

# 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.

### - Three invitations in the month of October -

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

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 in these parish meetings -

**ELTHAM** to be held Sunday October 16th, starting time 1pm in the church.

**MONTMORENCY** will be held on Sunday October 30th.



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.

### A general invitation to be present at the Cathedral in Melbourne next Sunday October 23

We have 103 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 this important sacrament.

### **THREE invitations to be a part of local history!**

#### BALI BOMBING ANNIVERSARY - 20 YEARS ON

*History shows that: Truth and Love always conquers Evil. ( Gandhi )*

At that time, terrorists deliberately targeting 'westerners' blew up two packed nightclubs around 11pm on 12th October 2002, 202 innocent people died - 88 Australians, and hundreds of victims suffered serious injuries that are scars today, while many thousands of people and families & communities were deeply traumatised by what happened on that warm night. The cowardly acts of these terrorists could not match their victims courage to knit together many countries and talented people to respond.

Australia and Indonesia are more united today through this tragedy, and we continue to applaud the courage of civilians, local and international people who immediately responded on the ground at that time, without any concern for themselves or the unfolding active drama.

Our thoughts and prayers for the wonderful medical responders and all people affected by this nightmare.

**As the flood waters here in Victoria cause havoc on our roads — please travel safely.**

*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

Tue - 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: 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 15

12:00pm Baptisms: Douglas & Nathan

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist

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 Baptism: Angus

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

### Sunday 23 - World Mission Sunday

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists

Eltham

2:30pm Confirmation Mass

St Patrick's Cathedral

### Tuesday 25

9:30am Mass (SFX Prep Class)

Montmorency

10:10am Rosary

Montmorency

### Wednesday 26

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

7:30pm Rosary

Eltham

### Thursday 27

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

### Friday 28

9:30am Mass

Eltham

### Saturday 29

12:00pm Baptisms: Siena, Lana, Oscar

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

### Sunday 30

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Louis

Eltham

1:00pm TLC Parish Meeting: Eltham

Eltham

### Tuesday 1 November

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

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.





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

### Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

*Michael Hehir*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Sylvia Bergamo, Kevin Boyd,  
Joe McKinley, Madge Warrillow*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane, Alana Foulds,  
Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Melanie Lam, Lita Lee,  
Frances McDonald, Cindy Morrissey, Andrew Pighin,  
Aguatha Spina, Melina Tenaglia*

### Eltham

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](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au).



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

### Saturday 15 October

*St Francis Xavier, 12:00 pm*

Douglas Paul Kerkham

Baptism

Nathan Vinnie Kerkham

Baptism

*St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm*

Sienna Ruby Cassai

First Eucharist

### Sunday 16 October

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

Luca Charlie Cifone

First Eucharist

Alyssa Evans

First Eucharist

Matteo Alberto Farebrother

First Eucharist

Sienna Frances Kamvissis

First Eucharist

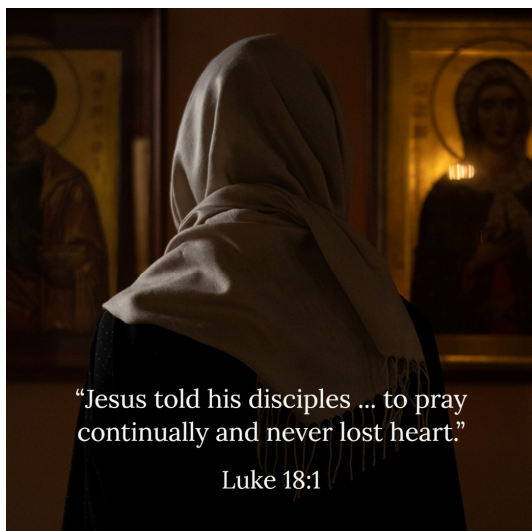
Ava-Rose Muscara

First Eucharist

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

Louis James Tabacco

Baptism



"Jesus told his disciples ... to pray continually and never lost heart."

