

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 Marian Month of October

Dear Parishioners & Friends of St Francis Xavier Montmorency & Our Lady help of Christians Eltham, welcome to the month of October and my desire to bring to your attention, over the next 5 weeks, important realities that are emerging in the Catholic Church worldwide and in our own Archdiocese that will affect our parish future!

- You will or should be aware of the World wide 'Plenary Council' that some 5 years ago was set up by Pope Francis to hear from the people of God on all issues confronting the Catholic Church. Bishops have been asked to consult and enter into a deep listening of the laity in regard to all relevant matters concerning our local communities past, present and future. In Parishes throughout Australia, in small and large groups over the past 4 years, tens of thousands of parishioners/laity have shared their thoughts and concerns verbally, online & in written submissions - the past 2 years of Covid19 have not helped the original timeline. Thus, the Plenary Council officially starts this week, and you can view activities online if you wish. This week's bulletin has some suggestions to be actively involved.
- Since Covid19 the Archbishop of Melbourne has been investigating a new way of re-structuring the Archdiocese from local parishes to Missions. Peter Comensoli has a 'vision' and it is a pleasant change to confront the obvious shortage of clergy and keeping to an old model - that has served us all so well. The difficulty is in the timing of this program during our lockdowns and this impossible coronavirus pandemic that excludes any parish gatherings and normal sacramental celebrations. Many of you will not be aware of the meetings. Discussions, emails and zoom chats that have been circulating over the past months with regard to the Archbishop's Vision named: *'Take the Way of the Gospel'*. Happily, a small group of concerned parishioners from SFX & OLHC have been closely involved in these chats. So, in the name of transparency, it is my intention to bring to your attention as much relevant information as possible on this important topic. Naturally, for those of you who spend time on your computer the information provided is available on the Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese website - please feel free to go directly to that site (www.melbournecatholic.org).



Our thoughts and Prayers at this difficult time for all those who serve in the Health professions. As our coronavirus cases rise to alarming new high levels, our famous health care system is truly under stress.

Nurses & Doctors - Ambulance & Police - all workers in healthcare and age care settings, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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

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

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742

Collections: 26 September 2021—LOCKDOWN

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$475.00	\$20.00
SFX	\$4,015.00	\$1,065.00



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>



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Peter Brewer, Judy McInerney, Gracie Money

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Terry Flannery (father of Elisha O'Dowd)
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, Denise Donnellan,
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 2

6:00pm Mass - CANCELLED Montmorency

Sunday 3

8:30am Mass - CANCELLED Montmorency

10:00am Mass - LIVE STREAM ONLY Eltham
(<https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE>)

12:00pm Baptisms - CANCELLED Montmorency

Tuesday 5

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group - CANCELLED Montmorency

Wednesday 6

6:30am Meditation - CANCELLED Montmorency

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED Eltham

11:00am Small Church Community - CANCELLED Montmorency

Thursday 7

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED Montmorency

10:30am ASRC - CANCELLED Montmorency

7:45pm Book Club - CANCELLED Montmorency

Friday 8

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED Eltham

Saturday 9

6:00pm Mass - CANCELLED Montmorency

Sunday 10

8:30am Mass - CANCELLED Montmorency

10:00am Mass - CANCELLED Eltham

10:00am Mass - LIVE STREAM ONLY Montmorency
(<https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE>)

12:00pm Baptisms - CANCELLED Montmorency

Monday 11

9:30am Days for Girls - CANCELLED Montmorency

Tuesday 12

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED Montmorency



Plenary Council

First Assembly

3-10 October

Over three years ago the decision was announced to hold a Plenary Council and the People of God began preparing for this historic moment by listening to God and by listening to one another's stories of faith. After this time of listening and journeying the Catholic Church of Australia will gather for the first assembly of the Plenary Council from 3-10th October 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the First Assembly will be held via 'one device-one person' mode. There will be 17 members participating in this gathering who have been called from the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The Plenary Council website will provide daily livestreams of parts of the opening Plenary sessions and Masses (including the Opening Mass on Sunday 3rd October).

<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/assembly-1/>

Plenary Council Masses and daily morning prayer booklets for full participation are available here:
<https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/prayer/>

We call on God's protection and care, seeking the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit as the members gather next week and discern the future that God is calling us to. May God grant the grace to all those gathering to be open to the Spirit leading through these upcoming days of prayer, listening and discernment.



