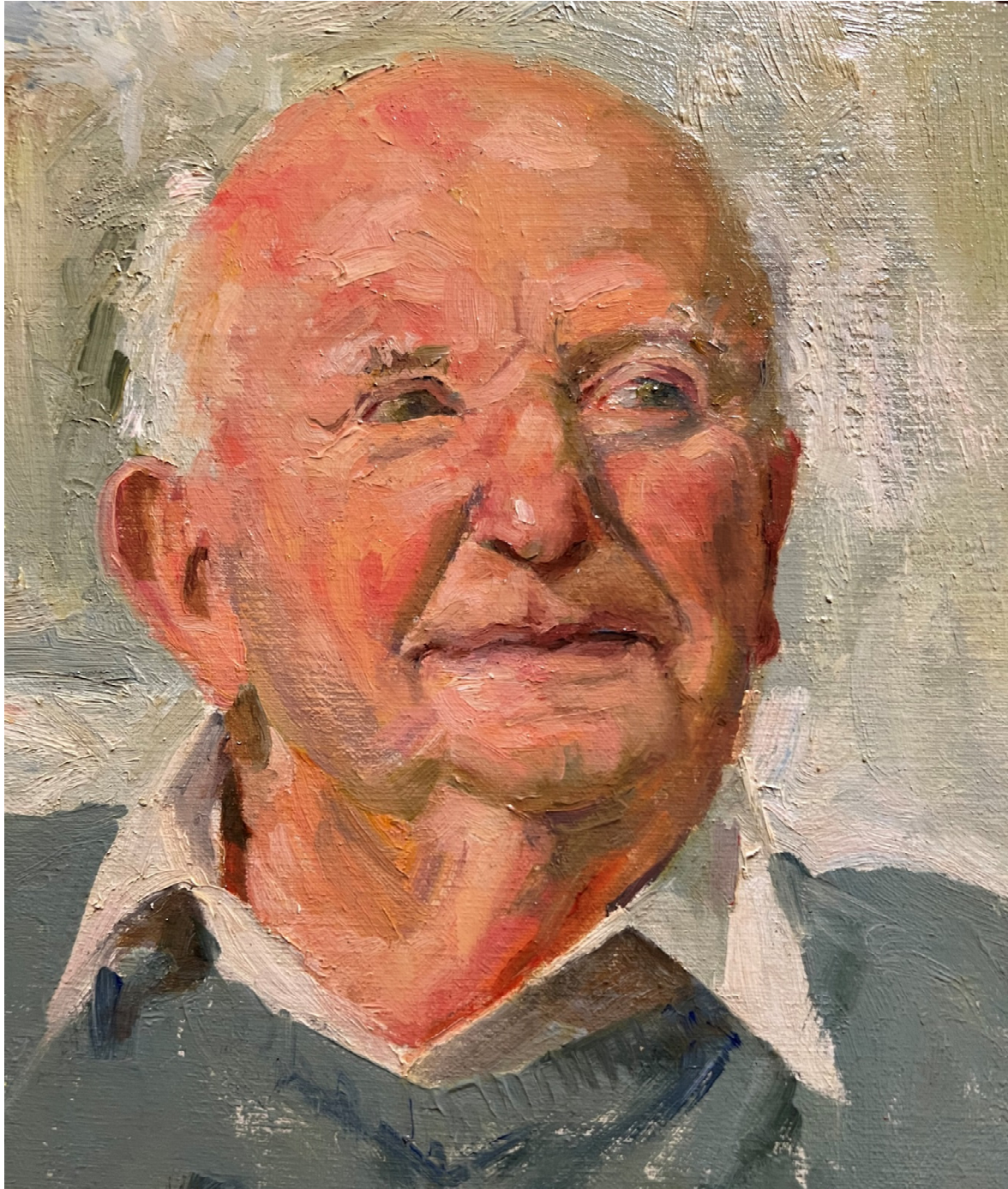


# Monty & Eltham

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.



