

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.

HAPPY
Mother's Day

Charm is deceptive,
and beauty is fleeting;
but a woman who fears the Lord
is to be praised.
Proverbs 31:30



One Life, One Breath The Contemplative Call to Nature

On this Earth Day, Sherri Mitchell, a Native American attorney and sacred activist for environmental protection and human rights shares two particular terms which offer us some much-needed Indigenous wisdom and compassion.

N'dilnabamuk - "all my relations". May people have heard Native people say "all my relations" after speaking or offering prayers. But what does it really mean? All societies organise around some sort of core principle. The core principle for Wabanaki societies is relationship. Our story begins with an understanding that we are related to all beings within creation. The two legged, the four legged, the winged, the beings that crawl and slide along the ground, the plants, the trees, and the living Earth are all our relatives. Everything is interconnected and interdependent; the well-being of the whole determines the well-being of any individual part. We recognise that connection in our prayers, and the understanding that the whole is shifted by every action of each individual. There is one life, one breath that we all breathe. Therefore, when we take any action out in the world, even when we pray for ourselves, we impact all life. This belief forms the foundational understanding [that] weaves through all of our other values. It's the thread that ties them all together...

Kciye - "Harmony with the natural world" - this teaches us that it is not enough to know that we are part of one living system. We must also take active steps to live in harmony with the rest of creation. This means that we cannot adopt attitudes or beliefs that place us above the natural world. We cannot see ourselves as having dominion over the land, the water, or the animals. We can't even see ourselves as being stewards of the Earth. We are only keepers of a way of life that is in harmony with the Earth. Every day, we must act in ways that acknowledge that we are part of one living system, a unified whole.

This understanding is very different than the belief that human beings are chosen above all others. That view creates countless distortions that not only elevate [humanity] inappropriately, but also diminish the rest of creation. The world is one unified system. It cannot be separated into fragmented, saleable parts. The Eurocentric view of property ownership requires us to see the land as being disconnected from us. This view separates us from the source of life. The Indigenous view recognises the land as kin [*as did my spiritual father, St. Francis*], as part of the lineage of life that we are all connected to. Thus, we have an obligation to care for the land in the same way that we would care for our human relatives...

The only way for us to regain our balance within creation is to once again find our balance with the natural world. *Kciye* is just a word, but it's a word that reminds us of our deeper connections and our deeper obligations to life.

Reference:

Sherri Mitchell, *Sacred Instructions: Indigenous Wisdom for Living Spirit-Based Change* (North Atlantic Books: 2018), 188, 191-192.

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



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

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

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

Collections: 2 May 2021

Community	Thanks-giving	Presbytery	Easter Offering	Project Compassion
OLHC	\$296.05	\$714.10		\$41.95
SFX	\$1,981.50	\$1,166.25	\$10.00	



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>

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Reg Kelsey

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Warren Beaton, Betty Frape, Rita Fraser, Gabriele Larosa, Cath Molin, John Swindon

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Estelle Levy

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Domenica Romeo

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Violetta, Denice Donnellan, Lidia Marazzato, Tom Nolan, Christine Scott, Ibszyk Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zyleviczcz

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

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

Mother's Day

Mother's day is next weekend. It's a very special day as we all love our mums to bits even if they are no longer physically with us. The Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) have a number of small booklets which may be of interest to parishioners and their families. Here are just a few of the new titles:

- *Prayers for Expectant Mothers - Blessing the Child Within*
- *Prayers for a New Mother*
- *Prayers of a Catholic Mother*
- *Celebrate Mothers – Prayers and reflections on Motherhood*
- *What Makes Mary Special*
- *Prayers for Grandparents*

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 is some other administrative capacity? If so please contact Mike on 0417 221 245 or the Parish Office



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

6th SUNDAY OF EASTER 2021 — Terry

Have you ever been to the official opening of a new Church? I will always remember the opening of the new Church of St Martin de Porres Parish, Avondale Heights some thirty or more years ago.

It was a grand occasion, a full Church of people and so many involved in the celebration of the Mass. The Parish Priest Fr Bill McCarthy was clearly delighted with the new Church and he was so proud of the architecture and design of the Church.

Afterwards there was a clergy dinner and all the priests who had served the parish on appointments to St Martin's were invited to the dinner. I had served as assistant priest there in 1985/1986 and I gladly accepted the invitation to come to the dinner.

