

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.

All Welcome

An Invitation to all Parishioners and Friends of SFX & OLHC

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Catholic Communities in
MONTMORENCY and ELTHAM, St. Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians,

The Transition Leadership Community invite you to an important 'Parish' meeting on Sunday 14th August at 1pm in the SFX Hall for the community of St Francis Xavier, and on Sunday 28th August at 1pm in the Church Gathering Space at Our Lady Help of Christians.

It is intended that these meetings will go for about an hour and a half and be co-ordinated by Chris Pearson. The reason for this important time together is so that you might explore the following:

- * your experience of being a Catholic - both light and dark areas (good & bad); and
- * your hopes for the future - what might a new active Faith Community look like (hopes & dreams).

On a practical level - it is suggested that as many people as possible might avail themselves of this opportunity to be together and explore important local church issues and the value of your lived experience.

You only need to attend one meeting in the month of August, and it is suggested that the first meeting held at SFX will predominantly be for the MONTMORENCY parish community, while the second meeting to be held at OLHC will predominantly be for the ELTHAM parish community.

However, should one date be preferable than it will be okay to come and participate at either venue.

Please see this message as a personal invitation & opportunity to be involved in a wonderful journey to develop our parishes for the future. A future contemporary Catholic community with your active participation and ministry to all is hopefully our common desire.

Parish Meeting One

St Francis Xavier, Parish Hall
1pm, Sunday 14th August

Parish Meeting Two

Our Lady Help of Christians, Gathering Area
1pm, Sunday 28th August

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
 Tue - 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: 27 June 2022

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	\$302.00	\$1,688.05
Presbytery	\$1,004.15	\$1,138.50

Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
April	\$7,964.46	\$11,281.00	\$19,245.46
May	\$5,768.51	\$11,421.00	\$17,189.51
June	\$6,530.13	\$10,509.05	\$17,039.18

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 9

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 10

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Tuesday 12

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 13

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Thursday 14

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 15

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

6:00pm Small Church Eucharist & Meal Montmorency

Saturday 16

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 17

8:30am Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

Tuesday 19

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion 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

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Saturday 23

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 24

8:30am Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Tuesday 26

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 27

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Thursday 28

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 29

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Support

Montmorency Parish
 by giving with CDFpay

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



Support

Eltham Parish
 by giving with CDFpay

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



INFORMATION FROM KADASIG CEBU

December 16, 2021 a super typhoon hit the Visayas area of the Philippines which includes the island of Cebu where Kadasig is based. This was absolutely devastating & recovery is still continuing.

Then on June 12, 2022 a shocking fire in Cebu City caused over 600 families (45 families of our sister organisation were affected) to lose so much, some everything, again great suffering. Thankfully there was only 1 death, but much suffering.

Just in the last 10 days, in the Province of Barili, the southern area of Cebu which is the major area of our work, typhoid and dengue have developed and the number of those infected is growing. This is a very serious situation, particularly for children. We have just learned that the water outlet was only for plants & animals but the people didn't know! Dengue is around because of the severe rains they have had. The rains have caused our office in Cebu City to be flooded! Hundreds of families have such a lot to deal with at present so please keep them in your prayers.

For further information contact Glenys Gayfer: glenysgayfer71@gmail.com – 0411 196 395



A letter from Suzanne Agius, Liturgical Musician, July 2022

Dear fellow parishioners,

Along with teaching us about patience and adaptability, Covid has taught us a good many other things. Parish life has had to adapt to meet new circumstances, as have we, not only on the individual level but in all other spheres of our lives... at home with our families... in our workplaces... our friendships... Everywhere, it seems.

Through my journey of the past twelve months or so, I have wrestled with several factors which affect my ability to continue operating in the same manner, coming to the much-prayed-over conclusion that I must now step away from leading the music at our Triduum masses and at the large outdoor Christmas Mass.

The parish of Monty *[and now, joined with Eltham also]*, has always been a place of such warm hospitality. It's been my privilege to be part of the Monty parish for the past twenty-two years... raising my family alongside many of you, forming many friendships, serving on the Parish Liturgy Team, instigating the Sunday BBQs on the deck after our *[former]* 10.30am mass on a Sunday; having been so lucky to have had the best priests leading and journeying with us as a community. So many reasons to be grateful!

