

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.



Has peace a chance?

Vatican diplomacy
and the war
Christopher Lamb

Lenten Reflection: The Feast of the Transfiguration reminds us that we are called to experience being in touch with Christ so that, enlightened by his light, we might bear it and make it shine everywhere like tiny lamps of the Gospel that bear a little bit of love and hope.

Pope Francis, 6 August 2021

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 Priest

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

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: 6 March 2022

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$312.00	\$875.60
SFX	\$1,928.00	\$1,239.65

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

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

7:00pm Lenten Rosary

Eltham

7:30pm St Vincent de Paul Meeting

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

7:00pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Montmorency

Tuesday 22

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

Wednesday 23

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

7:00pm Lenten Rosary

Eltham

Thursday 24

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

7:00pm Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Eltham

7:00pm Parish Futures Meeting

Greensborough

Friday 25

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 26

12:00pm Baptism - Reuben

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 27 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Evie & Harvey

Eltham

Tuesday 29

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:
Joyce Arundell, Jack Feil, Lawrence Gatt, Joyce Jakubik, Margaret McKinley, Michael Morabito, Gianluca Salvitti, Ben Vincent

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 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.

Communal Rite of Reconciliation

Involving Grade 4 students, parents & parishioners.

Monday 21st March at 7pm at
 St Francis Xavier, Montmorency

and

Thursday 24th March at 7pm at
 Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham

Roster for WEEKEND 19/20 March 2022

Armstrong, Miranda	Hospitality
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Donnellan, Denice	Eucharistic Minister
Dopheide, Marlis	Eucharistic Minister
Dopheide, Marlis	Hospitality
Furtado, Lorraine	Commentator
Haines, Jan-Marie	Reader
McAleer, Peter & Denise	ASRC
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Rigg Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Scully, Helen	Altar Society



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Sunday 13 March

St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm
 Isabelle Baera

Baptism



Lent-in-brief...

When we live consciously aware of our power to shape our world for good, we live lives of meaning. We are our own most fully human and fully sacred. We are whole! **Richard Rohr**

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

Leader: God's covenant has been revealed through the ages. Let us turn to him in faith and ask for our needs.

We pray for Pope Francis celebrating this 9th anniversary of his election that he will continue to proclaim the gospel message to the world. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all of those in leadership positions: that they can work together in civility and co-operation, looking for what unites us, rather than what divides us. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the suffering people of Ukraine and all of those who have become refugees, in other war-torn regions: that war will cease and peace can be restored. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all of our parishioners who can no longer attend Mass because of infirmity, illness or being in residential care. We remember them and thank them for their contributions to our parish. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

During Lent we pray for the success of Project Compassion in its aims to end poverty, promote justice and uphold people's dignity. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those communities devastated by floods: that they can be supported in their efforts to clean up and re-establish their lives. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died recently, and remember *Joyce Arundell, Jack Feil, Lawrence Gatt, Joyce Jakubik, Margaret McKinley, Michael Morabito, Gianluca Salvitti & Ben Vincent* whose anniversary occurs at this time. May they rest in peace. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Faithful God, you reveal yourself to those who seek you with sincere hearts. Help us listen to your Son so that we may have a share in Christ's transfigured glory. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: **Amen**



Harmony Week, running from Monday 21 to Sunday 27 March, celebrates Australia’s exciting and diverse cultural reality. It looks to promote inclusiveness, respect and belonging for all Australians, regardless of cultural or linguistic background, and unity around a core set of values - from the traditional owners of the land to those who have come from around the world to make Australia their home. Our diversity is one of the greatest strengths and Harmony Week celebrates this.

The week is also an opportune time, as the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) writes below, to reflect on how we reach out and engage with families and children from diverse communities to build culturally safe environments that foster trust and inclusion.

A snapshot of our cultural diversity

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.
- We identify with over 300 ancestries.
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia.
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia.
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi.
- More than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

Harmony Week is community-focussed

Our vibrant parishes nicely reflect Australia’s cultural diversity, being made up of generations of migrants, some new and some that are decades old. Sadly, many have experienced extreme hardship in their home countries, in their journey to Australia and in the migration process.

In the modern era, we have become all too aware of the ways in which intergenerational cultural trauma impacts children. For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, racially discriminatory government policies which resulted in the Stolen Generations have had a profound and lasting impact. For refugee communities, the struggles involved in migrating to Australia, which include adapting to a new culture and disconnection from family and friends, is a cultural trauma of its own. The impact of these experiences can have lifelong implications.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse found that ‘Aboriginal children may be less likely to disclose abuse due to a lack of cultural safety and a fear of authorities intruding into their family and community, based on historic experiences of systemic racism and abuse’. Therefore, additional attention to cultural safety and close engagement with communities are necessary.

How is Harmony Week related to Child Safeguarding?