One of the priests sitting around the table came from a London Diocese, Vicar General of the Diocese with the honoured title of Monsignor. He had studied in Rome with Fr Bill McCarthy and Bill had invited him to the opening of the Church and the dinner afterwards. He didn't have anything to say or lead at the Mass and so a suggestion was made to invite him to speak at the dinner. He had thirty seconds notice and he agreed to say a few words.

He talked about student days in Rome with his friend Bill and he spoke of his delight in receiving by mail an invitation to come to Melbourne for this fine occasion, with his fare and costs all paid for if he could come.

And he talked of how he had never been to Melbourne, but on arrival in Melbourne, he felt it was familiar ground. And as he thought about this he realised that his friend Bill McCarthy had spoken so much about his home Melbourne, in their days in Rome, and it was like he had been to Melbourne. 'That's friendship' he said.

And then he spoke of his understanding of the Gospel, how the more he reflects and prays on the Jesus story, the more he realises that the Jesus story is about friendship. Jesus called together a group of people and they became friends. They were to become his disciples and apostles and most of all his friends. . And he concluded by saying that as a priest in London, he really believes that a priest is first and foremost to be a friend of the people and if he does this well he will be living the Jesus story today. And he thanked Bill for inviting him as his friend.

Not bad for thirty seconds preparation and the Monsignor's words have always stayed with me since. And when I look at that Gospel today and listen to those words of Jesus to his disciples, I think the Monsignor is right.

"This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you....."

"I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father."

To recognise that as disciples of Jesus today, we are his friends is simply extraordinary. Perhaps we have to dwell on this and come to believe that this is the miracle of God in Jesus so deeply in love with us.

If we have this sense of intimacy and connection we too will know what it's like to have never been somewhere and yet we have been there. It may not be a place like Melbourne, like it was for the Monsignor, Bill McCarthy's friend, but friendship is the most precious gift and we can be in all sorts of places of the heart when we truly have a friend.

We do well today to thank God for the friends we have in our lives and we must also celebrate those words of Jesus to you and me:

"I call you friends because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father."



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Eltham &
Montmorency Parish**

Ascension Sunday

16 May at 5pm

Our Lady Help of Christians

2 Henry St, Eltham

Roster for Eucharistic Ministers at OLHC

Would those who have been Eucharistic Ministers in the past at OLHC, and who wish to continue in this ministry, please put your name and contact number on the sheet available in the foyer after today's mass.

Thank you,
Kathleen Nolan



04 May 2021

Parish Priests, Moderators and Administrators,
Archdiocese of Melbourne



We proclaim a crucified Christ
1Cor 1:23

Dear Brothers in Christ,

My prayerful greetings to you in the Risen Lord.

It was good to be able to gather together with so many of you on Wednesday. Thank you for those who were able to attend. I understand we had around 220 Clergy present - a record gathering since my time, and perhaps for some considerable time.

This first gathering was the beginning of a conversation, and I acknowledge that there will be many questions, reflections and even concerns that will need to be worked through as we continue to discern the shape of the path ahead for the local Church in Melbourne.

For those who could not attend the Proclaim Team are working on what will be shared from the gathering and where it can be accessed. As part of the process, and following initial conversations with Clergy and lay leadership, we will also be preparing what will be shared more broadly with all our people.

As outlined on Wednesday, we are looking to some first steps to ensure the process for discernment and consultation is approached in a way that will engage all of the faithful.

To this end, I now invite each Parish to choose a Parish lay leader to attend a similar gathering to Wednesday's to hear about the future planning for the establishment of Missions across our Archdiocese. This will form the beginnings of more fulsome conversations that will be held over the next 12 months to identify the Missions into the various localities that form our local Church.

In considering who might attend this lay leadership gathering, you might wish to consider the Chair of a Parish Pastoral Council, a Parish leadership team member or Pastoral Associate, or a lay person with a general leadership role in the Parish, rather than an administrative staff member.

It is important that the person attending this will be able to engage with the information presented and then return to the Parish and communicate something of what they have heard, and be part of an ongoing dialogue with you and the wider Parish community.

The gathering will be held on **Saturday 22 May 2021 from 9.30am** (beginning with morning tea and registration) **to 2.00pm at the Veneto Club**, 191 Bulleen Road, Bulleen. Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

As this is a catered event, registration is essential please. The lay leader attending from your Parish must register through this link: <https://www.trybooking.com/BQZVR>

It is important that each Parish have a representative, so I encourage you now to seek who that might be. Due to number limits under continued COVID restrictions, this gathering will be open only to laity. Forthcoming regional gatherings will provide further opportunities for Clergy to come together again.