Prayer of Petition to the Holy Spirit

*A prayer used before every session of the Second Vatican Council.
This is to be prayed at the beginning of a Plenary Council.*

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
conscious of our sinfulness,
but aware that we gather in your name.
come to us, remain with us,
and enlighten our hearts.

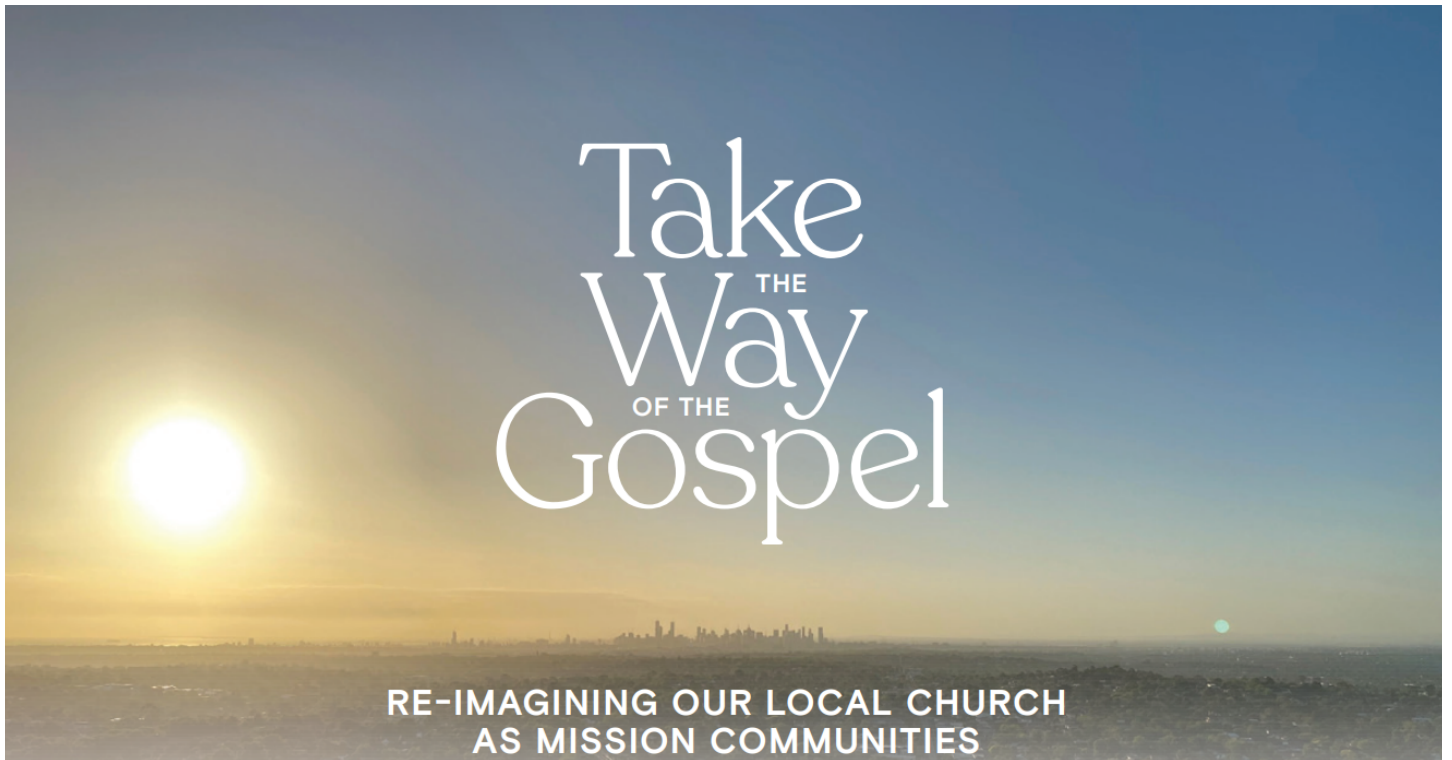
Give us light and strength
to know your will,
to make it our own
and to live it in our lives.

Guide us by your wisdom,
support us by your power,
for you are God,
sharing the glory of Father and Son.

You desire justice for All
enable us to uphold the rights of others;
do not allow us to be misled by ignorance
or corrupted by fear or favour.
Unite us to yourself in the bond of love
and keep us faithful to all that is true.

As we gather in your name
may we temper justice with love,
so that all our decisions
may be pleasing to you,
and earn the reward
promised to good and faithful servants,

Amen



The Way of the Gospel — the path of missionary discipleship — has always been adapted by every generation to fit the local circumstances. How this is arranged has varied according to time and place. How might our local communities of faith continue to address the missionary call of the Gospel into the future? How might we invite people into the fullness of the Gospel of life, and do so with a sense of vibrancy and vitality?

'It is a renewal of this vision for today that I want to explore with you over the coming months and years, so that we might walk together towards a more energised purpose for our local Church in the light of Pentecost. This will be a journey that will take time and effort, and we will need to take it together.' — Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

In April and May 2021, Archbishop Comensoli met with the clergy and lay leaders of the Archdiocese of Melbourne to begin this conversation. These initial meetings had one purpose in mind: to open up the question as to how our local Church in Melbourne might best be organised into the future, such that:

- The mission of the Gospel is at the heart of our life, worship and outreach;
- Local faith communities are arranged to allow for them to flourish; and
- Our faith communities be effectively resourced — spiritually, ministerially and materially.

Learn more about this Journey

A good place to start is Archbishop Comensoli's Pastoral Letter, "Take the way of the Gospel", which was published on Pentecost 2021. You can also find below the presentations to clergy and lay leaders from earlier this year.

- Pastoral Letter (Pentecost 2021): 'Take the Way of the Gospel'
https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/general/Take-the-Way-of-the-Gospel_print-friendly.pdf
- Presentation (Text) by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli to clergy and lay leaders
https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/general/22May21-Take-Way-of-the-Gospel_Lay-Leadership-Gathering.pdf
- Presentation (PPT slides) by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli to clergy and lay leaders
<https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/general/Take-Way-of-the-Gospel-by-Archbishop-Comensoli.pdf>

COMENSOLI'S VISION

- Instruction: "The pastoral conversion of the Parish community in the service of the evangelising mission of the Church" (from the Congregation for the Clergy)
<https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/general/Instruction-of-the-Congregation-for-the-Clergy-JUL20.pdf#asset:134052>
 - Take the Way of the Gospel: What is a Mission? (An Introduction)
https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/Take-the-Way-of-the-Gospel/TWG_Parish-Pack_Introduction-What-is-a-Mission.pdf#asset:198295:url
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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The Church in Melbourne is being invited into a conversation on how we might come together and discern our common mission for the years ahead. While the conversation is just beginning, the following background information may be helpful as we journey forward:

What is this all about? Why are we doing this? Why now?

Over many years now, our clergy and people have identified an ever-increasing sense of urgency to attend to the manner in which the local communities of our Archdiocese are arranged and function. Exploring and dreaming for a missionary way forward goes back to the earliest days of our Archdiocese. Melbourne's first archbishop, Archbishop James Goold, organised the archdiocese into local pastoral areas called "missions". They were of various shapes, sizes and purposes and not all missions were territorial. Some missions were to particular groups of people (e.g. to prisoners, to the port workers, and to migrants) and where individual parish structures emerged, they would identify and organise themselves as a family of communities in faith, worship and life.

Undeniably, the landscape of Melbourne — a city of cities — has changed dramatically since the time of Archbishop Goold. What has not changed is the desire of God's people to find new and fresh ways of proclaiming the Gospel into our local communities.

What Archbishop Comensoli is inviting us to is a renewed sense of missionary purpose for our local Church. He is calling us — clergy and laypeople — to begin the task of re-imagining and re-framing how we arrange our local communities of grace, be they parishes, language communities, or movements. By virtue of our baptism, each of us is called to proclaim the Gospel and find ways to invite others into a life with Jesus Christ. There is also a need for a greater sense of co-responsibility in the Church and this invitation to shared discernment aims to facilitate this into the future.

'We are responsible for each other, and to each other—we are stewards, not owners, of God's grace, for the sake of God's people; and we do this together.' — Archbishop Comensoli

What is being proposed?

What the Archbishop is inviting us into is a re-framing of how we arrange our local communities of grace, be they parishes, language communities, or movements. This begins with identifying the various Mission areas of our Archdiocese, followed by the process of arranging the resources to bring these Missions about. In inviting us into this task, the archbishop has acknowledged that some Missions will be very readily identifiable and need to be established quickly, while others will take time to develop.

He asks that local communities embark on identifying these missions over the next 12-18 months, before moving towards a staged establishment of Missions over the next three to five years.

What exactly is a "Mission"?

A Mission is a family of communities, working together for viability and vitality. It is a local area, with commonalities in history, demographics, geography and with a collaborative focus on evangelisation, worship, formation and outreach.

Will every Mission look the same?

Archbishop Comensoli has said that each Mission will look different according to its local needs and realities. It will depend on what is discerned locally and what will work best for that area.

SFX & OLHC Parish 'Futures' Team

An invitation is being extended to interested parishioners from ELTHAM and MONTMORENCY to participate in these team meetings and reflections upon our parish future in the light of the addenda from the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne: 'Take the Way of the Gospel'.

If you are interested to join this wonderful group of concerned parishioners navigate a way forward for these 2 strong Faith communities please contact *Patsy Skipper* by Email or phone:

patsy_skipper@hotmail.com

0429 439 675

Live Streaming Mass Continues

Attending Eucharistic Celebrations in our Churches sadly seems to be moving further away rather than getting closer. Live Streaming Mass falls short of being physically present, but at the moment it is what we can do to help us feel we are still there for each other.

So at **10.00am this Sunday 3rd of October**, let us be united in prayer. Prayer for hope and healing in our local communities and for our global community.

Our hearts yearn for connection, we are suffering, but we are held by each other and in God's love. In God we can do all things. Thank you to Fathers Terry and Michael for giving us this opportunity.

You will find us by clicking this link <https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE>, or search for OLHC SFX Youtube on www.google.com.

Should you have any queries you may contact Patsy on 0429 439 675 or patsy_skipper@hotmail.com.

Remembering this weekend daylight savings begins.

God Bless each dear One.

Carlos, Gerard & Patsy



Prison Fellowship Australia
RESTORING LIVES INSIDE OUT

Prayer Diary

Saturday 2 October

Pray for women in our prisons who are on remand and pray that their cases will be resolved quickly. Pray for their families and their children.

Sunday 3

Pray for Glen Fairweather as he speaks (online) at St Mary's Anglican Church in Sunbury today.

Monday 4

Join us for prayer this morning as people from across Victoria spend 30 minutes praying for those in prison and those affected by crime and incarceration. (Zoom Meeting ID: 861 5107 6709; Passcode: 458560).

Tuesday 5

Praise God for the good responses so far to the **Angel Tree Campaign**. Give thanks for the Churches that have joined and will be purchasing and posting gifts. Give thanks for the positive responses from the Prison Managers. Pray for Ann, Faye and Amy overseeing and rolling out the program and pray for the families and children receiving the gifts.

Wednesday 6

Pray for men and women in prisons who are longing for our volunteers to return to visiting and encouraging them and sharing hope with them. Give thanks that some prisons and correctional centres have begun allowing online visits via zoom or other platforms.

Thursday 7

Pray for a man who was released last Saturday and was picked up by two of our volunteers and taken to his place of residence. We are thankful that our volunteers can still carry out this role and thankful that we can also assist with some essential items from the Op Shop.

Friday 8

Recently we met with Ravenhall CC staff to share our programs with them and to see if our volunteers can visit there once the restrictions are eased. We haven't visited here yet. Pray for the admission/access process to go smoothly and pray that five of our volunteers can start visiting soon.

Saturday 9

The Family Support group meets today. Give thanks for the encouragement this is for those who attend and pray for mums and dads who have a child in prison.



Lockdown Light

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

Lockdown Light — week five

Podcasts for Christian living: How to keep our kids Catholic
In this episode of The Word on Fire show, Bishop Robert Barron and Brandon Vogt discuss what helps children retain their faith into young adulthood. Listen at www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving5

Getting to know your Bible: Science and the Bible: Are they opposed? *Getting Started:* In this video, Bishop Robert Barron firmly debunks the common claim that science and religion are diametrically opposed. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted5a and visit www.reasonfaithscience.com for further resources.
Going Deeper: This video skilfully explores a Catholic understanding of the Book of Genesis' account of creation through a tapestry of voices. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper5

27th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2021

Another week of lockdown and we so look forward to the time when we can be out of these restrictions. Some easing of the restrictions have helped some of us connect up with families and friends. As the vaccinations continue to climb towards the targets, we anticipate that we will be out of lockdown and hopefully soon.

In this time there are some blessings and one of these blessings are the walks so many of us enjoy. We have more time and we can see life in new ways when we take this time. I walk every day and often find myself at Caulfield Park. On my way there the other day, I came across a little group of children playing 'hide and seek'. They were having a fun time and the music of their laughter filled the streets of the neighbourhood.

'Hide and seek'. Goodness me I played this, as we all did, when we were children. Some things never change.

There were very few places for these children to hide and they were found very easily, particularly because the youngest among them gave the game away each time. He was too slow to find a hiding spot, but it didn't matter. The children laughed and played with much enjoyment.

Another day at Caulfield Park I noticed a little girl standing alongside her mother. Her Mum had a pram and inside it, a baby covered in blankets. The little girl also had a tiny pram and inside it, her teddy bear all covered in blankets. She was as 'proud as punch' and it was so lovely to watch her pride as she stood alongside her Mum. Reminds me, as too all of us, that children naturally seek role models. She wanted to be like her Mum. And already the mother in her is coming to life.

With the gift of children in mind, we turn to today's Gospel and find a section of it giving us an insight into the way that Jesus met little children. We are told people were bringing little children to him and the disciples turned them away. Jesus noticed this and said 'let the children come to me'. And he put his arms around them, and gave them his blessing.

We think of the children in our lives and sadly so many of us, in these Covid-19 times, especially grandparents, cannot put arms around the children we love. It's been a heartache for so many of us and for the children as well.

In fact what a tough time it has been for children in these early and tender years of their lives to have to live through a pandemic. We think of their schooling. Some of them have done really well with online learning and others have struggled. So many of them, not just little children, but teenagers have so missed their friends and the socialisation of their learning. We think particularly of Year 12 students who are finishing their secondary schooling without being able to come together in the company of their teachers and peers.

So let's today in our Eucharist remember and pray for the children of our world, for the children we know and love and for all children who have been in lockdown for much of these last two years. Like Jesus in today's Gospel may we always find a way to welcome them and when we are out of these lockdown restrictions, to put our arms around them and to give them our blessing.

And may the children who have lost much of their gift of play and fun during the pandemic find the encouragement and the confidence to once more delight in games like 'hide and seek' and light up the world with the music of their laughter.

Terry



Gospel - Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'

People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.



Prayers of the Faithful for 3 Oct 2021 — 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: God is our strength and our help. With confidence, then, let us turn to God with our needs.

For the Church: that we are given the grace to receive the kingdom of God as a little child: that the Spirit will open our hearts to receive God's love and God's gift of new life in the Spirit.

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

For our parish communities: that we may come to a fuller understanding of Christ, who holds our past, walks with us each day and gives us a vision for tomorrow; a vision filled with compassion and hope.

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

Loving God, you are the source of all things good. We pray for peace in the midst of violence and tragedy in this world. May we have the patience to be understanding, the strength to be forgiving and the grace to admit when we are wrong.

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

For all who are suffering: that God will heal the sick, free those caught in addiction, restore and heal those who have experienced abuse, comfort the grieving, and send relief to those entrapped by poverty.

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

Loving God, we are made in your image. Help us see the face of Christ in our brothers and sisters that seek refuge and asylum in our common home. May we open our borders and our hearts to those seeking shelter and security.

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

For those who are experiencing anxiety or mental health issues: we are especially mindful of our children, who are dealing with the uncertainty created by the covid initiated lockdowns; that God will heal their hearts, build resilience and renew their spirits, freeing them to live life fully.

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

For all who are sick and those who are listed in our bulletin, may they experience the healing touch of Christ.

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

We pray for those who have died recently, and we also remember *Peter Brewer, Judy McInerney and Gracie Money*, 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.

Leader: God of life, hear the prayers we have spoken and those held deep within our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen