORMING ARTS
- ✓ S.T.E.M
- ✓ SCHOOL CHAPLAIN / COUNSELLOR
- ✓ DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY (COMPUTERS)
- ✓ DISCOVERY CENTRE (LIBRARY)
- ✓ PHYSICAL EDUCATION

TOGETHER WE
CAN ACHIEVE
ANYTHING

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Baptisms

Montmorency Parish Community
on Sunday 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 *Milla, Jack, Ella & Maeve*,
their parents & Godparents.

May God keep them always in His love.

CLIMATE IN CRISIS

St Margaret's Action Group for the Environment. This very active group of people passionate about care of our earth, are holding some information evenings. With drought, bushfires and flooding we must also be passionate and not only call on Governments and politicians to act but also to be more informed and do what we can as individuals in our own lives and homes.

For more information: call St Margaret's on 9439 9238 or stmargaretsetham.org.au

ROSTERS:

week ending 28 March - Palm Sunday

Eltham

Armstrong, Miranda	Reader: others
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Reardon, Peter	Reader: Gospel Narrator
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Scully, Greg	Commentator
Zavadil Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

week ending 4 April

Montmorency

Hannon, Kevin & Genni	ASRC
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Eltham

Armstrong, Miranda	Commentator (Holy Thursday)
Armstrong, Miranda	Reader (Good Friday)
Beckford, Peter	Reader (Easter Vigil)
Dhanasen Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Dopheide, Marlis	Reader (Easter Vigil)
Furtado, Lorraine	Reader (Good Friday)
Furtado, Lorraine	Reader (Easter Vigil)
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Leahy, Michelle	Reader (Good Friday)
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Nolan, Kathleen	Reader (Holy Thursday)
Reardon, Peter	Reader (Good Friday)
Reardon, Peter	Reader (Easter Vigil)
Scully, Greg	Reader (Good Friday)
Scully, Greg	Reader (Easter Sunday)
Walker, Neil	Commentator (Easter Sunday)
Zylstra, Diane	Reader (Good Friday)

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 27th

6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Sunday 28th - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

8:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

9:45am Small Church Community Facilitators Meeting
home of Val Hayes

10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Milla, Jack, Ella & Maeve Montmorency

Monday 29th

6:30pm Sisters & Mistresses of Song Eltham

11:00am Funeral: Irena Mietus Montmorency

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

10:30am Funeral: Adam Rischitelli Montmorency

Thursday 1st April - Holy Thursday

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

11:00am Funeral: John Weir Montmorency

7:30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Eltham

7:30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Montmorency

Friday 2nd - Good Friday

11:00am The Way of the Cross Eltham

3:00pm The Celebration of the Passion Eltham

3:00pm The Celebration of the Passion Montmorency

Saturday 3rd - Holy Saturday

12:00pm Easter Blessing of Food Montmorency

7:30pm Easter Vigil Eltham

7:30pm Easter Vigil Montmorency

Sunday 4th - Easter Sunday

8:30am Easter Mass (160 people) & Baptisms: Lily, Arlo & Luna Montmorency

10:00am Easter 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

SVDP Lent and Easter Pamphlets 2021

Easter is now just a week away. Following on from our notes over the last few weeks, the Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) highlight further titles of small booklets which may be of interest to parishioners and their families to help in their preparation for Easter. Here are just a few of the new titles:

- **What is Triduum**
- **Mini Meditations for the EASTER SEASON**
- **These fifty days of Easter**
- **Easter and Pentecost Prayers for Seniors**

Please note the booklets are now located on the wall next to the front door. Please feel free to browse these and other related booklets together with the many other topics of interest.

A gold coin donation in either of the St Vincent de Paul 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 in some other administrative capacity? If so please contact Mike on 0417 221 245 or the Parish Office.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Daily Reflections for Lent - Not By Bread Alone 2021



Reflection: As Holy Week begins, we find Jesus “in the house of Simon the leper” as a woman breaks open an alabaster jar filled with perfume and pours it over him, much to the chagrin of a cadre of people indignant over something they don’t understand. Is it any wonder Jesus scared people? Look at the crowd he ran with. Look at the way he welcomed the unwelcome. He pushed people’s buttons, allowing things they didn’t want to allow, being someone they didn’t want him to be, which is precisely how we go from palm branches to nails, from shouts of “Hosanna!” to shouts of “Crucify him!” in the span of a few days. I love how, in the midst of the dinner scene, Jesus not only praises the woman’s actions but also says they will be memorialised for all time. And here we are, two thousand years later, reading about the woman and the alabaster jar and wondering what lengths we would be willing to go to if Jesus sat down at our table today. Would we be the one shooing the woman away or the one anointing Jesus with oil? Would we be the cynic or the mystic? Every day it’s our choice.

Meditation: As I prepared to write this meditation, I decided to seek inspiration and reached for the book *Wisdom of the Body* by Christine Valters Paintner. I had no reason to think this book would have the answer, but the Spirit moved me. I opened it up and there, before my eyes, was the woman with the alabaster jar and the quote I chose for today’s reflection. We both know that’s no coincidence. Christine’s words remind us that the woman in today’s gospel was likely marginalised, shunned, in need of her own healing. “But rather than believe what others think of her or allow that to curtail her, she steps forward in a bold and extravagant act. She listens to her heart and allows the tears to flow.” Listen to your heart today, right now. What is it saying? What is it urging you to do? Can you be bold even when the world wants you to cower? Do it. Pour the perfume and see what it feels like to let spiritual boldness win.

Prayer: Jesus, you see past the earthly mask to what lies in our heart. See our goodness even when we can’t see it ourselves.



Prayers of the Faithful for 28 March 2021 Palm Sunday

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, as we reflect on the reading of the Passion of Jesus, let us pray for all who suffer.

For the church - that all who take up the cross and follow Christ will seek justice for the oppressed, freedom for the innocent and consolation for the downhearted.

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

For those seeking a home - for the homeless, those left devastated by fire or flood, those seeking refuge because of war, famine and drought, temporary visa holders and asylum seekers on Nauru and Manus and those moved to Australia as medical evacuees.

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

For all people of faith - that we will be steadfast in prayer, praying always for what is right, just and compassionate.

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

For all nations struggling with the pandemic - the sick and dying, the grieving and fearful, the health workers and vaccine distributors.

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

For peace - for all those working tirelessly to bring an end to conflict: for all who are caught up in conflicts that a just and long-lasting solution will be found.

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

For Leaders - leaders of religion—that they will continue to uphold the highest human values; for leaders of industry—that they will put the welfare of the earth and its people above profits and short term gains; for the leaders of nations—that they will always govern for all people with justice and compassion.

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

For those who have died - we remember Diana Jackson, Irena Mietus, Adam Rischitelli & John Weir; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Catherine Alphonse, Peter Donnellan, John Hedigan & Teresa Pfeil. May they know the peace of Christ

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

Celebrant: With great trust and confidence we place these petitions before our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Passion Sunday

Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing, by works of charity and self-sacrifice, for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the whole Church throughout the world. Christ entered in triumph into his own city, to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion this entry which began his saving work and follow him with a lively faith. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark (11:1-10)

When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, and said to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat' untie it and bring it. If any one says to you, "Why are you doing this?" say, "The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" And they went away, and found a colt tied at the door out in the open street' and they untied it. And those who stood there said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' And they told them what Jesus had said' and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus, and threw their garments on it' and he sat upon it. And many spread their garments on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed cried out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! Hosanna in the highest!'

The Gospel of the Lord.



PALM SUNDAY/PASSION OF THE LORD 2021

What happens inside you when you hear the Reading of the Passion/the story of Jesus death and execution? I always find myself in a very subdued place, so saddened by the cruelty of Jesus' execution and the injustice of it all.

It has been my practice over many years not to give a homily on this Sunday for several reasons. You may say, 'because the Gospel reading is very long and there's no time to give a homily'. That's partly true, but even more so for me, words get in the road. Seems to me that it's best to not try and find words.

There are times when it's best not to say words. How often people have said to me, 'I don't know what to say' when they are about to visit a grieving friend or a member of their family. I respond by saying, 'Maybe you don't need any words. Just to be there and hold that person in their grief, even in silence, is what really matters.'

I have a further reason not to give a homily. How many of us have been to live theatre where the orchestra begins the evening with an overture, introducing the songs that will tell the story of the play or the musical or the opera.

It's like this on Palm Sunday. The Passion is the overture to Holy Week, where we have a series of liturgies on Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil to unpack the story of Jesus' crucifixion, death and resurrection and how this impacts on our own lives. Palm Sunday introduces us to Holy Week and so I encourage all of us to journey into this story and come along to Holy Thursday for 7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 3pm Solemn Ceremonies on Good Friday and 7.30pm Easter Vigil. Easter Mass will also be on 8.30am here and 10am Eltham on Easter Sunday.

Welcome aboard.

Terry