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is committed to honouring the trust that has been placed in our parishes, agencies and entities and to supporting the crucial partnership with parents and guardians that serves to strengthen the safety of children and young people.

The Archdiocese has made the following commitments to:

- Provide information that is visible to parents and guardians about child safeguarding policies and procedures including reporting procedures (eg via [our website](#), noticeboard, newsletters, registration/permission forms).
- Listen to and engage with the views of parents and guardians about our child-safety practice, policies and procedures and working collaboratively.
- Work in partnership with families and the community to ensure that they are engaged in decision-making processes, particularly those that have an impact on child safety and protection.
- Be transparent in our decision-making about the safety of children or young people.
- Provide age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate information and resources to support parents and guardians to communicate with their children about child safety.
- Take seriously any concerns, allegations or complaints and provide support and information as we deal with these matters while communicating honestly and openly with parents and guardians about the wellbeing and safety of their children and young people.

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards ask us to contemplate how the promotion of cultural safety for children from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds occurs in parishes and entities.

- **Standard 3: Partnering with families, carers and communities**
Families, carers and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safeguarding and wellbeing.
- **Standard 4: Equity is promoted and diversity is respected**
Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

Let's focus on our diverse parish communities

What these standards highlight is that parents and carers are critical partners in promoting the safety of children and young people. By reaching out and engaging with families and children from diverse communities, in turn we are building culturally safe environments that foster trust and inclusion. These connections to community support systems and networks have been shown to be a protective factor for child protection.

Conducting a “Cultural Safety Health Check”

Harmony Week is an opportunity to reflect on how inclusive we really are when it comes to child safeguarding. Doing a “*Cultural Safety Health Check*” is one way to assess how well we are including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and diverse communities in keeping children safe in our parishes.

Take time to reflect on the following and collectively discuss your assessment. How are we doing? What more can be done?

Are we:

- Actively promoting our “zero tolerance” to racism and discrimination in our Parish? How?
- Reinforcing the importance of our diverse communities participating in our safeguarding efforts? Could we do more?
- Do we identify and include faith leaders from our migrant populations to assist us to reach and involve parents and carers in child safeguarding? If so, how? If not, what are the barriers?
- Ensuring that our diverse cultures have access to the English or [translated Safeguarding policies and procedures](#)?
- Acknowledging the contribution of our diverse cultural communities and individuals to keeping children safe in our parish?
- Confident that the diverse communities in our parish are aware of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct, the complaints handling process, the names of Safeguarding Committee members and the parish office contact number?
- Providing relevant Safeguarding information from the Safeguarding Committee in ways that are accessible and understood by our diverse communities?
- Confident that our parish mechanisms for communicating with parents and carers from migrant backgrounds on Child Safeguarding are effective? How do you know?
- Providing child-friendly material in accessible languages and formats that promote inclusion targeting children and young people?

If you would like to share your good work in including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and diverse communities in Child Safeguarding, please reach out to your Safeguarding Officer in the [Professional Standards Unit](#).

**For more information and resources to celebrate
Harmony Week 2022, please visit www.harmony.gov.au.**

Thank you and Farewell to Fr Terry

Covid restrictions have limited our opportunities to farewell and thank Fr Terry for the 15 years that he spent with us in the parish and for him to thank the parish. Two opportunities to rectify this situation are being arranged on the following dates:

Saturday 21 May at 7pm in the SFX Parish Hall; and **Sunday 22 May** at 12noon at the Montmorency-Eltham RSL.

[More details to follow.](#)

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

Thank you to all the wonderful knitters who left their handiwork at the OLHC church to be blessed, wrapped and distributed.

THE PRAYER SHAWL group knit/crochet shawls, knee rugs or beanies for people in need of comfort, through grief, sickness or for whatever reason they need our prayers and comfort.

We WELCOME anyone who would like to join our group on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. We meet at 11 o'clock at Our Lady Help of Christians church foyer.

You don't have to be a knitter, you can call in for a chat *and have a tea or coffee with us, whichever you prefer.*

If you know of anyone in need of a shawl or rug, please contact: **Trish (0429 025 186)** or **Barbara (9439 8594)** to arrange for you to collect, *or we can deliver them on behalf of the parish.*



As we watch with sadness the unfolding war in Ukraine, it is timely to recall the place of the liturgy in bringing us into the reassuring, hope-filled presence of God as we pray in solidarity with others; this is the subject of the first article in this edition.

The second item offers prayers of intercession for peace which may be incorporated into parish liturgies.

Mindful of the liturgical season of Lent and the ongoing process of conversion, the third article addresses the quest for *inner* peace and the grace-filled attitude of openness to God's patience and mercy.

Please follow this link to access the current issue: <https://litedliturgybrisbane.weebly.com/>.



