

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.

**ANTIDOTE TO
CLERICALISM**

FRANCIS LAYS OUT HIS BOLD REFORMS

Pope Francis has finally overturned the Roman apple cart. He has unveiled far-reaching reforms to the way the Catholic Church is run - which is what he was elected to do in 2013, when a near consensus emerged among the cardinals in conclave that it was high time the Roman Curia, the Church's civil service, had its wings clipped. The successors of the apostles around the world had had enough of being told what to do by bureaucrats.

Two key ideas that emerged from the Second Vatican Council were that baptism is the basic sacrament that defines a Christian, and that the definitive metaphor for the Church is "The People of God". In the first case, what was being abandoned was the idea that lay people were mere delegates of the ordained hierarchy, to whom they owed obedience, with no theological standing in their own right. And in the second case, the model of the Church being superseded was the "Mystical Body of Christ", a "perfect society", a supernatural entity governed by its head, Christ himself, with the Pope as his representative or "vicar". But in the years since the Council, church structures continued to reflect the old pattern of thinking, with the Church run from the top down, and with the key office holders priests and bishops whose authority also flowed down from the top.

Pope Francis' bold curial reform finally brings the central administration firmly into line with Vatican II's underlying vision of the Church as *communion*, a sacred community of the baptised. The Church has to have a structure - Francis is no anarchist - and his ministry, as a servant of the People of God, needs help and support. Most departments of the Roman Curia will emerge for these reforms with modified names and modified functions. They will serve the Church everywhere, not just its central

administrative organ. Membership and leadership of the new departments, for the most part, will be open to any baptised man or woman. The curial bodies dealing with bishops and clergy will continue to have an ordained head, but there is no reason why women cannot also be involved in leading them. It would be an excellent idea if they were.

The most significant theological change stemming from this reform package is one that could reach into every corner of the Church - the separation of governance from ordination. It had been assumed that to exercise power and authority in the Catholic Church one had to be at least a priest, and preferably a bishop. Francis insists that the basic function of the Church, to evangelise the world with the Good News of the Gospel, is a duty and privilege that falls on every Christian, ordained or lay, by virtue of their baptism.

The separation of governance from ordination will in due course alter the way authority is exercised in the Church, and by whom. It raises questions, for instance, over how episcopal conferences operate. The bishops in Latin America recently established an "ecclesial conference" for the Amazon region which includes lay members. Why can't this innovative model be replicated? Given that lay people of either sex are already involved in the running of parishes and dioceses, developing lay ministry must now be an urgent priority for the Church. This fuses with Francis' vision of a synodal church that listens to every voice. The very idea of a priest as a man set apart with power and authority will be subtly changed, and instead the idea of priesthood as a ministry of service lived within and not above the Christian community will emerge. This will be the antidote to clericalism - the source of so much trouble - that Francis has been seeking since he arrived in Rome nine years ago.

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: 20 March 2022

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$897.00	\$590.40
SFX	\$1,696.00	\$885.15

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 2

12:00pm Baptism - Leon, Fletcher, Aiden, Patrick Eltham

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 3 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Addison, Christian, Isla Montmorency

Monday 4

6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir Eltham

Tuesday 5

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 6

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

1:00pm Small Church Community Montmorency

7:00pm Lenten Rosary Eltham

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 7

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

2:00pm Mass St Vincent's Care, Eltham

Friday 8

9:30am Mass Eltham

3:00pm Wedding Eltham

6:30pm Anniversary Mass - Brooke Coskun Montmorency

Saturday 9

12:00pm Baptism - Leila, Elodie, Sylvie Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 10 - Palm Sunday

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Sophie, Matthew, Oscar, Adrian Eltham

Tuesday 12

9:30am Mass Montmorency

7:00pm Triduum music rehearsal Montmorency

Wednesday 13

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

7:00pm Lenten Rosary Eltham

Thursday 14 - Holy Thursday

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

7:00pm Mass: Holy Thursday Montmorency

Friday 15 - Good Friday

3:00pm Mass: Good Friday Eltham

Saturday 16 - Holy Saturday

5:00pm Blessing of the Food Montmorency

7:00pm Mass: Easter Vigil
Confirmations & First Eucharist Montmorency

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**Support
Eltham Parish
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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:
Eugene Collins, Doug Mathews, Teresa Pfeil, Carol Said, Paul Said

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

Eltham

For the recently deceased:
Margaret McKay (sister of Trish Taylor)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Peter Donnellan, Frank Hermans

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

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office
9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.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 12:30pm at the Monty-Eltham RSL.