Luke 18:1

### Roster for THIS 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

### Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 22/23 Oct 2022

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Davidson, John	W8:30
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Frediani, Gabriella	ASE
French, Jossie	W8:30
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Leahy Family	PRSE
McAlear, Peter	ASRC
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Scully, Greg	C10:00
Scully, Greg	H10:00
Scully, Helen	H10:00
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

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

*If you were free to **DREAM** of the future of your faith community, what might it look like?*

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Inclusion of all sections of community – x6</li> <li>* Equality for WOMEN – x6</li> <li>* Less clericalism – there is need for laity to be accepted to fulfill the roles that assist the priest – x6</li> <li>* Social Justice commitment of the whole parish – x6</li> <li>* Promotion of Youth-led liturgy (not necessarily in the church) – x6</li> <li>* Special children’s participation</li> <li>* Healing of community who have been affected by scandal</li> <br/> <li>* Together</li> <li>* New parish centre of hospitality</li> <li>* Teams of leadership</li> <li>* Full-on involvement</li> <li>* School – youth – Aged care links</li> <li>* A positive, happy, proud Church</li> <li>* Life giving</li> <li>* Risen experience of Jesus in Montmorency</li> <br/> <li>* Vibrant, welcoming liturgies – x4</li> <li>* Advertising our big celebrations – x3</li> <li>* Recognition of diverse beliefs across community interacting with others – x4</li> <li>* Ecumenical liturgies + meditation – small home groups – x4</li> <li>* Less judgmental</li> <li>* Strong social action programs – x5</li> <li>* Educational programs to deepen and widen beliefs – x5</li> <li>* Female dreams for female clergy – x4</li> <li>* Strong engagement of all generations – x4</li> <li>* We sing ‘All are Welcome’ but are they?</li> <br/> <li>* More community engagement; outreach programs – x5</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Greater involvement of parish community in roles and work of the parish – x6</li> <li>* Respond to the changing times – x6</li> <li>* Married deacons – men and women – x6</li> <li>* Liturgies for bereavement support group etc – x6</li> <br/> <li>* Personal faith enrichment – x6</li> <li>* Inclusion of all – x6</li> <li>* Lay involvement – x6</li> <li>* Equal representation for women in every church role – x6</li> <li>* Outreaching church of action – social justice – x4</li> <li>* Choice for priests (male and female) to marry – x6</li> <li>* Welcoming community at local levels - x6</li> <li>* Communication – no secrets – x6</li> <br/> <li>* Adequate clergy (deacons) – married/female – x3</li> <li>* A more relational church – smaller communities with communities/gospel centred</li> <li>* More inclusive/more trusting eg LGBTIQ+ communities#</li> <li>* Attracting younger families to join the faith community</li> <li>* Stronger school/parish connections</li> <br/> <li>* People saying, “Hello” &gt; Welcome</li> <li>* Child returning</li> <li>* Breaking down silos</li> <li>* Young participation in the Mass</li> <li>* More clergy (male and female) and married</li> <li>* Catholic church attended by Catholic School teachers</li> <li>* Varied music at Mass</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Opening up sacramental ministry for women</li> <li>* Better resourcing to match need</li> <li>* Existence of local parishes in East and North-East Melbourne</li> <li>* Greater connection between school and parish</li> <li>* Multi-faith engagement</li> <li>* More ‘Australian’ Church</li> <br/> <li>* Equality for women</li> <li>* Cultural and Ethnic inclusion</li> <li>* Laity led Church</li> <li>* Married priest/“leaders”</li> <li>* Parish debt under control</li> <li>* Mixed generational Church</li> <li>* Explore creative ways to include young and youth</li> <li>* Access to the Eucharist – plans in place</li> <li>* Better communication in times of need – e.g. during covid</li> <li>* Opportunities to see/experience Mass – Screen time ‘a la covid’ – to be continued</li> <li>* Locally and universally continued focus on under privileged</li> <li>* Continued focus on social justice</li> <br/> <li>* Inclusion of all</li> <li>* Open to change</li> <li>* Lay involvement</li> <li>* Sharing of talents</li> <li>* Young people!!!</li> <br/> <li>* Hope and direction towards a new Church story</li> <li>* Karl Rahner: “If the church of the future isn’t contemplative, it won’t exist”</li> <li>* Thriving an inviting younger active Catholics</li> <li>* Old Church gives way to the new</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Church in its time (Spirit-led)</li> <li>* Prepare to evolve: to dialogue, listening, being open to the new</li> <br/> <li>* Getting more young people involved in the Church – x6</li> <li>* Bible study groups – x6</li> <li>* Acceptance and respect of all – x6</li> <li>* Women and married priests</li> <li>* Deacons (men and women) – x4</li> <li>* Greater lay involvement – x4</li> <br/> <li>* Allow married priests – x7</li> <li>* Allow women priests</li> <li>* Keep Christianity relevant</li> <li>* Openness to communication</li> <li>* Mindful sermons</li> <li>* Encouraging youth</li> <li>* For our Church to continue to grow</li> <br/> <li>* Pastoral Associate – x6</li> <li>* Closer connection to schools – x6</li> <li>* Include wider community – x6</li> <li>* Ecumenical spirit – x6</li> <li>* Opportunities for everyone to be involved – x6</li> <li>* Small group communities – x6</li> <li>* To involve our youth – creative liturgies – x6</li> </ul> |
|--|---|--|--|

# The LGBTIQ+ acronym stands for **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, asexual and other sexually or gender diverse people.**

There is not one LGBTIQ+ community. Even though we may refer to it as a singular term, the LGBTIQ+ community is a highly diverse group of individuals from many different backgrounds with distinct histories and experiences. On that note, it is best to use the term “*LGBTIQ+ communities*” as there are many different communities within this umbrella term. (The Equality Project developed the Australian LGBTIQ@A+ Policy Guide 2020).

