

# 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.

## Pope Francis: 'Day of Fasting for Peace' for Ukraine - Ash Wednesday

### Another urgent call has been made by Pope Francis for the Church to pray and fast for the situation in Ukraine.

At his general audience on Wednesday 23 February, he said that despite the efforts of world leaders, 'increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up.'

To those in positions of political authority, Pope Francis pleaded to 'examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war, who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies.'

### Ash Wednesday, 2 March 2022, Pope Francis has declared to be a Day of Fasting for Peace:

'I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war.'

### A declaration of war

This comes just as Vladimir Putin announced a 'special military operation' in Eastern Ukraine that was aimed at 'the demilitarisation and denazification' of the region.

Reporters on the ground in Ukraine could hear artillery fire and explosions. A minister in the office of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said that a 'full-scale invasion' is beginning to unfold.

This action is being taken as a declaration of war. U.S. President has said that 'the world will hold Russia accountable' for its actions in Ukraine.

### Prayer and fasting

As the situation becomes increasingly unstable, and as the news continues to flood the screens, let us take up Pope Francis' call. Let us offer our prayers and fasting up on Ash Wednesday for the innocent life in Ukraine that will suffer because of this war, and for political leaders around the world that they can solve this situation quickly and peacefully.



### Ash Wednesday Mass Timetable:

**9:30am** at Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham  
**7:00pm** at St Francis Xavier, Montmorency

*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](http://pol.org.au/eltham) or [pol.org.au/montmorency](http://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 Priest**

**Michael Sierakowski - Moderator**

[michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au](mailto:michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au)

#### **Parish Office**

86 Mayona Road

9435 4742

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

[montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au)

**Kate Kogler:**

**Parish Secretary**

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

**Peter Williams:**

**Child Safety Officer**

[SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

Website:

[www.pol.org.au/montmorency](http://www.pol.org.au/montmorency)

[www.pol.org.au/eltham](http://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](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

#### **Schools**

##### St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

[principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

[www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

##### Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

[principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

[www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

##### Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Patrick Green: 9439 7824

[school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

[www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

## RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742

### Collections: 20 February 2022

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$386.10	\$1,228.85
SFX	\$1,466.00	\$795.70

## Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

### **Saturday 26**

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist

Montmorency

### **Sunday 27**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Zara, Hugo, Macie, Phoenix, Harrison

Montmorency

### **Tuesday 1 March**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

11:00am Funeral - Dino Maffei

Montmorency

### **Wednesday 2 - Ash Wednesday**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Mass - Ash Wednesday

Eltham

11:00am Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:00pm Mass - Ash Wednesday

Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

### **Thursday 3**

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

7:00pm Parish Futures Team Meeting

Eltham

### **Friday 4**

9:30am Mass

Eltham

### **Saturday 5**

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 6**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Jagger, Koa, Willa Rose, Patrick, Julian

Eltham

### **Monday 7**

6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir

Eltham

### **Tuesday 8**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

6:30pm Memorial Mass - Brooke Coskun

Montmorency

### **Wednesday 9**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

### **Thursday 10**

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

### **Friday 11**

9:30am Mass

Eltham

### **Saturday 12**

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 13**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Isabelle

Montmorency

### **Tuesday 15**

**Support  
Montmorency Parish  
by giving with CDFpay**

Simply scan the QR code with your mobile phone and in a few easy steps you can quickly and securely give to your parish.



**Support  
Eltham Parish  
by giving with CDFpay**

Simply scan the QR code with your mobile phone and in a few easy steps you can quickly and securely give to your parish.





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

### Montmorency

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:  
*Carmelina Alberti, Val Carrigg, Antonio Chincarini,  
Jim Deehan, Maree Hall, Vernon & Ena Rodrigo,  
Maria & Lino Zini, Nereo Zini*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:  
*Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane,  
Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Alana Foulds,  
Kate Lagerewskij, Andrew Pighin, Agatha Spina*

### Eltham

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:  
*Violetta, Fiona Rogers, Rosemary Scully, Ian Sturman*

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House  
9435 4742 or [eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au).