## Thank You Terry

*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: 1 May 2022

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	\$898.35	\$1,604.00
Presbytery	\$879.20	\$1,164.05
Good Friday Appeal	\$1,000	N/A
Project Compassion	\$4,000 from our parish communities, including a generous donation from SFX Primary School	

## Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

### Saturday 21

12:00pm Baptism - Iris, Jax Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

7:00pm Terry's Farewell Montmorency

### Sunday 22

8:30am Mass & Confirmation Montmorency

10:00am Mass & Confirmations Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Harley, Lilly, Jack, Evie Eltham

### Tuesday 24

9:30am Mass & SFX Year 2 Class Montmorency

### Wednesday 25

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

### Thursday 26

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

### Friday 27

9:30am Mass Eltham

### Saturday 28

12:00pm Baptism - Jack Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

### Sunday 29

8:30am Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

10:00am Mass & Confirmations Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Gia Eltham

### Tuesday 31

9:30am Mass & SFX Year 3 Class Montmorency

### Wednesday 1 June

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

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

### Thursday 2

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

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

### Friday 3

9:30am Mass Eltham

### Saturday 4

12:00pm Baptism - Wade, Dylan, Ruby, Lucy Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

### Sunday 5

8:30am Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Hudson, Flynn, Lennox, Will, Florence, Aurelia Eltham

### Monday 6


6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir Eltham

### Tuesday 7

9:30am Mass & SFX Year 1 Class 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.






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

**Montmorency**

For the recently deceased:

*Ray Bowman*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Valentina Di Benedetto*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

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

**Eltham**

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Violetta, Elisabeth Edwards, Jade McAlear, Fiona Rogers, Rosemary Scully, Ian Sturman, Sarah Thompson*

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



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

**Saturday 21 May**

*St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm*

Jax Barber

Iris Fisher

Baptism

Baptism

*St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm*

Zac Duggan

Madeline Veronie

Emily Ware

Blake Wheeler

Confirmation

Confirmation

Confirmation

Confirmation

**Sunday 22 May**

*St Francis Xavier, 8:30am*

Murray Lister

Confirmation

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

Sienna Evans

Confirmation

Arabella Farebrother

Confirmation

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

Lilly Monaco

Baptism

Evelyn Neale

Baptism

Jack Neale

Baptism

Harley Tahatis

Baptism



**Roster for WEEKEND 21/22 May 2022**

Armstrong, Miranda	Eucharistic Minister
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Bylsma, Zvonka & John	Hospitality OLHC
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Furtado, Denzil	Reader
Haines, Geoff	Commentator
McAlear, Peter & Denise	ASRC
Reardon, Kathy	Eucharistic Minister
Rough Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00
Williams, Peter	W6:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30

**Roster for WEEKEND 28/29 May 2022**

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Costanzo, Brenda	W8:30
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	PRYR
Dopheide, Marlis	Commentator
Haines, Jan-Marie	Eucharistic Minister
Haines, Jan-Marie	Reader
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Leahy, Michelle & Colin	Hospitality OLHC
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Ramsdale, Sue & John	ASRC
Ryan Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Scully, Greg	Eucharistic Minister



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

**Catholic Development Fund – East Melbourne**

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

- Executive Manager, Client Experience

**Parish Positions**

- Parish Secretary, St Mark's Catholic Parish, Fawkner
- Parish Secretary, St Luke's Parish, Lalor
- Parish Secretary, Preston East
- Parish Finance Officer, Nazareth Parish, Grovedale
- Parish Secretary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St Joseph's Parish, Middle Park & Port Melbourne
- Parish Secretary, Our Lady of the Nativity Parish, Essendon West

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

## ZEN IS FULFILLING HIS ROLE AS A CATHOLIC LEADER

Critics of the Vatican's policy of seeking dialogue with Communist China are right to regard the arrest of Cardinal Joseph Zen as a warning of worse to come. The Chinese government regards conformity with its policies as a civic duty and a test of loyalty, a test the 90-year-old cardinal clearly fails. But Zen, Bishop Emeritus of Hong Kong, is not acting outside his competence or authority as a senior Catholic leader. In upholding human rights he is upholding an integral part of the Church's teaching.

It may not suit the Vatican's negotiators with Beijing to say so, however, as a tacit downplaying of the political aspects of the Catholic Church's proper role in any society may have been the price that had to be paid to reach an agreement. The temptation is to accept the demand that the Church should remain in the sanctuary and not "interfere" - as its opponents would describe it - in matters of state.

Yet there are many aspects of life under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) which the Catholic Church has to regard as intolerable, including the suppression of the freedom of belief and worship of Uyghur Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists. Here Cardinal Charles Bo, Archbishop of Yangon in China's neighbour, Myanmar, sets a shining example. But while Bo has had Vatican support, Zen has not. In its treatment of Zen, the central administration of the Church is at risk of seeming to act like a totalitarian regime itself.

Cardinal Zen's actual offence concerns his involvement in efforts to relieve the

lot of those arrested in Hong Kong's pro-democracy street disturbances. The Humanitarian Relief Fund, which he supports, is under police investigation for alleged "collusion with foreign forces", contrary to Chinese law. The Chinese authorities are determined to bring Hong Kong into line with the Chinese mainland's routine suppression of dissent and denial of basic rights.

The Vatican's policy of engagement with Beijing aims to unify a Church in China which had been divided between bishops who have state approval and those that do not, the so-called "underground church". One of this policy's severest critics is Lord Patten, the last governor of Hong Kong, who feels the Vatican has misread the nature of the Beijing regime. The ideology of the CCP, which has hardened under its present leader Xi Jinping, demands total subservience to the party in all matters. There is no room for agencies - whether journalistic, commercial, academic, religious, or anything else - that are independent of party control. In other words, there is no room for what the West calls "civil society". It is significant that in reaching an agreement over the appointment of bishops with the Vatican, the CCP seems to have allowed a chink in the armour of this totalitarian hegemony. The Catholic Church in China now recognized by both the Vatican and the CCP has yet to flex any muscles by criticizing the Communist regime, as both Zen and Bo have done. Arresting Zen serves as a warning to it not to step out of line. But unless it has the freedom to do so, it can hardly be called Catholic.

## CANON LAW WILL NOT BRING THE FAITHFUL BACK TO MASS

When the word “obligation” - referring to the duty on Catholics under Canon Law to attend Mass on Sundays - occurs six times in a statement of the Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, there appears to be a hidden message. At the onset of the Covid pandemic in 2020, the bishops ordered churches to close, though parishes were allowed to stream a solitary priest celebrating Mass. They issued a statement suspending the obligation to attend Sunday Mass until they said otherwise. Which they have now done, applicable from the feast of Pentecost on 5 June. The term comes from Canon 1247: “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass.” The traditional version of this rule used to add “...on pain of mortal sin”, and that seems to be implied by the bishops, though it is not stated,

Two things are odd about this. The first is its contrast to the rest of the language of the bishops’ statement, which refers to an “invitation” to resume Sunday Mass-going and speaks of “a profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass”. “We glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential,” they write. This is not the dead language of legal obligation but the living language of joyous faith. These two ways of describing participation in the Mass do not complement or reinforce each other. Faith sometimes requires the support of a sense of duty, but the obligations that flow from love are not felt more

keenly when they are enforced by law. The Catholic faithful have been returning to Mass, and many Easter congregations were reportedly packed, even with some Covid restrictions still in place. Did they still need to be herded back to Mass? The image the bishops’ statement gives of a typical lay person - a docile robot obeying instructions rather than an autonomous individual guided by an informed conscience - does not reflect most priests’ understanding of the faith of their parishioners.

The second oddity is its lack of attention to the rest of Canon 1247, under the same rubric of “obligation”: “Moreover,” it goes on, “they are to abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord’s day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body.” Under pain of mortal sin? This is not an aspect of the Church’s teaching the bishops appear to have properly considered, despite many of them being canon lawyers. Post-Covid, British society is heading rapidly towards the notion of a seven-day working week, even if larger retail outlets continue to have restricted opening hours. The special character of Sunday urgently needs defending, though perhaps quoting Canon Law is not the best way to go about it. For many workers, especially those pressed into doing two jobs to pay the mounting bills, this is a matter of social justice. A living wage should cover a day of rest. And that really is an obligation.

# CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

*"The important aim in Christian meditation is to allow God's mysterious and silent presence within us to become more and more not only a reality but the reality which gives meaning, shape and purpose to everything we do, everything we are."*

*-John Main-*



**Australian Christian  
Meditation Community**

[www.christianmeditationaustralia.org](http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org)

**World Community  
For Christian Meditation**

[www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)

## **Opening Prayer**

Heavenly Father, open our hearts to the silent presence of the spirit of your Son. Lead us into that mysterious silence where your love is revealed to all who call. Maranatha ... Come, Lord Jesus.

## **How to Meditate**

Sit down. Sit still and upright. Close your eyes lightly. Sit relaxed but alert. Silently, interiorly begin to say a single word. We recommend the prayer-phrase, 'Maranatha'. Recite it as four syllables of equal length. Listen to it as you say it, gently but continuously. Do not think or imagine anything spiritual or otherwise. If thoughts and images come, these are distractions at the time of meditation, so keep returning to simply saying the word. Meditate each morning and evening for between twenty and thirty minutes.

## **Closing Prayer**

May this group be a true spiritual home for the seeker, a friend for the lonely, a guide for the confused.

May those who pray here be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to serve all who come and to receive them as Christ himself. In the silence of this room may all the suffering, violence and confusion of the world encounter the power that will console, renew and uplift the human spirit.

May this silence be a power to open the hearts of men and women to the vision of God, and so to each other, in love and peace, justice and human dignity. May the beauty of the Divine Life fill this group and the hearts of all who pray here with joyful hope.

May all who come here weighed down by the problems of humanity, leave, giving thanks for the wonder of human life. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

## Christian Meditation

From time to time I submit an article about Christian Meditation. I would take this opportunity to explain how I became involved in this form of prayer.

It was July 6th 1995. I know the date for it was the day I became grandmother to twin boys. I approached Father Barry Caldwell and told him I was hungry to deepen my faith. Shortly after, a priest from Pallotti College in Millgrove came to OLHC and spoke of Contemplation. A significant group of parishioners spent a weekend at Pallotti and for me it was a life-changer. I searched for a group who practised Christian Meditation and found St Margaret's in Pitt Street had recently started a group. I joined, and nearly twenty-seven years later I spend time every Saturday morning at 8am, following The World Community For Christian Meditation. The numbers fluctuate between five and ten meditators and four are parishioners of OLHC. It is an ecumenical organisation. We listen to a Laurence Freeman/John Main CD, for about 10 to 15 min and sit in silence for another twenty minutes. We are usually home by about 9am except for our coffee morning once a month.

If you, like I, sometimes think you want to enrich your spiritual journey I highly recommend you give it a go. Details about WCCM are found on the attached flyer (to the right).

The web site is [www.christianmeditationaustralia.org](http://www.christianmeditationaustralia.org)

Bless you, Trish Taylor



### Prayers of the Faithful for 22 May 2022 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Leader:** Lord, we turn our hearts to you in prayer.

The Holy Spirit brings enlightenment clarity and inspiration. We pray for our newly elected government and political leaders. May they work together with vitality and integrity to establish a responsible, just, and inclusive vision for our country on both national and international levels..

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

The glory of the Lord comes from within, without the need for earthly trappings. We pray for the strength to be people of integrity and discernment, always treasuring and nurturing our relationship with God and others.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

:"Whoever loves me will keep my word". May we find the stillness to truly listen to God, to know his ways and to hear his message for us. We pray for all those who struggle to find stillness or peace, those who are suffering illness or anxiety. We pray that God may bring calm and strength.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we all be refreshed and challenged by the coming of the Spirit, facing our challenges with joy and courage. We pray especially for all those from our parish who have received the sacrament of Confirmation this weekend.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For peace. For a willingness to engage in dialogue, to end injustice and violence, to develop peaceful, respectful relationships between nations and people. We remember the people of Ukraine and all those trapped in the violence of war. We remember all those seeking refuge and safety.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, including *Ray Bowman*, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, including *Valentina Di Benedetto*. May the rest in the peace and love of Christ.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** May the Lord's light shine on us bringing enlightenment, enrichment, and peace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

### **Gospel: John 14:23-29**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.



### **Reflection:**

Time and again in John's gospel, someone asks Jesus a seemingly straightforward question only to find that Jesus' reply heads off at a tangent into uncharted territory. Today's reading, from Jesus' farewell discourse, is a case in point. It is his response to Thaddaeus' question, "Lord, what is all this about? Do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?" What follows is an entrée into the intimacy shared by Father, Son and disciple, illuminated by the Holy Spirit. It is a disclosure of love and truth in simple words that are full of encouragement.

Jesus promises a peace "the world cannot give." It will dispel the disciples' fearful anxiety at the prospect of his departure. He tells them where he is going - "to the Father" - and that this will be all for their good. He goes on to say that "The Father is greater than I." How this relates to what Jesus had already told his disciples - "I and the Father are one" (10:30) - isn't immediately clear.

Just beyond the end of this reading, Jesus says "Come now, let us go." The fact that the discourse continues at length suggests that the evangelist has joined two accounts of the evening's conversation together without editing out this stage direction.

In sum, these words of Jesus inspire heartfelt hope. Son and Father, he promises, will make their home in us, the Paraclete will teach us everything, and we will know peace. This is a reading to be proclaimed thoughtfully and prayerfully..

**Break Open the Word 2022**