

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.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St Francis Xavier, Montmorency & Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham,

Last Sunday afternoon Fr. Terry Kean was notified by a parishioner that had tested positive for the Coronavirus and had attended the 8:30am farewell Mass. The parishioner involved, who is double vaccinated and showing no signs of Covid-19 symptoms, was informed by the Health Department. After this Mass, Fr. Terry and this parishioner had a farewell hug - and in light of this close contact Terry decided to get tested at Heidelberg Testing centre and his result came back negative on Monday morning.

We have had the church deep cleaned on Monday afternoon as is required, and by this email I am informing you and suggesting that you continue to comply with our Health Authorities regarding Covid-19, monitor your personal health for any symptoms, get tested if you are concerned.

Warmest regards,

Michael F. Sierakowski
Moderator



Parish Contact Addresses, Mobile Phone Numbers & Emails

Last Monday evening, Kate was able to contact everyone on our database via email and via facebook. Given the circumstances of last weekend, obviously we would love to be able to contact you as soon as possible should we have a serious issue to communicate.

We are grateful for all those who have given us their email addresses and mobile phone numbers, but some people might be left out of these forms of communications. This gives rise to an important opportunity to collect information to enable us to contact you in the future. Please consider letting the office know, if you haven't already, your email address/mobile phone number for future communications.

Naturally, there will be many people who do not possess a mobile phone or are not connected to the internet; we will have to rely on other means of communication or visitation as we move forward.

If you have any suggestions regarding communication, please let us know :
eltham@cam.org.au, montmorency@cam.org.au, 9435 4742

Covid-Safe Child-Friendly Parishes:



- Please **record your presence** via: QR Code on your phone, this is essential for Record Keeping and if necessary, tracing and numbers
- Vaccination Status: double vaccinated = unlimited;
unknown/single or zero vaccinated = 50 people in attendance
- Please use **Hand Sanitiser** provided or other personal cleaning agent
- **Natural air flow** – where possible, windows and doors open



For all volunteers and staff:



- **WWCC** – current working with children's check
- **Code of Conduct** – ensure you have signed the annual code of conduct



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

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum

terry.kean@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: 7 & 14 November 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$660.00	\$1,107.10
SFX	\$2,129.00	\$1,530.65



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>

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 27

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 28 - First Sunday of Advent (Year C)

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 29

6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir Practice

Eltham

Tuesday 30

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

Wednesday 1 December

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

11:00am Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:00pm OLHC Prep 2022 Information Evening

Eltham

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 2

10:30am ASRC food collection

Montmorency

2:00pm Mass @ St Vincent's Care

Eltham

7:45pm Book Club

Montmorency

Friday 3

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 4

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 5 - Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 6

6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir Practice

Eltham

Tuesday 7

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

Wednesday 8

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

Thursday 9

10:30am ASRC food collection

Montmorency

Friday 10

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 11

12:00pm Baptism - Archie

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 12 - Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Lillian

Montmorency

Tuesday 14

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

Wednesday 15

6:30am Meditation - 80 people

Montmorency

11:00am Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 16

10:30am ASRC food collection

Montmorency

Friday 17

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 18

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Henrietta

Montmorency

Tuesday 21

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

Wednesday 22

6:30am Meditation - 80 people

Montmorency

SVDP Montmorency Christmas Appeal 2021

This year we once again ask for your support for our annual Christmas Appeal which helps families within our local communities of Lower Plenty, Montmorency, Briar Hill, Eltham North and St Helena who find Christmas a struggle both emotionally and financially.

This year's Christmas Appeal theme is "*No child should be born into a world without hope*". As the long-term repercussions of the pandemic come to light, we expect the pressure on individuals and families to worsen and more people than ever will turn to Vinnies to help get them through these difficult periods.

