



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.

*** New Parish Phone Number: 9435 4742 ***

The Future - More Urgent Than You Think - for Discussion

It is time for lay people in SFX Montmorency and OLHC Eltham to formulate hopes and aspirations for our two Parishes as our Archdiocese enters a new phase in its history.

Our Archbishop, Peter Comensoli, has announced his decision to begin a process of identifying about 60 missions, or 'families of communities' in the Archdiocese, into which existing Parishes would be mapped. In inner areas of Melbourne (and that includes us now!) the creation of these families will involve amalgamations of Parishes in addition to those already underway.

There are many reasons for the changes that will unfold in the next few years. There is a sharp and continuing decline in the number of priests, leaving an increasing number of Parishes without priests, and to a weakening in spiritual and communal life in some areas. There are extensive and increasing demographic changes showing up inadequacies of the antiquated structure of existing Parishes: Think Laverton with 20,912 Catholics and weekend mass attendance of 1,776 in contrast to 30 Parishes with mass attendance less than 300 per weekend.

Peter Comensoli, along with other clergy and laity, has seen in these changes, the need to "bring about a re-framing of the local Church to become more vital for God's people... our present way of doing things needs to be re-imagined in the face of the changing circumstances in which we live". (See his Pastoral Letter, Pentecost 2021).

The Archbishop envisages that on average the new missions would encompass 3-5 Parishes serviced by two priests, together with an enhanced role for lay leaders and for the faithful generally. But he tells us that "There are no pre-determined models or propositions at this stage". We – all of us, clergy, laity, young and old, whatever level of theological knowledge – are invited to join in "Re-imagining our Local Church as Mission Communities". Help with the re-imagining is available on the Sense of the Faithful site (www.senseofthefaithful.org.au/parishes).

Re-imagining means, among other things:

- Working out what we want the re-structuring to accomplish;
- Determining what is best for realising our Parish mission statements made some years ago;
- Working out the arrangement of functions between Mission and Parish which best expresses the future we began talking about when Fr. Michael called us together in February and March earlier this year;
- Thinking about the roles in church governance and pastoral work that lay people might undertake;
- Formulating the arrangements we envisage between our Parish schools, our local Parish, and the new Mission structure;
- Working toward links with neighbouring Parishes which we think might work well together in a Mission.

Perhaps above all, we lay people need to think of new forms of leadership we are called to as our Church, of necessity, restructures. (Again, in www.senseofthefaithful.org/parishes we might find examples and models both from near at hand and as far away as Wellington NZ to help us think and imagine).

So many questions and issues. And how to start? Surely not with more big meetings! Let's start with simple exchanges and conversations with fellow Parishioners. I am going to send this e-mail to my closest friends in the Parish community (mainly members of my small Church group) and simply wait to see what, if any responses I get back – whether on Archbishop Peter's plan, or any of the issues noted in the two previous paragraphs. I hope that some of my friends and contacts will send this letter, or some version of it into their networks, whether digital or face to face. In a couple of months we can try to record and collate some of the conversations on selected issues. I confess that I don't really know how to do all this... but I'm confident that if it seems worthwhile, we will find a way.

I hope that most of my fellow Parishioners will want to retain, and even revitalise the Parish communities that have been built up over so many years by our priests and laity. How can that hope be realised as the Missions take shape over the next few years? Are there other futures for our local Church that we should be imagining? May the conversations continue/begin!

Rowan

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 4742

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



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:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Rhys Branston, Tony Lier, Kevin Michael Mannix
Edna Mary McCudden, Margaret Moylan,
Fr James Murtagh, Jack Ramsdale*

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:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Violetta, Denice Donnellan, Geoff Haines,
Lidia Marazzato, Tom Nolan, Christine Scott,
Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zylevicz*

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

Collections: 13 June 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$80.00	\$368.08
SFX	\$1,148.00	\$352.90

“He asked them, ‘Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?’ - Mark 4:40

Do you really trust God? Is God your first choice or last resort? Is your faith something you just do on Sunday or do you live the Gospel message every day of the week? Many of us know about GOD. How many of us have a personal relationship with Him? Start now, open your heart to receive our Lord. Talk and listen to Him throughout the day, in all circumstances.

