

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.

The Day the Earth Stood Still

A favourite 1951 movie that scared the living daylight out of me when I first saw it on a Black & White TV 'The Day the Earth Stood Still' - as a child, it wasn't the immediate threat of the 'Communists are coming' as sprouted in the Catholic community by B.A. Santamaria and others in politics - that affected evening family conversations around the dinner table, but the imminent arrival of Martians from the 'Other Worlds' - outer space! Not helped by my addiction to the television series 'Lost in Space' during these formative years!

This week marks the Twentieth Anniversary of 9/11 - and the terrorist attack on American soil - in particular the Twin Towers in New York. We ought to remember the other planes that morning carrying civilians across the skies of the USA that were also 'hi jacked' and the sacrifices made by courageous people caught up in this terrible act of international violence.

The Day the Earth stood still - in my life time, outside the assassination of President John F Kennedy and the 'Moon Landing' some 50 years ago, this day and time has marked our human journey in the modern era. I think that we can all remember exactly where we were - when we heard - when we first saw these terrible events unfold.

It was only 20 years ago! Australians, by and large were hearing this news late at night! Our Prime Minister (John Howard) was in New York on that fateful morning, and I was having lunch with my relatives in Cologne Germany, about to board a flight to London to begin a 3 month sabbatical in a Jesuit Centre in North Wales. This day the people of a civilised world stood still in shock & horror. Not Martians, nor the march of Communism, but the clear reality of Terrorism entered our lives - and has stayed, ever since! How sad.

RUOK Day - Week - Month - Year! (Daily)

Are You OK? A simple question... to be fair, now a question that seems to have taken on national and psychological significance. RUOK day has grown in society and has as its intention the serious question regarding mental health for all, especially the young. Almost 2 years into this terrible pandemic and regular lockdowns, and the fear of many social suppressions! We are all in this situation together - yet each person copes with these terrible restrictive conditions, differently. Personal, physical and financial circumstances dictate that we are indeed under stress and it's affects are important to acknowledge. 'Are you OK?' becomes an important and regular question we should ask our neighbours and ourselves! These times are extremely difficult to journey through. Hopefully together and never alone - hopefully in faith and as a Catholic community we should always try to do more! RUOK Day is every day! RUOK? *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

OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



Parish Priests

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum

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Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

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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

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Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

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Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Acting Principal: Therese Stewart: 9439 7824

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RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742

Collections: 5 September 2021—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>



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Nereo Zini

son of Maria, brother/in-law of Nadia, Alex & Soula

funeral: Monday 13 Sep @ 11am;

livestream:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/9402209/events/9835476>

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Frances Borg, Andrew Lopuszynski, William Warrillow

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Kate Lagerewskij

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

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 Zyleviczcz

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House

9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au.

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

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

Wednesday 15

6:30am Meditation - CANCELLED

Montmorency

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

Thursday 16

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Friday 17

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

Saturday 18

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Sunday 19

8:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:00am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Tuesday 21

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group - CANCELLED

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl - CANCELLED

Eltham

Wednesday 22

6:30am Meditation - CANCELLED

Montmorency

24th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2021

None of us want to 'taken for a ride'. There are times when we have been kind to a person. We have listened to their story and we have been generous in our response, only to find out that the story was false. Such experiences can discourage us from being generous again.

Reminds me of a story Dorothy Day tells when she received a letter from a person who was really upset at the way his kindness had been abused. Many of us will know about Dorothy Day, a controversial American Catholic, who founded a radical Christian movement committed to working for justice. She is famous for her writings in the Catholic Worker Newspaper. She was born in 1897 and died in 1980.

Anyway, this person who wrote her the letter told of his experience of taking in a man in need of assistance. He let the man have a nap on his bed, he made coffee and sandwiches for him, only to find his wallet stolen when the man left.

Dorothy Day reflected on this situation acknowledging the pain and disappointment of the person who showed such kindness. She writes:

"But these things happen for our discouragement, for our testing. We are sowing the seed of love and we are not living in the harvest time. We must love to the point of folly, and we are indeed fools, as Our Lord himself was, who died for such a one as this.

We lay down our lives too, when we have performed so painfully thankless an act. As a Carmelite nun said to me last week, "It is the crushed heart which is the soft heart, the tender heart."

What beautiful words, *"It is the crushed heart which is the soft heart, the tender heart."*

Is this what Jesus meant in that Gospel today when he spoke those words, 'For anyone who wants to save their lives will lose it, but anyone who loses their life for my sake will save it.'

We can answer, Jesus in taking the road of the cross to his death was asking those who would follow him to do the same. And this is true. We can see in today's Gospel the frustration of Simon Peter, who didn't want Jesus to take this road let alone consider taking it himself. What did Jesus say to him: 'Get behind me Satan for the way you think is not God's way'.

Simon Peter and so many of the other disciples ultimately had to lay down their lives as well and they are certainly the heroes and heroines of our Faith Tradition.

All of this is true but is there something more to losing your life and saving it in everyday life? Is Jesus saying something about how to live every day of your life? Is he saying to Simon Peter and the other disciples:

'My way will never be about power and domination. It will never be the way of ego. It will always be about losing yourself in love for others. It will never be a road of comfort. It will lead you into places of pain and suffering as you try to respond to the poor and broken of our world. It will be thankless at times, yet it will never be a way of despair as if evil will triumph. The way of despair is Satan's way. My way will always be a way of hope.'

For us who pray this Gospel today it is true that we are invited again and again to take the way of Jesus. We are to lose ourselves in love for one another even when we meet thankless situations in our lives and someone abuses our kindness. In our home life, our work life, our friendship life, our Church and community life, this is the way of Jesus, and it's the way of the crushed heart, the soft heart, the tender heart that gives such love to our world.

Terry



The Catholicism of Dawn Foster, the sometimes acerbic left-wing journalist who died last month at the age of 34, was a puzzle to many who knew her. But as a friend explains, her faith was at the heart of her life, her loves and her struggles / **By Madoc Cairns**

Against the current, ahead of the curve



She was always at least one step ahead of me. Dawn Foster was, for many people, their most terrifying friend: one reason for that was how quick-witted, in the true sense of the word, she was. Sometimes a merciless critic, she was almost always an acute one; shrewd, methodical, instinctively intolerant of cant and sophistry, whether from her enemies or her friends (“terrifying”,

remember: the adjective was earned). She could strip complex ideas down for parts over the course of an article or a broadcast. She could strip personalities down, too: opening people up, measuring out their character, making a judgement after a few minutes of conversation. If you were lucky, she’d like you. If you were very lucky, she’d decide to be your friend, and the talking

would continue; the conversation continuing to unfold over months and years.

That conversation that will now remain unfinished. Dawn died unexpectedly last week, due to the chronic illness that had always darkened, but never overshadowed, her journey from an impoverished childhood in Newport to the heart of the national media. She was 34 years old.

Dawn was, alternately and concurrently, a Catholic, a socialist, and a journalist for *The Guardian*, *Jacobin*, and *The Tablet*. She was the author of one book, *Lean Out*, a primer on radical feminism; she was a campaigning journalist on housing issues, and lived, publicly and proudly, as a disabled person on the national stage. Her public life was full, vibrant, and occasionally controversial. It would be easy to list her public accomplishments.

She was also my friend. Over the past few weeks I have been returning, again and again, to the things we shared and now do not: music, television programmes, the books we lent each other; the thinkers, in politics and religion, we drew strength from.

The last book Dawn recommended to me was by one of those thinkers, Raymond Williams. Williams, one of the outstanding theorists of the British New Left, was a public intellectual set in a classic mould - working-class family, grammar school, Cambridge, the ears and tables of the great and good. He made the breaking of that mould the purpose of his life.

Posthumously Williams found himself in a new role, serving as the namesake of a British shorthair cat belonging to Dawn. Both the name and the naming reveal aspects of Dawn, I think: her appetite for the uncanny, her wit, her understated intelligence. But it’s suggestive, too, of a particular politics.

Dawn came from a background less respectable than Williams, and attended a university less prestigious, but her trajectory was if anything more precipitate; her defiance more ingrained. Reading *Border Country*, the book Dawn recommended to me before her death, one section, near the end of the novel, stands out. In it, the protagonist, a university lecturer, politically leftish, personally *déraciné*, agonises over the rightness of his trade unionist father’s humanistic socialism; so strongly felt, but so hard to prove in the rarefied circles his son moves in. Another character

points out that attempting to converge the values of two contradictory worlds is pointless; the search for proof is unnecessary. If you believe it, she says, you'll live it.

Dawn believed it. Dawn lived it. And that practice of impracticality, a refusal to play the small and meaningless games of the media and political classes within which Dawn moved, did not make her popular. It certainly didn't make her rich. Dawn never cared.

Growing up in poverty didn't make Dawn bitter; escaping it never made her proud. Her journalistic work was done in an acute awareness of the reservoirs of human misery boiling underneath the civilized skin of our society. When that skin broke, as at the Grenfell Fire, Dawn threw her weight behind the fight for justice that ensued, even where that battle was, as she noted, "entirely uphill".

Convicted to advocate for those at the margins, she was also unafraid to take those causes into politics proper; to support, amid endemic press hostility, Jeremy Corbyn's Labour Party. As the years ground on and the pressure mounted, there were many who wavered. Dawn never did. Her support for Corbyn lost her work as a *Guardian* columnist; a blatantly political firing, carried out while Dawn herself was in hospital. But while Dawn's intense moral purpose - her solicitude for the mistreated, her indifference to rank or title, her startling lack of deference - made her financially precarious, it also made her rich in the love of her friends.

Of which she had many, from all walks of life. I always wondered what she saw in me, and realized too late that it was exactly and only me that she saw. That Dawn had never lost a skill most of us expect to spend a lifetime relearning: to be interested in people not for what you see in them but for what they are. This rare, precious quality made her a good friend. It made her a great journalist. It also made her, I think, a Catholic.

Dawn once told me that I had influenced her return to Catholicism. I have never believed this. I have never really believed that Dawn could be influenced by anyone. From the first time I saw her (smoking, with pink hair, under the parvise of the Brompton Oratory), to the last (a Zoom call, unstable connection, laughing riotously from a hospital bed) she seemed almost comically solid, preternaturally herself.

And yet she was also changed. After Grenfell, emotionally and physically exhausted, she found her way back to the Church. Conversion is a little like grief: impermeable from the outside, resistant to representation, easy to misinterpret or misconstrue. But beyond what Dawn herself has written, it's worthwhile understanding the renewal of her faith not as a special revelation, sequestered from the everyday, but something arrived at amid the struggles and loves of Dawn's life as she lived it.

Herbert McCabe, one of Dawn's favourite writers on religion, put it this way: the practice of Christianity involves becoming more human, not less; more like ourselves, and not less. Sin is diminishment; salvation, restoration: and at the beginning and end of all things stirs the self-sacrificial love of the crucified God. You can name that love in different ways: agape, caritas, charity. You can name it this: solidarity.

One way to look at Dawn's reversion is as a break, a change. But another is this: as a sharpening, a refining, an abundant increase of what was always already there: loaves and fishes, faith and hope; a stone rolled away; an empty grave. The final revolution, wrote Herbert McCabe, is the resurrection of the dead.

Raymond Williams, in one of his last interviews prior to his death in 1988, cast his eye over the many victories of Thatcherism and suggested that socialists take a long view. Defeat isn't surprising. For thousands of years struggles for justice have been defeated over and over

again.

What is striking, Williams said, is the "infinite resilience, even deviousness with which people have managed to persist". So when confronted with dire odds, like a 50/50 chance of nuclear war - he revises the; 50/50 becomes 51/49, he tells his interviewer, and that becomes 60/40. Hope isn't an emotion. It's a practice.

Among the things me and Dawn shared was the experience of defeat. It was 12 December 2019, the night of the last general election. Both of us were exhausted; Dawn from media appearances, myself from door-knocking in a London marginal. We had ended up at a Westminster bar filled with exactly the people Dawn most loathed; people to whom politics was a kind of hobby, a game without real stakes. When the exit poll was announced, the scale of Labour's losses shocked us both. Radical solutions to poverty, inequality, and homelessness had been put to the electorate - and emphatically rejected. Surrounded by celebratory parliamentary staffers, I thought of the hundreds of young people I had seen at campaign centres earlier in the day. In that moment, it felt time had come unstuck; the past eating the future. Always inclined to pessimism, I felt despair then, keenly and urgently.

Dawn did not. No more than ten minutes later, she had engineered our exit from the bar, and out to the streets. Walking alongside me but - as always - a few steps ahead, she began to talk about the articles she would need to write, the people she would speak to, the next cause in need of an advocate. If I could choose to retain in perfect detail one memory of Dawn, it would be that one: always in motion, always toward justice, talking, talking. Against the current, ahead of the curve. 50/50. Bad odds, but they'll get better. 51/49. Roll away that stone. 60/40. The night's not over yet.

Madoc Cairns is a freelance journalist.

Signs

By Piers Plowright
(1937-2021)

Some sentences leap out
of the Big Black Book
like friends:
'Supposing him to be the gardener'
'Did not our hearts burn within
us?'
'Come and have breakfast' -
Divine ends

dressed in the everyday:
gardener, lover, cook,
standing in for God,
the Truth not far away
but near as breath:
fruit, fire, and charcoaled fish
holding the Word.

These signs seem right
to me:
no cloud, no lightning flash, no
mystery,
no 'Unknown God' to puzzle out.
But something, real, solid,
near-at-hand -
and free.

National Child Protection Week

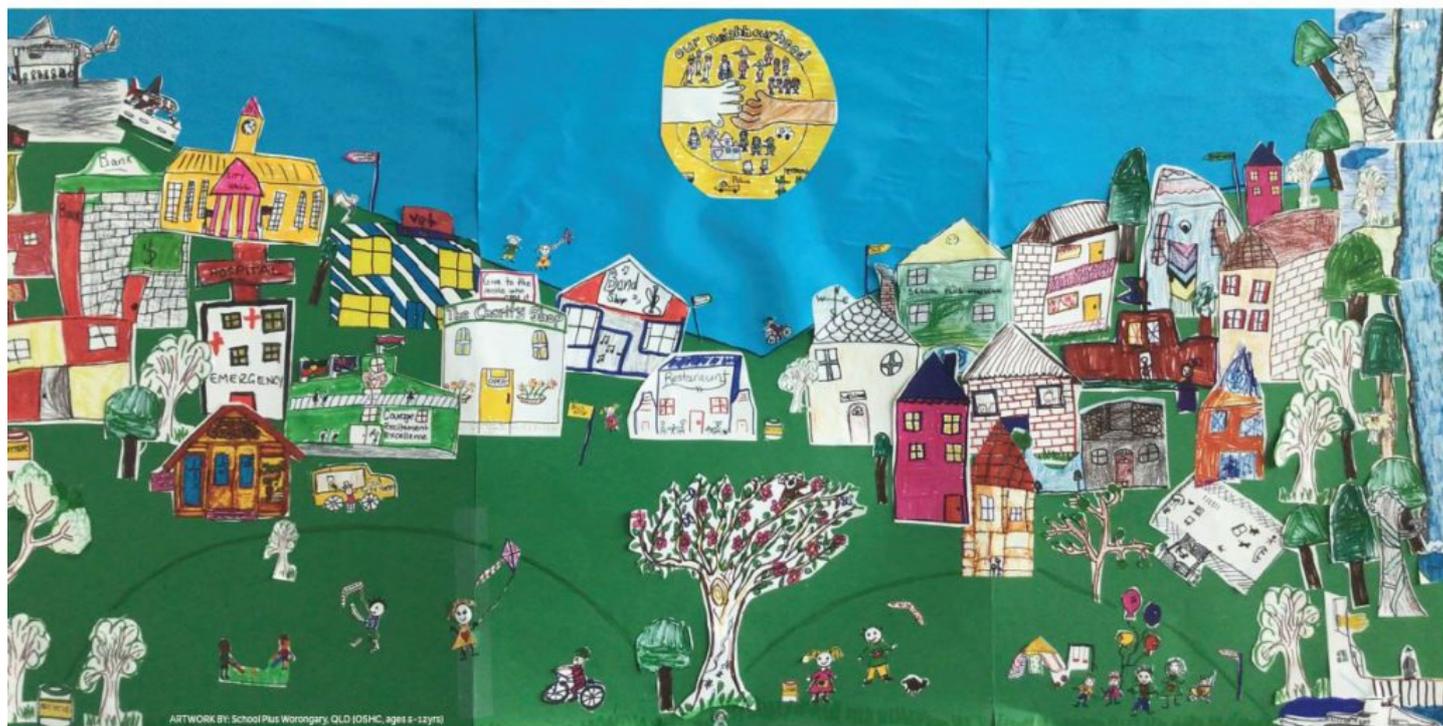
5-11 September 2021

Protecting Children is **EVERYBODYS BUSINESS**

Child protection is everyone's business. The responsibility lies with us all in keeping children safe from harm. Just like the two Grandmothers in the poster (p 5), all members of society need to play a part in ensuring children are nurtured and safe.

Listening to children and young people is the number one indicator in assisting their safety and well-being.

EVERY CHILD IN EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS A FAIR GO



NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

5 - 11 September 2021

SUPPORTED BY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

NAPCAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

Find out more
www.napcan.org.au

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Lockdown Light

A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ...

Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations below.

Podcasts for Christian living

Quality podcasts navigating marriage and family life

Parenting as a team

This podcast from the Messy Family Project gives some great practical advice on how couples can be truly in sync with one another and parent together with unity, respect and God's grace. Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving1

Getting to know your Bible

Resources to help you explore the Bible

How to read the Bible

Getting started: In this short video, Fr Mike Schmitz shares several reasons we should pick up our Bible again, see it with fresh eyes and allow it to transform our lives. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted1

Going deeper: In this video, Bishop Robert Barron looks at different approaches to understanding Scripture and how we can use them to hear God speaking to us today. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper1

Podcasts for Christian living: Unity in marriage (part 1)

In this podcast, Catholic counsellors, Dr Bob Schuchts and Jake Khym discuss how marriage is a union of two broken people, and yet when the love of God is invited in, unity is made possible. Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving2

Getting to know your Bible: Exploring the Gospels

As Christians, we have four accounts of the life of Jesus, called Gospels. How should we read them?

Getting started: This video by a Franciscan priest looks at how it's possible to understand different Gospel accounts and stories about Jesus. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted2

Going deeper: This year, we are reading Mark's Gospel at Mass. This video provides an introduction into the crafting and structure of the Gospel and the portrait of Jesus presented. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper2

DEEP LISTENING

CULTURE KEEPS US SAFE

Grandmothers' Story: "As you may know, in Aboriginal culture, our country and its landscape are our classroom. We connect to country as we learn and grow into adults. Our country is always ready to teach our mob and to look after us. This painting shows two grandmothers (sisters) sitting around the campfire teaching the young girls and boys about growing up and walking in two worlds. Here you can see the two grandmothers, emu footprints, bush tucker and spinifex. The boys and girls are sitting around their campfires using deep listening to learn about country and being ready for the two worlds. The footprints are the grandmothers walking around."

'DEEP LISTENING' BY SHIRLEEN CAMPBELL, ALICE SPRINGS



This poster has been created for National Child Protection Week 2021 to support the theme: "To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy". NAPCAN thanks the artist for sharing her knowledge from First Nations culture on the importance of deep listening in creating strong communities for children. Please use this poster to begin conversations in your community about connection, culture and belonging.

NAPCAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT
Find out more
www.napcan.org.au

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Gospel - Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'



Prayers of the Faithful for 12 Sep 2021 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: My sisters and brothers, let us turn to our merciful and loving God who answers the prayers of those who seek him.

That those who serve the Church as leaders will be faithful and courageous.

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

That regimes built on repression and violence will be transformed by the desire for trust and peace.

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

That those who search for meaning will find wisdom and knowledge in God who knows all things

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

That we will all make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in our young people who are resolutely committed to this.

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

That farming communities suffering from the effects of drought will be blessed with life-giving rain.

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

That those affected by hurricanes, fires and other disasters will receive the help they urgently need and long-term support as they rebuild their lives.

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

That the Church will be ever-vigilant in protecting and safeguarding the children and vulnerable people in its care.

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

That those who are sick will find us compassionate and understanding.

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

That those who have died in Christ will have eternal life, remembering especially *Nereo Zini*; and also *Frances Borg, Andrew Lopuszynski and William Warrillow* whose anniversaries are at this time.

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

Leader: Just and merciful God, in you all things that are hidden are made clear. Hear our prayers and inspire us to take up our cross and follow you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen