

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.

Four invitations in the month of October



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

This Marion month of October has started and once again you are invited to gather together for the 'second' and most important part of our planning as two parishes consider their future.

The Transition Leadership Community request your presence to participate in these open parish meetings - ELTHAM (first this time) to be held on **Sunday October 16th**, starting at 1pm in the church gathering space. MONTMORENCY will be held on Sunday October 30th, starting at 1pm in the parish/school hall - behind the church.

Please note with these gatherings, the invitation to participate in Eltham and Montmorency is *exclusively* for that community. The story of Eltham is unique to Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Community and very different from that story at St Francis Xavier in Montmorency.

No crossing over is important for these upcoming meetings.

So, if you identify as a Monty Parishioner then you have one opportunity to participate in the St. Francis Xavier Faith Story on Sunday October 30th, and likewise if you identify as an Eltham Parishioner then the gathering at Our Lady Help of Christians happens on Sunday 16th.



Our next 2 invitations are to be present at the Cathedral in Melbourne.

On Sunday October 23rd we have 92 students for our combined schools Confirmation in St Patrick's Cathedral starting at 2:30pm (mainly students in year 6 this year) with the support of our Regional Bishop Terry Curtin and our local Bishop Terry Kean - this will hopefully be an amazing experience for parishioners, families, relatives and friends to celebrate and be together for this important sacrament.

This Thursday (13 October) at St Patrick's Cathedral starting at 10:30am is the Funeral Mass for Bishop Hilton Deakin. He was well known for his ministry to the Aboriginal and East Timorese communities during his life and a good friend to many of us in our local parish settings. A great stirrer and storyteller - sadly missed.

4 invitations to be apart of this busy month of October and certainly apart of local history!



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: 2 October 2022

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	\$562.00	\$1,704.50
Presbytery	\$731.40	\$703.55

Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
July	\$6,285.38	\$10,092.00	\$16,377.38
August	\$6,835.24	\$9,642.00	\$16,477.24
September	\$6,357.04	\$10,827	\$17,184.04

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 8 - Life, Marriage & Family Sunday

12:00pm Baptisms: Angus, Coco, Cleo Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency

Sunday 9 - Life, Marriage & Family Sunday

8:30am Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist Eltham

Tuesday 11

9:30am Mass (SFX Yr 3 Class) Montmorency

10:10am Rosary Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 12

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Thursday 13

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am Funeral: Bishop Hilton Deakin St Patrick's Cathedral

Friday 14

9:30am Mass Eltham

6:00pm CLC Yr 12 Graduation & Dinner

Saturday 15

12:00pm Baptisms: Douglas & Nathan Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 16

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Louis Eltham

1:00pm TLC Parish Meeting: Eltham Eltham

Tuesday 18

9:30am Mass (SFX Yr 5 Class) Montmorency

10:10am Rosary Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 19

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 Rosary Eltham

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 20

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 21

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 22 - World Mission Sunday

12:00pm Baptisms: Angus Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency

Sunday 23 - World Mission Sunday

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist Eltham

2:30pm Confirmation Mass St Patrick's Cathedral

Tuesday 25

9:30am Mass (SFX Prep 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 safely 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 safely 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 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, Agnatha Spina, Melina Tenaglia

Eltham

For the recently deceased:
Robert Fletcher, Daniel Stevenson
 For those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Dorothy Luke (1st anniversary)
 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.



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 8 October

St Francis Xavier, 12:00 pm
 Cleo Anne Giffening Baptism
 Angus Thomas Toscano Kitney Baptism
 Coco Brucie Swindon Baptism

St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm
 Hayden Arthur Bailey First Eucharist
 Imogen Eve Demunck First Eucharist
 Nixon Hendrikus Dikranis First Eucharist
 Violet Eve Kamolins First Eucharist
 Ella Grace Sommerville First Eucharist

Sunday 9 October

St Francis Xavier, 8:30am
 Madeleine Rose Thorpe First Eucharist

Our Lady Help of Christians, 10:00am
 Julia Collins First Eucharist
 Madison Judith Cooper First Eucharist
 Isla Gunn First Eucharist
 Ruby June Robson First Eucharist
 Mabel Mae Verde First Eucharist



Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 8/9 Oct 2022

Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Croft, Mike	H10:00
Croft, Pat	H10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	C10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Hannon, Kevin & Genni	ASRC
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Leahy, Michelle	R10:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Rodriguez, Carlos	W6:00
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	ASE
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Wood, Marie	W8:30
Zavadil Family	PRSE

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 15/16 Oct 2022

Armstrong, Miranda	C10:00
Costanzo, Brenda	W8:30
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Dhanasen Family	PRSE
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	R10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Kotz, Sharron	E10:00
Milwain, Gianna	ASE
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Taylor, Colin	H10:00
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR
Williams, Peter	W6:00

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham; C10:00 = Commentator @ 10am Mass
 E10:00 = Euch. Minister @ 10am Mass; H10:00 = Hospitality 10am Mass
 PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;
 W8:30 = Minister of the Word @ 8:30am Mass;
 W6:00 = Minister of the Word @ 6pm Mass;
 R10:00 = Reader @ 10am Mass

Transition Leadership Community responses from the 14th & 28th August Montmorency & Eltham Meetings

*What has been your experience of being Catholic? - **THE DARK**, presented today. Next week: **OUR DREAMS**.*

- ◆ Cover up/blind eye to scandalous, criminal behaviour – x6
- ◆ Stigma in being ‘Catholic’ in today’s world due to sexual abuse etc – x6
- ◆ Conservatism in the hierarchy and currently, a regression towards pre-Vat 11 by some clergy – x6
- ◆ Exclusion of some people to have meaningful participation – women, divorcees, LGBTIQ communities (See ** below)
- ◆ No significant female roles in church – x6
- ◆ Lack of humility of church hierarchy for past serious transgressions– x6
- ◆ Anger and frustration
- ◆ Hurt and lack of growth
- ◆ Hate change
- ◆ George Pell
- ◆ Sex abuse
- ◆ Lack of participation of women
- ◆ Covid lockdowns etc
- ◆ Not enough vision
- ◆ History of hurt inflicted in all form – cover up
- ◆ Bishops’ disregard for laity calls – x2
- ◆ Involvement of women – x2
- ◆ Conflict on wider implications of Vatican 11
- ◆ Lack of lay participation in leadership
- ◆ Public humiliation of scandals and perception that everyone was guilty - Clericalism
- ◆ Decline in number of priests/laity and young people
- ◆ Poorly handled sex abuse issues – x6
- ◆ Poor church attendance – fewer families/young – x4
- ◆ Church not listening to people eg Plenary Council/Bishops – x5
- ◆ Power trips – clergy and laity
- ◆ Male dominated church – inequality – x4
- ◆ Lacking humility – not listening
- ◆ Covid – x6
- ◆ Sexual abuse – x6
- ◆ Lack of welcoming – ‘Exclusive’ club – x6
- ◆ Hierarchy – x6
- ◆ Lack of roles for women – x6
- ◆ Declining numbers – x6
- ◆ Sense of loss – due to declining numbers and groups abandoned – x6
- ◆ Lack of youth involvement – generational? – x6
- ◆ Lack of co-operation between church and schools (Parish) – x6
- ◆ Loss of youth groups in the Church
- ◆ Patriarchal – denial of women’s role in the Church
- ◆ Mechanisms for faith to grow and develop after early sacraments – non existent
- ◆ Refusal to acknowledge abuse in the Church
- ◆ School /Parish engagement (eg servers)
- ◆ Lack of engagement during covid
- ◆ Liturgy too staid for children
- ◆ Guilt driven
- ◆ Abuse – sexual and mental
- ◆ Stigma of sexual abuse
- ◆ Absence of young people in the Church – x3
- ◆ Power imbalance – clergy have too much to say
- ◆ Male domination
- ◆ Top-down decision-making
- ◆ Inflexible
- ◆ Lack of consideration for women in Church
- ◆ Meaningful = equal involvement
- ◆ Resistance to change
- ◆ No pathways for young people in many churches
- ◆ Introduction/“importation” of leaders
- ◆ Priests from OS who have difficulty relating (language wise) and community wise
- ◆ Falling numbers post-covid and generally pre-covid
- ◆ Since covid, a feeling of disconnection from Church/community - x6
- ◆ Disempowerment of women - x6
- ◆ In general, a feeling of exclusion of groups like LGBTIQ communities ** divorced people – x6
- ◆ Still poor response by hierarchy re child abuse/scandal – x6
- ◆ Where are our youth/young families? – x6
- ◆ Idea that Catholics were better – x2
- ◆ Struggle to understand church teachings
- ◆ No women clergy – x4
- ◆ Lack of ability for priests to marry – x4
- ◆ Movement of priest in order to cover up pedophilia – x6
- ◆ Family planning – interference of Church – x4
- ◆ Failure to engage the last two generations - x6
- ◆ Catholic guilt – x8
- ◆ We sing ‘All are Welcome’ but are they? – x6
- ◆ Feeling of guilt – x2
- ◆ No Masses on Days of Holy Obligation – x2
- ◆ Exclusive, not inclusive Church – x6
- ◆ No parish council, no pastoral care group - x6
- ◆ Hierarchy still dominant (Control) – x5
- ◆ Lack of deacons (men and women) – x6
- ◆ Abuse and cover up – x6
- ◆ Declining numbers – clergy, congregations & youth – x6
- ◆ Rigid hierarchy especially at HQ – x6
- ◆ Resistance to change – x6
- ◆ Male dominated – x6
- ◆ Numbers of members declining – youth! – x6
- ◆ Child abuse & cover up - x6
- ◆ More involvement from laity – ie us – x6
- ◆ Be more inclusive of marginalized people – x6
- ◆ Lack of priests – x6
- ◆ Bishops have the final say – x6
- ◆ Sex abuse scandal – x6
- ◆ Sex abuse cover up – x6
- ◆ Judgemental attitudes and non-acceptance of diversity of life choices – eg divorce, LGBTIQ+ - x6
- ◆ Church and priests who are not being respected – x6
- ◆ Too much control and lack of listening by Church hierarchy – x6
- ◆ Lack of influence from women (to be heard) – x6
- ◆ A crumbling, dying church as we know it – x6
- ◆ Sexual abuse – Eltham (under the carpet) – x6
- ◆ Church isn’t perfect – x6
- ◆ Lack of consultation – x6
- ◆ No altar servers – x4
- ◆ Clericalism – x6

The Marion Month of October

At **Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham**, we will be praying the Rosary for October on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm, starting this coming Wednesday 5th. All welcome.

At **St Francis Xavier, Montmorency**, each Tuesday in the church, a group of us gather to say the Rosary after the 9:30am Mass, starting at approximately 10:10am. If you have 20 minutes to spare once a week, and feel like joining us, you are most welcome. In reciting the Rosary we keep in mind to honour, and be filled with gratitude for the gifts Our Lady spreads throughout the world. Through the month of October, we will be praying for peace in the world.

Accept, O Mother of Christ, this cry laden with the sufferings of all individual human beings, laden with the sufferings of whole societies. Let there be revealed, once more, in the history of the world your infinite power of merciful Love.

May it put a stop to evil. May it transform consciences. May your Immaculate Heart reveal for all the Light of Hope.



2022 Annual Fundraising Dinner



SAVE THE DATE SAT 15 OCT



2022 FUNDRAISING DINNER
ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL HALL, MONTMORENCY

After 3 long years, we are back fundraising for our Sponsorship Families & Livelihood Projects in Cebu. We are excited to announce that our dinner will be catered for by Elena's Paella. We can't wait to have a great night, and fill our bellies with a chicken & chorizo paella, that will be made onsite on the day (with a vegetarian option available for our veg guests).

Please support this fundraiser to help many. The focus of our dinner will be raising money for the construction of septic toilets for as many families as possible - but you will have to attend on the night to see what fun we have in store for this theme.

Early Bird Ticket Sales open August 15 - \$50 per ticket. Ticket will include an entree grazing plate on each table, Elena's Paella and something small & sweet for dessert. After Sep 15, tickets will be full price - \$60 per ticket

For more information please contact
Glenys Gayfer
0411 196 395 or email papel-imports@bigpond.com

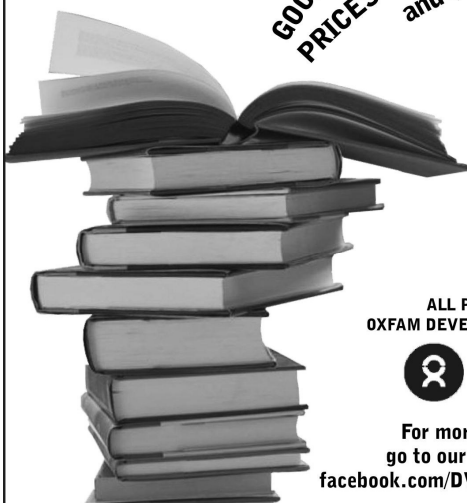


**Oxfam
Diamond
Valley**

BOOK FAIR

Saturday 22 October
8am - 5pm

GOOD QUALITY SECONDHAND BOOKS
PRICES mostly \$3 for adults
and \$1.50 for children



**Eltham Senior
Citizens Centre**

**Library Place
903-907 Main Rd
Eltham**

*Masks preferred

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OXFAM DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



OXFAM
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go to our FaceBook page
facebook.com/DVoxfamBookfairEltham

Prayers of the Faithful for 9 October 2022 Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: With the faith of the ten lepers, let us bring our needs before the God of our salvation.

We pray for Christian leaders everywhere, in particular, Pope Francis, Archbishop Comensoli and our own parish leader, Fr Michael. Strengthen them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and help them to serve your people.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all peoples from the ends of the earth, especially those who have been exposed to your word, that they welcome it whole-heartedly and with great joy, and follow closely in Jesus' footsteps and proclaim his love.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Paul reminds us that carrying the Good News of Jesus Christ may involve hardship, possibly even ridicule, from friends and even family. We, the followers of Christ, are called to participate in the Paschal mystery. May our words and actions proclaim Jesus' words.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those countries where leprosy is still a scourge. Sustain those who are suffering and their carers and family. We must also ask ourselves who are the lepers in our society? People are still marginalized and treated as if they had leprosy. May we recognise and assist the marginalized in our society.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the students of St Francis Xavier, Holy Trinity and Our Lady Help of Christians Primary Schools and Catholic Ladies College, as they begin Term 4. May they grow in knowledge, in friendship and above all, in love of you, Lord.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the women of Iran. May the overwhelming support of the international community strengthen their resolve to pursue human dignity.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those receiving their First Eucharist this week that they and their families grow in their understanding of Jesus' love for them.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick in our parish, especially those mentioned in our bulletin. May the healing touch of God's love restore them to fullness of life.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died recently, including *Robert Fletcher & Daniel Stevenson*, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time, including *Dorothy Luke*. May they experience the certainty of Jesus' resurrection.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God, the font of all life, may we never cease to thank you for the gift of faith. Hear these prayers and help us to bear living witness to the salvation you continually offer us. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Melbourne Catholic News:

Late last month, [Bishop Hilton Deakin](#) died peacefully at the age 89. In anticipation of the Pontifical Requiem Mass to be celebrated for him next Thursday 13 October at St Patrick's Cathedral, we remember a man of God who shared his many gifts by serving the Church and broader community in a wide variety of roles, and by befriending and speaking boldly on behalf of those who struggle on the margins. He is particularly remembered for his work with Aboriginal communities, the people of East Timor and various migrant communities within the Church.

In response to recent events at the Essendon Football Club, [Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has released a statement](#) sharing his thoughts, including his concerns about the implications of these developments for people of faith. He has also expanded on this in an [opinion piece](#) published earlier today in the *Herald Sun*, observing that 'We cannot claim to be inclusive if we stir up polarisation between sectors of the community, because in our Nation and, I hope, our State, every person, and every community, matters.'

On Sunday 2 October, the Mandarin-speaking [Chinese Catholic Community of Melbourne celebrated a historic milestone](#): the dedication of their first church, Our Lady of China Catholic Church. The fruit of many years' longing, collaboration and fundraising, their new church will provide a spiritual home for Chinese Catholics for many years to come. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli performed the dedication and offered the community words of encouragement, speaking of the great gift they are to the tapestry of Melbourne's faith community.

During October, we celebrate not only the gift of the Rosary but also the feast day of Pope John Paul II, a great advocate of the Rosary. This week we take a look at three important messages from his encyclical *Rosarium Virginiae Mariae*, and [how praying the Rosary can be beautiful and formative expression of discipleship](#).

October is also World Mission Month, [and Catholic Mission have shared some of the life-changing work](#) they're doing with and for the Church in Ethiopia, from skills-training to religious formation, creating a much brighter future for those in need.

Bishop Deakin, who as a boy sang in the cathedral choir, called St Patrick's Cathedral 'one of the glories of Melbourne'—a source of incredible beauty and a place of peaceful prayer in the centre of our city. On Thursday 27 October—in this year of anniversaries—we [celebrate the 125th anniversary of the consecration of this sacred space](#).

In the lead-up to this momentous occasion, we take another look at some of the great works of art that adorn the cathedral and some of its most important architectural features. [From the Ladye Chapel to the bells to the beautiful stained glass windows](#), we revisit some of our stories about this glorious architectural gift to the people of Melbourne.

www.melbournecatholic.org/news



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

WE LIVE – OR DIE – BY THE UNCERTAINTY PRINCIPLE

Vladimir Putin seems intent on using the threat of nuclear attack to bend Ukraine's allies to his will, by frightening them into halting economic sanctions and ceasing to supply weapons and ammunition. This may be a sign of desperation in Moscow as the conflict with Ukraine looks increasingly like a military defeat. Western governments have seemed relaxed about these threats, partly out of confidence that the doctrine known as MAD - mutually assured destruction - still holds, and partly because Western strategists cannot see how the use of nuclear weapons, even so-called low-yield ones, would help Russia. Making a desert and calling it peace, to adapt Tacitus, could hardly be called a victory. Especially as the desert would be radioactive.

Russia is trying to generate uncertainty. It is not trying to convince the West that it will use nuclear weapons, but to implant the suspicion that it might. The issue of uncertainty is crucial to nuclear strategy on both sides. It dictates moves that are designed to throw an opponent off balance, to cause them to hesitate at a key moment, making the calculation of risk more difficult. Russia has a major advantage over Ukraine simply by its possession of nuclear weapons; this is the main reason why Nato does not want to be involved as a participant.

The theory of nuclear uncertainty was developed by the late Sir Michael Quinlan when he was the United Kingdom's Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Defence. As he later put it in a BBC interview defending Britain's possession of nuclear weapons:

"The important thing is not whether we think we're likely to use [them] - it's whether a possible adversary reckons he can assume that we won't." To be convincing, Quinlan said, requires that a nuclear deterrent be kept ready for use, including giving a possible opponent reasons to believe it might actually be used.

Quinlan, Jesuit-educated and a former chair of The Tablet Trust which owns this journal, was admired for the subtlety of his thinking and his clarity in expressing it. He persuaded the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales not to join its Scottish colleagues in demanding Britain abandon the Trident nuclear weapons system. Advocates of this course on moral grounds, notably the late Bruce Kent, who was Quinlan's close friend, argued that if an action was immoral to perform, it was immoral to intend to perform it. But what if the intent was to create uncertainty on the part of one's opponent? Was that still morally prohibited? Quinlan thought not, at least not automatically.

So Russia's moving nuclear weapons close to Ukraine's border, as has apparently happened, has the same intent as US President Biden's reply when asked how the US would respond if Russia was to use tactical nuclear weapons: "It'll be consequential ... Depending on the extent of what they do will determine what response would occur." Both are exercises in uncertainty, in Quinlan's sense. That is how the nuclear chess game is played. But praying for a stalemate would be good too.

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, 'Jesus! Master! Take pity on us.' When he saw them he said, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, 'Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner.' And he said to the man, 'Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you.'

Reflection:

It's possible that Luke had a fascination with the number ten. The woman who went searching for a lost coin had ten to start with (15:8). In the parable of the nobleman, he gives ten pounds each to ten of his slaves for them to trade with (19:13). The earlier story of one leper being healed (5:12-14) is outdone by today's report of ten.

Luke takes care to remind his readers that Jesus was "on the way to Jerusalem," but the addition of "along the border between Samaria and Galilee" doesn't pinpoint a location. The phrase suggests a "no man's land," even if there were no active hostilities in play. It would be just the place to find ostracized lepers.

The Samaritan labored under a double disadvantage, being both an unclean leper and a reviled foreigner, but he becomes doubly blessed. He's cured of his leprosy and praised for his faith. It's not clear whether the faith Jesus was referring to was a prior faith that made the leper's healing possible, or a new faith that saved him more profoundly.

At one level the story seems to be about the importance of gratitude. At another, like the parable of the good Samaritan, it challenges ingrained prejudice against those deemed "other". Being widely known, the story needs to be proclaimed with fresh energy.

Break Open the Word 2022