

# 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 Father's Day & Footy Finals too!*

To all the dads in the parish, Happy Father's Day. Surely it is both a joy and a responsibility to be 'you' and the best type of person that you can be. You are needed in our modern society more and more. I just hope that you have all had a lovely day - given our restrictions and absence! I also hope that you appreciate the clear 'gift' that is in your hands as a FATHER.

For some ungodly reason I have always linked Father's Day to Footy Finals. Maybe it's because it all happens in the month of September and this week starts with father's, the next few weeks build to a great team of young men playing football at the MCG.

Obviously from my childhood - Football & Family was crucial in a happy and important way, and having dad (Ralph) as a 'full on' and wonderful man, who truly knew his role and position in our large family. Football in September was an involvement for all at our home too. My brother Brian played for St. Kilda, my brother-in-law was playing for Richmond. My other brothers were playing footy for local teams. September was therefore the month to celebrate!



How things have changed over the years, who would have thought AFL Women's Teams at every level - just amazing; all of my sisters (six) would have signed up then if possible! A living WAR affecting the whole world and keeping society quiet and restraint - the difficulty of isolation and grounded sadness that permeates life under Covid19. An invisible War against a killer coronavirus the sees for the second year running that the Melbourne Cricket Ground will not host a finals football match let alone the Grand Final - great news if you happen to live in Perth.

Who would have thought that the role and behaviour of men, and any man for that matter, comes under the spotlight - and rightly so - because of terrible stereotypes and seriously shocking experiences at the hands of some men. Our challenge is to rise to a better standard of being human, and in these terrible Covid19 times, no better time to be at our best - than now! And... Enjoy the footy finals... GO Melbourne!!

**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](http://pol.org.au/eltham) or [pol.org.au/montmorency](http://pol.org.au/montmorency).*

*We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.*



## PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION



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

### OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



#### **Parish Priests**

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum

[terry.kean@cam.org.au](mailto:terry.kean@cam.org.au)

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

[michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au](mailto:michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au)

Barry Caldwell

#### **Parish Office**

86 Mayona Road

**9435 4742**

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

[montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au)

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

[SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

Website:

[www.pol.org.au/montmorency](http://www.pol.org.au/montmorency)

[www.pol.org.au/eltham](http://www.pol.org.au/eltham)

(pol stands for Parish OnLine)

Facebook:

St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

#### **Schools**

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

[principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

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

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

[principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

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

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Acting Principal: Therese Stewart: 9439 7824

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

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



#### **Collections: 29 August 2021—LOCKDOWN**

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$1,595.00	\$600.00
SFX	\$970.00	\$130.00



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:

*Visme Shu (Sri Lanka)*  
sister of Anton Vanderwert

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Antonia Capuana, Ivy May Caulfield*  
*Urszula Doss, John Elliott & Don Horne*

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:

*Ada Beech & Rosemary Lee*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Savannah (5 years old - seriously ill),*  
*Violetta, Ryan Bennett, Lucy Bibby,, Denice Donnellan,*  
*Lidia Marazzato, Tom Nolan, Paul O'Dell, Les Robertson,*  
*Christine Scott, Rosemary Scully, Barbara Snopkowski*  
*Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zyleviczc*

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House

9435 4742 or [eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au).

#### **RECONCILIATION**

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742

## **Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events**

### **Saturday 4**

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

### **Sunday 5 - Father's Day**

8:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:00am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms - CANCELLED

Montmorency

### **Tuesday 7**

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group - CANCELLED

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl - CANCELLED

Eltham

### **Wednesday 8**

6:30am Meditation - CANCELLED

Montmorency

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

### **Thursday 9**

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC - CANCELLED

Montmorency

### **Friday 10**

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

### **Saturday 11**

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

### **Sunday 12**

8:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:00am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms - CANCELLED

Montmorency

### **Monday 13**

9:30am Days for Girls - CANCELLED

Montmorency

### **Tuesday 14**

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group - CANCELLED

Montmorency

## 23rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2021

Have you been watching the Paralympics in Tokyo? Isn't it absolutely amazing how these competitors bring such talent and spirit of life to their performance?

I don't know about you, but I've had tears in my eyes at times just marveling at how these Paralympians are able to perform at such a high standard. To see for example, swimmers who are blind, making their way through the water with such talent, skill and awareness.

On last Tuesday night I watched the tennis with Dylan Alcott and his young 18 year old opponent, Niels Vink from the Netherlands competing in a semi-final. They were in wheelchairs and it was just fantastic how they could play so well. Dylan won the match and afterwards the two of them hugged each other so warmly and appreciatively. It was very touching and lovely to see.

There will be many stories that will emerge from the games. Stories of determination and courage. No doubt some of the competitors will be disappointed in their performance, but surely every one of them deserves a gold medal in life, whether they lived up to their expectations or not.

And what about the coaches and the families who have supported these Paralympians? How many times must a coach have said, 'you can do it'. How many times must a person with a disability have said, 'I can't do it', and someone in the family or their coach has just offered that word of encouragement.

The Paralympics are truly a wonderful event and let's not forget the commentators and Channel 7 administrators for truly bringing the world of these Paralympians to us. Thank you. What an inspiration to us to see these people with disability, on a world stage delighting us and challenging us to make the most of our own lives. What a message in these Covid-19 times for us to think not about ourselves but the Paralympians and their gift of life.

If we turn to today's Gospel we read the story of Jesus healing a man with an impediment in his speech. It's a lovely story, but he was the lucky one. So many people back then and in our times today have lived with their disability all or most of their lives. Some were born this way and others, through some accident or illness in their lives, have had to carry their disability for the rest of their lives.

It was an interesting way that Jesus healed the man. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. That would not be encouraged in these Covid-19 times. It was in an intensely physical way that Jesus healed the man and he said a strange word, 'Ephphatha', that is 'be opened'.

What an interesting word for us to take to our own lives. Perhaps we need to be '*opened up*' in some way. Perhaps we are not listening in some way. Or we are blind to some person who really needs our attention and love.

Covid-19 has given many of us a chance to go within ourselves and find the interior space to discern what is important about our lives and our place in the world. Perhaps the Risen Christ is waiting in this inner space to open our ears or loosen our tongues in speaking up for what is right and just and of compassion. Perhaps we are the 'blind man' of today's Gospel and we need to hear the word, 'Ephphatha'.

In a way it's like the Paralympics. We can ask, 'who' are the people with disability? Yes, the Paralympians, but they are certainly not disabled in their attitude and gift of life. In a way we all have disability. Today's Gospel may well be an invitation to open ourselves to the person of the Risen Christ healing us with his word and opening our ears, our tongues and our hearts to the precious gift of life and love.

*Terry*



The third of September is the feast day of two saints who have played significant roles in the development of Christianity. But only one of them is given the recognition they deserve / by Phyllis Zagano

## A tale of two deacons

**While** Pope Francis could easily raise the level of the 22 July liturgical celebration of Saint Mary Magdalene, apostle to the apostles, he will have a harder go at it if he tries to honour Saint Phoebe on 3 September. Mary Magdalene's day is now a major feast. Phoebe does not even have a liturgy.

Phoebe, you will recall, carried Paul's letter to the Romans (Romans 16:1-2). Perhaps because Paul introduces Phoebe as a deacon, the passage is nowhere in the current lectionary. In fact, her day is not typically celebrated in Roman Catholicism. Phoebe has been listed as a saint on 3 September for as long as anyone can remember, and she remains in the current Roman Martyrology. Her day's liturgical status is not of a feast or a memorial but that of a "commemoration". She had some chance of liturgical recognition until 1969, when the Latin Church moved the memorial of Pope Saint Gregory the Great from 12 March, the date of his death in 604, to 3 September, the date in 590 that Gregory (a deacon himself) was consecrated pope.

**It was not** a kind act toward women who are still hoping for more respect in the Church. Since then, 3 September has been an obligatory memorial for the pope who preached, in effect, that Mary Magdalene, who announced the resurrection, was a prostitute. In late September 592, in the fourth century Basilica of Saint Clement in Rome, Pope Gregory elaborated on the seven demons the Lord had cast out of Mary Magdalene's life, as attested to in Mark 16:9. Preaching on Luke 7:36-70, Gregory collapsed the penitent Mary in that Gospel with Jesus's patron, Mary of Magdala. As many scholars have demonstrated, while she may have suffered seven demons, Mary Magdalene was not the woman bathing Jesus's feet with her tears and anointing them.

Seven, of course, signifies completeness. The "demons" afflicting Mary Magdalene more probably denote physical or perhaps emotional troubles, as they do elsewhere in Scripture, not moral failings. It is more likely that Mary Magdalene suffered some sort of depression, perhaps the residual effects of menopause, or of the death of her husband or of a child, or of a failure in her business

endeavours. Hence, Jesus's "casting out of demons" would more clearly represent a physical and/or emotional cure as in his other healings, unconnected to the so-called seven deadly sins.

Gregory was convinced, however, of Mary Magdalene's fallen nature. "And what are these seven demons," he asked, "if not the universality of all vices? ... Mary had seven demons in her, for she was full of all vices." His words solidified Mary Magdalene's reputation as a "fallen woman", and she was depicted for centuries as a red-haired temptress. The slander may have been circulating already, but after Gregory's Homily 33 it was accepted as fact.

So, the Church celebrates Pope Gregory, demeanor of the woman who first saw the risen Lord, on the feast day of Saint Phoebe, another woman proclaimer named in Scripture. The third of September is recorded as Saint Phoebe's "birthday" - her date of death and birth into new life. Orthodox Churches, Anglicanism, and Lutheranism in maintaining 12 March as Gregory's memorial. Roman Catholicism leaves Phoebe out in the cold.

Why? The usual explanation is that, following the Second Vatican Council, various forces wanted to move obligatory memorials out of Lent, because the season automatically overtook them, making them optional. Such, it was said, could effectively cancel the memory and celebration of Gregory, well-known and well-revered in Rome. The Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and Calendar promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969, state: "The Saints who have universal importance are celebrated in an obligatory way throughout the whole Church; other Saints are either inscribed in the calendar, but for optional celebration, or are left to be honoured by a particular Church, or nation, or religious family.: Because Gregory was considered to have "universal importance", he effectively trumped Phoebe, the deacon. It appears that Phoebe, if she was recognized at all, only appeared in the local liturgical calendar for the now-suppressed archdiocese of Corinth or for Cenchreae, its now-forgotten port town. There is still a village at that location. Population: 238. But

like Mary of Magdala, Phoebe of Cenchreae was a woman of stature and of means who had a prominent role as a follower of Christ. Paul introduces Phoebe as "our sister", indicating that she was a believing member of the community of Christians. He says she is a deacon of the church at Cenchreae. Finally, she is a *prostatis*, a patron or benefactor. The three titles combine to present a highly respected member of the community there, now entrusted with Paul's letter to the nascent community at Rome. Her patronage, one can assume, supported the efforts of the growing Church. With her status affirmed, she is the one not only chosen to carry Paul's letter to Rome, but most probably to read and interpret it once she gets to meet with the community there.

**The fact** that Phoebe is the only person in Scripture who positively holds the job title deacon (*diakonos*) within a church community is an important point in the ongoing battle about restoring women to the diaconate. Despite the translations that call her "minister" or "deaconess" Paul referred to her with the gender-neutral term "deacon", and connects her to an actual community. Certainly, there were others in the ancient Church who took up diaconal tasks. Many scholars point to Saint Stephen one of the seven chosen by the apostles to serve the Church. But neither he nor the six others put forth by the assembly and appointed by the apostles through the laying on of hands is called deacon, as is Phoebe.

We might think of Phoebe as more like Mary Magdalene. Ancient customs allowed both men and women patrons to exercise leadership in both society and in the Church. We know, of course, that for the Church's first 250 years, most Christian assemblies and liturgies took place in homes, often in households headed by women. That Paul uses the term "deacon" to describe Phoebe links her to others whom he mentions in his undisputed letters. As John N. Collins points out, there are *diakonoi* of Christ (1 Timothy 4:6) and of God (2 Corinthians 6:4). Today, we are accustomed to hearing the pope referred to as "servant of the servants of God". It is ironic that it was Pope Gregory whose use of the term to refer to himself made it one automatically associated with the papacy: in fourteen years the deacon who became pope managed to malign the first witness to the resurrection, support the overriding import of service in the Church, and then, centuries after his death, elbow aside the celebration of the Church's first named deacon. Can the irony be overcome? May the Church - the people of God - remember Saint Phoebe on 3 September, even if officialdom refuses to.

**Phyllis Zagano** holds a research appointment at Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York, USA. Her most recent book is *Women: Icons of Christ*.



For Afghanistan's small and already precarious Christian community, previously estimated to number up to 12,000, the return to power of the Taliban has brought fear and uncertainty / **by John Pontifex**

# Christianity's survival on a knife edge

**Reports** received by Aid to the Church in Need (CAN) and other agencies working closely with religious and other minorities leave us in no doubt about the scale of the crisis facing Christians in Afghanistan. Persecution had been a fear that dare not speak its name, as underground Christians, like so many minorities, have long been conditioned by the need for absolute discretion, with the faithful worshipping privately in small underground house churches, most with fewer than 10 members each. Since the takeover by the Taliban, however, desperate calls have been made to aid organisations from groups helping those who are now desperate to flee, preferably to the West. A contact close to Christians in Afghanistan, who asked not to be named for security reasons, said: "We are all very frightened. We are terrified for the future." The Christian satellite channel SAT-7 reported a surge in calls from Afghans "desperate for encouragement and hope".

**In a press** conference last week, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, often referred to as the de facto leader of the Taliban, set out the Taliban vision for Afghanistan, and declared his support for women's rights. In a rare interview he said: "Members of religious minorities, like the rest of the Afghans, will have rights and their religious ceremonies will be unrestricted and supported." The Taliban, on seizing power for the second time in Afghanistan, is seemingly now at pains to draw a line under the severe persecution that characterized its regime between 1996 and 2001. But among the minorities there is a profound reluctance to take the Taliban at its word. Fr Renard Lawrence OMI, a priest who has served in Quetta in neighbouring Pakistan since 1997 and who works closely with NGOs helping refugees, says: "The Taliban are not yet showing their real face. They are not going to treat people as human beings."

It is hard for minorities to imagine that the new Taliban regime will be any different from the old one, when Christians and other religious minorities reportedly had to wear yellow armbands and hang yellow cloths or flags to identify their homes, and lived in fear of floggings, amputations and executions. All these indications coming out of Afghanistan these past days and weeks suggest that minorities, not least the long-persecuted Hazaras, the mostly Shi'a ethnic group who make up over 10 per cent of the



PHOTO: ALAMY/REUTERS

Fr Giuseppe Moretti at Our Lady of Divine Providence Chapel, Kabul, in 2013. Attached to the Italian embassy, it is the only legally recognised Catholic church in Afghanistan

population, as well as the small Hindu, Sikh, Baha'i and Christian communities, have every reason to think the Taliban have not changed, despite assurances to the contrary.

Credible reports have emerged that, even before the capture of Kabul but after the Taliban took over major towns and cities en route to the Afghan capital, fighters were going house to house, hunting down Christians as well as making threatening calls. Sources within the country have reported to NGOs that the Taliban are demanding people hand over their phones and that people found to have Christian material on their devices, such as Biblical passages, will be killed on the spot. There are particular concerns for girls from Christian and other minority faith backgrounds, who are at risk of being kidnapped and forced to convert as part of a cycle of sexual violence, including forced marriage to Taliban fighters.

Christianity is perceived as a Western religion. Years of military presence by international forces has increased the general mistrust of Christians. They have long been seen by militants, Taliban and others as a proxy target for the West, and the victimization of Christians may become a means of bolstering support for the regime from extremist movements internationally. The fear is that Taliban violence and mistreatment of Christians and other minorities will radiate out to associated extremist groups in other countries, who will perceive the triumph

of the Taliban in Afghanistan as an opportunity to go on the offensive, including against Christians.

Reports emerged late last week that across the border with Pakistan, where Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) have carried out repeated attacks, aimed not least against Imran Khan's government, Church leaders are stepping up security at Sunday services. Sajid Christopher, a Christian human rights activist in Pakistan, told us: "The Taliban getting back into power in Afghanistan will have considerable adverse impact in Pakistan. It will strengthen the TTP and other extremist groups in the country. The fear is that this will empower such groups to go on the attack. Christians in Pakistan are very frightened of the Taliban." A former Pakistan parliamentarian, a Muslim who until 2018 represented Christians across the country and who asked to remain anonymous, went further, saying: "The TTP are more aggressive [than the Taliban] and, even though they have been banned by the Pakistan government, the threat they pose is very serious."

Concerns about such groups, as well as the massive relief work needed for the vast numbers of Afghan refugees already in Pakistan prior to the return to power of the Taliban, mean that Imran Khan's government has, in the words of one priest I spoke to, "been very slow" to help those wanting to flee. The key Torkham border crossing to Pakistan has remained firmly closed.

**All this means** that Afghan Christians able to find their way to the West have been quick to do so. Last week came reports that Fr Giovanni Scalese, head of the Catholic mission in Afghanistan, was among many thousands of foreigners who fled the country. The Barnabiti priest arrived back in his native Italy along with five Missionary of Charity nuns - among the last Catholic religious to leave the country. With them were 14 orphaned and disabled children and young adults. Following the safe evacuation back to India of two Jesuit priests, Fr Jerome Sequeira and Fr Robert Rodrigues from Jesuit Relief Services, Fr Scalese's departure is understood to mean that no Catholic priests are left in Afghanistan. This coincides with information I have received that many of the Catholics remaining in the country - perhaps 100 in total - have also been airlifted out of the country.

As for the Christians still left in Afghanistan, the future is very uncertain. There are growing calls for them to be evacuated. For these faithful, it is too much to hope that the Taliban will defy the odds, keep its word, and somehow allow some semblance of religious diversity to survive under its rule. So perilous is the situation now for Afghanistan's beleaguered Christian community that the Church's very survival there is on a knife edge.

**John Pontifex** is head of press and information for Aid to the Church in Need (UK).



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# Expert Eco Chats

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**Saturday 18 September**

**2pm – 4pm**

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(or online)

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## Father's Day

Father's day is this Sunday. It's a very special day as we all love our Dads and granddads (even their Dad Jokes). So many of us will not be able to visit them this Sunday. We also specially remember Fathers and Grandfathers who have gone to their final resting place.

The Montmorency conference of SVDP pray that Sunday is a very happy day however Dads and Granddads can celebrate with their family.

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.

The Montmorency conference is continuing their work during this time. If you need assistance call 1800 305 330 Monday to Friday between 10am and 3pm.

### Congratulations Paul Fraser

It is with great delight that we can announce that one of our very long standing St Vincent de Paul members (and parish member) has received an Emeritus Award for his outstanding contribution to our SVDP over many years and more specifically to the Montmorency conference of SVDP.

Paul Fraser, in the true spirit of the St Vincent de Paul Society and of our founder, Blessed Frederick Ozanam, has been a very gentle, caring and generous contributor to the work we have done here within the Montmorency area over many years.

Although retired now from the home visitations team, he maintains a keen interest and continues to support the work we do in in our area.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU PAUL**

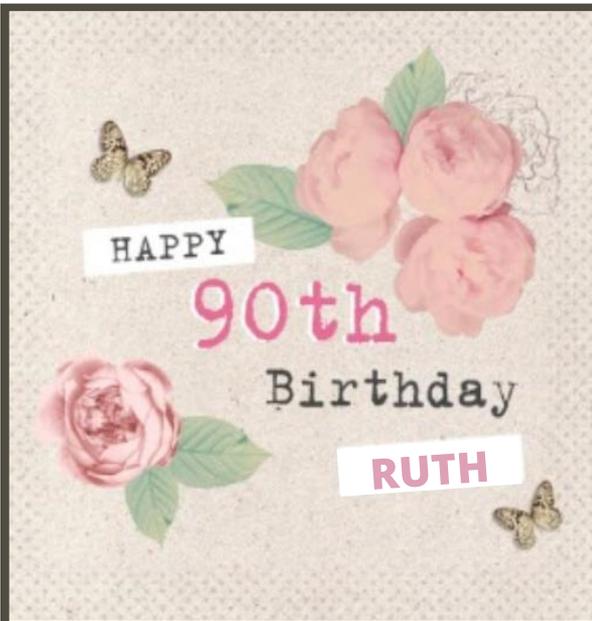


## 90th Birthday Blessings

to

# Ruth Decker

at St Vincent Care



### From 50th Anniversary to Farewell

Dear Friends, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to those who have emailed words and photos to be placed into Fr Terry's BOOK. Just beautiful! There is still plenty of room! These are weird times, we may find it difficult to get motivated to 'get round to things, but let's bring the book alive with more messages, photos and good wishes for Terry! November is only a couple of months away now.

- Place your contributions in the Parish Letter Box, 86 Mayona Road, Montmorency (marked Fr Terry's Book) or
- Email your contribution to: [kate.kogler@cam.org.au](mailto:kate.kogler@cam.org.au) or [patsy\\_skipper@hotmail.com](mailto:patsy_skipper@hotmail.com) we will place them in the book for you.

It is unfortunate for Fr Terry and ourselves that the last months of an amazing 14 years with us is ending up in this isolating way. Let us make an effort to express our gratitude for what has been, and send him off with a book of many many happy memories. God Bless you all. Thank you.



## Gospel - Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

## Thinking of you...



Fathers who have lost children



Those who have lost fathers



Those with strained father relationships



Fathers with strained child relationships



Those who have chosen not to be fathers



Those yearning to be fathers

Happy Father's Day...

we see you... we acknowledge you... we appreciate you...



## Prayers of the Faithful for 5 Sep 2021 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Leader:** Let us turn to the Lord and place our needs before the God who can heal us.

For the Church: that we will not be deaf to the needs of our community. Let us maintain a spirit of hope in these difficult times of lockdown and reach out to those struggling with isolation.

*Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those fleeing violence, particularly the people of Afghanistan: that God will protect those in danger and lead them to places of safety.

*Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For refugees and displaced persons: that we will not be mute about the issues surrounding the acceptance of refugees into our country. We are lucky to live in a land of peace and thus should welcome those suffering violence and mayhem in their own countries.

*Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who are fathers: that they will show wisdom and humility in their task of parenting.

*Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all healthcare workers: that God will keep them safe, renew their energy, and work through them to bring healing and strength to all who are ill.

*Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our family and friends living with sickness, especially those listed in our parish bulletin and in particular we bring before you Savannah (5 years old) who is seriously ill. May the gentle touch of Jesus help families and carers as they look after their loved ones.

*Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who have died, including *Visme Shu*, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time, including *Ada Beech, Antonia Capuana, Ivy May Caulfield, Urszula Doss, John Elliott, Don Horne & Rosemary Lee*, may they have peace with Christ in Heaven.

*Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Leader:** God of justice and mercy, your law guides our hearts in the path of holiness. Hear our prayers and may our words be matched by our loving deeds. We make this prayer in Jesus' name.

**All:** Amen