Roster for WEEKEND 26/27 June

<i>Montmorency</i>	
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	W8:30
Goodison, Pauline	CLNR
Ramsdale, Sue & John	ASRC
Stanton, Mark	W6:00
Wood, Marie	CLNR
<i>Eltham</i>	
Donellan, Denice	Eucharistic Minister
Goss, Marion	Eucharistic Minister
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Heyhoe, Margaret	Commentator
Leahy, Michelle	Reader
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Ryan Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 19

6:00pm Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

Sunday 20

8:30am Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

10:00am Mass (75 people) *Eltham*

12:00pm Baptisms: to be confirmed *Montmorency*

Tuesday 22

9:30am Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

Wednesday 23

6:30am Meditation *Montmorency*

9:30am Mass (75 people) *Eltham*

Thursday 24

9:30am Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery *Montmorency*

Friday 25

9:30am Mass (75 people) *Eltham*

Saturday 26

6:00pm Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

Sunday 27

8:30am Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

10:00am Mass (75 people) *Eltham*

12:00pm Baptisms: to be confirmed *Montmorency*

Tuesday 22

9:30am Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

Wednesday 23

6:30am Meditation *Montmorency*

9:30am Mass (75 people) *Eltham*

Thursday 24

9:30am Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery *Montmorency*

Friday 25

9:30am Mass (75 people) *Eltham*

Saturday 26

6:00pm Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

Sunday 27

8:30am Mass (75 people) *Montmorency*

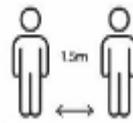
10:00am Mass (75 people) *Eltham*

CovidSafety

during Mass:



- Face masks are to be worn indoors (during Mass) unless you have personal health directives;



- Please maintain **social distancing of 1 person per 4 square metres** (families not included) at all times;



- Please **record your presence** via: QR Code on your phone, 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:

current Covid Regulations allow for **only 75 people** in the Churches of St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady Help of Christians.

The latest biographer of one of the twentieth century's greatest spiritual writers has come to terms with the monk's contradictions and restlessness / by Jon M. Sweeney

Merton reconsidered

How could the monk who was so often upset about his own lack of quiet and solitude also become the most loquacious of communicators? In the last decade of his life, Merton enjoyed correspondence with hundreds of people, including the most renowned literary and religious people of his day - from Boris Pasternak to Joan Baez to Pope John XXIII. When he'd first become a monk, in 1941, Merton thought he was leaving the world behind, before his abbot instructed him to sit at a typewriter in an office, during work hours, and tell his life story. Then, look what happened.

There's a letter, for instance, that he wrote to one of his publishers in February 1948, several months before *The Seven Storey Mountain* would be published and make him famous, and in it he begins with a confession: "The devil is trying to mess up all that I do by getting me to do too much and involve me in such a network of projects that I will be neither able to work nor pray." He goes on to detail his writing projects one by one. Fr Abbot is annoyed that one of his books of poems is out of stock. He needs a Spanish text of John of the Cross to work more on a project that's been previously discussed. He needs to write more poems. Meanwhile, another book - which he calls his "book of *pensées*" - is coming along nicely. (This would become *New Seeds of Contemplation*.) And his autobiography (*Seven Storey*) is much too long, and needs trimming. No wonder Merton had trouble balancing things and finding time to pray.

Soon, Merton was beginning to back out of community life, seeking to explore a hermit's vocation, which was then mostly unknown among the Trappists. For years, he asked his abbot for more access to time alone before being granted what he desired. He knew that in many respects he'd created his own problem; the success of his writings had brought many people to the monastery looking for what this "Thomas Merton" had discovered. For at least a decade before his death in 1968 Merton was instructing young monks as their novice master, guiding them into a monastic life that he was himself, in some ways, seeking to escape.

People often say something like, "Merton was a famous writer who, after a lifetime of giving his words to others, had wearied of fame and needed to place himself before the Unsayable." I don't think



that's it. Perhaps Merton was one of those artists who hurt themselves and while hurting themselves create great art. Think of Van Gogh cutting off his ear. Think of Dylan Thomas and Jack Kerouac drinking themselves to death. Think of Kurt Cobain or Sylvia Plath. From his difficult childhood onward, Merton had used his art to seek understanding of himself, knowing full well his flaws, offering those flaws on to the pages of what he created. That didn't change late in his life. Perhaps, rather, he came to see the flaws themselves as a natural part of a flawed self, seeking salvation. The flaws wouldn't necessarily go away. He began to see the other side of them.