[More details to follow.](#)

Food Drive for the ASRC Foodbank



Thank you for making a difference to people seeking asylum by providing one of the most basic human rights: food. ASRC Foodbank currently provides free groceries to around 1000 people every week, most of whom have no income and no work rights. EVERY donation makes a difference.

TOP 10 MOST NEEDED ITEMS

1. tuna in oil 400g
2. tinned tomatoes 400g
3. raw, unsalted nuts
4. honey small bottles
5. spices turmeric, cumin, chilli
6. dried fruit
7. disposable razors
8. dishwashing liquid 500/750ml
9. shampoo +conditioner 350/400ml
10. laundry powder 1kg max



inquiries (03)9326 6066
email donatefood@asrc.org.au

Please note that the ASRC does not need baked beans, tinned soup or tinned spaghetti.



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 2 April

Our Lady Help of Christians, 12:00pm

Patrick Chahda

Fletcher Ford

Aiden Perera

Leon Recki

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Sunday 3 April

St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm

Isla Carabella

Addison Clark

Christian Colosimo

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism



Roster for WEEKEND 09/10 April 2022

Armstrong, Miranda	Eucharistic Minister
Beckford, Peter	Commentator
Davidson, John	PRYR
Frediani, Gabriella	Altar Society
Furtado, Denzil	Reader
Hannon, Kevin & Genni	ASRC
Scannell Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Scully, Helen	Eucharistic Minister
Zylstra, Diane	Reader

MASSG

Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group

is passionately committed to supporting and advocating for people seeking asylum.

Their Autumn online raffle is available until 11 April.

Follow the link :

<https://massg.oneraffle.com/massg/>
to see how easy it is to join in!

Marie Wood

You are invited to an
Easter Blessing of Food

on Holy Saturday

(16 April)

5pm at

St Francis Xavier Church.



This is very much a European tradition where people bring food to be blessed for their Easter table.



CONGREGATIO PRO CLERICIS



SYNODUS EPISCOPORUM

Vatican City, 19 March 2022

Prot. n. 220083

Dear Priests,

Here we are, two priests and brothers of yours! May we ask for a moment of your time? We would like to talk to you about a topic that touches us all.

“the Church of God is convoked in Synod.” The preparatory document for Synod 2021-2023 begins with these words. For two years the entire People of God is invited to reflect on the theme “For a Synodal Church: communion, participation and mission”. This is a novelty that can arouse enthusiasm as well as perplexity.

Yet “in the first millennium, ‘walking together’, that is, practicing synodality, was the Church’s habitual way of proceeding.” The Second Vatican Council highlighted this dimension of ecclesial life, so important that St. John Chrysostom affirmed: “Church and Synod are synonymous” (*Explicatio in Psalmum* 149).

It is well known that today’s world is in urgent need of fraternity. Without realizing it, the world yearns to meet Jesus. But how do we make this encounter happen? We need to listen to the Spirit together with the whole People of God, so as to renew our faith and find new ways and languages to share the Gospel with our brothers and sisters. The synodal process that Pope Francis proposes to us has precisely this objective: to set out, together, in mutual listening, in sharing ideas and projects, to show the true face of the Church: a hospitable “house”, with open doors, inhabited by the Lord and animated by fraternal relationships.

So that we do not fall into the risks highlighted by Pope Francis - that is, formalism, which reduces the Synod to an empty slogan; intellectualism, which makes the Synod a theoretical reflection on problems; and immobilism, nailing us to the security of our habits so that nothing changes - it is important to open our hearts and listen to what the Spirit suggests to the Churches (cf. Rev. 2:7).

