



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.

Easter Liturgy Timetable

Holy Thursday, 14th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Good Friday, 15th April

The Way of the Cross 11am @ OLHC, Eltham
The Passion of Our Lord 3pm @ OLHC, Eltham

Holy Saturday, 16th April

Blessing of the Food 5pm @ SFX, Montmorency
Vigil of the Resurrection 7pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Easter Sunday, 17th April

Dawn Vigil of the Resurrection 6am @ OLHC, Eltham
Easter Mass 8:30am @ SFX, Montmorency
Easter Mass 10am @ OLHC Eltham

Palm Sunday - Passion Sunday - Peace Sunday

'Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing, by works of charity and self-sacrifice, for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the whole Church throughout the world. Christ entered in triumph into his own city, to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion this entry which began his saving work and follow him with a lively faith. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.' (Introduction to Holy Week 2022 Catholic Missal)

Dear Friends of St. Francis Xavier MONTMORENCY and Our Lady Help of Christians ELTHAM,

Over the past 40 days since Ash Wednesday we have truly entered into the spirit of Lent, and this year - unlike any other year in the modern era, we have had the people of Ukraine and Russia in our prayers along with the many thousands of Australians who have continued to suffer through the destructive heavy rains in New South Wales & Queensland. 'War' and 'Water' have occupied our thoughts and prayers at this sacred time along with our own journey of conversion. The season of Lent calls for a personal reflection and attempts at conversion as well as a communal desire to seek healing and transformation through the compassion of God in the life of Jesus Christ.

We can all 'be' better people and 'do' better in our responses to life's challenges, from an individual perspective and as a society. All this inside the bubble of a Global Pandemic - not an easy task. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into this Sacred time in the desert and we have followed this journey in 2022. To all those who attended these weeks of solemn prayer leading up to Holy Week, thank you for your prayers and active participation in our Lenten Season.

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 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: 4 April 2022

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$777.00	\$869.35
SFX	\$1,437.00	\$1,088.25

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

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

11:00am The Way of the Cross Eltham

3:00pm Good Friday Mass Eltham

Saturday 16 - Holy Saturday

5:00pm Blessing of the Food Montmorency

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

Sunday 17 - Easter Sunday

8:30am Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

10:00am Mass & Confirmations Eltham

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

Tuesday 19

9:30am Mass Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 20

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 21

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 22

3:00pm Mass: Good Friday Eltham

Saturday 23

12:00pm Baptism - Callen, Javier, Oliver Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

Sunday 24

8:30am Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

10:00am Mass & Confirmations Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Sebastian, Thomas, Ella, Noa Montmorency

Tuesday 26

9:30am Mass Montmorency

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.





Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Adrian McConnell
(brother-in-law of Mike Said)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Jack Boyd, Maureen Briffa, Don Edmond,
Kate Feil, Len & Elsa Lalor*

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:

Kenneth D'Cruz
(nephew of Des & Audry John)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Janet Taylor

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.

Saturday 9 April

St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm

Elodie Johns
Sylvie Staubli
Leila Vikram

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism

Sunday 10 April

Our Lady Help of Christians, 12:00pm

Oscar Antrobus
Matthew Jessup
Sophie Jessup
Adrian Panetta

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism



Roster for WEEKEND 16/17 April 2022

Dopheide, Marlis	Commentator
Dunell, Linda	Eucharistic Minister
Foxley, David	Reader
Haines, Geoff	Eucharistic Minister
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
Scully, Helen	Altar Society
Stewart Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

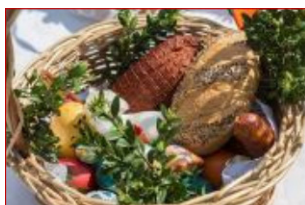
You are invited to an
Easter Blessing of Food

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.

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.](#)

Ignatian Murmuration 2022

<https://jisa.org.au/IM22/>



Connect with God, Ignatius, and fellow explorers
Become Aware of how the Spirit works
Transform your life and your desires
Enjoy changing the world for the better

On 12-14 May 2022, Jesuit and Ignatian Spirituality Australia is offering a transformative conference to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the conversion of St Ignatius Loyola.

This three-day conference will be an Ignatian murmuration, a series of spiritual conversations, **using the Spiritual Field Hospital exercises of Michael Hansen SJ** during Covid, to make connections with Ignatius in his interior journey of receiving new life in Christ. Receive new life yourself. And do it in enjoyable company.