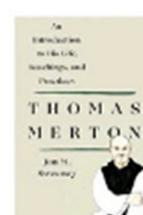
He saw giving up his public life as a step of finality that he was willing to take. After an afternoon meditating in the woods in the spring before he died, he wrote in his private journal: "I really enjoyed being in the wild, silent spot... And really I am ready to let the writing go to the dogs if necessary, and to prefer this: which is what I really want and what I am here for." But then a guest from Boston arrives, as planned, that

evening, and the monk who a few hours earlier was sure he was made for being "in the wild, silent spot" chats the night away, discussing the things of the world.

We who love Merton and learn from him must accept how he often contradicts himself. This realization can be frustrating, and can be helpful. He sometimes comes across almost fickle. Truth is, he was constantly "working out" his understanding on paper; he left it for us to see, and we go looking for it. He struggled for years with thoughts of leaving the monastery, or finding a situation that was better. We have to reconcile this with what he writes near the end of chapter 35 of that classic, *New Seeds of Contemplation*: "Fickleness and indecision are signs of self-love. If you can never make up your mind what God wills for you, but are always veering from one opinion to another, from one practice to another, from one method to another, it may be an indication that you are trying to get around God's will and do your own with a quiet conscience. As soon as God gets you in one monastery you want to be in another." At times, Merton is writing to himself.

An analogy may be helpful: my wife and I like to take long bike rides. The purpose of a good bike ride for her is mostly about the exercise. She's an athlete and I'm not. The exercise is, for me, only one part. When we plan a ride, I prefer that we are headed somewhere: a park, a tavern, downtown, a friend's house. Simply hauling down a bike path, turning around and cycling back, doesn't really interest me. For me, the journey (or the ride) is not enough in itself. I want to feel as if I'm going somewhere. I think that Merton wished he could feel about the spiritual life the way my wife feels about bike rides - with a sort of purity of intention - but he couldn't really do that. For whatever reason, he found that that wasn't in him. In the end, he wanted to be going somewhere.

Would that all of us were as self-aware as Merton was, and as willing to honestly reconsider who we are as we tackle the journey of lifelong conversion.



Jon M. Sweeney is a writer and publisher, whose many books includes history, spirituality, poetry/mysticism, memoir, and young reader fiction; *Thomas Merton: An Introduction to His Life, Teachings, and Practices* (inset) was recently published by St Martin's Press.

St Vincent de Paul – Winter Appeal June 2021 : Thank You - Receipts

On behalf of the people we assist in our community, the Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul wish to thank all parishioners for their generosity to this year's winter appeal. **Receipts have been sent this week to parishioners who requested a receipt. Please call Mike on 0417 221 245 or email msaid@netspace.net.au if you requested a receipt and have not yet received it.**

Anyone who missed our appeal and still wishes to make a donation may do so in one of the following ways:

- **Envelopes:** SVDP envelopes are available at SFX in church pews or at the tables at the entrance doors or at the Presbytery/Church office. You are welcome to leave your donations and/or envelopes in the SVDP Donation boxes on the tables near the entrances to the church or at parish office or to an SVDP member or to Mike on 0417 221 245. Receipts can be issued by simply completing name and address on the envelope, or
- **On Line:** vinnies.org.au. In terms of directing funds back to the Montmorency Conference, you need to state **Montmorency in the "Comments/Conference Name box"** which is just after the postal address box. Again it would also be helpful if you could send an email to msaid@netspace.net.au with your full name and address, amount and date of deposit so that the conference can acknowledge your generosity and ensure these moneys are allocated to the **Montmorency Conference**, or
- By phone by calling 13 18 12 and again stating your donation is for the **Montmorency conference**. Again, it would also be helpful if you could send an email to msaid@netspace.net.au with your full name and address, amount and date of deposit so that the conference can acknowledge your generosity and ensure these moneys are allocated to the **Montmorency Conference**.

Parishioners are reminded that assistance is always promptly available to the community by contacting 1300 305 330 between 10am and 3pm weekdays. Collection of quality household goods/furniture can be arranged by calling 1800 621 349. Donations of clothes and other goods are always welcome at any Vinnie's shop



Homily - Terry

We've had some pretty serious storms of late and our thoughts are very much with those who are trying to recover from the devastation. Today's Gospel is about a storm. It's the story of Jesus asleep in the boat while the disciples are rowing across to the other side of the lake. A storm comes up, the wind blows and the waves are breaking into the boat. The disciples are afraid of drowning. They wake Jesus who immediately calms the storm. The story has a happy ending as they all reach safety.

Many a time I have prayed this Gospel with someone seriously ill. And I say to the sick person, 'the story is much more than a storm on a lake. There are all sorts of storms, including the storms in our hearts. And sometimes we can think Jesus is asleep and we can feel like we are drowning in fear and grief and pain'.

So often the sick person responds with a knowing smile or a word that acknowledges his or her storm of the heart.

It's true isn't it, that life presents us with all kinds of storms. Not only in illness. We can think of the death of someone close to us, a loss of job, a fractured friendship, a failure at a task that was important to me, a disappointment that has wounded my sense of self. Storms of suffering are part of life. How do we find our way through such times?

During this past week I read a book with the title, 'On the Brink of Everything' by a wonderful author and poet, Parker Palmer. Covid 19 isolation has some advantages in giving us more time to read. Anyway I came across some words that may be helpful to you, as they certainly are helpful to me.

"Suffering breaks our hearts, but the heart can break in two quite different ways. There's the brittle heart that breaks into shards, shattering the one who suffers it as it explodes, and sometimes taking others down when it's thrown like a grenade at the ostensible source of pain.

Then there's the supple heart, the one that breaks open, not apart, the one that can grow into greater capacity for the many forms of love. Only the supple heart can hold suffering in a way that opens to new life."

These are words for us to ponder and make our own as we think about whether we have a brittle heart or a supple heart when we meet times in our lives that are very much storms of the heart.

And for those of us who carry the Jesus story into our lives we can really find our connections with that Gospel today. Many of us will say, 'yes, we sometimes wonder, even believe, that the Risen Jesus is asleep and has forgotten us. We can feel very much on our own.' And we are like the disciples crying out 'wake up wake up, we're going down'.

What gives me hope and maybe you too, is that all the time Jesus is 'in the boat' with us. What a beautiful image for us to take into our lives. That no matter what, even in our darkest and most painful times, Jesus, the Risen Jesus is in the boat with us to calm the storms and lead us to safety.

There are some of us right now who are in the midst of a storm and wondering how we can find safety. Perhaps our hearts are brittle or maybe supple or maybe in between and we are learning to find the way through this particular storm. And perhaps we are being invited in faith to recognise that the Risen Jesus is in the boat with us leading us to safety and nourishing the supple heart in us.

'For only the supple heart can hold suffering in a way that opens to new life.' That's the story of Jesus himself and that is also to be our story.





Keeping our children safe online

Using computers and other internet connected devices can be a great way for kids to play, learn and socialise – but there are also risks.

As a parent, grandparent or carer, you have an important role to play in protecting the online safety of the children in your life. But knowing how to help them can be tricky, especially if you are not a tech expert.

So the eSafety Commissioner has free resources which provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience.

This resource provides “key advice about online safety issues that can affect children and young people” including practical tips to help parents, grandparents and carers to talk about these issues with children and young people and manage them.

Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps.

Parents, grandparents and carers can download and view the resource online:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents> or
<https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers>

Peter Williams
Child Safeguarding Officer



Love Letter to our Church

[taken from Carlo Carretto’s memoir:
Sought and Found.

How much I criticize you, my church, and yet how much I love you!

You have made me suffer more than anyone else, and yet I owe you more than I owe anyone.

You have given me much scandal, and yet you alone have made me understand holiness.

Never in the world have I seen more obstructionist, more compromised, more false;
yet never have I touched anything more pure, more generous or more beautiful.

Countless times I have felt like slamming the door, of my soul, in your face—and yet every night

I have prayed that I might die in your sure arms.

No, I cannot be free of you for I am one with you, even

If not completely you. Then too, where would I go?
To build another church?

But I cannot build another church without the same defects, for they are my own defects.

And again, if I were to build another church it would be my church, not Christ’s church.

No! I am old enough. I know better.



Carlo Carretto’s books are in the library.



With the continued support from the parish we have been able to help more people in need than ever over the past 12 months, and hasn't their been a huge need, with many doing it tough. Thank you. We will provide an update on the year that has been in the July timeframe, but until then, if you would like to support us further than please consider coming along to our major fundraiser, or if you are able to donate goods to auction on the night that would be awesome too.

Hayden's Helping Hands Major Fundraiser Family Trivia Evening

On Sunday 1 August 2021 at 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Fun, games and trivia - plenty of prizes to be won! Bring gold coins for games!!! Finger food included and drinks at 70s bar prices! Tables of up to 8 of your smartest family and friends! Children of all ages welcome!

\$30 Adults, \$15 Children (15 and under)

Location: Heidelberg Golf Club
8 Main Rd, Lower Plenty, VIC 3093

Please use the link below to book your spot for this awesome event before we sell out! All money raised goes towards helping the homeless of Melbourne and Women and Children fleeing domestic violence.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BRFIW>

Thank you for your ongoing support.

You can find us on

Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HaydensHelpers> or email us at info@haydenshelpinghands.org

Gospel - Mark 4:35-41

With the coming of evening, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind they took him, just as he was, in the boat; and there were other boats with him. Then it began to blow a gale and the waves were breaking into the boat so that it was almost swamped. But he was in the stern, his head on the cushion, asleep. They woke him and said to him, 'Master, do you not care? We are going down!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Quiet now! Be calm!' And the wind dropped, and all was calm again. Then he said to them, 'Why are you so frightened? How is it that you have no faith?' They were filled with awe and said to one another, 'Who can this be? Even the wind and the sea obey him.'



Reflection

Mark's collection of parables is followed by a series of events in which Jesus demonstrates divine power. He calms a storm, exorcises a demoniac, raises a dead girl to life, and heals an afflicted woman.

The calming of the storm is an episode that draws deeply on themes found in the psalms, the prophets and wisdom literature: the human fear of unruly nature, especially stormy seas; sleep as a sign of trust in God; desperate prayer to God for deliverance; absolute divine power over nature; awe at the exercise of divine might. The Jesus of Mark's gospel is a figure of divine authority firmly situated in an ancient tradition.

Of all the evangelists Mark presents the sharpest contrast between the authority of Jesus, exercised over every form of demonic power, and the disciples' refusal to believe. In the course of his gospel Mark records a litany of rebukes delivered by Jesus to his disciples because of their unbelief. No flattery here or spin-doctoring here! The story is short, vivid and dramatic. It invites strong proclamation.

Break Open the Word 2021

Baptisms, Confirmations & First Eucharist Sacraments

Sincere apologies for being unable to celebrate these special occasions with families due to the ongoing restrictions and guidelines from the Archdiocese. So many families have been inconvenienced by these weeks and for this we are sorry. As soon as possible we hope to be able to offer a restart for these Sacraments.

Prayers of the Faithful for 20 June 2021 - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, the kingdom of God is near, let us pray for those in need.

That our large faith community around the world work together to build God's kingdom on earth.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That peace and justice will reign among the nations, especially in difficult situations like the Holy Land, the Middle East, Myanmar and some African countries.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Our prayers locally for the people in the Dandenongs and beyond, devastated by strong winds and heavy rains, that infrastructure and their homes be restored.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for gentleness among each other and guidance from health authorities through these sensitive weeks, with the ever-present Covid virus.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we who are gathered around this table in limited numbers, will work for the coming of God's kingdom.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That parents and teachers will be guided by the Holy Spirit as they teach and nurture the children in their care.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That the sick and housebound in our parish will be comforted by our practical care and concern.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Rhys Branston, Tony Lier, Kevin Michael Mannix, Edna Mary McCudden, Margaret Moylan, Fr James Murtagh and Jack Ramsdale, may rejoice in the heavenly kingdom.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: O God, how generous is your love for us. Hear the prayer of your people and help us to work unceasingly for the coming of your kingdom. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