Obviously, in the face of this journey, some fears may assail us.

First of all, we are well aware that priests in many parts of the world are already carrying a great pastoral burden. And now - it may seem - one more thing “to do” is added. Rather than inviting you to multiply your activities, we would like to encourage you to look at your communities with that contemplative gaze of which Pope Francis speaks to us in *Evangelii gaudium* (no. 71) so as to discover the many examples of participation and sharing that are already taking root in your communities. In fact, the current diocesan phase of the synodal process aims to “gather the wealth of experiences of lived synodality” (*Preparatory Document*, 31). We are certain that there are many more of these experiences than what might appear at first glance, perhaps even informal and spontaneous experiences. Wherever we listen deeply to each other, learn from each other, value the gifts of others, help each other and make decisions together, there is already synodality in action. All this should be emphasized and appreciated, so as to increasingly develop that synodal style which is “the specific *modus vivendi et operandi* of the Church, the People of God” (*Preparatory Document*, 10).

But there may also be another fear: if so much emphasis is placed on the common priesthood of the baptized and on the *sensus fidei* of the People of God, what will become of our role as leaders and of our specific identity as ordained ministers? Without a doubt, it is a matter of progressively discovering the fundamental equality of all the baptized and of stimulating all the faithful to participate actively in the journey and mission of the Church. In this way we will have the joy of finding brothers and sisters who share with us the responsibility for evangelization. But in this experience of the People of God, the special charism of ordained ministers to serve, sanctify and animate the People of God can and should also come to the fore in a new way.

In this sense, we would like to ask you to make a threefold contribution to the current synodal process:

- Do everything so that the journey rests on listening to and living the Word of God. Pope Francis thus recently exhorted us, “let us be passionate about Sacred Scripture, let us allow

ourselves to be dug into by the Word, which reveals the newness of God and leads to loving others without tiring” (Francis, *Homily for Word of God Sunday*, January 23, 2022).

Without this grounding in the life of the Word, we risk walking in the dark and our reflections risk becoming an ideology. Instead, by basing ourselves on the Word put into practice, we will build the house on rock (cf. Mt 7:24-27) and we will be able to experience, like the disciples of Emmaus, the surprising light and guidance of the Risen Lord.

- Let us strive to ensure that our journey is marked by mutual listening and mutual acceptance. Even before any concrete results, deep dialogue and true encounters are already a value. In fact, there are many initiatives and potentials in our communities, but too often individuals and groups run the risk of individualism and self-referentiality. With his new commandment, Jesus reminds us that “this is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn 13:35). As pastors, we can do much so that love might heal relationships and heal the wounds that often affect the fabric of the Church, so that the joy of feeling that we are one family, one people on a journey, children of the same Father and therefore brothers and sisters to one another may return, beginning with the fraternity of priests.

- Take care that the journey does not lead us to introspection but stimulates us to go out to meet everyone. In *Evangelii gaudium*, Pope Francis has given us the dream of a Church that is not afraid to get its hands dirty by involving itself in the wounds of humanity, a Church that walks in listening to and serving the poor and the peripheries. This “outgoing” dynamism towards our brothers and sisters, with the compass of the Word and the fire of charity, fulfils the Father’s great original plan: “that all may be one” (Jn 17:21). In his latest Encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis asks us to commit ourselves to this unity, together with our brothers and sisters of other Churches, the faithful of other religions and all people of good will: universal brotherhood and love without exclusions, which all and everything must embrace. As servants of the People of God, we are in a privileged position to ensure that this does not remain a vague and generic guideline, but is made concrete where we live.

Dear brother priests, we are certain that starting from these priorities you will find ways to give life to specific initiatives, according to local needs and possibilities because synodality is truly God’s call for the Church of the third millennium. Setting out in this direction will not be free of questions, fatigue and setbacks, but we can be confident that it will return to us a hundredfold in fraternity and in fruits of evangelical life. We need only think of the first Synod of Jerusalem (Acts 15). Who knows how much effort there was behind the scenes! But we know how decisive that moment was for the nascent Church.