LITURGY
BRISBANE

With very best wishes from the team at Liturgy Brisbane.



Positions Vacant

- Pastoral Youth Worker, St Macartan's, Mornington
- Continuous Improvement Specialist - Client Services Group, CDF, East Melbourne
- Communications Administration Support Officer, East Melbourne
- Payroll Operations Officer, East Melbourne
- Parish Secretary, St Kilda East & Balaclava
- Stewardship Co-ordinator, Bayside
- Administration Support Officer, Emerging Futures Collaborative, Melbourne

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 12

Thank God for the ministry of Prison Fellowship worldwide. This week pray for the ministry of PF in Cambodia.

Sunday 13

Pray for more opportunities to speak in Churches in Victoria.

Monday 14

This Easter we are aiming to provide a package of home-baked biscuits with an Easter card with a gospel message for each and every person incarcerated in a Victorian prison/correctional centre. Join us for our weekly prayer time as we pray together for the men and women in prisons, those involved in prison ministry in many ways and for the programs like the Easter Biscuit Bake.

Theme: Easter Biscuit Bake Program.

Zoom Meeting ID: 861 5107 6709.

Passcode: 458560.

Tuesday 15

Thomas Embling Hospital - we are so thankful that the visiting program initiated last month has been so well received and appreciated. Pray for our two volunteers as they visit Thomas Embling Hospital again this morning.

Wednesday 16

Pray for Glen & Richard as they meet with the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner of Corrections Victoria this afternoon. We are very thankful for the positive relationship we have with Corrections Victoria and pray that this will continue.

Thursday 17

This week please pray for the inmates and staff at HM Barwon Prison. HM Barwon Prison is a maximum-security prison located approximately 6km outside of the town of Lara. It has a capacity of approximately 470 people.

Friday 18



Here are some things to pray for the Easter Biscuit Bake Program as it is underway now:

- Pray that we will reach the target number of biscuits in time;
- Pray that the men and women in prisons will be blessed by them and also by the Easter message included in the bag;
- Pray for Laura, our Programs Co-ordinator, as she co-ordinates the Easter Biscuit Bake Campaign;
- Pray also for Lorna, Barb, Betty, Robin, Julie, Peter, Marieke & John who will be co-ordinating the packing of the biscuits.

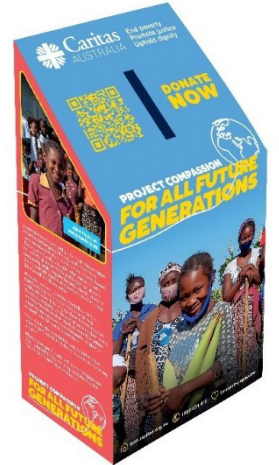
First Sunday of Lent 5 & 6 March



Biru, 30, lives in a rural village in Jharkand State in India's east. He lost mobility in one of his legs, after contracting polio as a child, which makes it difficult for him to walk. With your generous support, Biru was able to access an entrepreneurship and livelihoods development program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas India. He gained the skills, support and encouragement he needed to establish his own bicycle repair business.

Now, Biru is able to provide a good life for his family - and an essential service to his community. He has discovered a sense of pride, confidence and hope which has inspired others living with a disability and paved the way ***For All Future Generations***.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help people living with disabilities in India gain access to education and clean water, empowering them with skills to build a better future for all.



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, or by calling 1800 024 413.



Enrol Now

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

**EVERY DAY IS
OPEN DAY**

1-13 Henry Street Eltham, 3095 | 94397824 | principal@ohlceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.ohlceltham.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians

OPEN DAY

March 17th 9-3pm

We would love to see you!

At Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic primary school, we work in partnership with families on the educational journey of our students. Our belief is that children learn best when they are active participants in their own learning. At OLHC we cater for individual differences and encourage children to achieve their personal best.

Our school community is a happy, friendly and welcoming place where children are nurtured to reach their full potential.

At OLHC we offer many opportunities for our students to participate in varied co-curricular activities;

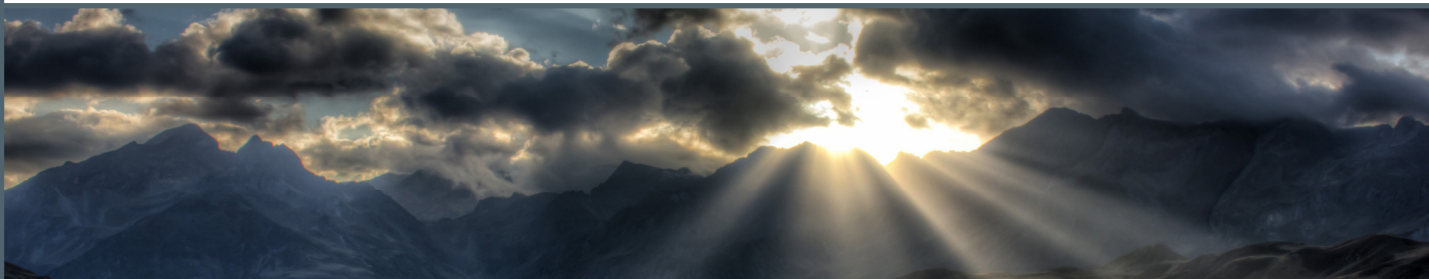
- Visual and Performing Arts
- Sport
- LOTE
- Music
- ICT - coding & robotics
- Environment - Garden Club
- Leadership Opportunities
- FIRE Carriers
- Prep Buddies
- STEM

STUDENT WELLBEING IS A HIGH PRIORITY AT OLHC

We believe every student in our school has the right to feel safe, happy and connected. OLHC have developed specialised wellbeing programs to promote resilience and encourage empathy and respect for the rights of all.

Gospel - Luke 9:28-36

Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.



Reflection

The story of the transfiguration remains as mysterious as it is familiar. It's familiar because we hear it every second Sunday of Lent as well as on the feast day itself in August. It's mysterious because its profound meaning can never be exhausted. It invites us into the heart of the Triune God where Father and Son ceaselessly exchange a love that is beyond our imagining. At the same time it takes us into the heart of our humanity where our desire for glory must contend with the cross.

Contributing to the story's familiarity are the multiple associations it has with other episodes in both Old and New Testament. The very names Moses and Elijah conjure up a whole history of divine self-revelation and engagement with the people of Israel. The naming of Peter, James and John brings to mind their presence at both the raising of Jairus' daughter and the agony in the garden. The tents suggest the exodus and its remembrance in the feast of tabernacles. Voice from the cloud reminds us of Jesus' baptism and the servant songs of the prophet Isaiah. And the manifestation of Jesus' glory prompts thought of the resurrection and the Parousia.

Luke's telling of the story is distinguished by his characteristic emphasis on prayer. Jesus "went up the mountain to pray" and it was while he prayed that his appearance changed. Only prayer will give us the hope of comprehending the import of this extraordinary story.

Break Open the Word 2022

UKRAINE
AND PUTIN

PEACE
MAY HAVE
A CHANCE

It could mark the beginning of the bitter end for Vladimir Putin's outrageous and horrifying criminal enterprise in Ukraine. A news item appeared on the Reuters website on Monday, and interview given to one of its journalists by Dmitry Peskov, the Kremlin's spokesman. He was said to be setting out Russia's new conditions for an end to the fighting. It appears that Peskov had been sent forth to fly a kite, signalling to Ukraine and the West that Putin wanted a way out of the corner he had painted himself into. Could Putin have recognised that he was not going to win his war, but needed a cover story?

It could, of course, be a trap. But peace must always be given a chance. Innocent civilians are dying every day, and hundreds of thousands are suffering extreme deprivation and misery. The conditions under which the Kremlin is ready to halt military operations are far from the fantasies that Putin entertained at the outset, which involved the extinction of Ukraine as a sovereign nation and his installation as a tsar-like protector of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, the whole territory of "Ancient Rus".

The Kremlin's four conditions were that Ukraine should cease military action; recognise Crimea as Russian, which would turn what is the *de facto* situation into one *de jure*; recognise the independence of the two breakaway republics, Donetsk and Luhansk which, again, would legitimise a *fait accompli*; and amend its constitution to guarantee its neutrality. This would require Ukraine to recognise that membership of Nato is a lost cause. But this is

already yesterday's cause, as Ukraine desired membership of Nato to deter an attack from Russia. Russia did attack; Nato refuses to intervene, and that, logically, is the end of the Nato issue.

Negotiations require give and take, and Ukraine should demand reciprocal commitments, for instance that the Russian ally Belarus also be declared neutral. It could insist that Donetsk and Luhansk should amend their constitutions to guarantee never to join the Russian Federation, and for open and free referenda to be held before their status was confirmed.

Acceptance of these conditions would fall short of giving Ukraine total victory. But it was never realistic to think that the Russians could be expelled from Crimea or that the separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk could be defeated militarily. The Peskov proposals include the cessation of military action by the Ukrainians in return for a ceasefire by Russia, in itself and admission that the Ukrainian army is a fighting force to be reckoned with. Ukraine will rightly insist on the complete withdrawal of Russian forces from its territory. A formula would have to be agreed for the reconstruction of Ukraine. But all of this is achievable.

Such an outcome would not put Vladimir Putin the dock at the International Criminal Court, where he should be. But it would amount to a humiliating climbdown, and perhaps inflict terminal political damage. Ukraine, on the other hand, pulled back from the brink of martyrdom, would gain an honoured place among the free nations of the world.