As we embark on recalibrating our local communities of grace to better live out our common missionary calling to the Gospel, might I leave you with those same questions from Pope Francis that I spoke to in the Patrick Oration this year, and that I shared again this week:

What might we ask of our local parish?

- Is it "in contact with the homes and lives of its people?"
- Is it "an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration?"
- Does it "encourage and train its members to be evangeliser?" and,
- Is it "a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach?" (Evangelii Gaudium §28).

May the Holy Spirit continue to fill us with the light that will guide us in strength and clarity.

St Joseph, pray for us.

St Patrick, pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross, pray for us.

Yours fraternally in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Prayers of the Faithful for 9 May 2021

Celebrant: Dear friends, Jesus calls us to love as he has loved. Assured of the Father's answer to our prayer, let us ask for God's blessing on all that lives.

For the Church - that after the example of Peter, we will be ever welcoming of people without any discrimination. *We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have been baptized in the name of Jesus - that they will be a credible sign of God's saving love for the world. *We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have been confirmed today - may they grow strong in the gifts of the Spirit. *We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the COVID-19 pandemic—that it will bring to birth a greater sense of compassion among all peoples and a greater willingness to provide care for those in need. We remember in particular the people of India and Bangladesh.

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

For mothers on this Mother's Day, whose dedication, faithfulness and generous spirit shapes their families into communities of love.

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

For mothers whose lives are marked by struggles, disappointment and violence, grant them help, protection and respect. *We pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For suffering caused by climate change - that all people will show great care for the well-being of our planet, and that those who suffer from floods, winds or fire, find the care they need in the loving support of neighbours, near and far.

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

For those who risk their lives defending indigenous rights - that their courage will secure the protection of their lands and culture.

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

For the recently deceased, especially Reg Kelsey; and for those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, remembering especially Warren Beaton, Betty Frape, Rita Fraser, Gabriele Larosa, Cath Molin, Domenica Romeo and John Swindon, may they be born anew into the life of God.

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

Celebrant: God of all goodness, by his self-sacrificing love your Son Jesus has freed us from sin. Guide us in the ways of love and mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



Help for marriages under stress:

The BreakThrough Online Course created by SmartLoving will enable you to identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Restore hope for your relationship's future.

Visit: smartloving.org/breakthrough

Divine Mercy Discount - 50% | until 10 May 2021.

ROSTERS:
week ending 16 May

<i>Montmorency</i>	
Dean, Mary	PRYR
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
<i>Eltham</i>	
Foxley, David	Reader
Furtado, Lorraine	Commentator
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Scully, Hellen	Altar Society
Stewart Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 8

11:00am Baptism: Oliver Eltham
6:00pm Mass (160 people),
first eucharist & confirmations Montmorency

Sunday 9

8:30am Mass (160 people) & confirmations Montmorency
10:00am Mass (160 people) & confirmations Eltham
12:00pm Baptisms: Amara, Niah, Bette, Evelyn, Harrison
Montmorency

Monday 10

9:30am Days for Girls Montmorency

Tuesday 11

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency
7:00pm Eucharist Parent Night Montmorency

Wednesday 12

6:30am Meditation Montmorency
9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham
7:00pm Eucharist Parent Night Eltham

Thursday 13

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency
10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

Friday 14

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Saturday 15

6:00pm Mass (160 people) & confirmations Montmorency

Sunday 16 - The Ascension of the Lord

8:30am Mass (160 people), baptisms,
first eucharist & confirmations Montmorency
10:00am Mass (160 people) & confirmations Eltham
12:00pm Baptisms: Pia, Zayden, Camila, Imogen
Montmorency

Tuesday 18

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency
10:00am Craft Group Montmorency
11:00am Prayer Shawl Eltham

Wednesday 19

6:30am Meditation Montmorency
9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Thursday 20

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency
10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

Friday 21

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Saturday 22

6:00pm Mass (160 people) & confirmations Montmorency

Sunday 23 - Pentecost Sunday

Fr Terry's 50 years of Ordination

Here is the update...

Apart from Masses on the weekend of 22nd & 23rd May, where you may congratulate Fr Terry, there will also be three events you may wish to attend.

Sunday 23rd May at Montmorency RSL from **5pm to 8pm**. This event can only be booked online with this link:
<https://www.trybooking.com/754475>;

Tuesday 25th May, lunch at Montmorency RSL at 12 noon; and

Friday 28th May, lunch at Montmorency RSL at 12 noon.

The lunches may be booked by ringing the RSL directly on 9434 2085 and booking for 'lunch with Fr Terry'.

Due to continuing COVID restrictions, ALL of these events need to be pre-booked.

If you have difficulty booking any of the above events please do not hesitate to call:

Noel : 0421 016 105

Vinka : 0418 345 954

Patsy : 0429 439 675

Mary : 9439 5921; or

Barbara : 9439 8594; or

Speak to us after Mass.



**Our Lady Help of Christians
School Principal Panel**

Dear Parents & Parishioners,

We are now beginning a process to appoint a new school principal for our Catholic Primary School in Eltham. Naturally, a vitally important position in our community.

I seek your prayerful support during these important months ahead and ask that you refrain from contacting this panel regarding suitable applications as this journey involves strict confidentiality.

For transparency in this exciting time - it is my pleasure to announce to you the members of this selection team:
Jacki LANDY, Faith BELL, Philip CACHIA, Vince BUMPSTEAD,
Peter VANSTAN and Michael SIERAKOWSKI



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
- ✓ V.I.S. SKILLS
- ✓ L.O.T.E. MANDARIN
- ✓ PERFORMING ARTS
- ✓ S.L.E.M.
- ✓ SCHOOL CHAPLAIN / COUNSELLOR
- ✓ DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY (COMPUTERS)
- ✓ DISCOVERY CENTRE (LIBRARY)
- ✓ PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**TOGETHER WE
CAN ACHIEVE
ANYTHING**

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au



Enrol Now

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

EVERY DAY IS OPEN DAY

1-13 Henry Street Eltham, 3095 | 9439 7824 | principal@olhaltham.catholic.edu.au



**Congratulations to
all who celebrate
their sacraments this weekend:**

Saturday 8 May

St Francis Xavier, 6pm

Benedetto Chincarini

First Eucharist
& Confirmation

Giacomo Chincarini

First Eucharist &
Confirmation

Joel Theologos

Confirmation

Matthew Tyrrell

Confirmation

Sunday 9 May

St Francis Xavier, 8:30am

Daniel Beattie

Confirmation

Laela Graham

Confirmation

Hannah Kulkens

Confirmation

Ruby Raynes

Confirmation

Our Lady Help of Christians, 10am

Marques Infelice

Confirmation

St Francis Xavier, 12 noon

Amara Boyd

Baptism

Bette Boyd

Baptism

Evelyn Boyd

Baptism

Harrison Boyd

Baptism

Niah Boyd

Baptism



Can you help?



An elderly parishioner would like a lift from Diamond St, Eltham to 8:30am Mass at St Francis Xavier each Sunday. If you are able to help, please

CatholicCare - Chaplaincy Appeal



Chaplaincy Appeal 2021

Next weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal in the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Each year a special collection is conducted in all parishes for the purpose of supporting the vital work of our Catholic chaplains, who support thousands of Victorians every year in hospitals, prisons and youth justice centres, and those living with HIV/AIDS. Chaplains provide a listening ear, a compassionate presence, along with assistance to cope with emotional pain and loneliness. **Please give generously.**

You can donate using the envelopes available or online at www.ccam.org.au or call 03 9287 5513.

Gospel - John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'



Reflection

Today's gospel passage flows directly from the one we heard last Sunday. We continue to have the sense of eavesdropping on an intimate conversation as Jesus speaks with his disciples. It's worth recalling the setting in which Jesus opens his heart to them. Night has fallen. The disciples have been profoundly moved by Jesus' extraordinary gesture of washing their feet. They are troubled by his talk of treachery and desertion. The atmosphere is intense.

Several sayings from this text have lodged in our collective memory: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you"; "Love one another as I have loved you"; "A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends" "I shall not call you servants any more... I call you friends". The challenge for the minister of the gospel is to proclaim these familiar phrases with a freshness that evokes their profound meaning.

This may apply especially to the combination of the words "love" and "commandment"; perhaps believers have grown so used to hearing them that they no longer puzzle as to how love can be commanded. Yet the question remains. Also puzzling is the omission of any reference to love of others beyond the community, nor to love of enemies.

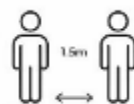
The reading as a whole may be imagined as a necklace with a string of precious stones, with each gem deserving to be inspected and admired. It calls for a proclamation that is measured and meditative.

Break Open the Word 2021



CovidSafety during Mass:

- 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.