We conclude this letter with two passages from the *Preparatory Document* that can inspire and accompany us almost like a Vadermecum.

“The ability to imagine a different future for the Church and her institutions, in keeping with the mission she has received, depends largely on the decision to initiate processes of listening, dialogue, community discernment, in which each and every person can participate and contribute.” (n. 9).

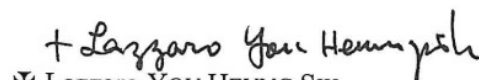
“We recall that the purpose of the Synod, and therefore of this consultation, is not to produce documents, but “to plant dreams, draw forth prophecies and visions, allow hope to flourish, inspire trust, bind up wounds, weave together relationships, awaken a dawn of hope, learn from one another and create a bright resourcefulness that will enlighten minds, warm hearts, give strength to our hands” (n. 32).

Thanking you for your attention, we assure you of our prayers and wish you and your communities a joyful and fruitful synodal journey. May we be close to you and journey with you! And welcome, through us, the gratitude also of Pope Francis who feels very close to you.

Entrusting each of you to the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Good Way, we cordially greet you in the Lord Jesus.



Mario Card. GRECH
Secretary General
of the Synod of Bishops



+ Lazzaro You Heung Sik
✠ Lazzaro YOU HEUNG SIK
Archbishop-Bishop em. of Daejeon
Prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy

2023
ENROLMENTS
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Celebrating 90 years of Education in 2022

Lent-in-brief...

Pray for the Grace to see things in their wholeness and not just in their parts; for the grace to reverence things before using them, dismissing them, or even trying to explain them.

Praying for Peace & Hope

The Parish of St Thomas invites you to join us to pray for peace at a prayer service to be held at St Thomas on Mon 4th April at 7pm. (Church will be open from 6:30pm). Come united with an open heart seeking peace for our world. All welcome.

Holy Week Liturgies

St Francis Xavier

Volunteers are required for the **Holy Week Liturgies** at St Francis Xavier's.

There are sign-up sheets in the foyer for the various roles for Holy Thursday at 7pm and the Easter Vigil at 7pm.

Our Lady Help of Christians

There are still some roles to be filled for the 3pm Good Friday liturgy and the 6am Easter Morning Mass.

We also need people to indicate if they will be attending the breakfast after the Easter Morning Mass.

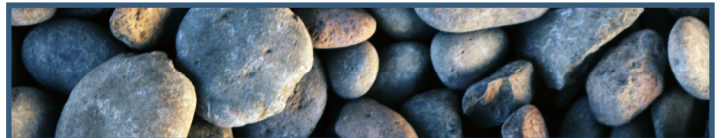
The sign-up sheets are in the Gathering Area on the table.

Kathleen Nolan

Lenten Reflection:

The words of the Sacred Scripture were not written to remain imprisoned on papyrus, parchment or paper, but to be received by a person who prays, making them blossom in his or her heart. The Word of God goes to the heart.

Pope Francis, Homily January 2021



Fifth Sunday of Lent 2 & 3 April

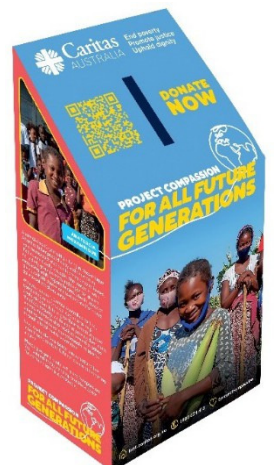


Shaniella 23, grew up in a remote village in the Solomon Islands in a province which has limited educational and job opportunities - and one of the country's highest poverty rates. After leaving school, she decided to move closer to the capital city, Honiara, to study hospitality and tourism. However, her vocational training school was hit by a landslide and cyclone in quick succession, destroying its water supply system and the vegetable garden that it relies on for food.

With your generous support, Caritas Australia has helped the school to install water tanks, re-establish its garden and provided training in disaster risk reduction. Shaniella can now complete her job skills training and the school has enough food and water for its students.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 so this transformational program can continue to empower and strengthen vulnerable communities *For All Future Generations*.

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.



New constitution for Roman Curia released

CHRISTOPHER LAMB

Pope Francis issued a long-awaited reform document of the Church's central administration that allows laymen or women to run most Vatican departments, and formally establishes an office to fight sexual abuse.

On 19 March, the Feast of St Joseph and anniversary of Francis' installation as Pope, the 85-year-old released a new constitution for the Roman Curia, *Praedicate Evangelium* (Preach the Gospel). The document has been worked on over the last nine years by the Pope and his cardinal advisers and in consultation with bishops' conferences. Along with making structural changes, the aim of the constitution is to ensure that the Roman Curia is geared towards missionary evangelisation.

"The Pope, Bishops and other ordained ministers are not the only evangelisers in the Church," the constitution's introduction explains. "The reform of the Curia must include involvement of lay-men and women, also in roles of governance and responsibility." While the vast majority of Vatican offices are led by



PHOTO: CNS, PAUL HARING

Pope Francis: reformer

cardinals and archbishops, the constitution says that laymen and women can "head a dicastery (department)" if the Pope decides they are qualified and appoints them. The last constitution, issued in 1988 by John Paul II, states that the majority of departments should be led by a bishop or cardinal.

Among other significant structural changes is the inclusion of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors into the structure of the Curia, effectively establishing the first Vatican safe-guarding office. A difficulty the commission has faced has been a lack of legal status in the Vatican. It will

remain a distinct body but under the new Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith.

All Roman Curia offices have now been given the title of "dicastery", with the Dicastery for Evangelization listed first, ahead of what was the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

The constitution explains that the Pope will take personal charge of Evangelization assisted by two "pro-prefects". A new dicastery for charity, led by the papal almoner, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, is also established.

The constitution says that, while the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith must still maintain the integrity of doctrine and be consulted when it comes to releasing documents, it must first "seek dialogue" with those it considers may have been in breach of church teaching.

The constitution also establishes a Dicastery for Education and Culture and reaffirms the Secretariat of State's role as co-ordinating the work of the Curia.

The role of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments is "to promote the sacred liturgy according to the renewal undertaken by the Second Vatican Council".

The new constitution will come into effect on 5 June.

'Pondering Grief'

Saturday 30 April 2022, 10am-3.30pm.

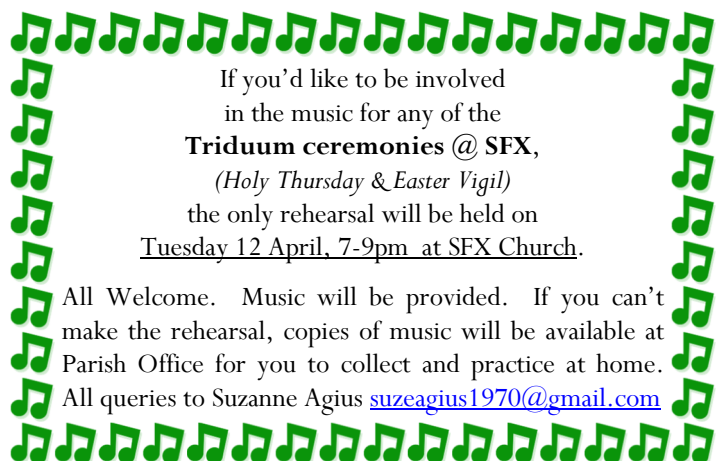
Facilitated by qualified Counsellor/ Supervisor/ Educator Linda Espie, this reflection day offers an invitation to reflect on and honour our inner life of change and transition. With creativity, space and gentle guiding support, this workshop offers a sacred place for the breadth of human experiencing and spirit to guide individual exploration.

Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation, Rear 41 Stanhope St, Malvern.

Cost \$80 (Materials provided, BYO lunch).

Book and pay via www.heartoflife.melbourne, or email info@heartoflife.melbourne or tel 9890 1101.

 **Heart of Life**
Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation



If you'd like to be involved in the music for any of the **Triduum ceremonies @ SFX**, (Holy Thursday & Easter Vigil) the only rehearsal will be held on Tuesday 12 April, 7-9pm at SFX Church.

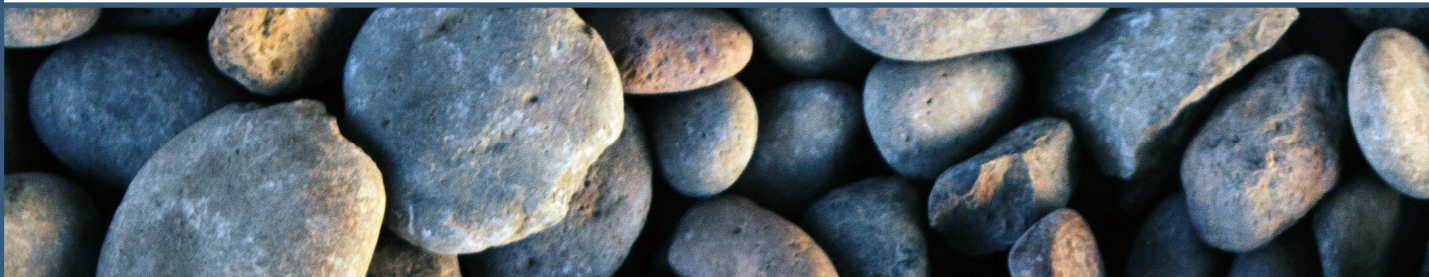
All Welcome. Music will be provided. If you can't make the rehearsal, copies of music will be available at Parish Office for you to collect and practice at home.

All queries to Suzanne Agius suzeagius1970@gmail.com

Gospel - John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their questions, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'



Reflection

A woman humiliated in public, an absent accomplice, authorities baying for blood, and an unarmed defender. These are the characters in today's gospel story. Also in play are judgement, sexism, anger and self-righteousness, all ultimately undone by mercy, wisdom and compassion.

This short story is presumed to have migrated at some stage from Luke to the gospel of John. It could well have prefaced Luke's account of the passion, as the introduction to the story in John 8:1-2 is a close parallel of Luke 21:37-38. This makes it a fitting choice for the Sunday before Holy Week.

The story assumes the truth of the allegation, but the authorities' appeal to the Law is partial. In the case of adultery, both parties were to be put to death by those who witnessed the offence (Lev 20:10; Dt22:22). This makes the action of the authorities in using the never-named woman as bait, their reference to "women like this," and the absence of her fellow adulterer all the more reprehensible.

Jesus neither excuses nor blames her. He simply refuses to condemn her. His very posture - bending to the ground while she stood, looking up to her rather than down on her - suggests an intentional mark of respect, restoring her dignity. The simplicity of the story belies its powerful appeal.

Break Open the Word 2022

Prayers of the Faithful for 3 April 2022 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Leader: Lord, you open our eyes to renewed hope and possibility. We trust in your presence as together we pray.

The Lord does not dwell on past errors but brings a message of hope and new horizons. He is compassionate, calm and non-judgmental. May we learn from his gentle authority and work to bring peace and understanding in our homes and community.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for peace in Ukraine. May Jesus' gentle, forgiving example bring light and a new way forward towards hope and peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those fleeing their homes because of violence and war. May they find security and welcome. We give thanks for the countries and people who have opened their hearts to assist these refugees and pray that our government too may be generous in extending compassion and practical support to all those seeking asylum.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord has done great things for us. We thank God for the gift of laughter, the joy of family, friends, and security. Let us support and pray for all those experiencing anxiety and economic uncertainty.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the children of our world. May we cherish and learn from the spontaneity and joy of children. We pray for all who care and nurture their growth.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember all those who are ill, their families and carers. May Jesus bring love, calm and renewed hope.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died, *Margaret McKay*, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, *Eugene Collins, Peter Donnellan, Frank Hermans, Doug Mathews, Teresa Pfeil, Carol Said & Paul Said*. May they rest in the peace and love of the Lord.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Dear friends, the Lord has done great things for us. May our lives be filled with joy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen