31 July 2022

# 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.

# July - August - September

Dear Parishioners and Friends of SFX & OLHC,

On your behalf and mine, I wish to thank Fr. Terry for his pastoral ministry to our communities during the month of July, and his support to all those families and students who celebrated their First Holy Communions during the past month. Naturally, I know that Terry loved the opportunity to be back home among us, and took this time to catch up with many families over these past 5 weeks. Thus, for our parishes of MONTMORENCY and ELTHAM, it has been a 'win-win' situation. Thanks Terry.

And can I take this opportunity to also thank the wonderful 'Team' of parishioners who just naturally stepped up to help and coordinate these masses during my absence and who publicly supported Terry at each church service. The very cold month of July meant that our hospitality was extended to having the heater's on that bit earlier - for your comfort and care!

So, a special thanks to Kate and the team of volunteers who helped make everything run smoothly in the past month.

In the past week: the opening of Federal Parliament was impressive with all the ceremonies and cultural activities and speeches that hopefully announced a new and more inclusive era of Government for all. Obviously, there are some huge hurdles that the Australian community faces like the big rise in the cost of living - wages growth, health care and services to the many people that are now disadvantaged. And on the world scale: the terrible war in Ukraine continues, and the military pressure of China in our region threatens to flex their muscles. Sri Lanka looks desperate for world aid, and many African countries are in desperate need of food for their people. Let alone the terrible 'fires' and unseasonal heat that moved across much of Europe & America.

Unfortunately the coronavirus, locally and as a world pandemic, has continued to fluctuate widely and caused us all to rethink our full participation in activities and social life. We all need to be vigilant and supportive of each other at this ongoing sensitive time in our life. Social distancing and wearing masks and hand sanitising are still best practice in many settings, so as to slow the spread of COVID-19 among our community. Please - in your daily encounters with others, just be aware and sensitive to people that you meet.

On the sporting front: the start of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham will be a wonderful distraction for the next two weeks and we wish all athletes and competitors the very best. Some AFL matches in the past weeks have been truly wonderful football to watch - close and tough encounters, even a draw! Let's not mention the NRL dilemmas to our north nor the fantastic State of Origin Games between Queensland and New South Wales.

The month of August is looming and so to are our important Parish meetings regarding our future, to which you are all invited, & finally a diary date for the month of September: **FIESTA NOVENTA**, celebrating 90 years of Catholic Education in MONTMORENCY (Friday 9th. September) - see the advertisement in this weekend's bulletin.

So much happening... see you soon, *Michael* 

P.S. don't be surprised if you see me on TV this weekend rubbing shoulders with the Prime Minister and the New American Ambassador to Australia at the GARMA Festival of Traditional Cultures in northern Arnhem Land. While I'm up here... I might as well!

This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community. For more information visit <u>pol.org.au/eltham</u> or <u>pol.org.au/montmorency</u>. The support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivo

We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.

# PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION



**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: <u>eltham@cam.org.au</u>

#### **Schools**

<u>St Francis Xavier Primary School</u> <u>Principal:</u> Philip Cachia: 9435 8474 <u>principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au</u> <u>www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au</u>

<u>Holy Trinity Primary School</u> <u>Principal:</u> Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888 <u>principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au</u> <u>www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au</u>

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: 24 July 2022

	OLH	C		SFX		
Thanksgiving	ş \$446.	00	9	\$2,131.00		
Presbytery	\$784.	65		\$973.20		
	Stewardsh	ip Offering				
Month	OLHC	SFX		Total		
April	\$7,964.46	\$11,28	1.00	\$19,245.46		
May	\$5,768.51	\$11,42	1.00	\$17,189.51		