# The listening Church

“If the Church is not synodal,” Pope Francis has said, “it is not the Church.” And this month, the process that is reviving the spirit of Vatican II reaches a turning point / **By Christopher Lamb**

**Tuesday 11 October 2022** marked 60 years since the opening of the Second Vatican Council, an event that reshaped the Catholic Church, giving it a deeper self-understanding and an outward-facing missionary focus. The anniversary comes as the Church is pushing ahead with an unprecedented synodal process, widely seen as one of the most significant fruits of the Council. Later this month, the synod embarks on the next phase of its journey with the publication of a document that will give a glimpse into the “sense of the faithful” in the early twenty-first century.

The synod has been the greatest consultation effort in human history, an extraordinary attempt to listen to the voices of the world’s 1.36 billion Catholics - nearly one in five of all living persons. It is the first phase of the synod “for a more synodal church,” which was opened by Pope Francis in October 2021. The new document marks a vital halfway stage in the preparations for the October 2023 synod gathering in Rome, which will be the climax of the two-year process.

Like the Second Vatican Council, this “synod on synodality” aims to leave the life of the Church permanently changed. Its underlying vision reflects that of the Council: that the Church, as the People of God, lay people in communion with the priests and bishops, seeks to listen to the Holy Spirit as it forges its mission to the world. This model of a more synodal Church - focusing on discernment, listening and on including ordinary believers in ministry and decision-making - might come to be seen as the lasting legacy of the Francis pontificate.

**The local** phase of the synod saw an explosion of reports and material. Of the 114 bishops’ conferences, 112 submitted reports, as did religious orders, around 150 lay groups, and the separate dicasteries of the Roman Curia. There were also about 1,000 submissions from individuals and other groups. Although participation has been patchy across different countries and dioceses, it seems that roughly 8-10 per cent of massgoing Catholics engaged in the process. In the United States, 700,000 took part; in Spain it was around 200,000; in France, 150,000; in England and



PHOTO: CNS, PAUL HARING

The Pope started the synodal process a year ago

Wales, 30,000. While some have played down the numbers who have directly participated in the listening process, they are without any obvious precedent in a Catholic context.

Several themes have consistently emerged from the reports. In local churches across the globe, Catholics are calling for a more inclusive Church, for women to have more visible leadership roles, for a very different power dynamic between priests and laypeople, and for new ways to be found to connect with younger generations. They want to see the model of a more synodal Church put into action. Writing in *A Pocket Companion to Synodality: Voices from Africa*, Leonida Katunge, a Sister of St Joseph and advocate at the High Court of Kenya, put it this way: “The Church in Africa needs to discern through listening and creating space for the guidance of the Holy Spirit at all levels of the Church.”

Like the Council, the process has had to overcome apathy, and even active resistance, from some quarters. Cardinal Mario Grech, the leader of the synod office in Rome, told the Catholic Partnership Summit sponsored by Leadership Roundtable in Washington DC last month that he knew some bishops had “serious concerns” about where the synodal process will lead the Church. There is fear in the hierarchy that the synod could lead to conflict and for

discipline - and even doctrine - to veer out of control. The German synodal pathway - which is calling for the ordination of women, a re-examination of sexual teaching and an overhaul of how power is exercised in the Church - has come under particularly heavy criticism.

The Swiss Cardinal Kurt Koch, who leads the Holy See’s Christian Unity office, recently made the explosive accusation that the German synod had twisted the teaching of Scripture just as the so-called “German Christians” had made accommodations with Nazi ideology in the 1930s. He later apologised, but it was a sign of how anxious and fearful some in Rome have become about the German Church. The synod process also looks set to disappoint those Catholics impatient for swift changes on contested topics such as the ordination of women. Francis and the synod office seem determined that the synod adopt a slow, consensus-building approach, which does not allow well-organised groups to bulldoze through a pre-planned agenda.