Join for one day, two days or all three.

Make this the transforming event of your year!

THE SYNODAL
PROCESS

HOW FAR SHOULD CATHOLICS BE ABLE TO GO?

Is there a danger that the Catholic Church's progress towards internal reform, initiated by Pope Francis under the heading of "synodality", could stall? It has certainly been greeted with varying degrees of enthusiasm. Synodality must be rescued from any perception that it is reform for reform's sake, with no higher purpose. There is also a perception in some quarters that virtually all the serious problems encountered by the Church in the modern world have already been dealt with, mainly under the papacy of Pope John Paul II, and there is little left for any new machinery of government to do.

This is not the view taken by the man in charge of the synodal process, Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary general of the Synod office in Rome. Speaking in Oxford last week, he called for an end to the "culture of silence" which has inhibited Catholics from speaking their minds. "The clearest example which comes to everyone's mind," he said, "is the sexual abuse crisis that the Church went through and is still going through. This is not the only instance of a problem in the Church about which we choose to remain silent. What about the general silence concerning the deep divisions within the Catholic Church?"

He mentioned disagreements over the liturgy and over the role of women in the Church, political divisions and why some "want to exclude certain categories from our pews", clearly referring to LGBT Catholics. In a sense, his reply to critics of the synodal process was to say that, far from all the most difficult issues being off the table, everything and anything could be on it. That has to include issues which result from church teaching, such as the exclusion of women from the priesthood. If that is an issue people find is stifling the Church's mission, they must not be told they cannot talk about it.

When bishops have presented the Pope's call for a synodal process to their dioceses, many have tended to emphasise that church doctrine is not up for debate. This is contrary to the direction of travel the process has been taking in Germany, where issues of sexuality and gender have come to the fore - to the dismay of conservative Catholics. Cardinal Grech, while obviously speaking for the Pope in stressing that the synod is not a "revolution", does not share their discomfort. Nor should he. A synodal process that has been neutered in advance will not heal church divisions but make them worse.

It was characteristic of Pope Francis not to present a reform agenda of his own, but to ask the Church at large to discern one for itself. That is an unfamiliar experience for many Catholics. Though some find it threatening, it should with time become liberating. It should not be construed as an assault on episcopal prerogatives. After the successful synod in the archdiocese of Liverpool last year, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon made the telling point that church leaders needed and wanted the wisdom and knowledge of parish clergy and laity in understanding the many perplexing problems they faced. That is an invitation to crack open the culture of silence, and to let the voice of the Holy Spirit be heard.



The Russian invasion of Ukraine has undermined many of the assumed truisms on which international relations have been based since 1945. Nations would not invade other nations unless this was manifestly necessary in self-defence, for instance. In armed conflicts of whatever kind, civilian populations must be protected from harm. Humanitarian assistance must be facilitated. Minority rights must be respected.

The Western democracies are now thinking through what a redrawn geopolitical map might look like if these moral and legal obligations are no longer in place, as appears to be the case in Ukraine. In many ways it is a frightening world. Countries bordering Russia and what it claims as its sphere of influence feel deeply threatened. This has had a dramatic effect on Nato, forging a degree of unity hitherto missing, leading some countries outside Nato to consider joining it, and obliging its members to reassess the share of national resources they apply to defence.

Ukraine's appeal to join Nato has been rebuffed. But the Nato that Russia says it wants to stop Ukraine joining is not the real Nato - a purely defensive alliance - but a fiction of a paranoid imagination convinced that Nato is secretly bent on aggression against Russia. Nato and Russia can still peacefully coexist, if both agree to play by the same set of rules.

A bipolar world, however, with liberal democracies led by the United States on one hand and a Russia-China axis on the other, is an outcome to be avoided if at all possible. A better priority would be one directed at promoting human rights across the globe, regardless of ideology. Experience suggests that democracies are better at protecting such universal rights than autocracies - dictatorships controlled by one person (as in Russia) or one party (as in China). But democracies too are flawed: as Winston Churchill said, "Democracy is the worst form of government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time. Democracies have checks and balances that can correct some abuses of power; dictatorships do not.

A big question mark must now hang over the "globalisation" project - the universal removal of trade barriers to create a planetary free market in goods and services. It is not compatible with economic sanctions against Russia, though it lingers on in Western Europe's reliance on Russian gas and oil. And it presupposes that market forces are neutral or beneficial, and that the introduction of domestic and global free markets would inevitably lead to more political freedom in general. Recent history, especially in China, teaches no such lesson. Nor in its own way does British experience, as the disturbing P&O episode shows. The maximization of shareholder value brings no gain to the common good when the shares are held by rich oil sheikhs, corrupt Russian oligarchs or Chinese sovereign wealth funds.

The defence of human rights is an expression of solidarity; self-determination is an expression of subsidiarity. Love of one's country is a virtue too. These are essential principles which promote the common good of the whole of humanity; a Manichean world divided by a new iron curtain into "good guys" and "bad guys" does not.



**NATO AND
GEOPOLITICS**

DRAWING A NEW MAP OF THE WORLD

2023
ENROLMENTS
NOW OPEN

"Working hard to be the best"



Call 9435 8474 to be part of our next school tour

- Connecting children, learning and families
- Exceptional education within a safe and supportive learning environment

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au
Celebrating 90 years of Education in 2022

'Pondering Grief'

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

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.

Lenten Reflection:

When the priest says "the Body of Christ", we say "amen": but let it be an "amen" that comes from the heart, a committed one. It is Jesus; it is Jesus who saved me; it is Jesus who comes to give me the strength to live. It is Jesus, the living Jesus. But we must not become accustomed: each time as if it were the first Communion.

Pope Francis, Angelus, 23 June 2019

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

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.



Palm Sunday 9 & 10 April



Every day, more than 200 million children miss out on school, around 690 million people hungry and 2.2 billion people cannot access clean drinking water. In recent years, COVID-19 has also devastated vulnerable communities already living in poverty, with the health and economic impacts to reverberate for years to come.

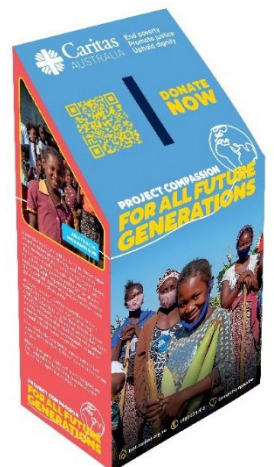
It's through the generous support of people like you, even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, that we are able to continue to help life vulnerable communities out of poverty - support that is needed now more than ever. Thousands of schools and Parishes in Australia have supported Project Compassion over the past year alone.

Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion - past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations.**



Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help continue empowering vulnerable communities around the world lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.

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.



Finding peace in a time of turmoil

By Rachel Kelly

The front line in many readers' minds right now is likely to be that between Russia and Ukraine. And there's nothing happy about it. One clinical psychologist has been struggling so much with the horrors from the East that she has adopted a news blackout. What hope is there for the rest of us, if even a professional in wellbeing has found the only answer is to check out?

We are angry and horrified, sickened by images which pop up unbidden, even as we try and sleep. We are conscious that our own concerns are as nothing. We cannot stop watching the news. But we are fearful too - that we may be overwhelmed by so much suffering. Especially if we have a history of depression or anxiety, as I do. Like so many others, I have been navigating this dilemma over the past weeks. Can I stay present to the reality of the suffering of my fellow humans, while somehow keeping my equilibrium?

One answer to his balancing act has come from *North and South* by the nineteenth-century novelist

Elizabeth Gaskell. "Thinking has, many a time, made me sad, darling; but doing never did in all my life..." she writes. "My precept is, 'Do something, my sister, do good if you can; but, at any rate, do something.'"

Gaskell understands that we may feel powerless to produce results. But we should still act, even if the outcome of our actions may be inconsequential. We can all "do" something. Outwardly, we can donate to the aid campaign; we can protest; we can find a place for a Ukrainian child at a local nursery, as one friend did.



Inwardly, we can resist the pull away from our compassionate natures. We can focus on and energise instead our desire for harmony, through prayer, poetry or meditation. Poems help us bypass the turmoil of our minds and connect with our wisdom; guided meditations help us attune to our kindness.

These actions will help foster peace while allowing the full spectrum of our human experience. Each of us needs to find our own balance between these poles. That might mean that one day we need to switch off the news, especially at the beginning and end of the day when we are more vulnerable, says the psychiatrist Dr James Arkell from London's Nightingale Hospital. Another day, we may be able to connect with a refugee's story and be present to their suffering.

