

# 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.

## A Picture tells a thousand words...

Who could have believed or predicted the week we have all just lived through. The TV images and the stories have all been heartbreaking. No one saw the rain coming with so much force and destruction across Queensland & New South Wales - now politicians are saying 'once in a thousand years weather event'. Places and people we all know and love as holiday spots, totally inundated by water! Our thoughts and prayers for these communities and their recovery, especially Lismore.

Who could have believed that Vladimir Putin would invade Ukraine with such force and kill so many people - for what reason? Is this terrible modern War worth it? My anger and frustration has reached its limits.... are human beings so capable of such evil. Why!

Such sadness all around.

The terrible weather events to our north affects hundreds of thousands of Australians, while the crisis in Ukraine has the whole modern world on edge! An unnecessary humanitarian disaster of biblical proportions is about to unfold in our life times. These are truly difficult and terrible days. Naturally, I am struggling to come to terms with this awful week... and its not over yet... not by a long shot - prayers to 'all' this week, as a picture tells thousand words!

## Lent - a new beginning

It couldn't come at a better time this season of Lent - the opportunity to reflect upon our human frailties and seek forgiveness, or taking the time to 'listen' to the Spirit of God speaking to all humanity through 'Putin's War' and the forces of Mother Nature unleashed in the form of 'Rain Bombs' on Queensland & New South Wales. We are after all, Human Beings - at our worst able to inflict death and destruction upon innocent people for material gain and power, while being totally helpless in the face of natural weather events.

Lent gives us all this important time to 'be still' in the midst of these events and to seek God in these terrible times. We need to ask forgiveness and seek renewal in our relationships.

Bring on the power of these 40 days! Will Volodymyr Zelenskyy survive another week?

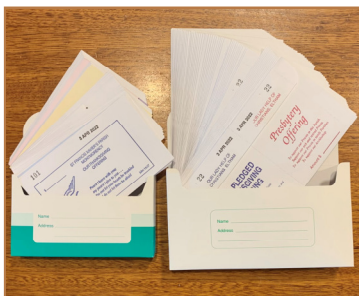
**Michael**

### Thanksgiving Envelopes

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

Your envelopes are available for collection in the foyer of the church. Please feel free to take envelopes for people whom you know, and drop them off to them as a simple pastoral visit and thank you. And a very big thank you for your financial contributions.

*Michael*



*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 5**

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 6 - First Sunday of Lent**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

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

### **Monday 7**

6:30pm Sisters & Mistresses Choir

Eltham

### **Tuesday 8**

9:30am Mass

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 - Second Sunday of Lent**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Isabelle

Montmorency

### **Tuesday 15**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

### **Wednesday 16**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

### **Thursday 17**

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

### **Friday 18**

9:30am Mass

Eltham

### **Saturday 19**

12:00pm Baptism - Florence

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 20 - Third Sunday of Lent**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Benjamin, Thomas, Quincy

Eltham

### **Monday 21**

6:30pm Sisters & Mistresses Choir

Eltham

### **Tuesday 22**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

### **Wednesday 23**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

#### Support

**Montmorency Parish**  
by giving with CDFpay

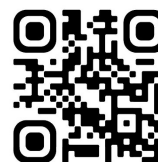
Simply scan the QR code with your mobile phone and in a few easy steps you can quickly and securely give to your parish.



#### 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:

*Terry Dearsley, Bill Maloney, Remy Vulich*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane, Alana Foulds,  
Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Kate Lagerewskij,  
Melanie Lam, Andrew Pighin, Agatha Spina*

### **Eltham**

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Josephine Marie Landy*

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 12/13 March 2022**

Dunell, Linda	Eucharistic Minister
Frediani, Gabriella	Altar Society
Haines, Geoff	Commentator
Iliffe, Yvonne	Eucharistic Minister
Leahy Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Leahy, Michelle & Colin	Hospitality
Ramsdale, John	PRYR
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
Taylor, Trish	Reader



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

### **Sunday 27 February**

*Our Lady Help of Christians, 12:00pm*

Patrick Devlin

Jagger Heta

Koa Heta

Julian Maugeri

Willa Rose Scannell

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism



Hi Fellow Parishioners,

As we are now able to gather indoors with less mandated restrictions, it is timely to remind ourselves that Maximum Ventilation is recommended according to the latest Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Covid-19 Guidelines (Feb 24th 2022).

*"Maximise Ventilation*

*It is recommended that windows and outside doors be opened, where possible, to maximise ventilation and to improve indoor air quality. Reduce or eliminate recirculated air and increase the use of outdoor air where possible."*

<https://melbournecatholic.org/uploads/documents/56-24February22-UPDATE-COVID-19-zklGENERAL-LITURGICAL-GUIDELINES.pdf>

A roster doesn't need to be created to make this happen in both Churches when in use, everyone is invited to open (then later close) the windows & doors.

So let us meet the challenge to help keep everyone covid safe!!! Blessings,  
Elizabeth Warrillow

### **Prayers of the Faithful for 6 March 2022 - First Sunday of Lent**

**Leader:** Let us make these prayers before our Lord so that we might find the strength to combat the things that harm us and live a life that leads to peace.

For the gift of contemplation: may we be open to the Word of God, be inspired to face the challenges of life and allow our minds to be transformed. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our community of faith during the season of Lent: may we find ways to serve others rather than satisfying our own desires. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who exercise power: that world leaders will remain committed to the values of human dignity and common good. May the world be united against falsehood and violence. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For peace: that God will bring an end to violence in the Ukraine, protect the innocent, and help us care for the refugees of war. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those devastated by rain and flood: may the vulnerable be protected and kept safe. We also pray that those despairing with the damaging mud and water be supported by the efforts of their local community and in the longer term by the financial support of the nation. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died recently, and remember *Terry Dearsley, Josephine Landy, Bill Maloney & Remy Vulich* whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they be cradled in our Lord's loving embrace. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** God of compassion, hear our prayers and keep us always in your mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** **Amen**



# Ukraine

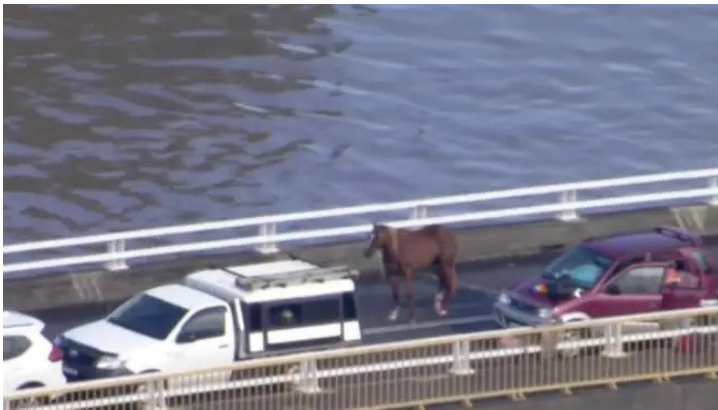




# Queensland & New South Wales Floods



Local flooding in Cooran on the Sunshine Coast on Thursday. (AAP: Jono Searle)



73 of 151 Attribution: 9News



Flooding in Gympie, about 170 kilometres north of Brisbane, on Saturday. (News Video)



38 of 151 Attribution: AP



53 of 151 Attribution: Elise Derwin

Water flooded streets and houses in Maryborough, Queensland.



## 'Lenten Reflections' (via Zoom)

Thursday evenings

7.30pm-8.30pm from 3/3/22 to 7/4/22.

Join us on a Thursday evening during Lent for some reflective time. Each week there will be guided meditation, time for quiet reflection and the opportunity for group sharing. **Come to one or all.** Cost: Donation.

Book via website [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), or email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne), tel 9890 1101.



## 'Windows onto God'

Saturday 26/3/22, 10am-3pm (in-person event).

In this reflection day, we invite you to explore the windows of incarnation, darkness, abundance and self-acceptance. Incarnation, seen in the broad sense of God being in the world, takes in the joy of being alive. With this joy, there is the experience of darkness, which is also part of our human reality. Abundance picks up the theme of incarnation. It reminds us that God is lavish with her/his gifts and wants us to enjoy them. Self-acceptance is linked to these themes since it means accepting both the darkness and the light in ourselves. This day will be interactive and will allow time for reflection and sharing. Cost: \$60 (BYO lunch).

Book and pay via website [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne), or email [info@heartoflife.melbourne](mailto:info@heartoflife.melbourne), tel 9890 1101.

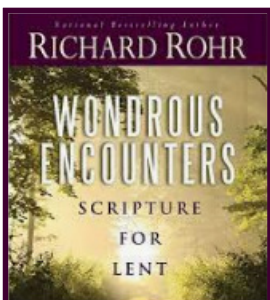
"Mary MacKillop Today" in North Sydney once again thanks those people who have saved their used stamps for collecting and sending to their centre. They are sorted and sold, raising much needed funds for educational programmes run by the Sisters of St Joseph.

View their website to see the variety of work they do.

[marymackilloptoday.org.au](http://marymackilloptoday.org.au)

Please continue to save your used stamps (leaving about 5 to 10mm of envelope around the stamp) and place them in the drawer marked "used stamps" in the church foyer.

Thank you for your ongoing support, Lita Lee



## Lent-in-brief...

*Lent daily readings are for the sake of our transformation into our original 'image & likeness' which is, we are told, the very image of God.*  
[Genesis 1:26]



## Positions Vacant

- Parish Secretary, St Mark's Catholic Parish, Fawkner
- Continuous Improvement Specialist - Client Services Group, CDF, East Melbourne
- Communications Administration Support Officer, East Melbourne
- Parish Secretary, St Luke's Parish, Lalor
- Property Administrator - 12 Month Parental Leave Contract, East Melbourne
- Payroll Operations Officer, East Melbourne
- Parish Administration Coordinator, St Albans
- Parish Secretary - Supporting the communities of St Kilda East & Balaclava, St Kilda

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

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



**Prison Fellowship Australia**  
RESTORING LIVES INSIDE OUT

## Prayer Diary

### Saturday 5

Thank God for the ministry of Prison Fellowship worldwide. This week pray for the ministry of PF in New Zealand and for the Executive Director - Lady Ranapiri-Kupa.

### Sunday 6

Pray for our Church Speaking Volunteer, Ian Whitehill as he speaks at Benalla Presbyterian Church today.

### Monday 7

You can join us online, from anywhere in Victoria, for a 30minute 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.

**Theme:** People who have been released.

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

**Passcode:** 458560.

### Tuesday 8

Please pray for people in prison who are close to release as they contemplate life after prison and the anxieties that this brings.

### Wednesday 9

This morning Glen Fairweather and Richard Boonstra are meeting with Larissa Strong, the Commissioner and Melissa Westin, the Deputy Commissioner of Corrections Victoria. Pray for their meeting together.

### Thursday 10

Pray for our Op Shop team in Reservoir as they engage with the community in so many ways.

### Friday 11

Give thanks for the way that the prisons have been able to manage Covid outbreaks. Currently in our prisons there is a total of 6656 people.

Active cases in prisoners

27 February 2022

Total active cases

35

Active cases in the general prison population

22

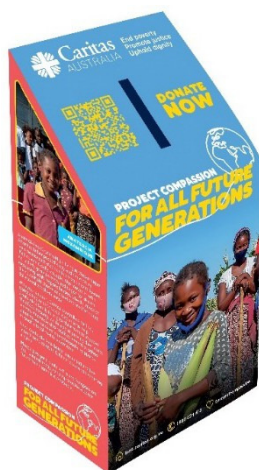
Active cases in new arrivals and prisoners quarantined after spending time in the community

13

Hospitalisations

0

Pray for the people in prison and the staff as they take steps to protect inmates and staff and cope with the restrictions needed to protect people in prison.



**Anatercia 12**, was struggling to cope with adult responsibilities after her father died. Then she participated in Caritas Australia-supported training and gained access to psychosocial supports.

Now, Anatercia can easily access clean drinking water, community members are able to grow healthy crops all year round, and there is enough nutritious food to eat. Anatercia feels better supported by her community, has more time to study and do her homework, and hopes to fulfil her dream of becoming a nurse.

**Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help young people succeed in the future and bring stability to vulnerable youth like Anatercia.**



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.



## Immense humanitarian need in Ukraine 25 Feb 2022

Caritas Australia's partner Caritas Ukraine has called for support and assistance as it continues to support the country's most vulnerable as the crisis escalates.

In a matter of days, over half a million people have already been forced from their homes, as well as at least 400 civilian casualties.