**That doesn’t** mean nothing will change. The synod has opened a space in which disputed questions are being addressed. In his address in Washington DC, Cardinal Grech singled out the question of communion for divorced and remarried couples and the blessing of same-sex couples. “These issues are not to be understood simply in terms of doctrine, but in terms of God’s ongoing encounter with human beings,” he said. “What has the Church to fear if these two groups within the faithful are given the opportunity to express their intimate sense of spiritual realities which they experience? Might this be an opportunity for the Church to listen to the Holy Spirit speaking through them also?”

To make sense of the mountain of material submitted to Rome from local churches, a diverse, global group of around 30 theologians, church workers and bishops were corralled for 10 days last month in what was described as a synod “boot camp” - a retreat house in Frascati, the region in Lazio famous for its white wine. Their job was to press the synod grapes and produce something drinkable. All the

reports from the bishops' conferences, religious congregations, Roman dicasteries etc. were read and considered. Their synthesis of what has been said at the local level will now be the guide for the "continental" phase of the synod. From January to March 2023, the discernment will continue through regional assemblies involving bishops, priests, deacons and religious and lay Catholics.

One of the Frascati "synthesisers", Fr Vimal Tirimanna, a member of the synod's theology commission who teaches at the Alphonsian Academy in Rome and at the National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka in Kandy, Sri Lanka, tells me their document was not a "sociological analysis" but an attempt to listen to the Holy Spirit through the people. In Sri Lanka, he explains, participation varied between dioceses, with many Catholics not aware the process was taking place; but across Asia, bishops' conferences had sent in reports where "genuine elements of the *sensus fidei* have been expressed." The synod process, he says, offers a path to implementing the vision of Vatican II which is long overdue.

"For the past 60 years or so, we have, for the most part, paid only lip service to that theology [of the Council]," Fr Tirimanna tells me. "Why? The necessary ecclesial structures were not there. It was new wine being put into old skins. But thanks to Pope Francis, an ecclesiological structure that would contain the conciliar ecclesiology is

being provided in the form of synodality."

The structure remains fragile. Those hostile to the synod - who, like those who opposed the Council, are a well-organised minority - question the legitimacy of the process, arguing that only a small percentage of Catholics took part in the process. "To those who say it is not representative, I would say: How do you know? What evidence do you have that what these people have been bringing to the table is not generally representative of what people think?" Austen Ivereigh, papal biographer and another member of the synthesis drafting team, said in a *Tablet* webinar on 28 September. "It is clearly the most remarkable consultation, which has involved huge numbers of people."

Ivereigh explains that the synthesisers had sought to draw out the major themes that have come through from the local synod phase while also paying attention to "minority voices". A "great love and passion for the Church" came through from reading the reports, he says. That passion also means calling for things to be done differently, and where this is most urgent is over the role of women.

"**They are** the ones who are the hands and feet of the Church, and they are saying that in the reports, but they also know that [women] are excluded most of the time from decisions and from leadership positions and their voice is not valued," Christina Kheng, another member of the synthesis

group, tells me. "For the vast majority of women, at least in Asia, it's really about that, rather than any high-level changes of rules or doctrine. It's just to have that basic respect, which they don't feel they are currently having."

Kheng, who is from Singapore and teaches at the East Asian Pastoral Institute in Manila in the Philippines, says all sides of the Church should remain open to what is a movement of the Spirit. Those who fear the synod should try to trust the process, while others should be careful not to "put down those people who are fearful and not to label them." The synod process looks forward, not backwards. It is not an exercise in recreating the Church of the past. But for Kheng it is also a return "to the roots of our faith tradition: to scripture, to the Gospels and to the way of Christ and it tries to bring that into dialogue with our current realities."

What Francis has launched is a process which is both old and new. It is recovering the spirit of the early Church and implementing Vatican II, but it is also attempting things that have never been tried before, at least on this scale. Synodality "has to be injected into every nook and corner of ecclesial life," as Fr Tirimanna says. It must be a "stepping stone" to a new way of being the Church. The last 12 months have seen the Church undertake an extraordinary listening and discernment process. But it still feels like things are only just at the beginning.

### From little things, big things grow Let's hear from St Francis Xavier grade two's Sonny

The grade 2s from SFX School were presented with "Godly Play", a child friendly way of presenting Scripture to young children, adults like it too!. Firstly I, Marisa Capuana, presented them with "The pearl of great price" so the students took home a pearl after we had talked about and discussed what their pearl of great price might signify.

The second Godly play they were presented with was one Jesus told, "The Parable of the Mustard Seed". After some discussion and reflection, children were given a clip lock bag, a small bag of dirt and a seed. Sonny, with the help of his grandfather Noel, grew the seed. There is a picture of it here:

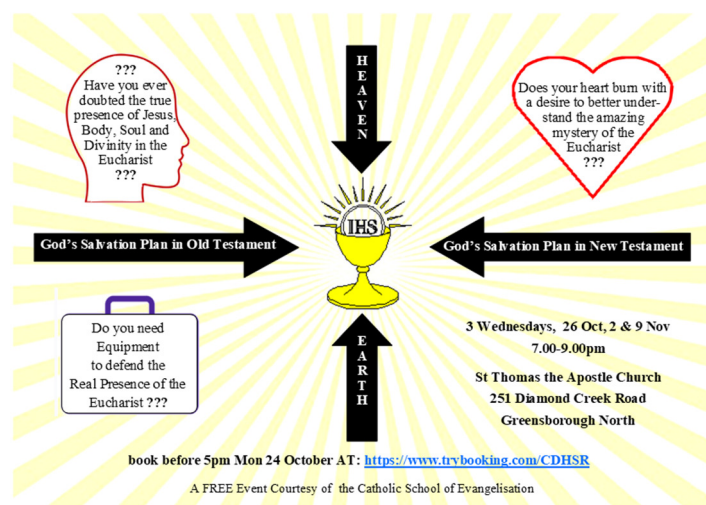


I had a little talk to Sonny to discuss what he thought about the meaning of the plant. Sonny told me about the Church, we sat in a circle and we sat in the Church. We discussed how some plants start off really small. Jesus told us that the Kingdom of God is like a small plant that grows and grows.

**Thank you, Sonny, for sharing your reflection with us.**  
Marisa

### OLHC Piety Stall:

2023 Columban Calendars (\$10) now available after Mass on Sundays at OLHC Piety Shop Eltham  
Christmas cards not yet available.



### Melbourne Catholic News:

[www.melbourmecatholic.org/news](http://www.melbourmecatholic.org/news)



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

## Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. "There was a judge in a certain town" he said "who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."

And the Lord said, "You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?"

### Reflection:

It's remarkable how free Jesus is in his story-telling. He's unafraid to give starring roles to characters who are hardly paragons of virtue. It's far from clear, for example, that the prodigal son is truly repentant or simply driven by desperation. Today the limelight is on a judge who grants a widow justice only because she's wearing him out with her persistence (or more literally, because he's afraid she's going to punch him in the face). Both the prodigal son and the judge end up doing the right thing for the wrong reason. It's even possible to imagine that, like the judge, Jesus himself only responded to the pleas of the Syrophenician woman because she got the better of him with her persistence and wit (Mk 7:24-30).

Widows, orphans and strangers were the prototypical instances of vulnerability in the Old Testament, while the God of Israel was distinguished as the one who heard their cry (Dt 10:17-18; Eccl 35:14-15). Jesus is drawing on this ancient tradition when he says God "will see justice done to his chosen." Luke then relocates this story-telling event to the time of the Church by referring to God's delaying and to the coming of the Son of Man. The final anguished cry from Jesus - "will he find any faith on earth?" - brings to mind Mark's repeated reference to unbelief (eg 6:6; 8:21).

As Luke discloses right at the start, the parable is "about the need to pray continually and never lose heart." That makes the reading relatively straightforward until the sudden and disconcerting question with which it ends. This is so different from what has gone before that it calls for a brief pause and change of tone.

**Break Open the Word 2022**

## Prayers of the Faithful for 16 October 2022 - Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Leader:** Lord, as you guard us from all evil and guard our lives, our comings and goings, we bring these prayers before you.

For the Church: that we may be persistent in prayer and attentive to God's invitations to greater discipleship. That our desire for a greater love of the Scriptures will inspire in us a desire to hear and learn God's Word and be open to the insights it offers.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish communities: as we begin the second of our parish planning meetings, that the Spirit will guide our conversations and inspire us with insights that will promote the future direction of our parishes.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For peace: that God will turn the hearts of world leaders from violence and help them to take bold steps to promote peace and provide for the safety of the innocent.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who feel so crushed by life that they wish to end it: that they may sense the nearness of God's love and find someone with whom to share their pain and ease their burden.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are caught in desperate situations: for the people of the Ukraine and Iran, for refugees, for those living in abusive households, and for those caught in the grip of addiction. That God will hear their cries, bring them to freedom and help them to begin a new life.

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, including *Michael Hehir*. We also remember *Sylvia Bergamo, Kevin Boyd, Joe McKinley & Madge Warrillow* 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:** The word of God is living within us, it guides our reflections and thoughts of the heart. 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