Christmas can be such a magical time but, for quite a number in our local community, Christmas doesn't mean magic, it means hunger, hardship and stress. At what is a time of joy and celebration for many of us, some in our community face the prospect of a bleak Christmas as they struggle to pay bills and provide for the basics for their family, let alone cope with the extra costs associated with Christmas.



As Christmas should be a special time for everyone, we will be providing hampers to the families based on the needs of each family, hoping to be able to brighten their Christmas Day.

As is the custom of SVDP Montmorency, all monies raised by the appeal are used exclusively within the local community and will go toward sharing the spirit of Christmas with those for whom daily life is a struggle. There are no administration costs associated with the preparation and distribution of the hampers.

How to Donate

Envelopes are in the church pews for **cash, cheque or credit card donations**. Please place the envelopes in one of the three boxes in the church foyer.

On Line at Vinnies.org.au and ensure you **nominate Montmorency or Eltham in the Comments/Conference box** to ensure your donation stays local.

Phone 13 18 12 again state "for Montmorency or Eltham conference Christmas appeal".

If you choose to donate online, it would be appreciated if you email msaid@netspace.net.au so that our conference can acknowledge your generosity.

If you, or someone you know, require assistance is always promptly available by contacting 1800 305 330 between 10am and 3pm weekdays.

Collection of quality household goods/furniture can be arranged by calling 1800 621 349. The St Vincent de Paul Montmorency's conference sincerely wishes to thank everybody for their continued support of our work and wish all parishioners and their families every blessing and happiness for Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works



Prison Fellowship Australia
RESTORING LIVES INSIDE OUT

Prayer Diary

Saturday 27

Thank God for the resources he has provided for us to carry out this ministry to people in prison and their families. Pray for wisdom as those resources and finances are used and thank God for the many kind donors who give to keep this ministry going.

Sunday 28

Pray for the ministry of Prison Fellowship across Australia. This week, pray for the ministry in South Australia and for the tender they have submitted to manage and oversee Chaplaincy in prisons in SA.

Monday 29

After a false start last Monday, our two volunteers will be attending Thomas Embling Hospital today for orientation and their first volunteer visit. Please pray for them as they 'break new ground' in this facility.

Tuesday 30

Last week, in our Monday Prayer meeting, I shared a testimony from a person in prison in Queensland who gave an account of the vibrant group of Christians meeting in his prison each week. It was inspiring to read his story and also to read of the challenges and conflicts that they experience, many of which can be found in any church community. Their approach to dealing with conflict are a good example for all of us. Pray for groups of Christians in prisons around Australia as they meet and minister to those around them.

Wednesday 1 December

Pray for our volunteers who are waiting patiently for prisons to open and for programs to start again. Pray that we would hear soon as to when volunteers are able to return.

Thursday 2

Today Richard and Laura will be on the road visiting Karrenga/Margoneet CC and then meeting with the Geelong team for the first time since March 2020. Pray for the team as they wait for an opportunity to return to volunteering in the Barwon Visitor's Centre and pray that it will open soon..

Friday 3

Pray for the ministry of Prison Fellowship across Australia. This week pray for the ministry in WA as they reach out to prisons and correctional centres in WA and as they work around the problem with slow rate of volunteer clearance approvals.

Saturday 4

Pray for people in prison who are getting close to their release date. Give thanks for programs they can access that help prepare them for release. Pray for them as they understandably feel apprehensive and uncertain.



Our Lady's church choir is seeking a pianist to play at Christmas Eve Mass (24 Dec 2021—time to be confirmed). The choir would also need a rehearsal with the piano. The pianist would need to be proficient (as an accompanist) in playing the usual Christmas hymns and parts of the Mass. Enquiries can be made to the Parish on: 9435 4742

Hospitality Roster at OLHC

We are re-starting our roster for hospitality after our 10am Mass. If you would like to participate in this very important ministry, please put your name and a contact number on the sheet which will be in the Gathering Area.

Ideally if we get enough people volunteering you won't be rostered on too often!

I think we all agree that our cup of coffee/tea and some nibbles after Mass are another way of experiencing our wonderful community.



