

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.



Homily – Terry



During this past week our Church celebrated the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. What a delightful saint to hold as an inspiration for the living of our own faith story. Born in 1182, the son of a wealthy merchant in Assisi, Italy, he began as a young man to feel strangely drawn beyond the city and into the forests and mountains. Beyond the city were wild animals and social outcasts and yet it was here that Francis found his God and his destiny.

He left behind the world of riches that could have been his inheritance and unlike the rich man of today's Gospel, he left this wealth behind and followed the way of the Gospel, living in poverty, simplicity, freedom and joy.

Two of the stories told about him are well worth recalling. He had a friend in the papal court, Cardinal Ugolino and he was invited to preach a homily before Pope Honorius 111. Cardinal Ugolino insisted that Francis memorise a long, theologically correct sermon. The day came for Francis to recite the text he had memorised. He began to preach and there came a silence, an uncomfortable silence in the papal court. Francis had forgotten the sermon.

And then followed laughter, Francis laughing at himself. As he laughed he began to praise God in his earthy Italian whirling and twirling in dance around the court with all the fire and joy of his being. Perhaps this is what is needed in this time of today, in the Plenary Council gathering, although meeting by zoom doesn't exactly provide this opportunity.

My second story of recall, and let me acknowledge my source for this homily as drawing from an article written by writer Michael Kelly, many years ago. The story tells of Francis one day on a lonely road meeting a leper. He had a choice to simply pass on by, perhaps leaving some coins with the leper as a gesture of response. Or he could stop and greet the leper. After a moment of panic Francis stepped forward, took the leper in his arms and kissed him.

Michael Kelly writes:

“To kiss a leper is to become one with all “lepers”. It is to let love lead you beyond status and security, reason and religion, beyond your own life itself. In having nothing and in being no one, Francis was free to embrace the poor...”

In his poverty he discovered that he was at home in the universe. In communion with all creatures he was free to celebrate life as pure gift, springing fresh in every moment from the heart of the One who dances and delights in all that is. It is here we might find the

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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* by email or phone: patsy_skipper@hotmail.com 0429 439 675

Take
THE
Way
OF THE
Gospel

RE-IMAGINING OUR LOCAL CHURCH
AS MISSION COMMUNITIES

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

Principal: Patrick Green: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742

Collections: 3 October 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:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

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, Barbara Bibby, Lucy Bibby,
Denice Donnellan, Tom Nolan, Paul O'Dell,
Stephanie Peck, Les Robertson, Christine Scott,
Rosemary Scully, Barbara Snopkowski,
Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zylewicz*

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

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

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
(<https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE>)

Montmorency

12:00pm Baptisms - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Monday 11

9:30am Days for Girls - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Tuesday 12

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Wednesday 13

6:30am Meditation - CANCELLED

Montmorency

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

Thursday 14

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Friday 15

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

Saturday 16

6:00pm Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Sunday 17

8:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:00am Mass - CANCELLED

Eltham

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

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Tuesday 19

9:30am Mass - CANCELLED

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group - CANCELLED

Montmorency

Wednesday 20

6:30am Meditation - CANCELLED

Montmorency



How the Plenary might resolve the unresolvable

At one level a lot is riding on this Plenary Council. Only the fifth such Council in the Australian church history, there is a great sense of anticipation among a wide variety of groups: those estranged from the church, priests looking for direction for their own parishes, women bereft of opportunities to express their faith and seeking a look-in, parents of uninterested children desperate for ways of bridging the gap between church traditions and modernity, those ostracised from the church, as well as those not wanting any changes at all.

All are looking on with interest at one of the most formal consultative processes within the church. Will it or won't it produce tangible output that will help direct the church into the post-Royal Commission, post-Covid era, and help bring about deeper faith across a wider congregation?

The extent to which any outcome can contribute to that goal is out of the immediate control of the present Plenary Council. While the Council, through its definition can set binding canonical laws for the related region (i.e. Australia), the laws and norms applicable in this process are still limited. That is, it is likely discussion will be restrained to the particular areas addressable by a local Church.

In this context, many pleas within more than 17,000 submissions collated for inclusion may be pie-in-the-sky ideals that are sidelined in the PC discussions. These include calls for broader interpretations of scripture, a gentler approach to those who are at odds with church teachings, practical suggestions for dealing with priest shortages, and more detailed suggestions around responsible church governance.

This presents a challenge for heeding the call by Pope Francis for a church of synodality, centred on mutual listening and learning. Plenary members must take care that the Council will not be a one-sided conversation or a show of mutual listening constrained to a Church-defined 2000-year-old script.