### Roster for WEEKEND 5/6 March 2022

Bylsma, Zvonka & John	Hospitality OLHC
Dean, Mary	PRYR
Dhanasen Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Haines, Geoff	Eucharistic Minister
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Hannon, Kevin & Genni	ASRC
Heyhoe, Margaret	Commentator
Leahy, Michelle	Reader
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Scully, Helen	Eucharistic Minister



**Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:**

### **Saturday 19 February**

*St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm*  
Jackson Chiocci

First Eucharist

### **Sunday 20 February**

*Our Lady Help of Christians, 10:00am*  
Lexi Knight

First Eucharist

### **Saturday 26 February**

*St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm*

Niamh Henderson  
William Mitchell  
Greta Mullins  
Liam Smith  
Leah Williams

First Eucharist  
First Eucharist  
First Eucharist  
First Eucharist  
First Eucharist

### **Sunday 27 February**

*Our Lady Help of Christians, 10:00am*

Bianca Fernandes  
Addison Fitzpatrick  
Kai Kernaghan  
Mia Logan

First Eucharist  
First Eucharist  
First Eucharist  
First Eucharist

*St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm*

Zara Evans  
Macie Payne  
Hugo Velkov  
Harrison Williams  
Phoenix Williams

Baptism  
Baptism  
Baptism  
Baptism  
Baptism



## Prayers of the Faithful for 27 Feb 2022 - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Leader:** It is through our faith in the goodness of God that we offer these prayers.

For the whole Church: that we will live out our faith in God through our actions.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish communities: that we are ever mindful of the power of our words and actions. We pray that we never use words to hurt or harm, and that our actions always bear witness to our faith in Jesus.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those living in countries where war, famine, poverty, or sickness threatens the lives of the people: that they will be protected by the grace of God and by the wise decisions of their leaders.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are being baptized this weekend and those who are receiving the Body of Christ for the first time: that they will be blessed and grow in their faith in our loving God.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those in need of healing of body, mind, or heart, especially those listed in the Bulletin and those for whom we have been praying recently: that they will experience the healing power of God's love.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: *Carmelina Alberti, Val Carrigg, Antonia Chincarini, Jim Deehan, Maree Hall, Vernon & Ena Rodrigo, Maria & Lino Zini and Nereo Zini*: that they may rest in peace in the loving presence of Jesus.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** May God hear these prayers and give us the grace to bear the fruit of faith in our merciful God.

**All:** Amen



## Ukraine - a short history:

Ukraine is a country in Eastern Europe. It is currently at war with Russia. It is the second-largest country by area in Europe after Russia, which it borders to the east and north-east. Ukraine also shares borders with Belarus to the north; Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary to the west; Romania and Moldova to the south; and has a coastline along the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. It spans an area of 603,628 km<sup>2</sup> (233,062 sq mi), with a population of 42 Million and is the eighth-most populous country in Europe. The nation's capital and largest city is Kyiv.

The territory of modern Ukraine has been inhabited since 32,000 BC. During the Middle Ages, the area was a key centre of East Slavic culture, with the loose tribal federation Kievan Rus' forming the basis of Ukrainian identity. Following its fragmentation into several principalities in the 13th century and the devastation created by the Mongol invasion, the territorial unity collapsed and the area was contested, divided, and ruled by a variety of powers, including the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth, Austria-Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, and Tsardom of Russia. A Cossack Hetmanate emerged and prospered during the 17th and 18th centuries, but its territory was eventually split between Poland and the Russian Empire. In the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, a Ukrainian national movement for self-determination emerged, and the internationally recognized Ukrainian People's Republic was declared on 23 June 1917. The Ukrainian SSR was a founding member of the Soviet Union in 1922. The country regained its independence in 1991, following the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Following its independence, Ukraine declared itself a neutral state; it formed a limited military partnership with Russia and other CIS countries while also establishing a partnership with NATO in 1994. In 2013, after the government of President Viktor Yanukovich had decided to suspend the Ukraine–European Union Association Agreement and seek closer economic ties with Russia, a several-months-long wave of demonstrations and protests known as the Euromaidan began, which later escalated into the Revolution of Dignity that led to the overthrow of Yanukovich and the establishment of a new government. These events formed the background for the annexation of Crimea by Russia in March 2014 and the War in Donbas, a protracted conflict with Russian-backed separatists, from April 2014 until the Russian invasion in February 2022. Ukraine applied for the economic component of the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area with the European Union on 1 January 2016.

Ukraine is a developing country ranking 74th in the Human Development Index. It is the poorest country in Europe, suffering from a very high poverty rate as well as severe corruption.

However, because of its extensive fertile farmlands, Ukraine is one of the largest grain exporters in the world. Ukraine is a unitary republic under a semi-presidential system with separation of powers into legislative, executive, and judicial branches. The country is a member of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the OSCE, the GUAM organization, the Association Trio, and the Lublin Triangle.

Under President Vladimir Putin - Russia wants Ukraine back under its fold.

Terrible times are ahead for this land and its people, for Europe and the World - we are now entering into a possible time of conflict.

Prayers for the people of Ukraine and World Peace!

*Michael*



## THE WAR IS A BIG DISASTER': ZELENSKY'S ADDRESS IN FULL

On Wednesday, as Russia prepared to attack Ukraine, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made an emotional address to his nation.

This is what he said:



*“Today I initiated a phone call with the president of the Russian Federation. The result was silence. Though the silence should be in Donbas. That’s why I want to address today the people of Russia. I am addressing you not as a president, I am addressing you as a citizen of Ukraine.*

*More than 2,000km of the common border is dividing us. Along this border your troops are stationed, almost 200,000 soldiers, thousands of military vehicles. Your leaders approved them to make a step forward, to the territory of another country. And this step can be the beginning of a big war on the European continent.*

*We know for sure that we don’t need the war. Not a Cold War, not a hot war. Not a hybrid one. But if we’ll be attacked by the [enemy] troops, if they try to take our country away from us, our freedom, our lives, the lives of our children, we will defend ourselves. Not attack, but defend ourselves. And when you will be attacking us, you will see our faces, not our backs, but our faces.*

*The war is a big disaster, and this disaster has a high price. With every meaning of this word. People lose money, reputation, quality of life, they lose freedom. But the main thing is that people lose their loved ones, they lose themselves.*

*They told you that Ukraine is posing a threat to Russia. It was not the case in the past, not in the present, it’s not going to be in the future. You are demanding security guarantees from NATO, but we also demand security guarantees. Security for Ukraine from you, from Russia and other guarantees of the Budapest memorandum.*

*But our main goal is peace in Ukraine and the safety of our people, Ukrainians. For that, we are ready to have talks with anybody, including you, in any format, on any platform. The war will deprive [security] guarantees from everybody – nobody will have guarantees of security any more. Who will suffer the most from it? The people. Who doesn’t want it the most? The people! Who can stop it? The people. But are there those people among you? I am sure.*

*I know that they [the Russian state] won’t show my address on Russian TV, but Russian people have to see it. They need to know the truth, and the truth is that it is time to stop now, before it is too late. And if the Russian leaders don’t want to sit with us behind the table for the sake of peace, maybe they will sit behind the table with you. Do Russians want the war? I would like to know the answer. But the answer depends only on you, citizens of the Russian Federation.”*



## Positions Vacant

- **Parish Secretary, St Mark's Catholic Parish, Fawkner**
- **Pastoral Youth Worker, Parish of St Macartan's, Mornington**
- **Continuous Improvement Specialist – Client Services Group, CDF**
- **Communications Administration Support Officer, East Melbourne**
- **Executive Officer, Victorian Council of Churches, Melbourne**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>



## St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

### Lent Pamphlets

Summer is just about over and autumn starts in a day or two. As Fr Michael indicated in the Parish Bulletin and at Mass last weekend, Lent commences this Wednesday. The Montmorency conference of SVDP have some booklets that may be of interest to parishioners that will assist us in our preparations for Lent. Pamphlets are in the front foyer near the entrance doors. Some of the pamphlets include:

- A Woman's way of the Cross
- These 40 Days – Understanding the Symbols and Practices of Lent
- 10 Creative Things Kids can do for Lent
- Lent and Me
- One Minute Reflections for Lent

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**

### Asylum Seekers and Refugees Invitation to open discussion

At our March meeting, the Montmorency Asylum Seeker Support Group (MASSG) is inviting representatives from local churches to share their concerns and actions about asylum seekers and refugees.

MASSG would like to tell you about our range of activities and plans leading up to the Federal election.

We hope that our mutual values and deep concern for the human beings detained under our government's cruel border policy can unite our community to bring about effective change. We hope that some members of your Parish are able to attend and we look forward to seeing you there.

**RSVP by Monday March 14th**

#### Meeting details:

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March 1.30pm for 2pm start.

Monty Community Hub, Cnr Rattray & Mountainview Road.

There is parking on site.

Please enter from Mountain View road.

## Resources for Lent and Easter

Lent is almost upon us once again. Each year, the Church makes its pilgrimage to the cross and beyond - through the refining trials of the wilderness, to the heart-rending breakthrough of Calvary and into the expansive Easter hope that motivates and animates all that we do. The latest in *The Summit Online's* series of 'useful links' libraries provides a selection of useful and engaging Lenten and Easter resources and articles from around the web to help parishes, groups and individuals (young and old) to enter more deeply into these inspiring seasons.



[www.summit.melbournecatholic.org/libraries/2022/lent-and-easter-useful-links/](http://www.summit.melbournecatholic.org/libraries/2022/lent-and-easter-useful-links/)



**Prison Fellowship Australia**  
RESTORING LIVES INSIDE OUT

### Prayer Diary

#### Saturday 26

Thank God for the ministry of Prison Fellowship worldwide. This week pray for the ministry of PF in the Solomon Islands and for Simon Mannie who leads the ministry there.

#### Sunday 27

Pray for the Nhill Uniting Church Fellowship and for Richard Boonstra as he speaks there this morning.

#### Monday 28

Join us this morning for a 30-minute prayer time as we pray together for the men and women in prisons and those involved in prison ministry in many ways. This morning we are going to focus on the staff in our prisons as well as those working in the Corrections Victoria Office. They are dedicated and keen to care for the men and women in their charge. We are thankful that we have good relationships with them.

**Theme:** Prisons and Corrections Staff.

**Zoom Meeting ID:** 861 5107 6709.

**Passcode:** 458560.

#### Tuesday 1 March

Pray for our volunteers visiting at the Thomas Embling Hospital again this morning.

#### Wednesday 2

Pray for Easter Biscuit Bake program as we reach many people in prisons with some home baked biscuits and a card with the gospel message on it. Pray for Laura as she coordinates it and the team of volunteers who will be involved in packing and delivering the biscuits.

#### Thursday 3

Give thanks for the opportunity some of our volunteers have in being able to visit via a video link/platform. Pray that soon this will be replaced by in-person visiting.

#### Friday 4

Give thanks for the staff in our national and state offices and pray for them as they work to support and grow the ministry of Prison Fellowship as it reaches people in prison and their families with the hope of the Gospel and the message of restoration through Jesus Christ.





# The conversations we have to have.

As we are about to begin our Lenten Journey it seems a good time to continue the ongoing conversation about Child Safety and how best to protect our children, young people and the vulnerable. Through this ongoing conversation we create a nurturing environment where children are respected, where their voices are heard, where they feel safe and are safe.

We have a need to empower children and young people in our parishes and to create a safer future for our children. The Royal Commission and recent studies have taught us that when children are engaged, valued, informed and able to participate positively in parish life, this contributes to a child having a sense of safety and an awareness of child safety. This approach in turn is a contributing factor in helping prevent abuse. Once the conversation is engaged in, we begin to make changes.

During some of the Sundays of Lent we are proposing to focus our attention on a few 2-3 minute video clips of an interview by Geraldine Doogue with Robert Fitzgerald, former Commissioner of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

These brief videos clips discuss numerous aspects of child safety, including:

- The need to begin the conversation of child safety with children and their families.
- The need for a conversation that naturally takes place within parishes. (An open conversation.)
- A reminder that Child abuse thrives on an environment of secrecy.
- The importance of Safeguards in establishing a child safe environment, and
- The impact of Abuse.

To access the video clips, click on the links below:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qiACB4zyDGc>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zIfXmzoImo&list=PLcGYSanyXVDKXWAKpI6Ie5Xid-ix0Hvdo&index=3>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzDyH5JD6bw&list=PLcGYSanyXVDKXWAKpI6Ie5Xid-ix0Hvdo&index=5>

Should you wish to discuss any issues surrounding Child Safety please do not hesitate to contact me at the parish office.

Peter Williams

**Child Safeguarding Officer**



## Gospel - Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, not gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the stor of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'



## Reflection

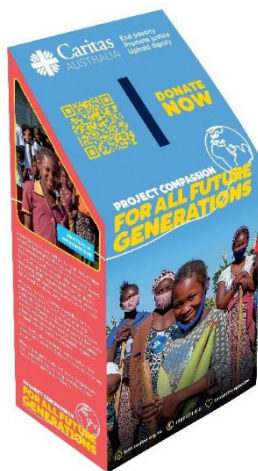
As noted in the introduction to last Sunday's readings, Luke disperses some of Matthew's Sermon on the Mount through Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Today he does the opposite. For this third passage from the Sermon on the Plain Luke draws together material from diverse places in Matthew's gospel. It forms the final section prior to the sermon's conclusion which we only ever hear in Matthew's version.

Luke strings elements of Jesus' teaching together without attempting to unify them smoothly. The first two are very short. One is an easily pictured scene of a blind person leading another into a ditch, the other a saying about the relationship between disciples and masters. The next is longer. It plays in an exaggerated way with the idea of splinters and planks in the eye in order to expose the evil of hypocrisy. Finally a connection with the first reading and psalm is established via wisdom sayings about trees and plants, the fruit they may or may not bear, and how this image can be applied to human living.

Presumably all this wisdom was common currency in Jesus' day. There are no specific indications that Jesus had taken and reworked it, though exposing and condemning hypocrisy was clearly a particular concern of his. Each part of this reading provides its own food for thought and should be proclaimed accordingly. **Break Open the Word 2022**



**Project Compassion Sunday  
26 & 27 February**



Please take home a Project Compassion box and a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and ***For All Future Generations***.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2022 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come to build better future for all.

As St Pope John Paul II said,

**“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”**



Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413.