Millions of Ukrainians are now living through air raids and attacks, on top of three million people already in need of humanitarian assistance after eight long years of conflict in eastern Ukraine.

In addition to the needs of displaced families, children in Ukrainian residential institutions - particularly those in close proximity to the front line and nearby shelling - are at risk of physical harm and immense trauma.

Caritas Ukraine is one of the few agencies who are directly on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis.

"The events which began [on 24th February] will inevitably lead to a colossal humanitarian catastrophe. It is impossible to believe that in the 21st century in the centre of Europe people have to wake up at 5 am from explosions and the sound of air raid sirens," said Tetiana Stawnychy, President of Caritas Ukraine, from her base in Kyiv.

Donations can be made through Caritas Australia's website: [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au)



A message from Tetiana Stawnychy, President of Caritas Ukraine

"We ask for your solidarity, prayers and support!"



## Gospel - Luke 4:1-13

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit through the wilderness, being tempted there by the devil for forty days. During that time he ate nothing and at the end he was hungry. Then the devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to turn into a loaf.' But Jesus replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone.'

Then leading him to a height, the devil showed him in a moment of time all the kingdoms of the world and said to him, 'I will give you all this power and the glory of these kingdoms, for it has been committed to me and I give it to anyone I choose. Worship me, then, and it shall all be yours.' But Jesus answered him, 'Scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then he led him to Jerusalem and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God', he said to him 'throw yourself down from here, for scripture says: He will put his angels in charge of you to guard you, and again: They will hold you up on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' But Jesus answered him, 'It has been said: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Having exhausted all these ways of tempting him, the devil left him, to return at the appointed time.



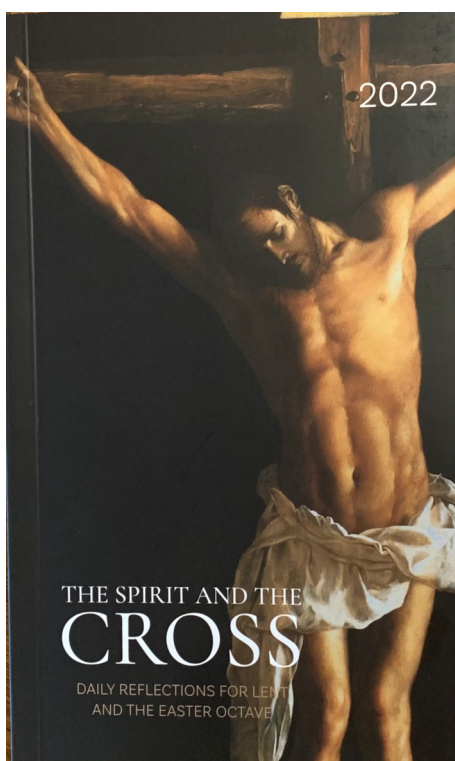
## Reflection

In the first reading, the short creed recited by Israelites when offering their first-fruits acclaims God for guiding them from Egypt to the Promised Land. It makes no reference to Israel's failures of faith during their forty-year journey through the wilderness, yet these are the back story for today's gospel. Time and again with their complaints and apostasy, they refused to trust God. In complete contrast, Jesus steadfastly rejects the devil's blandishments and puts his complete trust in God. Armed only with texts from Deuteronomy, Jesus reverses Israel's infidelity and lays the foundation for a new covenant.

The event features prominently enough in the synoptic gospels for it to be recalled every year on the first Sunday of Lent. Luke's telling of the story has distinctive details of its own. The centrality of Jerusalem in his two-volume work is reflected in the temple being the location of the third and last temptation. Luke alone has the episode conclude with the devil only temporarily defeated.

The story may be familiar but Luke's masterly story-telling preserves its power to engage us. Three distinct voices are in play - those of the narrator, the tempter and Jesus - driving the action forward. It deserves to be proclaimed with a judicious blend of energy and seriousness.

**Break Open the Word 2022**



## Dear Parishioners

**We've ordered 100 of these books, "The Spirit and the Cross: Daily Reflections for Lent and the Easter Octave".**

**For those who are interested, please take a copy (one per family).**

### Lenten Reflection:

"Lent is the favourable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour. The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter during the forty days in the desert, shows us the path we must take. May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need."

(Pope Francis' Message for Lent 2017)