Another psychiatrist, Professor Carmine Pariante of King's College London, told me: "Each of us needs to find the balance that is right for us." That does not make for a happy front line. But it may make for one we can engage with without being plunged into despair.

Rachel Kelly is a mental health advocate and adviser to Compassion Matters, a charity which supports schools, teachers and young people to explore compassion.

Lent Pamphlets

We've just finishing our Lenten period and preparing for the essential core of our faith – Easter. The Montmorency conference of SVDP have some booklets that maybe of interest to parishioners that will assist us in our preparations for Easter. Pamphlets are in the front foyer near the entrance doors. Some of the pamphlets include:

- What is the TRIDIUM
- These 50 Days of Easter
- Mini Mediations for The Easter Season
- Easter and Pentecost Prayers for Seniors
- Lent and Me A Woman's way of the Cross

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 is 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

The Gospel according to Luke:

When he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. Now when he was near Bethphage and Bethany, close by the Mount of Olives as it is called, he sent two of the disciples, telling them, 'Go off to the village opposite, and as you enter it you will find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, "Why are you untying it?" you are to say this, "The Master needs it."' The messengers went off and found everything just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owner said, 'Why are you untying that colt?' and they answered, 'The Master needs it'. So they took the colt to Jesus, and throwing their garments over its back they helped Jesus on to it. As he moved off, people spread their cloaks in the road, and now, as he was approaching the downward slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole group of disciples joyfully began to praise God at the top of their voices for all the miracles they had seen. They cried out: 'Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!' Some Pharisees in the crowd said to him, 'Master, silence your disciples', but he answered, 'I tell you, if these keep silent, the stones will cry out'.



Reflection:

The procession with palms in commemoration of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem (along with other features of our paschal liturgies) can be traced back at least as far as 4th century Jerusalem. Pilgrim flocked to the holy city after the peace of Constantine. One of them was a devout lady, perhaps a Spanish nun, named Egeria. Keen to share her experiences with her circle of friends, she kept a diary of her stay in Jerusalem around 384-385. It contains invaluable descriptions of the liturgies in which she took part.

On Palm Sunday afternoon, she reports, the faithful gathered with palms on the Mount of Olives and processed down to the city to the place of Jesus' resurrection (now the Church of the Holy Sepulchre), chanting on their way. Over 1700 years later, a procession with palms and chants still takes place on this day in churches around the world.

All four gospels contain a great deal of material in between Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his betrayal. They testify to the growing tension that eventually reaches crisis point. This in-between time is ignored by the liturgy, making today's transition from "Hosanna" to "Crucify him" shockingly abrupt. It's reminiscent of what happened in the synagogue in Nazareth where Jesus "won the approval" of his townsfolk only to have them swiftly become enraged and murderous (Lk 4:22-30). In each case, the time frame has been condensed but the trajectory of Jesus' reception truthfully reflected.

Break Open the Word 2022

Prayers of the Faithful for 10 April 2022 - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Leader: In confidence we place our prayers and petition before God.

For those who have power over others: may they continue to work for the good of all humanity, honouring the dignity of each individual and bring peace. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we might hear: may we be attentive to the voice of God speaking in our world and act on God's word. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For a disciple's tongue: in our daily lives may we proclaim our trust and faith in Jesus and speak out against injustice here in Australia and throughout the world. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those suffering because of war: the Ukraine, Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo among others, that their anticipation of a return to peace will not be fruitless. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who must bear the cross each day, especially the homebound, the sick and the terminally ill: that God's presence and strength will sustain them through the challenge of each day. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those still impacted by natural disasters: may the generosity of all ease their burdens and witness to them the love of God. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who have died, including *Kenneth D'Cruz & Adrian McConnell*; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, *Jack Boyd, Maureen Briffa, Don Edmond, Kate Feil, Len & Elsa Lalor and Janet Taylor* may their life of faith and trust in Jesus bring them eternal life. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For families and communities impacted by the pandemic: that hardships faced will be met with resolve, that goodwill will rise and that the pandemic will end. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Father, may the suffering and death of Jesus lighten the burdens of all who suffer. Lead us in the way of the cross, that as we suffer with Jesus, so we may rise to life in his glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen