

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.

TOKYO Olympics 2020/1

First, let me say that given the World Pandemic and the people of Japan with their reticence to hold these Games because of the alarming spread of the Coronavirus throughout their population, which is unfortunately climbing each day, well beyond anything from an Australian standard, I was hoping that these Olympic Games might have been postponed or cancelled.

That being said, I have just loved watching from afar the Olympic performances on TV and seeing the winning joys and highlights each evening. Amazing stories and achievements behind each medal performance and all who are participating. Sport is a wonderful avenue for humanity to parade its best and brightest stars who have worked so hard to be at any Olympic Games. Let's hope that it continues to be safe and enjoyable to watch.



I have never travelled to Japan, but many family and friends have had this opportunity and all agree to the experience being wonderful! I have yet to hear a bad word about this country and it's people. Gentle and respectful in nature, full of hospitality and wonderful sites! The Japanese love their technology too - so I was not surprised to see all the above elements incorporated into the Opening Ceremony of these Olympic Games. Simple yet reflective, respectful and even a touch of 'grief' to acknowledge our Covid19 times! The use of thousands of 'drones' to form the Symbol of the Tokyo Games, concluding with a huge World above the stadium was truly spectacular.

Not being a Rugby fan normally in Australia - I just loved the Olympic Rugby 7!

And, a true first at these games - in the pool, a race with both women & men competing against each other and other countries in a 'Mixed Medley Team Race'.

Naturally, I cannot wait for this! Enjoy the Olympics from TOKYO 2020/1.

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Apologies to all the families in the Sacramental programs who have to adjust yet again because of our restrictions coming out of Lockdown Number 5.

I have heard and spoken to parents and acknowledge their constant disappointment with so many changes! I too am sorry that the way forward is so slow, but the health requirements are clear and I appreciate your good will and support at these difficult times. We will do what we can do, when we can do it - in a Covid Safe way! *Michael*

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



Collections: 25 July 2021 - NO MASSES - LOCKDOWN

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC		
SFX		

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:

*Kevin & Margaret Brody, Francis Nelson,
Mary Thomasina Said, Andrew Watson*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Kate Lagerewskij,
Estelle Levy*

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Violetta, Lucy Bibby, Denice Donnellan, Geoff Haines,
Lidia Marazzato, Tom Nolan, Les Robertson,
Christine Scott, Ibyšek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zyleviczcz*

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House
9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au.

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 31

6:00pm Mass (80 people)

Montmorency

Sunday 1 AUGUST

8:30am Mass (80 people)

Montmorency

10:00am Mass (80 people)

Eltham

Tuesday 3

9:30am Mass (80 people)

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl

Eltham

Wednesday 4

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Mass (80 people)

Eltham

11:00am Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 5

9:30am Mass (80 people)

Montmorency

10:30am Mass at St Vincent Care

Eltham

Friday 6

9:30am Mass (80 people)

Eltham

Saturday 7

6:00pm Mass (80 people)

Montmorency

Sunday 8

8:30am Mass (80 people)

Montmorency

10:00am Mass (80 people)

Eltham

Monday 9

9:30am Days for Girls

Montmorency

Tuesday 10

9:30am Mass (80 people)

Montmorency

Wednesday 11

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

18th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2021

It can be in a café and two friends are chatting over coffee, listening, talking, laughing and pretty much oblivious to whatever else is happening in the café.

It can be a parent and child, a Dad teaching his little girl to ride a bike, speaking words of tenderness and encouragement when she just doesn't quite trust herself to take-off.

It can be a husband and wife sitting on a park bench, not really saying anything, but you notice they are holding hands.

Life is full of these beautiful moments and encounters, where there's a connection between people, a closeness, a bond, an intimacy that is so very precious.

Maybe you are thinking of someone in your life right now and of a moment or time where you know this kind of encounter. Or perhaps there's a person you are remembering, someone who has died recently or long ago, and there's a connection, an intimacy that will never leave you or that person, even if the memories fade with the ageing of the years.

With these thoughts in mind and heart, we turn to the Gospel today. Remember last week's Gospel where Jesus took the little boy's gift of bread and fish and fed the five thousand and there was more than enough for everyone. The crowds were impressed and they wanted more. Jesus however escaped back to the hills by himself.

In today's Gospel we see that the crowds have found him. It's John's Gospel and from here a fascinating, difficult, wonderful conversation begins. John writes in the language of mysticism, of metaphor and poetry in a language way beyond the confines of literal interpretation.

The crowds don't understand what Jesus is talking about when he speaks about the 'food that endures to eternal life'. They think he is talking of bread in abundance, the kind of bread they ate in the story of the loaves and fishes. They do not understand his invitation:

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst'.

So what is happening here? The Gospel writer John is presenting Jesus as inviting people into connection with him, into communion with him, into an intimate relationship that will endure for ever. He is saying to the crowds, don't look for me because you had all the bread you could eat. If you really want to know me, it's not about my performing miracles; it's about relationship and I am inviting you into an intimacy and friendship that will endure for ever.

It's too good to be true. The crowds don't really get it and John's Gospel, Chapter 6 unfolds the story that will continue to be with us in our Gospels over the next few Sundays.

For us right now we take to heart the invitation given to us, to live in union with the person of Jesus in the Risen Christ, to be connected to him in a kind of closeness that will never be broken, to know an intimacy where we are in love and loved forever.

Think back to the two friends chatting over coffee, to the Dad teaching his little girl to ride a bike, to the married couple holding hands on the park bench. They are forever moments and even when they are apart, it's like they hold each other in a communion of love forever.

It's like this in our most precious relationships. Whether we are together or apart we are always in communion with each other. It's like this with the God we know in Jesus Christ. We are invited into communion with this God, where nothing can come between us and the love we share. How wonderful.

Terry



Beyond the politics of Communion

The US bishops' decision to draw up a document expected to disapprove of allowing Joe Biden to receive the sacraments is seen by some as an attack on a Democrat President. But a theologian argues that behind it is an attempt to address a crisis of Eucharistic faith in American Catholicism / **By Charles C. Camosy**

The data came out from Pew in August of 2019. And the story it had to tell left many senior American Catholics astonished and horrified. According to polling data, seven in 10 US Catholics believe the bread and wine consecrated in Mass are mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood.

Given the Second Vatican Council's teaching that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life", the yawning gap between the teaching of the Church and the beliefs of the faithful was recognised as a disaster. Some have seen it as a sign of hope that only two of those seven knew the Church's teaching and rejected it; according to the poll, more than four of those seven actually think the Church teaches that the consecrated bread and wine serve as a mere symbol of the presence of Christ in the sacrament.

During the meeting of the United States conference of Catholic bishops (USCCB) that ended last Friday (25 June), Bishop Andrew Cozzens noted that the Pew data, along with the removal of so many Catholics from the transformative encounter with the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist during the pandemic, had sparked the idea of a "Eucharistic revival". He said that planning for this initiative had been going on for more than a year.

Though there was a lot of media focus on the bishops voting to establish a committee to draft yet another teaching document, I was struck by just how much *doing* is being proposed. A multi-year project will involve listening sessions with Catholics who do not believe in the Real Presence, outreach to a variety of local dioceses and parishes (with a focus on different ethnic and cultural Eucharistic traditions), and even "a spiritual renewal of Eucharistic faith in our own hearts as bishops".

Self-critique was an important



PHOTO: ALAMY/REUTERS, KEN CEDENO

feature of the meeting. There was a lot of debate, for instance, about whether the proposed teaching document should focus on "Eucharistic coherence", including what kind of unity with the Church is required to take Communion. Critics of the plan argued that choosing to do this now would look like a partisan attack by the US bishops on President Biden and Catholic Democrats. Rarely, if ever, do the US bishops focus on this topic when Catholic Republicans stray from central truths taught by the Church. Although several bishops said that the proposal to draft a document "on the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the

Church" was not about Joe Biden, and the chairman of the USCCB's doctrine committee, Bishop Kevin Rhoades, said the proposed document would not mention individuals by name, more than one bishop arguing in support of the document brought up Biden. And Students for Life organised anti-Biden rallies to coincide with the meeting.

Cozzens, in an interview with The Pillar, a website and podcast founded by two former Eternal Word Television Network journalists, offered more detail about how the idea of a "Eucharistic revival" was

already under way before June 2020, when Bishop Robert Barron had been going to present a proposal to his fellow bishops. Cozzens is now leading this effort (after Barron stepped down from chair of the committee on evangelisation and catechesis). He said that he would not be focusing at all on President Biden.

Though the US bishops have declared that abortion is the pre-eminent justice issue of our time, Bishop Rhoades says that their document on the Eucharist would also focus on the issues of white supremacy and human trafficking. Bishop Jaime Soto also insisted that it should teach about the strong relationship between Eucharistic coherence and the work the Church does with migrants. I agree with the bishops that prenatal justice is the pre-eminent justice issue of our time, but I would add to the scandals of white supremacy, human trafficking and the treatment of migrants and refugees the gravely evil acts of usury which ravage the economically vulnerable in the US and around the world.

If these kinds of issues are highlighted along with abortion, then those who have been pushing against the bishops' initiative because it will inevitably be seen as a politically partisan hit job will have offered an immeasurably important service to the project. A more coherent Eucharistic revival might engage some Catholics who would otherwise dismiss it as cover for a partisan attack on Democrats.

But the hoped-for revival will only be successful if, as the theologian Holly Taylor Coolman of Providence



Bishop Andrew Cozzens of St Paul and Minneapolis addresses the USCCB virtually

College in Rhode Island put it recently, we really believe and act as if the Eucharist is "the most sacred and most intimate act in which Christians engage". She suggests that we think about our other practices with regard to sacred and intimate acts. You don't show up for a funeral in a swimsuit. You don't have sex with your spouse on the front lawn. Same with the Eucharist - but on a much, much higher level. St Paul tells us that "whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord".

To see how sin impacts one's worthiness - and to grasp that, as Pope Francis says in *Evangelii*

Gaudium, the Eucharist "is not a prize for the perfect, but a generous medicine and food for the weak" - takes formation with regard to the sacraments which does not happen overnight. Because the Church has done such a poor job of forming US Catholics over the past few decades, critics of this process are right to worry that returning to an emphasis on repenting of mortal sin before receiving Communion will alienate many people. But as Bishop Donald DeGroot said at the bishops' meeting: the scandal has already happened.

As the poll conducted by Pew tells us, the damage is done. What we can do now is steel our spine, take the short-term hit and keep focused on the longer-term goal of reviving the kind of Eucharistic devotion that is present in countries where the Church is flourishing, particularly in Africa and Asia. The Church in the US is blessed with many immigrants who have brought their galvanised Eucharistic practices with them - and also by young people eager to engage in traditional practices such as Adoration and Benediction. So there are significant reasons for hope.

If we can put aside idolatrous distractions (especially those related to secular politics), and keep focused on Christ, God's grace can and will transform the US Church through the Eucharist: the source and summit of the Christian life.

Charles C. Camosy is associate professor of theological and social ethics at Fordham University. He is the author of *Resisting Throwaway Culture: How a Consistent Life Ethic Can Unite a Fractured People*. *Losing Our Dignity: How Secularized Medicine is Undermining Fundamental Human Equality* is published next month by New City Press.

Roster for WEEKEND 7/8 Aug	
<i>Montmorency</i>	
Gaffney, Peter	CLNR
Hannon, Kevin & Genni	ASRC
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
McKinna, Jane	W6:00
Percy, Julie	W6:00
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR
<i>Eltham</i>	
Foxley, David	Reader
Goss, Marion	Eucharistic Minister
Nolan, Kathleen	Commentator
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Reardon, Kathy	Eucharistic Minister
Rigg Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Scully, Helen	Altar Society

Fr Terry's Friday Lunch Update Third Time Lucky!

Yes, here we go again! Lunch with Fr Terry has now been rescheduled for **Friday 20th August at 12 midday**. If you have missed lunch with Fr Terry due to lockdowns, or any other reason, here is a further opportunity.

Mind the invitation is open to anyone who wishes to join in. God knows we all need a little relief from these trying Covid times. So do not hesitate to book in by ringing the **Monty/Eltham RSL** direct on **(03) 9434 2085** and mention 'Lunch with Fr Terry'.

Spring and new life approaches, so let us together make it a happy Community Celebration!

For any enquiries call or speak to:
Patsy Skipper: 0429 439 675 or
Barbara Bibby: (03) 9439 8594



Prayers of the Faithful for 18 August 2021 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, nourished at the table of the Word, let us bring our prayers before the Lord who provides for all.

We pray for all members of the church especially in the Melbourne Archdiocese as we plan for the future in an ever-changing environment.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for unity among the leaders and people of Australia. This is a time when the whole country needs to work together with a common purpose to ensure the health of the entire community.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the generosity of people in this parish who have consistently provided their time, their talents and their gifts to provide support and comfort to those less privileged, both within the parish and beyond its boundaries.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all in the community, both in a professional and non-professional capacity, for their sacrifices in trying to prevent the wider spread of Covid. We think especially of those in isolation.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Pope Francis recently proclaimed the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Lord, we give you thanks for the gift of our grandparents and other elderly women and men of our Church and society, for their courage, wisdom and devotion. We think especially of the elderly who are lonely and isolated from their families.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all students returning to school and their parents and guardians who have supervised their remote learning. We pray especially for Year 12 students whose VCE years of study have been severely disrupted.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all of those who are sick in body, mind or spirit. We pray that they will experience the healing touch of Christ.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died recently; we also remember *Kevin & Margaret Brody, Francis Nelson, Mary Thomasina Said and Andrew Watson* whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord God, you alone can satisfy our every need. Hear our prayers and help us to put aside our old selves and walk in the path of holiness and truth. We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

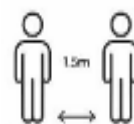
All: Amen

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 80 people** in the Churches of St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady Help of Christians.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

28 July 2021

Dear Fathers,

I hope you and your parish communities are keeping safe during these very uncertain times.

It is evident that many people are feeling quite overwhelmed at this challenging time for us all with many people struggling particularly as they are unable to gather with family and friends.

As a Catholic community, the inability to attend Mass has been a big blow for many, particularly as their faith and sense of community often provides a comfort for people when faced with adversity.

Following yesterday's announcement by the Premier, we are thankful that many of us will now be able to gather together for the celebration of Mass albeit with restricted numbers.

We are strongly committed to working together with you and your parish communities as we continue to embark on our *Take the Way of the Gospel* journey.

Due to the uncertainty of the current situation and following feedback from numerous priests and people of our Archdiocese, it has been decided that we will commence our Regional Gatherings in mid-August / early September.

This will hopefully allow us some time to ascertain more fully the current situation in which we find ourselves as we confront the challenges associated with the Covid19 pandemic, in the fervent hope that things will continue to slowly open up and Government restrictions will continue to be eased. It is my understanding that the next two weeks will be crucial for us as we attempt to forge our way ahead.

In the event that the Covid19 situation escalates again, with the potential for further lockdowns an ongoing possibility, it may be necessary to conduct our meetings via zoom particularly if we are unable to meet in person. I will be sure to inform you of the proposed dates and details of the regional meetings as soon as practicable.

In the meantime, if you have specific questions about our future regional meetings please contact Lorraine McCarthy, Team Leader – Parish Animation, Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal on 03 9287 5576 or lorraine.mccarthy@cam.org.au

I appreciate your patience at this difficult time as we journey together in a spirit of prayer and discernment about the future of our Archdiocese and how we can more effectively live out our Gospel calling amongst God's people here in Melbourne.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Fr Joe Caddy AM
VICAR GENERAL

Very Reverend Joseph Caddy AM – Vicar General

St Patrick's Centre, 486 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia. PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia
Telephone: (03) 9926 5638 | Email: vicar.general@cam.org.au | Website: www.melbournecatholic.org

Gospel - John 6:24-35

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.'

Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.'

'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'



Reflection

In every gospel except that of Luke the feeding story is followed by that of Jesus walking on the stormy waters of the Sea of Galilee. This episode plus a short bridging passage is passed over in silence by the lectionary. We pick up the story at the point where the people who had seen Jesus feeding the crowd cross the lake to find him.

In the discourse that follows, a familiar pattern can be discerned. Time and again in the gospel of John, questions are put to Jesus that he never answers directly. Instead he responds obliquely with teaching that provokes further questioning. This is how, for example, he leads the Samaritan woman and the blind man along their path of faith (Jn 4 & 9).

In this passage the people ask three questions: how did you get here? How can we do the works of God? What sign will you give us? Jesus replies to each in turn: work for the food of eternal life; the work of God is to believe in him; my Father gives you true bread from heaven. In no case does he allow the question to determine his answer. He is in charge of the dialogue. Essentially each of his replies is telling the people that they are asking the wrong questions.

If this reading is well proclaimed it should enable the congregation to sense some of the frustration of Jesus' interrogators. Their questions seem reasonable but not one of them is answered plainly. Jesus keeps leading his audience deeper and deeper into unknown territory. From our 21st century vantage point we can see what is happening, but we should still allow ourselves to be challenged and confused by Jesus' tactics. Even now we need to have our frame of reference subverted if we are to discover the truth that will make us free.

Break Open the Word 2021

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Parish Prayer Shawl Ministry is continuing at Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham every first and third Tuesday of the month. Our gatherings for August are 3rd and 17th at 11am.

If you are interested in joining the Parish Prayer Shawl Ministry, please come along - we will make you feel most welcome!

This Ministry is held in the Gathering Area of Our Lady Help of Christians, 2 Henry Street, Eltham.

Elisabeth



Missions Re-structuring in the Archdiocese

We have not forgotten you. Warmest thanks to all who have indicated interest in participating in a discussion about our hopes and plans for our Parish under the 'Missions re-structuring in the Archdiocese' announced by our Archbishop. Restrictions are lifted, still we would like just a little more time, maybe 2 weeks, before we decide on a location for the discussion. Thank you for your patience.

NB: It is not too late to let Kate (office: 9435 4742) know if you too would like to participate.

Thanks again, *Rowan Ireland & Patsy Skipper*