\$10,509.05

\$17,039.18

\$6,530.13

# **Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events**

Saturda		<u>JI LIVCIIUS</u>			
	-	Montra on on or			
-	Mass & First Eucharists	Montmorency			
Sunday	-	Montmononau			
8:30am 10:00am	Mass & First Eucharist Mass	Montmorency Eltham			
	<i>J</i> <b>2 August</b>	Etthum			
9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion	Montmoronav			
		Montmorency			
10:00am	1	Eltham			
11:00am	5	EIIIIaiii			
Wednes	00	M			
6:30am	Meditation	Montmorency			
9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion	Eltham			
	ASRC Food Collection	Montmorency			
1:00pm	Small Church Community	Montmorency			
7:30pm	Small Church Community	Montmorency			
Thursdo					
9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion	Montmorency			
11:00am	Funeral: Dorina Tomazic	Montmorency			
Friday 5	5				
9:30am	Mass	Eltham			
Saturda	y 6				
12:00pm	Baptisms: Hope, Eva, Lily, Sascha, Bla	irMontmorency			
1:00pm	Baptisms: Sloane, Alessi, Artis	Montmorency			
6:00pm	Mass	Montmorency			
Sunday	7				
8:30am	Mass	Montmorency			
10:00am	Mass & First Eucharist	Eltham			
12:00pm	Baptisms: Harrison, Maxwell, Mila, Emilia, Macie, Eliza	Eltham			
Monday		2			
7:00pm	Confirmation Formation Evening	Montmorency			
Tuesday	-	1,1011011010100			
9:30am	Mass	Montmorency			
7:30pm	Small Church Community	Montmorency			
Wednes	2	Wolldhorency			
6:30am	Meditation	Montmorency			
-	Liturgy of the Word with Communion	Eltham			
9:30am		Montmorency			
10:30am <b>Thursdo</b>		wontinorency			
	-	M			
9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion	-			
2:30pm	Mass Calvary Lower Plenty	y Garden views			
Friday 1		51.1			
9:30am	Mass	Eltham			
Saturda					
-	Baptisms: Emma, Lily	Montmorency			
-	Mass & First Eucharists	Montmorency			
Sunday 14					
8:30am	Mass	Montmorency			
10:00am		Eltham			
monaay	15 - Feast of the Assumption				



June

#### The Joy of Not Counting:



For Father Richard, Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) is a shining example of someone who "practiced the better." Instead of relying on judgment and criticism, Francis understood the power of simply living a better way:

God gave St. Francis to history in the pivotal period when Western civilisation began to move into rationality, functionality, consumerism, and perpetual war. Francis was himself a soldier, and the son of a cloth merchant; he came from the culture he critiqued, and he challenged these emerging systems at the beginning of their now eight centuries of world dominance. Rather than fighting the systems directly and risk becoming their mirror image, Francis just did things differently. He is the inspiration for this core principle of the Center for Action and Contemplation: *The best criticism of the bad is the practice of the better*.

As theologian Adolf Holl (1930-2020) observed, Francis was born as people started measuring time by clocks instead of church bells. When Christian leaders started counting, Francis stopped counting. He moved from the common economy of merit to the wondrous economy of grace, where God does not do any counting, but only gives unreservedly.

As Europe began to centralise and organise everything at high levels of control, Francis said, like a diving trickster, "Who cares?!" When Roman Catholicism under Pope Innocent III (1160/61-1216) reached heights of papal and worldly power, Francis answered, "There is another way that is much better!" When we began a style of production and consumption that would eventually ravage planet Earth, he decided to love Mother Earth and live simply and barefoot upon her. And Francis did it all with a "perfect joy" that comes from letting go of the ego.

Francis didn't bother questioning Church doctrines and dogmas. He just took the imitation of Christ seriously and tried to live the way that Jesus lived. In *The Legend of Perugia*, one of the earliest accounts about Francis, he reminds the first friars that they only know as much as they *do*. His emphasis on action, practice, and lifestyle was foundational and revolutionary for its time and is at the root of Franciscan alternative orthodoxy. Francis and Clare fell in love with the humanity and humility of Jesus. For them, Jesus was someone actually to imitate and not just to worship as divine.

The early Franciscan friars and Poor Clares wanted to be *gospel practitioners* instead of merely "word police", "inspectors", or "museum curators" as Pope Francis calls some clergy. Both Francis and Clare offered their rules as a *forma vitae*, or form of life. They saw orthopraxy (correct practice) as a necessary parallel, and maybe even precedent, to verbal orthodoxy (correct teaching). History has shown that many Christians never get to the practical implications of their beliefs. "Why aren't you *doing* what you say you believe?" the prophet invariably asks. As the popular paraphrase of a line from Francis's Rule goes, "Preach the gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."

www.cac.org/daily-meditations/the-joy-of-not-counting-2022-07-10

#### **God Is the Beloved:**



This week's Daily Meditations feature writings of twentieth-century women mystics. Each one shares her experience of God as unconditional and unsurpassed love from her unique background. Father Richard Rohr believes this is true for all mystics:

People who know God well - mystics, hermits, those who risk everything to find God - always meet a love, not a dictator. God is never found as an abusive father or a tyrannical mother; God is always a lover greater than we dared hope for. How different from the "account manager" most people seem to worship. God is the lover who receives and forgives everything.

When we go into the Presence, we find someone not against us, but someone who is definitely *for* us! Mystics recognise someone else is holding them. People who pray always say, "Someone is for me more than I am for myself." Prayer is being loved at a deep, sweet level. I hope everyone has felt such intimacy alone with God. I promise it is available to all. Maybe a lot of us just need to be told that this is what we should expect and seek. We're afraid to ask for it; we're afraid to seek. It feels presumptuous. We can't trust that such a love exists. But it does.

Father Richard has found great inspiration over the past several years in the writings of Jewish mystic Etty Hillesum (1914-1943). In her letters from the Westerbork transit camp, Hillesum describes the solace she finds in God's continual presence:

You have made me so rich, oh God, please let me share out Your beauty with open hands. My life has become an uninterrupted dialogue with You, oh God, one great dialogue. Sometimes when I stand in some corner of the camp, my feet planted on Your earth, my eyes raised toward Your heaven, tears sometimes run down my face, tears of deep emotion and gratitude. At night, too, when I lie in my bed and rest in You, oh God, tears of gratitude run down my face, and that is my prayer. I have been terribly tired for several days, but that too will pass. Things come and go in a deeper rhythm, and people must be taught to listen; it is the most important thing we have to learn in this life. I am not challenging You, oh God, my life is one great dialogue with You. I may never become the great artist I would really like to be, but I am already secure in You, God. Sometimes I try my hand at turning out small profundities and uncertain short stories, but I always end up with just one single word: God. And that says everything, and there is no need for anything more. And all my creative powers are translated into inner dialogues with You. The beat of my heart has grown deeper, more active, and yet more peaceful, and it is as if I were all the time storing up inner riches.

www.cac.org/daily-meditations/god-is-the-beloved-2022-07-17

## <u>Terry's Homily from Last Week:</u> <u>17<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2022</u>

We've had so much rain recently up north in our Country. Floods have shattered the lives of so many people. We think of them in our prayer today.

During this last week I read about the 2011 floods in Brisbane that destroyed some twenty thousand homes across the city. Thirty- three people died and three people are still missing.

Volunteers to help with the clean up came from everywhere. Brisbane City council expected maybe six thousand volunteers if they were lucky. Some twenty-five thousand rolled up their sleeves, got themselves covered in mud and grit and grime and became known as the Mud Army.

Author Trent Dalton has written about this and remembers joining a group of thirty strangers who formed a human chain, and were up to their necks in toxic, sewerage floodwater, passing antiques and photo albums and jewelry boxes from one raised pair of hands to another.

It was an extraordinary story and it made me think, and maybe you too, if a flood or fire were to devastate our own homes, what would we want passed along a human chain in rescue? What is most precious to us? Maybe it is a photo album, or a memento some very significant person in our life has given us. What would it be?

Put this alongside today's Gospel where Jesus says:

'Ask and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

What is most precious to us in our lives? How would we answer the question from Jesus: 'what are you asking for, what are you seeking, what door would you like opened to you?'

Would it be true to say that we would answer these questions very differently during the course of our lives? As a child we would probably ask for some possession, a toy, a bike, a game. How many of us have taken children or grandchildren to see Father Christmas to find out what this child wants for Christmas?

As we grow older maybe most precious to us is a healthy bank account, s successful career, a house we own, opportunities to travel. Or maybe even more so, to meet the right partner, loving a partner, having children and becoming a loving family.

Or maybe its about being well and enjoying a healthy life. Maybe it's about finding a peace where we are very much at home within ourselves. Maybe it's about having a compassionate heart where we care for people, even strangers who need our support and love. Like those volunteers who turned up to clean up Brisbane City and became known as the Mud Army.

Maybe it's about finding forgiveness for someone or something that pains us from our past. Maybe it's about finding a quiet, a silence, where we become more grateful and aware of life around us, where we notice the beauty of a sunset or the warmth of the touch of a dear friend.

In our earlier years of life we may have put more value on things and possessions. As we grow older for most of us it's more about relationship, or more about deepening the gifts of the spirit, love, gratitude, generosity, awareness, wisdom.

Whatever it is, how about we take up the invitation of Christ Jesus to ask, search and knock. In our prayer we are invited to do this, trusting that God will respond to us, will find us in our searching and will open the door to us. What door do we most want to open right now?



## <u>Terry's Homily from This Week:</u> <u>18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2022</u>

Do you have a favorite poet? Many of you know that Mary Oliver is my favorite poet and let me share one of her poems with you. Probably not the best time of year to share it, given that its Winter and this poem talks about a sun that warms you. However here it is:

"Have you ever seen anything in your life, more wonderful than the way the sun every evening, relaxed and easy floats towards the horizon

And in the clouds or the hills or the rumpled sea and is gone – and how it slides again out of the darkness, every morning on the other side of the world like a red flower

Streaming upward on its heavenly oils, say on a morning in early summer, at its perfect imperial distance-

And have you ever felt for anything such wild love-

Do you think there is anywhere, in any language, a word billowing enough for the pleasure that fills you, as the sun reaches out as it warms you as you stand there, empty -handed

-or have you too turned from this world- or have you too gone crazy for power, for things?"

Mary Oliver has such a wonderful way of calling on us to see. In another poem she says, "and you too have come into this world to do this, to go easy, to be filled with light and to shine."

Put her poems alongside the Gospel story for today and what do we find? Jesus told the story of the rich man who had a bumper crop and wondered what he would do. Pull down the old barns and build bigger ones so that he would have plenty in storage for many years to come.

Did he thank God, creator God, for the gift of the harvest, for nature providing him with plenty, for the sun and the rain that nurtured his crop? Seemingly not.

Did he think of how he could share some of his wealth with others, particularly with people who had little to eat, with people who had no storage barns? Well, seemingly not. He wanted to build bigger barns.

Did his plan work out where he had plenty for many years to come? Certainly not, for he died that very night and his plans came to nothing.

And God called him a fool because he just didn't get it. He had become too absorbed in himself.

Yes, the rich man died suddenly. Yet, in a way, he had already died. He was buried in his own possessions. His world was unrelated to the fortune or fate of any other person. He could only see his own mirror and he wouldn't see beyond. His possessions had taken over his life, and even if he had lived many more years, would he have enjoyed his life and would he have shared it with others? Probably not, unless he had a conversion. Likelihood is, he would have built even bigger barns, he would have become even more isolated and he still wouldn't have seen the sun in its rising and its setting.

Food for thought for all of us. Are we in any way like the rich man? Most of us will probably say, we're not rich. True, but then again, have we too many possessions not knowing where to store them? Are we too worried about making sure that our income will be enough for us to live on for many years to come. When is the last time we have watched the sun rising or setting and, empty handed, felt a wildness of love and filled with light, we shine?





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

#### Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Dorina Tomazic

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Sr Sabine de Croos, Francis Nelson, Michael Perera, Millicent Perera, Yanthi Perera, Patrick Pinghe, Andrew Watson

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

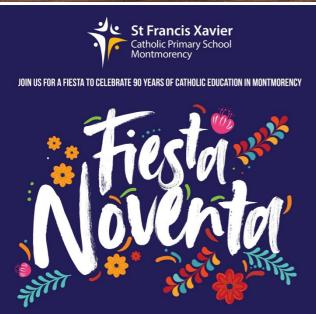
#### Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time: Kathleen Joss

For those in need of healing, remembering especially: Violetta, Elisabeth Edwards, Jade McAlear, Fiona Rogers, Rosemary Scully, Ian Sturman, James Sutton, Sarah Thompson

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office 9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au.



# **FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER** 5.30рм - 8.30рм

FREE RIDES • FOOD TRUCKS • KIDS KARAOKE • DJ PHIL • FACE PAINTING • FIREWORKS ANNIVERSARY PHOTO WALL+ LIVE MUSIC WITH GARY EASTWOOD & BAND + SPECIAL GUESTS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TRYBOOKING.COM/CBKUY



A GATHERING OF THE SFX PAST AND PRESENT SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND A NIGHT TO REMEMBER



# Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

## Saturday 30 July

St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm Luke Bell Noah Broadbent Flynn Chandler Emma Dargan Balin Fitzpatrick Darcy Rooks

First Eucharist First Eucharist First Eucharist First Eucharist First Eucharist **First Eucharist** 

## Sunday 31 July

St Francis Xavier, 8:30am Noah Graham

First Eucharist

**DO YOU FEEL LIKE BEING CALLED TO SERVE?** The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. COME & SEE!

An Information Session about the Permanent Diaconate will be held on Saturday 3 September 2022, 10:00 - 11.45 at the Catholic Theological College (CTC), East Melbourne.

For more information: A new Vocations website for the Archdiocese is now available: www.vocationsmelbourne.org. In addition, the links below are a source of additional information.

Watch: Melbourne's Deacons https://voutu.be/g2RhNDbtTS0

Watch: Pope Francis' 2020 Prayer Intention for Deacons



https://voutu.be/NuG99HD1LaY

**Read More:** https://www.cam1.org.au/permanent-diaconate

**Contact:** Office of the Permanent Diaconate (Phone) 03 9412 3357 (Email) diaconate@cam.org.au

Take a break from Melbourne's cold winter and gather together with young people from across Melbourne for a night of prayer, live music, food and fun.



## Prayers of the Faithful for 31 July 2022 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Let us turn to our heavenly Father, confident that our prayers will be heard.

Let us pray for all those who have forsaken worldly riches in order to lead a radical life in the service of the Lord. Sustain them in the gift of themselves.

Let us pray to the Lord. I

## ord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for our political leaders who work to realise the common good. May they prioritise the most vulnerable of our community.

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

Let us pray for those who serve in hospitality, in tourism, for those who challenge us with their views. May they always respect the dignity of the human person.

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

Let us pray for the aged. May their wisdom assist the young to look to the future with hope. Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those receiving the Eucharist for the first time, that this special occasion will encourage them to continue in their faith journey.

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

Let us pray for those who are ill, especially those listed in the Bulletin, and for all in our community who may be suffering physically or mentally. May they experience the healing power of God's love.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for those who have died recently, especially *Dorina Tomazic*, and for those whose anniversaries occur at that time, *Sr Sabine de Croos, Kathleen Joss, Francis Nelson, Michael Perera, Millicent Perera, Yanthi Perera, Patrick Pinghe & Andrew Watson*. May they rest peacefully in the light of God's face. *Let us pray to the Lord*. **Lord, hear our prayer**.

# **Leader:** God our Father, may you who reveal to us the richness of your love and your kindness answer all our prayers. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## All: Amen

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 30/31 July 2022		Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 6/7 Aug 2022	
Bylsma, Zvonka & John	Hospitality OLHC	Agius, Suzanne	M6:00
Dunell, Linda	Eucharistic Minister	Croft, Pat & Mike	Hospitality OLH
	W6:00	Donnellan, Denice	Eucharistic Minis
Emslie, Maureen		Dopheide, Marlis	Eucharistic Minis
Frediani, Gabriella	Altar Society	Furtado, Denzil	Reader
Iliffe, Yvonne	Eucharistic Minister	Furtado, Lorraine	Commentator
Jones, Marion	W6:00	Hannon, Kevin & Genni	ASRC
Love, Philip	W8:30	Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Nolan, Kathleen	Reader	Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR	McKinley, Michael	W8:30
	ASDC	Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Ramsdale, Sue & John	ASRC	Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Scannell Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue	Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30	Scully, Helen	Altar Society
Taylor, Trish	Commentator	Stewart Family	Pilgrim Rosary Sta

#### Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "this is what I will do; I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But god said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'



### **Reflection:**

The only reading from Ecclesiastes for a Sunday or a feast day is today's melancholic lament. That means we never hear his remedy for the pointlessness of life: "there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and enjoy themselves" (NRSV 8:15). Earlier in the book he describes riches, property and their enjoyment as "a gift from God" (5:18). In complete contrast to his advice that the good things of earthly life are to be made the most of, Jesus derides this as folly in today's gospel. What matters is to make oneself "rich in the sight of God."

Today's story is but one example of Luke's concern to alert his readers to the peril of possessions. True wealth lies in the goods of the kingdom - mercy, compassion and joy. Jesus brings a new perspective to bear on the goods of this world. He sets them within the horizon of a God who can be addressed as "Father" and who provides our "daily bread," as we heard in last Sunday's gospel.

What may seem an excessive negativity to worldly goods in Luke's gospel is more than offset by the attention he pays to God's lavish love. This is a love that is made manifest time and again in the meals Jesus shares with all and sundry, now ritualized in the table fellowship of the eucharist.

This is a lively gospel text. The opening exchange between Jesus and an aggrieved bystander leads to an engaging story, albeit with a sting in its tail. It invites an energetic proclamation.

### **Break Open the Word 2022**