Blessings, Kathleen Nolan

'I bawled my eyes out': When 11 friends were diagnosed with COVID, they banded together to overcome the stigma

By Sian Johnson

Catching COVID-19 still seemed like a fairly unlikely possibility when Charlotte and her old schoolfriends caught up over dinner in Melbourne's CBD recently, chatting, drinking and laughing together for the first time in many months.

Despite living through the city's lockdowns in 2020 and 2021, the 23-year-old didn't know anyone who had caught COVID.

The group of 13 was fully vaccinated, and they wore masks when they left the table where they spent about four hours together.

They had followed the rules, but a few days after their joyous reunion, 11 of them came down with COVID, making their dinner what one epidemiologist described as a "superspreader" event.

For Ms Webster, confronting the fear and stigma attached to catching the virus was almost more challenging than the mild symptoms she experienced.

Avoiding poorly ventilated indoor environments may be wise

The dinner had taken place on a Saturday night, and by the time Charlotte had developed symptoms and was waiting on test results, her friends had already begun to return positive tests on the Tuesday.

"I knew I was not well so I likely knew my results were coming back positive," she said.

"Still, I absolutely bawled my eyes out when they came back positive.

"I didn't even know anyone who had had COVID.

"Even though we've lived through nearly two years of a pandemic it's been something circulating around me and something I'm aware of, but not something that has really been present in my life."

Ms Webster said in hindsight she would have taken more heed about risks she picked up on, like the restaurant she was in not checking vaccination status, and some wait staff not wearing masks.

"We were all sitting there, fully vaccinated ... at a restaurant, in what we thought was quite a safe environment," she said.

"Nowadays I would definitely be a lot more stringent about where I'm eating out and what I'm doing."

Doherty Institute epidemiologist Katherine Gibney said as people adapted to life without restrictions, it was important for individuals to remember they could decide what they were comfortable with and take extra steps to protect themselves.

"Being in a crowded area for a long time that's indoors, poorly ventilated and not wearing masks is one of the highest-risk things that you can do," she said.

Dr Gibney said being fully vaccinated and getting a booster shot if you were eligible were the most important ways to minimise the risk of catching the virus, and prevent serious illness if you do contract COVID-19.

She said choosing to wear a mask in some indoor settings and avoiding being in poorly ventilated indoor areas with lots of people would be wise measures to take.



Melbourne woman Charlotte Webster's experience catching COVID has made her more wary. (Supplied)

“I guess, we’re moving into a phase now where to some extent it’s up to an individual to decide how far they want to go along that path,” she said.

‘It could still be a rocky 2022’, epidemiologist warns

One of Charlotte’s friends had serious symptoms that led to her calling an ambulance and being checked into a hospital, but luckily, no-one in the group ended up severely ill.

Dr Gibney said research had shown that in some cases, perceived stigma attached to getting COVID had played a role in people waiting to get tested.

“It’s important to encourage people to get tested, but also to let other people know if you test positive,” she said.

“As it becomes an endemic disease that’s just circulating in the community, a lot of that contact tracing might end up being individual-initiated rather than all coming from a central public health unit.”

When the Victoria government announced last week that almost all restrictions would lift, it was also revealed that state-managed contact tracing would be wound back, with a focus on high-risk sites.

Dr Gibney said everyone in Australia should work under the assumption that they would likely be exposed to COVID at some point in the next 12 months.

“I’m not saying that every person will definitely be exposed to COVID, but you have to expect you will be exposed to COVID,” she said.

“It’s out there and it’s going to stay circulating in the community.”

For full article, please visit: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-25/covid-exposure-warning-dinner-party-superspreader-risk/100624140>

Advent Meditation / By the light of the stars

In the first of her meditations for Advent, **Leonie Caldecott** reflects that what we are stumbling towards in this darkest moment of the year is something worth making an effort for: a God who lives in every nerve and sinew of our human condition

This year, Christmas feels a long way from the starry-eyed expectations of childhood. The upheavals of the pandemic, the sting of personal loss; the beleaguered balance in which the planet hangs. A creeping desertification seems to wrap its cold fingers around the season. The more the world cranks up its campaign for a materially perfect Christmas, the more the disjunct intensifies.

The lectionary in this year of Luke provides some synchronicity with this mood. On the first Sunday of Advent Jesus exhorts us to “stay awake, praying at all times for strength to survive all that is going to happen...” Even if you read the apocalyptic imagery in terms of the soul (it all starts with individual conversion, those turning points in salvation history, as St Paul also reminds us), the



language is challenging. Yet we know full well that any time of joyful expectation comes laced with risk. A break is taken: it may also be taken away. The child may be delivered safely, only to be butchered by random human power.

Christmas will always be marked by the wonder of childhood. Advent, on the other hand, is for adults. Christ the King draws back his scarlet robe to reveal our

smallness in the grand scheme of things. It’s a heavily pregnant moment, a downward-straining progression towards an outcome we cannot predict or control. The Lord’s own family were hardly putting their feet up at this point. His first experience of life outside the womb would be one of displacement, of forced improvisation.

Meanwhile the Magi trudge across the barren miles, all because of a hunch about a foreign Messiah. Like them, we need to look up, not down. “Hold your heads high,” Jesus says. If the incarnate God makes a suggestion about body language, we should probably take heed. What we are stumbling towards in this darkest moment of the year is something worth making an effort for: a God who lives in every nerve and sinew of our human condition. We may

long to be liberated from grief, pain and despair, yet we cannot just shed these things. Acceptance of them does offer its own liberation. We are forced to throw our lot in with that Presence crowning into the dark night. That’s not nothing.

And there they are, those millions of stars signalling from eons already passed: visible to us only because of the darkness. They come out every night, without fail. If we have failed to spot them, it’s only because, as Joni Mitchell put it, “clouds got in my way”. The fear, the doubt - the falling stars shaking our souls - none of this is the final word. That belongs to another Word, its first utterance the incoherent, needy cry of a newborn. He was there in the beginning, and he will be there at the end. That’s an expectation worth waiting on. Let the apocalyptic paradox lie where it does. Christmas does not need saving. We do.

Leonie Caldecott is a writer living in the West Country. She is the editor of the UK/Ireland edition of Magnificat.

Advent Pamphlets and SVDP Charity Christmas Cards

Advent is now with us. The Montmorency conference of SVDP have some booklets that may be of interest to parishioners that will assist us in our preparations for Christmas. Pamphlets are in the front foyer near the entrance doors. Some of the pamphlets include:

- These Four Weeks of Advent
- Expecting Jesus – A Daily Advent Devotional
- Mini Meditations for Advent
- Advent With the Saints for Kids
- Prayers Around the Advent Wreath
- The Symbols and Traditions of Advent



We hope that you enjoy the selection. Please feel free to browse all the pamphlets. A gold coin donation in the poor boxes located at the front and side entrances will help defray costs.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul through our conference, perhaps in the 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.

Christmas Cards

Members will again be outside SFX for all Masses from this weekend. Cards are in packs of 5 and cost \$2.50 per pack. Our aim is not to make a profit but cover costs and help put Christ back into Christmas. Thank you to parishioners who bought cards last week. We sold 130 packets (a record for 1 weekend sales) and have only 110 packets left.



A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:

ACN is running an advent appeal to help Christian refugees who are suffering due to persecution, conflict and violence.

This year share the hope of Christmas with Christian refugees and help ease their burdens. To read stories and watch videos of how ACN is helping our suffering brothers and sisters and to make a donation please visit:

www.aidtochurch.org/adventappeal.



It is that time again where the less fortunate can be supported with donations of NEW toys and gifts suitable for teenagers and adults for Christmas presents. These can be left in the baskets available in Our Lady's Chapel at St Francis Xavier, Montmorency. Items may be delivered at Mass times, or to the Parish Office. Baskets will be available 1 to 19 Dec.

All enquiries to the Parish Office.
Thank you for your continued support.



2022 Columban Calendars

are available to purchase from the
Piety Stall at
Eltham & Montmorency for \$10.

Anne Cotter & Mary O'Conner



My name is Travis Moroney, and along with Josette de Souza, we are the new pastoral care associates at St Vincent's in Eltham.

We're excited to let you know that we are now welcoming volunteers and visitors back to our Eltham facility. There are always opportunities to do good here and share the love of Christ, so don't hesitate to make the most of them.

If you are interested in volunteering please don't hesitate to contact us.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Travis Moroney

Pastoral Care Associate, St Vincent's Care Services

travis.moroney@svha.org.au 9430 1677

The Book



The BOOK is finally making its way into Fr Terry's hands, for good! All your beautiful messages are in there, including the cards and pictures given on the last day.

When Fr Terry comes to look therein, his heart and eye will be filled with tenderness to find so many inclusions of special moments and special events he has shared with so many. Tangible memories to be treasured by him always.

Thank you all for your wonderful support despite difficult timing with covid.

God bless Fr Terry, God bless us all.

Patsy



Opening The Doors Foundation

*Keeping Koorie Kids
in an Education of their Choice*

For just \$30 you can buy one of our Christmas ornaments to hang on your tree or gift to loved ones.

By purchasing an ornament, you will be supporting Aboriginal students across Victoria. Our festive gum nut decorations are made from Australian timbers and are lightweight. Each one is 7.5cm in diameter and comes in a gift box.

Here's what your purchase can help us achieve...

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 1 ornament | a school hat for a student |
| 2 ornaments | stationary, exercise books & pencil cases for a family |
| 3 ornaments | maths calculator for a Secondary School student |
| 4 ornaments | support a student with the costs of school camp |
| 5 ornaments | support a student with the costs of VET/VCAL |
| 6 ornaments | a full sports uniform for a student |
| 7 ornaments | stationary & books for up to 3 Secondary School students |
| 8 ornaments | a school bag |
| 9 ornaments | school shoes for a student |
| 10 ornaments | uniforms for up to 2 Primary School students |
| 11 ornaments | a blazer for a Secondary School student |

<https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/christmas>



Prayers of the Faithful for 21 Nov 2021 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Leader: Lord you came into our world with all its sorrows. Keep us watchful for your presence in the midst of our struggles. With confidence, then, we turn to God in prayer.

For the Church: that we may be attentive to God's presence and action in our lives so that we may be ready to act when God invites us. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish community: that we may live with an awareness of God's abundant compassion and look to the future with childlike expectancy for the fulfilment of God's promises. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For renewal of prayer in our lives: that God will help us to quiet our minds and hearts, listen to the movement of the Spirit in our lives, and enlighten us to live the Gospel more fully. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who live in fear and confusion: that whether they are rich or poor, refugee or famous, they may encounter the light of Christ that will show them the way forward to a deeper and fuller life. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who have suffered abuse: that God's loving embrace will free them from fear, heal their deep and enduring wounds, and bring forth a fuller life within them. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For freedom from numbness and self-centeredness: that God will help us understand our true calling and focus on loving and serving him each day. *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, including *Geoffrey Loftus-Hills*. We also remember *Alan Anderson, Ivan Buultjens, Joe Ciavola, John Crimmins, Robin Gauder & Christopher Kenny*, 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



Roster for WEEKEND 4/5 December 2021

Montmorency

Hannon, Kevin & Genni	ASRC
Boyd, Mary	PRYR

Eltham

Donnellan, Denice	Eucharistic Minister
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Goss, Marion	Eucharistic Minister
Heyhoe, Margaret	Commentator
Nolan, Kathleen	Reader
Rough Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society



Aid to the Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA

Job Vacancies

Could you share the stories of suffering Christians? Are you looking for flexible part time work?

Aid to the Church in Need is recruiting for a number of Diocesan Outreach Assistants who will deliver monthly presentations in parishes across the Archdiocese. For all details visit, www.aidtochurch.org/work



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

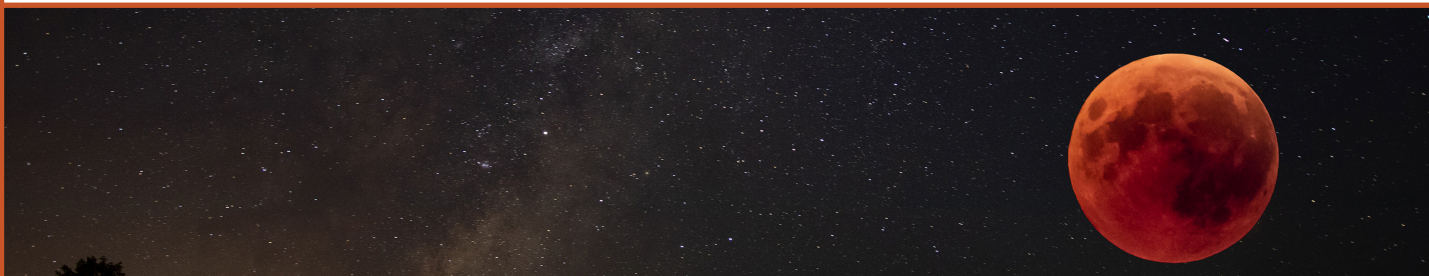
- **Parish Secretary, St Mark's Catholic Parish, Fawkner**
- **Parish Secretary, St Brendan's & Holy Rosary Parishes, Flemington**
- **Discipleship Intern (Campus), East Melbourne & On Campus**
- **Discipleship Intern (Parish), East Melbourne & Assigned Parish Placements (various)**
- **Jo Care Digital Coordinator, Stonnington Area**
- **Lay Ecclesiastical Leader, St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Gospel - Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'



Reflection

The gospel for the first Sunday of Advent echoes that heard two Sundays ago. The Church's year of worship heads to a close with extracts from Jesus' discourse on the end times, and the new one begins on the same note. The key difference is the evangelist - Mark then, Luke now.

Luke distinguishes between the trauma of the Roman destruction of Jerusalem and the cosmic upheaval of the final days. His overall interest is in how Jesus' disciples should live in the indefinite interval between these two events.

The reading falls into two clear halves. The first is concerned with the Parousia when the Son of Man will reappear in heavenly glory to bring the fearful convulsions of the universe to an end. The second moderates this perspective with a focus on how believers should behave in the interim.

The ominous tone of each part is offset by final words of encouragement. The first concludes with the promise of liberation. Faithful disciples can await the end with heads held high. The second, while urging them to stay awake and pray for the strength to survive, offers the prospect of standing up "with confidence before the Son of Man."

The vivid imagery invites dramatic (though not melodramatic) declamation but the strongest emphasis should be on the positive declarations. They lead us into an Advent of peace, prayer, hope and gladness

Break Open the Word 2021



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Geoffrey Loftus-Hills (WA)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Alan Anderson, Ivan Buultjens, Joe Ciavola, John Crimmins, Robin Gauder, Christopher Kenny

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Damian Brasier Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert),

Nora Edmond, Terry Flannery (father of Elisha O'Dowd) Kate Lagerewskij, Brian McInerney,

Eltham

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Violetta, Ryan Bennett, Lucy Bibby, Ruth Decker, Luke Hawthorne-Smith,
Tom Nolan, Paul O'Dell, Les Robertson, Christine Scott, Rosemary Scully,
Barbara Snopkowski, Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Teresa Zammit, Sylvek Zyleviczcz*

To include an anniversary in the bulletin, please contact
Parish Office: 9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au