

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.



Nothing Stands Alone

We Are Made for Love (<https://cac.org/we-are-made-for-love-2022-01-02/>)

Today we begin another year's journey of Daily Meditations together. Our 2022 theme is "Nothing Stands Alone" - because the very nature of God and reality is relationship! Father Richard reflects:

The Christian belief in the Trinity says that God is absolute relatedness. God is our word for *the ultimate ecosystem* that holds all things in positive relationship (see Colossians 1:17). As long as we're in honest and loving relationship with what is right in front of us, the Spirit can keep working in us and through us and for us.

Jesus comes as a naked, vulnerable baby, totally dependent upon relationship with others. Naked vulnerability means that we are going to let otherness influence and change us. When we don't give other people any power over our lives, when we block them by thinking we can stand alone, or that otherness can't change us or teach us anything, we are spiritually dead. As our 2022 theme puts it: *Nothing Stands Alone*. And it's true! We are intrinsically like the Trinity, living in an absolute relatedness. We call this love.

We really were made for love, and outside of love we die very quickly. If we are going to start with Trinity, *then loving relationship is the pattern, the very nature of being for us*. But when we start with a philosophical concept of being and then try to convince everyone that this being is, in fact, love, we don't have a lot of success. I've been a priest for almost fifty-two years and can say that most Christians seem to be afraid of God. We Christians aren't more loving than anyone else; sometimes, we're even less loving than other people! In some ways, that's inevitable if we're basically relating to God out of fear, and we haven't been drawn into the love between the Father and the Son by the Spirit.

Jesus says the Spirit is always the hardest to describe, because "the Spirit blows where it will" (see John 3:8). Jesus' message to us is clear: don't ever try to control the Spirit and say where it comes from, where it goes, or who has it. It's called group narcissism whenever we say our group is the only one that has the Spirit or the Truth. Every group at less mature levels will try to put God in their own pocket and say God only loves their group. Such a belief has nothing to do with the love of God. It isn't a search for Truth or Holy Mystery, but a search for control. It's the search for the small self, the search to make myself feel superior and to stand alone. I'm not in control or in charge of this Holy Mystery. I don't presume to understand. All I know is I'm forever being drawn - through everything - each manifestation (epiphany) calling for surrender, communion, and intimacy.

Symbolic of all of us, the "three wise men" travelled long distances from their native religion and country to fittingly blow down before such an unknown Holy Mystery. It always leads to another Epiphany.

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.





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:
Francis James Mannix, Christine Newton
For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert)

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Alphonse Fernandes
For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
Luke Hawthorne-Smith
To include an anniversary please contact Parish House
9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au.



Gospel: John 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said, 'Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' There were six stone water jars standing there, meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews; each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, 'Fill the jars with water,' and they filled them to the brim. 'Draw some out now' he told them, 'and take it to the steward.' They did this; the steward tasted the water, and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from - only the servants who had drawn the water knew - the steward called the bridegroom and said, 'People generally serve the best wine first, and keep the cheaper sort till the guests have had plenty to drink, but you have kept the best wine till now.'

This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee. He let his glory be seen, and his disciples believed in him.

Rosters - 22 & 23 January 2022

Eltham

Armstrong, Miranda	Eucharistic Minister
Dopheide, Marlis	Commentator
Furtado, Lionel	Reader
Haines, Jan-Marie	Eucharistic Minister
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Rigg Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Scully, Helen	Altar Society

Montmorency

McAleen, Peter & Denise	ASRC
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Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

- Saturday 15th**
12:00pm Baptism - Casper Montmorency
6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency
- Sunday 16th**
8:30am Mass Montmorency
10:00am Mass & Baptism - Scarlett Eltham
12:00pm Baptism - Elliott Montmorency
- Tuesday 18th**
9:30am Mass Montmorency
- Wednesday 19th**
6:30am Meditation Montmorency
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham
11:00am Small Church Community Montmorency
- Thursday 20th**
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency
- Friday 21st**
9:30am Mass Eltham
- Saturday 22nd**
12:00pm Baptism - Chloe Montmorency
6:00pm Mass Montmorency
- Sunday 23rd**
8:30am Mass Montmorency
10:00am Mass Eltham
12:00pm Baptism - Chloe, Heidi, Zachary, Henry Eltham
- Tuesday 25th**
9:30am Mass Montmorency
10:00am Craft Group Montmorency



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

- Saturday 15 January**
St Francis Xavier, 12pm
Casper Reign Barber Baptism
- St Francis Xavier, 6pm
Sienna Christine Dennis First Eucharist
Massimo Serafino Martin First Eucharist
William Clarence Raymond Kerr First Eucharist
- Sunday 16 January**
Our Lady Help of Christians, 10am
Scarlett Millie Holt Baptism
- Our Lady Help of Christians, 12pm
Elliott John Pedro Vlasveld Baptism