While I shall continue to lead the music liturgy at weekend masses whenever possible, I cannot continue with the large-scale liturgies any longer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have given their time and their talents over the years to join me in that endeavor *[there are too many to name here]* - the music that these special liturgies require did not happen without the support of many people. In particular, I must name the team that joined me continuously for many years to play at weekend masses - Elisha O'Dowd, Teresa Brown, Colleen Elso, Richard Jupp *[former Pastoral Associate of our parish]*, Gavin Smith and Claire Pasquali. Thank you to Terry Kean and Michael Sierakowski in recent times, for so generously sharing the leadership of these special occasions in the liturgical life of our parish - what a joy to have served with you.

To have shared music and prayer with these gifted people has been life affirming, but more than that, I have received the blessing of their friendship.

To each of you who have been *[and continue to be]* a part of my faith journey, I say a huge 'THANK YOU!' and wish you every blessing, good health and joy into the future.

Christ's peace to you all,

Suzanne

14th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2022
(Terry's Homily from last week)

It is always such a gift to find a welcome. It makes such a difference to be included, to feel an engagement with people, to experience a warmth of friendship, to have enjoyable conversation around the table of food and drink.

I think back on my 15 years at Monty and the marvellous times I have enjoyed hospitality in so many of your homes, appreciating your welcome, generosity and friendship. I think of visits to the Philippines and the community of Filipino people who welcomed us travellers from Australia. They welcomed us into their homes and prepared a feast of fruits and chicken for us. They would only have such food at a time like Christmas. So often we learn about hospitality from the poorest people on earth.

Why talk about hospitality when the Gospel of today is about Jesus sending seventy-two disciples ahead of him to the towns he himself was to visit? He told them he was sending them out like 'lambs among wolves'. In other words, they were to be so vulnerable and at risk. He instructed them to carry no purse, no haversack no sandals. Whatever house they visited, their first words were to be "Peace to this house." They were to eat what was provided for them and they were to cure the sick.

He gave them instruction as to what was to happen if they were not welcomed. He told them to 'go out into the streets and wipe off the dust of your town that clings to our feet.'

What happened? The seventy-two came back rejoicing. They had obviously received a welcome, perhaps not from every household. We don't know this, but they had certainly been welcomed. They had enjoyed the hospitality of the various households of the towns.

So today's Gospel is on the one hand about the ministry of the disciples in their healing the sick and proclaiming the kingdom of God. And it's also about opening oneself to the hospitality of people. It's like Jesus was saying to his disciples, 'travel lightly and accept the hospitality of others'.

Isn't this so true in our own lives, the importance of accepting hospitality? Not abusing it, but gratefully accepting the food and drink of households and the welcome of the people who invite us into their homes.

Hospitality is something we need to think about in the broader context of our world. today. Sadly our Nation has not always provided hospitality. We only have to think of Asylum Seekers, as also in this NAIDOC week of the way our First Australians were treated by the European settlers who came to live here. Yet so many stories are told of the welcome of the Aboriginal people, despite their ill treatment. Perhaps we are learning to walk a different path and the Uluru Statement of the Heart will afford us a real chance to test the hospitality of our Nation, when we come to vote at a referendum on its acceptance.

We only have to think of our Church story where so many people have been excluded and not welcomed to the table of Eucharist. Think of the way our language in the Liturgy is so often non-inclusive. Think of LGBTQI people, would they say they belong to an inclusive welcoming Church? The Second Session of the Plenary Council of Australia will take place this week. We hope and pray that our Church will learn to be more hospitable.

In the meantime, let's look at hospitality in our own lives, once more thanking people who have so generously welcomed us into their lives, their homes and their table of food and drink. We say a profound thanks. Let's also realise when we come to eat and drink at the table of Jesus Christ we are meeting God of hospitality where 'everyone is welcome'.



Two Jesuit priests who were murdered in Mexico last month knew the dangers they faced from criminal gangs who operate with increasing impunity / By Luis Orlando Pérez Jiménez

Crime and compassion

Javier Campos Morales and Joaquín César Mora Salazar, both elderly Jesuit priests, and tourist guide Pedro Palma, were murdered inside the Church of St Francis Xavier in Cerocahui, a small town in the norther state of Chihuahua, on 20 June. Their deaths are only the latest incidents in a deteriorating security situation in Mexico.

The church where the Jesuits died is in the heart of the Sierra Tarahumara mountains, where a mission of the Society of Jesus had been founded in the seventeenth century. Palma had run into the church in fear of his life. When he saw his terrified parishioner, 79-year-old Fr Campos rushed to his aid. Palma was still clasped in his arms when a man know well to the priest entered the church and shot them both. On hearing the shots, Fr Mora, 80, came to their aid. The man shot him too.

When a third Jesuit, named Jesús, arrived at the scene, he realised that he knew the man who had shot his brothers. When he said: "Calm down!" the attacker hesitated. He looked deeply troubled and did not know how to respond. "Is it possible that God will forgive me?" he asked. Jesús answered simply: "Yes." Did the man repent of what he had done? We will never know. What we do know is that something moved within him.

The state prosecutor's office has since identified the suspected murderer as José Noriel Portillo Gil, known as "El Chueco". He was born and grew up among the inhabitants of the region. It is almost certain that he had been baptised in the same church in Cerocahui. He is one of many thousands of Mexicans to have been drawn into violent crime. Organised crime gangs have a firm hold on communities in the Tarahumara mountains, where they are involved in illegal logging, extortion and the harvesting and sale of marijuana and opium poppies. If men do not join the gangs, they run the risk of being "disappeared" and bringing reprisals upon their families.

After the assassin had shot Fr Campos, Fr Mora and Palma, more armed men arrived at the church. Jesús begged: "Do not take the bodies." They ignored him. The three bodies were put in the back of a picup truck and driven away. Three years ago, in 2019, I had eaten Christmas dinner with Fr Campos and Fr Mora, along with other Jesuits and women Religious serving at the mission, where they provided educational services for local Indigenous people. Even then, the priests and the sisters knew they were in serious danger from the drug gangs.

I was asked to celebrate a Eucharist in one of the communities. A family of



PHOTO: CNS/REUTERS

A Mexican soldier guards the church where the two Jesuits were killed

Rarámuris - as the people of the Tarahumara prefer to be called - came with me. On the way to our destination, I noticed that armed men were following us. I became nervous but kept walking. Magdalena, the woman who was accompanying me, said: "Don't worry, Father. These men have been told that you are a priest and that you have come to celebrate Mass." Her words soothed me. Generally, the local people take good care of their missionaries, telling them where to go and when to rest. Fr Joaquín and Fr Javier had made a conscious decision. In spite of the dangers, they would stay, with and beside, the people.

Their commitment might be traced back to 1973, when the newly installed Jesuit Bishop of Tarahumara, José Llaguno, spoke out against the maltreatment, abuse and murder of the Indigenous inflicted by the army and the police under the pretext of Operation Condor, a US-funded joint operation between the Mexican army and police purportedly aimed at destroying the drug industry. Throughout his episcopate, Llaguno, who was known for his affable manner and simplicity, travelled from place to place in his mountainous diocese in a plane that he himself piloted. His theology derived from the Second Vatican Council and the conference of the bishops of Latin America held at Medellín, Colombia in 1968, which saw the emergence of a distinctly Latin American "theology of liberation". In 1979, Llaguno participated in the third conference of Latin American bishops, in Puebla, Mexico, at which the inculturation of the Gospel among indigenous communities and the preferential option for the poor were reaffirmed.

This was a time when the winds of Vatican II began to blow across the whole continent. Many of the religious orders

and institutes renewed their missions to bring work for social justice and evangelisation together. In Tarahumara, Bishop Llaguno supported the founding of the Committee for Solidarity and Defence of Human Rights. Another vital project for the Rarámuri people was the Santa Teresita Clinic in Creel, founded by Luís Verplancken SJ in 1964. When it was built, more than 75 per cent of children were dying from malnutrition, tuberculosis or respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses, due to lack of medicines. Almost five decades later, the hospital is one of the key institutions serving the local population.

"Why did they take away the bodies?" I have been asked. It's a deliberate tactic used by organised crime gangs with the connivance of the authorities, designed to strike terror and tighten social control over local people. Hundreds of mothers in Mexico are still searching for more than 100,000 disappeared people; 52,000 bodies and sets of human remains remain under the guard of the state, without being identified. This task is impossible to complete without international aid; Mexico has neither the technology nor sufficient personnel.

Two days after their murder, the local police found the bodies of Fr Javier, Fr Joaquín and Pedro Palma. However, two other men who were kidnapped and taken alive that day are yet to be found. I am convinced that the blood shed by my brother Jesuits will be a source of light for the people they loved and served, and for whom they gave their lives.

Luis Orlands Pérez Jiménez SJ is a doctoral research student at University College London Institute of the Americas. He has wide experience of work in the field of human rights in Latin America.



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:
Adrian Jones (1 year anniversary)
Montagna Mustica (1 year anniversary)

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane, Alana Foulds,
Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Melanie Lam,
Frances McDonald, Andrew Pighin, Aguatha Spina,
Melina Tenaglia, John Tobin

Eltham

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Jill Brophy

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.

Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 9/10 July 2022

Armstrong, Miranda	Eucharistic Minister
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Furtado, Lorraine	Commentator
Hannon, Kevin & Genni	ASRC
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Nolan, Kathleen & Mike	Hospitality OLHC
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Reardon, Kathy	Eucharistic Minister
Rigg Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Scully, Greg	Reader
Scully, Helen	Altar Society

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 16/17 July 2022

Armstrong, Miranda	Hospitality OLHC
Davidson, John	PRYR
Dopheide, Marlis	Hospitality OLHC
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Furtado, Denzil	Reader
Haines, Geoff	Commentator
Rough Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Scully, Greg	Eucharistic Minister
Scully, Helen	Eucharistic Minister
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00
Williams, Peter	W6:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 9 July

St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm
 Maggie Blake
 Madelyn McPhee

First Eucharist
 First Eucharist

Sunday 10 July

St Francis Xavier, 12 noon
 Xander Peters

Baptism

Days for Girls is a project where sewers, ironers, folders & packers put together reusable menstrual kits.

The kits are in a lovely cotton bag; inside there are 2 shields, 6 pads, soap, 2 pairs of knickers & a face washer. These are packed into a 'travel bag' which is reusable & waterproof. It is all so user-friendly for the girls/ladies & enables life to continue at all times.

There is a great deal of time & expertise involved in doing these well. Our chapter has been recognised as 'gold standard'. That is because of the skills of the group.

Currently we have 350 completed kits and are looking for financial support to ship these in balikbayan boxes to our communities. Sexual & life information is given prior to the distribution which is extremely helpful & important. Each box costs \$120, a tax deductible receipt is available. Any assistance would be appreciated.

Our monthly meetings to make these kits takes place in the school hall of St Francis Xavier, Montmorency. The group is very committed to improving the life of women in Cebu - the country where we have excellent contacts.

For further information contact: Glenys Gayfer: 0411 196 395 or Vinka Heagerty: 0418 345 954 - call or send a message.



Prayers of the Faithful for 10 July 2022 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Lord of mercy and love, as you take us to the heart of your infinite love, we bring these prayers before you.

For the Church: that we may follow Christ, the head of the Church, more closely and continue his mission of reconciling others to both God and one another.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish community: that our deeds of compassion and loving service may be signs of God's presence and action in the world.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our children who are celebrating the Sacrament of First Eucharist this weekend: that they may continually be aware of God's presence in their daily lives.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For personal insight: that God will help us recognise our neighbour in the refugee, the homeless person, and the marginalized of society and inspire in us a compassionate response to their daily needs.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For peace in our world: we pray for the people of Ukraine, as we lament the violence that has come to their country. We ask for comfort for those who mourn, hope for those who despair and compassion for all who suffer. We plead for an end to violence and aggression in our world.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For healing of racism: that we may be instruments of reconciliation, working for justice and promoting the advancement and healing of all who have suffered prejudice or discrimination.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are sick and those who are listed in our bulletin. May they experience the healing touch of Christ.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died recently. We also remember *Jill Brophy, Adrian Jones & Montagna Mustica* whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of life, hear the prayers we have spoken and those held deep within our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Richard Rohr & Pope Francis

Yesterday I read an article about Richard Rohr and his audience with Pope Francis.

The Pope was lavish with his praise of Richard's books and his ministry in New Mexico: *Center for Action and Contemplation*.

He asked him to continue with his good works; a far cry from our Australian church some years ago now.

In our library there are 10 of his books and a book of CDs. [If they are all on the shelf.]

I will place them on the top shelf this week for easy access, and tell you that I believe he is a modern-day prophet.

Kind Regards, Trish Taylor

DIAKO AGHEE'S "BAGEL CAFE" IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

You will know Diako as our dedicated Sunday barista at OLHC. Dedicated, gentle, aiming to please, Diako serves us with a smile and delicious coffee.

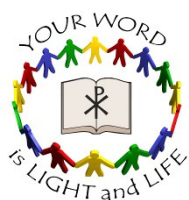
You will also remember Diako as our adult Baptism candidate at the Easter dawn mass this year. Diako came to Australia as a Kurdish refugee over 20 years ago. From the age of seventeen, he was a tortured political prisoner in Iran for 4 years, and in that time dissociated himself from his muslim faith.

Two years ago he accompanied his cousin to Our Lady's Church, and had an epiphany. He knew immediately that this was the place for him. For this reason, he is in the process of officially adding "Paul" as his middle name. Their stories have many similarities. It is a humbling, uplifting experience to walk beside him on this faith journey.

Last week, Diako opened his "**BAGEL CAFE**" at **46 Jacksons Court, Doncaster**. It is early days, but he is excited. Parishioners have been visiting, and he asks for feedback and advice. But **DO NOT** let him give you a free meal!!!! (which is what he tries to do).

We wish him well, and you are encouraged to visit the cafe and spread the word. He is our Easter gift to our parish, and a beautiful man.

Miranda and Marlis



Small Church Community

Small Church Community members will celebrate gathering again with Eucharist and meal on **Friday evening, 15th July at 6pm**. If you would like to join us, call **Patsy: 0429 439 675**

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus, 'do this and life is yours.'

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said, "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him,' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go and do the same yourself.'



Reflection:

When a rich young man asked Jesus what he must do to gain eternal life, Jesus replied with a list of commandments (Mt 19:16-19, Mk 10:17-20). Today he answers the lawyer's question more succinctly. The way to eternal life is whole-hearted love of God and neighbour. Taking the love of God for granted, the lawyer asks about love of neighbour.

Jesus' story-in-reply is universally known as the parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus had every reason to view the phrase "good Samaritan" as a contradiction in terms. He had just been refused hospitality by Samaritan villagers because he was a Jew heading to Jerusalem (9:52-53). Now he tells a story highlighting the compassion a Samaritan showed to a victim of violent thieves.

Jesus' Jewish audience may not have been surprised at the refusal of the priest and Levite to render assistance to the victim. This would have rendered them ritually impure and unable to fulfil their responsibilities. What would have shocked them was the possibility of a Samaritan - an enemy - showing such care. Viewed this way, Jesus' original intent may not have been to stir his listeners' conscience about tending the needy, but to challenge their ingrained hostility towards Samaritans.

The gospel thus throws up three questions. Do we love God unreservedly? Do we harbor hateful prejudice? Do we give prompt and practical help to those in trouble? For all its familiarity, this gospel deserves to be read with lively animation.

Break Open the Word 2022

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic voices on...

The Catholic Social Justice Principle of Subsidiarity teaches us that all peoples have the right to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Subsidiarity requires that decisions be made by the people closest and most affected by the issues and concerns of the community. Your support of our voices on important issues helps to make Subsidiarity a reality.

It is important to note that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples are made up of a diversity of Language Groups and each possesses unique experiences and points of view. *Please take time to talk with your Traditional Custodians.*

Visit <http://natsicc.org.au/first-nations-voices-on.html> and navigate to 'First Nations Voices on ...' to gain a Catholic Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspective on:

4. Australia Day 2022 - Reflect. Respect. Celebrate. Do.

Australia Day is complicated for many First Australians, and we have a long way to go before all Australians feel comfortable celebrating Australia Day on January 26, or indeed at all. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples feel that moving the date would be a starting point for creating a new dialogue and platform for Reconciliation.

Our 2022 Australia Day Statement reflects upon the National theme - **Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.**, but calls upon Australians to turn their words into action with the addition of **Do.**

(excerpts taken from: www.natsicc.org.au/assets/natsicc_a4-booklet_digital)