Some argue that issues, such as women's ordination, divorce, views on homosexuality, are not worth discussing in the PC given the clear teachings of the church on these. Yet this runs the risk of ignoring raw feedback.

Consider these excerpts from submissions from the Final Report for the Plenary Council Phase 1: **Listening and Dialogue:**

'Women are treated in a tokenistic manner and are angered by this...'

'If men and women are made in the image and likeness of God, we must start to ordain women', '(We need) to break down the human construct that we use as tools to gain power and manipulate',

'Where is the mercy and forgiveness when we deprive divorcees who have remarried commune?'

'As a layperson, the Church's decision to vilify homosexuals and not attack a consumerist culture suggests that the Church likes punching down, not up...'

On the other hand, a PC is not simply a process to accept all suggestions and ideas. The question remains: how does a PC navigate the conundrum of being clearly 'open to the Spirit' across these new submissions, while honouring earlier Spirit-led discernment that produced long-accepted stances and teachings of the church?

One answer was presented at a member formation session: a 'Spirit overflow', which is a notion of holding the tension between conflicting views by staying sincerely open to another viewpoint, while continuing to speak from our own heart and understanding. Members can then, ideally, expect a resolution to the unresolvable that goes beyond human capabilities.

Members of the PC would do well to remember their foremost calling is to discern where the Holy Spirit is calling the Australian Church. That doesn't mean limiting or restricting that discernment to what members consider possible for the church to address.

While recognising that the nature of this PC, which inhibits making changes to some issues, may be at odds to synodality, plenary members can still stay focused on discernment of the Spirit, irrespective of how practical they think the outcome might be.

Because while practical outcomes are a defined criteria for a successful PC, the road to these outcomes might not be clear. Members simply need to present themselves at the PC, each with individual takes on various issues, moulded through formation, and supported by the prayer of the wider faith community. They come, ready to listen to the other voices, not through the head or the ears, but through a stillness and a willingness to absorb the points being made by the other.

As with the Magic Eye stereogram images of the 90s, it is the role of members to look beyond the obvious or central issues facing the Church, to look for the 3D sense of God forming the church within the discussion. The role of members is to look for God, rather than focusing on a particular issue. There is wisdom in the Biblical caution of not putting new wine into old wineskins. Sometimes the current wineskins are just no longer suitable to hold the richness of the wine that is the faith. The focus for many on the Plenary Council is not on retaining the wineskins; it is the wine that is the focus.

I heard a comment, expressed separately by both a Plenary Council member as well as a couple of wise and grounded laywomen I was chatting to, that seemed to put the whole Plenary Council journey into some perspective: 'this council is just one of many ways in which church reform can be facilitated.' It helped alleviate some of the angst that has been building up about how it will all turn out.

In the same way, the council members trust that God's Spirit will speak through them, and the Spirit will also speak through other members, as well as through the PC process. The process began with the National Consultation, will continue through the Plenary Council and progress into the future through continued Spirit-led discussion and action between the Church's hierarchy and the faithful.

Dr Nimmi Candappa is a Melbourne writer, Plenary Council member and academic

ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLO

Take the Way of the Gospel

What has happened so far?

What the faithful of Melbourne are being called to is not new, but rather a recognition of an ever-increasing sense of urgency expressed by both the clergy and lay faithful over many decades to find new and more sustainable ways of inviting people into the mission of the Gospel.

In his first [Patrick Oration \(2019\)](#), Archbishop Comensoli acknowledged the challenges and wounds of recent years, but challenged the Church in Melbourne to find new life-giving ground in which the seeds of the Gospel might be planted. He reiterated this call in his [2021 Patrick Oration](#), echoing what Pope Francis has said about calling on local Churches not to struggle to hold on to what it has left behind but to see itself as a mission church moving outward. (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 28; 33)

Other key events have also taken place over the last few years:

2019-2021: Diocesan research, planning and discernment

Conversations with clergy and lay leaders took place concerning the present life of the Archdiocese and how best to proclaim the Gospel into our communities at this particular time. In addition to the listening, dialogue and discernment that has contributed to preparations for the national [Plenary Council](#), reflections were sought from local parishes, especially those who had gone through partnerships and amalgamations over the years, in an effort to review the effective use of material and ministerial resources.

A research agency, Location IQ, was approached by the Archdiocese to provide some strategic insight into the current makeup of parishes and regions across Melbourne. Their research looked at demographics, geography, thanksgiving contributions, number of local schools and other pertinent data to help inform future planning for the Archdiocese.

April-May 2021: Gathering of clergy and lay leaders

Clergy and lay leaders from across the archdiocese gathered to hear about some of the initial thinking and discernment about renewing our local communities of faith. Presentations were given by Archbishop Comensoli, Fr Joe Caddy (Vicar General), Teresa Rhynehart (Director of Mission), Tim O'Leary (Executive Director, Stewardship), Gavin Duane (Location IQ), Tricia Norman (Senior Pastoral Associate for the parishes of Camberwell, Deepdene & Balwyn, Surrey Hills and Wattle Park) and Fr Gerard Keith (formerly Parish Priest of the partnered parishes of the Bell Park Cluster).

Pentecost 2021: Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Comensoli

At Pentecost, Archbishop Comensoli wrote to all the faithful of Melbourne inviting them into a conversation on re-imagining our local Church as mission communities. [In his letter](#), the archbishop spoke of some of the initial discussions and discernment that had taken place and what the Church in Melbourne is being called to.

August-September 2021: Regional sessions with parish priests and parish representatives

Led by Fr Joe Caddy (Vicar General) and Teresa Rhynehart (Director of Mission), these regional sessions have offered a further introduction to the Missions and what parishes are being invited to discern locally. Hosted online, these sessions have included input from each of the Regional Bishops/Episcopal Vicars and an initial exploration of the Illustrative Missions by Gavin Duane from Location IQ.

So does becoming a “Mission” mean the closure of parishes?

Archbishop Comensoli has stated that what is being proposed is **not** the closure of parishes, but the establishment of Missions, into which parishes will be grouped. He has also acknowledged that each of these Missions will comprise a family of parishes/communities; that the composition of each Mission will vary according to its local needs and realities and that the number of parishes within each Mission will be discerned at local levels.

‘I hope you have noticed I have not spoken of parish amalgamations or closures. I am NOT proposing such things today. We all know that this has been attempted here and in many other dioceses, often with great pain and with little renewal. No, this is not what I am calling us all to. Rather, let us see how we might arrange ourselves into Missions, let’s see what our families look and feel and live like, before questions of the number of parishes or communities within each mission might be properly asked.’

—Archbishop Comensoli, Presentation to clergy and lay leaders, 2021

COMENSOLI'S VISION - PART 2

This invitation to reimagine our missionary communities is the start of a long-term journey. Archbishop Comensoli has said that parishes will remain at the heart of the gathering of God's people locally, but that honest and Spirit-led conversations need to take place for us to adapt the way in which we resource our local communities, including the placement of clergy, catechists and other lay leaders, to form Missions that are a family of communities.

What factors will be considered when forming these Missions?

Clergy and lay leaders are being asked to begin discerning how these Missions could look like at the local level. Some clergy and lay leaders have already begun conversations with their neighbours to explore where there are possible synergies and shared ways of ministering to locals.

Archbishop Comensoli has offered these three questions to help in these discussions:

- Where are the local Missions of our time and place?
- What parishes might be organically formed into a family of communities for the purpose of bringing people into the fullness of the Gospel of life, and for the sake of pastoral viability and sacramental vitality?
- How might the Missions of today be effectively resourced—materially, ministerially and spiritually?

What support is being offered to us at the local level and what happens next?

As a diocese, we are now entering into a period of discernment, encouraging local communities to begin discussions for how they might respond, organically and creatively, to this missionary calling. Below is an indication of the journey ahead:

- August-September: Regional gatherings (North, East, South, West) to begin discerning Missions
- September-December 2021: Parishes to begin embarking on prayer, consultation and discernment locally
- January 2022 onwards: Begin dialogue with parishes in your illustrative mission, with a view to identifying 2-5 Missions in each region.

In addition to the facilitated regional meetings, ongoing support and leadership training will be provided for parish priests, lay leaders and communities as they discern how they might come together in a Mission.

How can I participate locally?

Firstly, we invite you to pray! Each of us is called to proclaim the Gospel and this work begins — above all — with prayer. At Pentecost, the apostles were huddled away in the upper room before the Holy Spirit came upon them to give them precisely what Jesus had promised: the power to become his witnesses 'throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). We are not alone in this journey. Let us entrust this work to the Spirit, and be open to its promptings along the way. May we act with the same boldness of the early Church, and preach the Good News of Jesus Christ the best way possible in our time and place.

Secondly, we encourage you to get in touch with your local parish priest and parish leadership teams and explore ways that you might assist them in ensuring that all the lay faithful are invited into this discussion at the local level.

How can I provide feedback?

This is the start of an ongoing conversation. Following recent gatherings with lay leaders and clergy, a series of regional gatherings will take place from August-September 2021. In the meantime, you can get in touch with Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal by emailing mission@cam.org.au.



(continued from page 1)

seed and inspiration for the spiritual revolution we so desperately need today. For in our time it is creation itself, now as broken and bruised as any leper, that waits for our kiss.”

If ever the world of travel opens up again and there are indications from our Government that it will be soon, you may consider travelling to Assisi, if you haven't already done this. It is a special place imbued with the spirit of Francis. I remember sitting in the Church there for some considerable time, feeling blessed by the spirit of St Francis.

Unlike the rich man of today's Gospel, Francis is a wonderful example of taking up the invitation of Jesus to sell everything, give his money to the poor and follow Jesus in poverty, humility, simplicity and love.

As Michael Kelly writes in the final words of his article:

“Perhaps the dance of the poor man from Assisi can warm our modern hearts. Perhaps the song of his love for creation can rekindle in us a reverence for life, before it is too late. St Francis of Assisi pray for us.”



Virtual Lecture Series

The Catholic Contribution

Professor John Haldane

Professor of Philosophy of Education,
Australian Catholic University (Melbourne)

- **Introduction: What does it mean to be Catholic?**
Thursday 14 October, 4:00pm AEDT

Other lectures in the series:

- **The Jewish/Classical Synthesis**
- **Rebuilding of the West**
- **The Church and Society**
- **Catholic Anthropology and Catholic Education**
- **Professor Haldane in Discussion**

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) are proud to present *The Catholic Contribution*, a virtual lecture series from Professor John Haldane.

The aim of this series is to understand the nature, development and self-understanding of Roman Catholicism and its contribution to the culture of Europe and beyond, not just historically but through to the present day and into the future.

This means going to its origins in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and the experience of the apostles in making sense of these, as well as in founding communities based upon them, in which those teachings were preserved and transmitted to the wider world.

Turning from concerns and controversies of the present day to deeper and more enduring matters, the series will explore the Catholic contribution from historical, cultural and philosophical perspectives to build a picture of Catholicism as providing a clear-sighted, realistic and ennobling understanding of human nature.

The first lecture *An Introduction: What does it mean to be Catholic?* will be presented live on Thursday 14 October 4.00pm AEDT. Following this, the remaining lectures will be uploaded to *The Catholic Contribution* website.

For further information and to register for the first lecture of *The Catholic Contribution* series, please visit macs.vic.edu.au/Haldane. Attendance is free and open to all.

THE BOOK... YES... THE BOOK

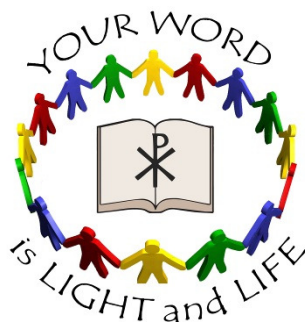
Well yes THE BOOK of Fr Terry is another thing that is **still open**, and waiting for you to place your message there. Many are in touch to say we have something, a photo, poem, wishes, joke, letter, is the book still open? Well yes it is! But sadly the time is beginning to run out. November and Terry's departure seemed so far away and now November is next month!. So don't leave it to manana, the opportunity will be gone and you will feel left out.

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

It is sad for ourselves and Terry that the last months of an amazing 14 years with us in ending in this isolating way. Let us make an effort to show our gratitude for what has meant so much to us by sending him off with a book of many, many happy memories. God Bless us all. Thank you to all who have already sent beautiful pictures and words.



Small Church Communities — Are Still Open!



And you are still welcome to join.

Life is changing, everything is changing. The Church is also changing with or without us and whether we like it or not.

The Church of yesterday has little relevance in the world of today even before the pandemic which has not helped at all. Who can tell who will return to our Churches and when? Many parishes are left without priests, priests are in short supply, what are we to do about all of this? We can do nothing, in which case everything will fall apart in a very short time. We will find ourselves dissatisfied, looking around for Masses, priests, communities, somewhere to belong. Or we can be part of the change which is inevitable. There will need to be a lot of letting go and working together to create a new story. Tomorrow's church is no longer tomorrow it is today!

This involves **all** of us, so let us give some serious thought to what our Faith and our

Communities and our Church mean to us. How much of ourselves, our time, our gifts, our talents are we prepared to give to creating a new story. These things are things we need to ponder and pray about, now. What is worth keeping, what can we let go?

To be spiritual people in the century to come we must be holy people, not just church-going people...

Joan Chittister

There are many ways to nourish our Faith and spirituality. Close by we have St Vincent de Paul, Passionist Family Groups, Small Church Communities, care groups and further afield environmental groups, ecumenical communities outreach groups, to name a few, all these are ways of nourishing, spreading and living the Message of Jesus. *We are the place God chooses to be present in the world.*

I guess today I draw your attention in particular to Small Church Community groups. We find Jesus in each other, we find Jesus in nature and everywhere but there is no better place to find and know Jesus than in the Scriptures and in community. *"Master to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life"* John 6:68. All are welcome.

Enquiries email patsy_skipper@hotmail.com, anelorrainecotter@gmail.com or phone Patsy: 0429 439 675



Lockdown Light — week six

Podcasts for Christian living: The irreplaceable role of parents. The role of parents cannot be underestimated. And while parents have a natural role — to protect and provide — we can sometimes forget the irreplaceable role parents have in the spiritual and emotional lives of their children. Find out more here www.bit.ly/ChristianLiving6a

Getting to know your Bible: Understanding Mary in the Bible. *Getting Started:* Why do Catholics call Mary their mother? Isn't that taking away some of the respect due to Jesus and giving it to Mary? On the contrary, in this video, Fr Mike Schmitz discusses how a relationship with Mary can strengthen our faith life. Watch at www.bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted6

Going Deeper: How are Mary and the Ark of the Covenant from Exodus connected? What relevance does that have today? In this video, Dr Brant Pitre explores Mary's role as the new Ark of the Covenant — the dwelling place of the Lord on earth. View here www.bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper6

Live Streaming Mass Continues

Join us again **this Sunday at 10am** at St Francis Xavier and let us keep hope alive in our hearts. Prayer is presence, so with gratitude, let us be present to each other in prayer at this time.

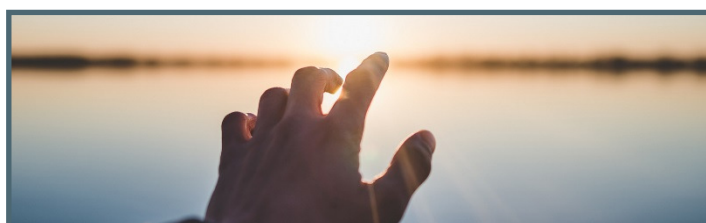
Thanks to Frs Terry & Michael for giving us this opportunity to celebrate and pray.

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.

God is very near us all, take care.

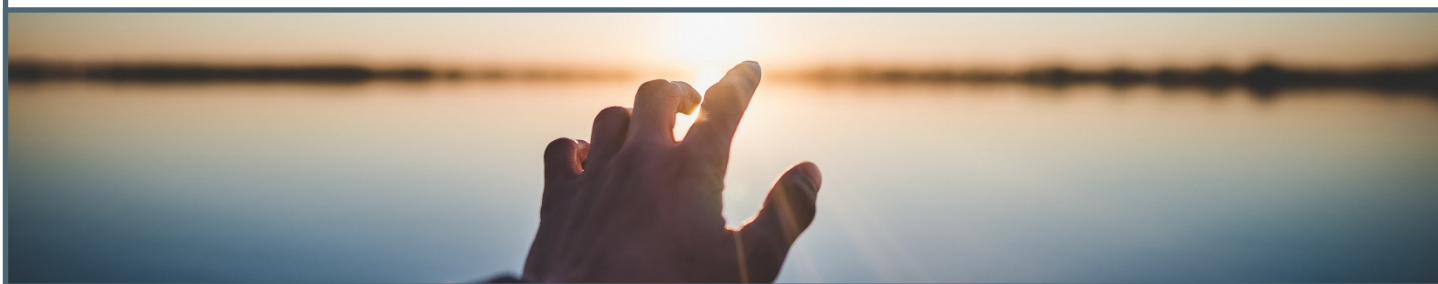
Carlos, Gerard & Patsy



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 10 Oct 2021 — 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Jesus calls us all to be aware, informed and active in our life as Christians. Lord, we come to you in prayer.

For optimism, in the resurgence of Spring; in the joy, laughter and pleasure of the everyday; and in the gift of our precious environment. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the care and dedication of all who work in health professions. May they feel your presence and love. For the sick, their families and carers. May the Lord bring peace, comfort and healing. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

"The word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword". Living as a Christian demands accountability, and an acute awareness of Jesus in our lives. Through reflection and prayer, may we strive to live as active, informed and engaged citizens, aware of our responsibilities in family and in society. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the wisdom to listen, to challenge, to accept, and to make informed choices. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our church, as it gathers to work out future directions. Enlighten and challenge us all to choose wise, relevant, inclusive pathways to live in Christ's ways. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for our world, our country, our schools and communities. We pray for our families and friends. Guide us through the hardships, anxiety and devastating isolation of Covid. We pray for calm and peace. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they rest in the peace and love of the Lord. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: With trust in God's love, may we shout for joy and gladness all our days. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**