

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.



November - LORD OF THE LIVING

This week, grief swept through our nation after the death of an aboriginal boy on his way home from school in a north-eastern Perth suburb. In a senseless act of violence by another person that resulted in the death of Cassius Turvey, I have been moved and astounded by the enormous outpouring of grief for this talented 15 year old. A massive response of love and condolences to the family and especially his mother Mechelle. Speaking from a podium to the assembled crowd, she said: "My boy talks to me every day through my heart". Across Australia, in every capital city and many country towns, some 40 vigils were held on Wednesday - All Souls Day!

South Korea is in mourning after the deaths of some 153 people in Seoul after a crowd crush occurred during Hallowe'en celebrations on the eve of All Saints Day. What was meant to be a joyous time by so many young people, moving beyond Covid-19 restrictions in South Korea, turned quickly into an evening of absolute horror!

In India, when the Morbi suspension bridge collapsed into the Machchu river around sunset, holiday makers were celebrating a local festival and most of the people on this newly renovated walk bridge were young. It is a popular tourist attraction in Gujarat that has now claimed some 140 lives. The full scale of this tragedy will take time to assess, meanwhile all of India is in mourning.

Unfortunately, the above tragedies were only some of the terrible and sad events that resulted in human lives being lost last week, which leads me into this important month of Remembrance.

In death, our faith proclaims that: Life has changed - not ended. This special and significant month of November is all about us continuing to pray for all those people that we have loved in life who are indeed alive in God.

You are most welcome to 'Light a Candle' and 'Write a Name' in our Book of Remembrance, and know that at every Mass celebrated in this important month will be offered for all the souls, saints and sinners that we have known and loved throughout our lives and in these Catholic communities. Jesus is Lord of the Living - Welcome to the month of November!

- St. Francis Xavier Montmorency, great news -

A huge 'Thank You' to all those who attended and shared their personal history and stories of the Catholic parish community in Montmorency last Sunday. In our planning for this important meeting we didn't factor in the Melbourne Cup Long Weekend, yet the turnout was impressive. The spirit in the room was respectful and full of energy.

SFX community did not disappoint when it comes to responding to the next stage of development and I'm deeply grateful and confident on our future steps forward. It is my intention to fully communicate the relevant material from this meeting in late November - after the clarifying meeting with our Transition Leadership Community with Chris Pearson due in mid November. Again, thanks for your contributions to our future!



Just when you thought it was safe... Covid-19 is back

The Australian Health reports for the past few months have clearly suggested that the coronavirus is continuing to develop and change in ways that we have not expected. Unfortunately this story is not over yet and as a community we need to continue to be on our guard and respectful of peoples space! Please take care and practically do all you can in daily life to limit the spread of this Virus. Take advantage of the 3rd and 4th dose. Stay Safe.

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: 23 & 30 October 2022

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	\$577.00	\$978.00
Presbytery	\$691.50	\$808.75

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 5

6:00pm Mass & Eucharist

Montmorency

Sunday 6

8:30am Mass & Eucharist

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & Eucharist

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Dottie

Eltham

Tuesday 8

9:30am Mass (SFX Yr 6 Class)

Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 9

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

Thursday 10

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

2:30pm Mass Calvary Lower Plenty Garden Views

Friday 11

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 12

12:00pm Baptisms: Scarlett, Jack

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 13

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist

Eltham

Tuesday 15

9:30am Mass (SFX Yr 1 Class)

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

Wednesday 16

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

7:00pm Regional St Vincent de Paul Society Meeting

Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 17

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 18

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 19 - Youth Sunday

12:00pm Baptisms: Audrey, Levi, Miguel, Zak, Amelia & Edie

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 20 - Youth Sunday

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Ruby, Harrison, Henry & Frankie

Eltham

Tuesday 22

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 23

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

Support Montmorency Parish by giving with CDFpay

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



Support Eltham Parish by giving with CDFpay

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





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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Marne Jury

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Desmond Deehan, Rudolf Jakubik, Ian McCabe, Russell Mee, Maria Morabito

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Tony Belfiore, 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, 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.

OLHC Piety Stall:

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



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 5 November

St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm
Mason Taranto

First Eucharist

Sunday 6 November

St Francis Xavier, 8:30am
Joseph Nicholas Panettieri

First Eucharist

Our Lady Help of Christians, 10:00am
Hannah Kate Gates

First Eucharist

Our Lady Help of Christians, 12:00 pm
Dottie Eddy

Baptism

Lost Property

Dear Parishioners

Below is a list of Lost Property at SFX Church. If you are missing an item, it may be among this collection.

Please contact Kate, our parish secretary.

All unclaimed items will be taken to the Briar Hill Vinnies Op Shop at the end of November. *Elizabeth Warrillow*

ladies watch, books, water bottles, reading glasses, sunglasses, Australian Hymn Book, assorted jewellery items, rosary beads



November Remembrances...



Baryla Family;
Dominic & Maria Belfiore;
Ryszard, Teresa & Zbigniew Cichacki;
Anthony & Elizabeth Corera;
Richard Klepacz;
Maria, Vladyslav & Janina Rygala;
Janina Wrzeszcz;

Beginning this week, members of the Montmorency Conference of St Vincent de Paul will be selling **Christmas cards** at the 6:00pm and 8:30 am Masses.

The packs of five are the same price as last year, \$2.50.

There is a range of new styles as well as some last year's designs.

Thank you, as always, for your support.





LOVE AND JUSTICE

Hospitality of the Heart

Thursday, October 20th, 2022

Father Richard understands justice as loving solidarity with those who suffer:

We must not separate ourselves from the suffering of the world. When we're close to those in pain, their need evokes love in us. Very few of us have the largess, the magnanimity to just decide to be loving. Someone has to ask it of us. We have to place ourselves in situations with people who are not like us, outside our systems of success and security, so we can read life from another perspective. The needs we witness will pull us toward love, toward generosity and compassion.

I think the icon of the cross does this on a spiritual level. The bleeding body pulls us into itself and into bleeding humanity, too. I experience this pull when watching the news, witnessing the suffering of people all over the world. I realize much of the broadcast is superficial and even biased, but it takes me out of the protective bubble of my little hermitage where I can live far too peacefully and comfortably. It makes me more aware that right now there is a woman in Syria or Ukraine carrying her baby and running for her life. I must take that in and be in solidarity with her in whatever ways I can, witnessing what she is going through: the anxiety, the pain, the fear. That's what teaches us how to love. That is the pain we must allow to transform us and inspire us to act somehow.

All of us are called to the work of justice, which will look different for many people. My primary work is to send prayer and love toward those who are hurting. I do believe consciousness is the deepest level of reality. I also use my voice, through my teaching and writing, to awaken others to the reality of suffering and injustice in the world. I hope to encourage them to allow God's love to flow through them, transforming and healing pain. I also hope that our Living School and other programs are helping to train and equip people to meet the suffering in the world.

For theologians Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Graham Hill, we restore justice when we practice "hospitality of heart" inspired by Jesus:

Jesus embodied the justice of God in his love, hospitality, truth, and grace. Jesus had a just mission. Revealing the justice of God, Jesus welcomed the stranger, rejected social discrimination, confronted economic injustice, spoke against institutional power, and repudiated war and violence...

Carol Dempsey says that the spirit of justice is "hospitality of heart". When we open our hearts to hospitality, we feel compelled to seek justice. When we embrace creations, the poor, our enemies, strangers, foreigners, outcasts, and others, we desire justice for them. We welcome without judging. We love our neighbours as ourselves. We reflect the justice, love, and hospitality of God. This hospitality leads us to desire and work for the flourishing, well-being, and good of others.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/hospitality-of-the-heart-2022-10-20/>



LOVE AND JUSTICE

Aligning Ourselves with God's Heart

Tuesday, October 18th, 2022

The real contemplative takes the whole world in and shelters it, reveres it, and protects it with a body made of the steely substance of a just that springs from love. - Joan Chittister, *Illuminated Life*

Life Father Richard, Benedictine Sister Joan Chittister connects contemplation with the pursuit of justice:

The contemplative responds to the divine in everyone. God wills the care of the poor as well as the reward of the rich; so, therefore, must the true contemplative. God wills the end of oppressors who stand with the heel in

the neck of the weak; so, therefore, does the true contemplative. God wills the liberation of all human beings; so, therefore, must the true contemplative. God desires the dignity and full development of all human beings. Thus, God takes the side of the defenseless. And, thus, therefore, must the true contemplative; otherwise, that contemplation is not real, cannot be real, will never be real, because to contemplate the God of justice is to be committed to *justice*. The true contemplative, the truly spiritual person, then, must *do* justice, must *speak* justice, must *insist* on justice, and they do, and they always have, and they *are*.

Thomas Merton spoke out from a cloister in Kentucky against the Vietnam War. Catherine of Siena walked the streets of the city when women were not permitted to walk the streets of the city feeding the poor. Hildegard of Bingen preached the word of justice to emperors and to popes. . . . A spiritual path that does not lead to a living commitment to the coming will of God, to the present Reign of God, to the Kingdom of God within and around us everywhere for everyone, is no path at all. . . .

From contemplation comes not only the consciousness of the universal connectedness of life, but the courage to model it as well. Those who have no flame in their hearts for justice, no consciousness of personal responsibility for the Reign of God, no raging commitment to human community may, indeed, be seeking God, but make no mistake, God is still at best only an idea to them, not a living reality.

Indeed, contemplation, you see, is a very dangerous activity. It not only brings us face to face with God, it brings us, as well, face to face with the world, and then it brings us face to face with the self; and then, of course, something must be done . . . because nothing stays the same once we have found the God within. We become new people, and in the doing, see everything around us newly too. We become connected to everything, to everyone. We carry the whole world in our hearts, the oppression of all peoples, the suffering of our friends, the burdens of our enemies, the raping of the earth, the hunger of the starving, the joyous expectation every laughing child has a right to. Then, the zeal for justice consumes us. Then, action and prayer are one.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/aligning-ourselves-with-gods-heart-2022-10-18/>



THE QUEST FOR THE GRAIL

Whom Does the Grail Serve?

Friday, September 9th, 2022

The most common version of the Grail myth takes place in a medieval kingdom. The King is tragically wounded, and the kingdom is in disrepair. Father Richard describes the situation:

Most versions of the Grail legend begin with a wasteland kingdom, ruled over by one called the Fisher King. Crops are dying, monasteries are empty, and the people have no hope. All the king can do, because his wound refuses to heal, is fish all day — that is why he is called the Fisher King. This name has Christ connotations, since Jesus too was the “fisher of people.”

Fishing is the appropriate symbol of dipping down into one’s own unconscious. The sea is the natural image of the vast unconscious. I think this is the reason we can sit by the ocean for hours and watch it with fascination — waiting for the gift from the sea, waiting for something to show itself.

For author and depth psychologist Carol Pearson, the Fisher King is an archetype connected to inner places of suffering and longing:

Many times in our lives, we find ourselves in the position of the Fisher King. Something is not right. We feel wounded, disconnected from ourselves, and our kingdoms reflect our inner state. Often, we do not initially notice our own wounding; we just find ourselves unhappy with our lives. Answers that previously worked for us no longer serve...

The part of us that is fragmented, split, and wounded — that knows of the splendor of the Soul, but cannot connect that splendor with our everyday lives — is the Fisher King. The young knight [Parsifal in the Germanic version] is the seeker in each of us, yearning for the Grail [*DM team: the soul, our True Selves*]. The Grail offers the capacity for renewal, forgiveness, and transformation. It also is within us.

Father Richard speaks of what is required when we find ourselves in such suffering:

The aim here is to do soul work. Such soul work, if taken seriously, is no picnic. The pain of the hero or heroine is heart-rending. And, to make coping harder, it is mysterious, often even to heroes and heroines themselves.

The journey to happiness involves finding the courage to go down into ourselves and to take responsibility for what’s there. All of it. This means looking at the self without flinching, owning up to whatever wreckage we find, while also acknowledging that there are some promises and some energy there.

The aim is to experience the fact that *everything belongs* — the good, the bad, and the ugly. Often this is hard — especially coming to terms with the ugly — and may take living a while. When I was almost fifty, I began to realize that more clearly. I could see myself better. At twenty-five, I had no strong sense that everything belonged, but it did, and it does. [*RR: Now, at seventy-nine, I guess I am ready to believe and even trust that “everything belongs.” It has become my motto and my mantra.*]

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-fisher-king-2022-09-05/>

Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 5/6 Nov 2022

Beckford, Peter	C10:00
Davidson, John	PRYR
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Furtado, Denzil	R10:00
Goss, Marion	E10:00
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Kotz, Sharron	E10:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Leahy, Colin	H10:00
Leahy, Michelle	H10:00
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Rough Family	PRSE
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	ASE
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 12/13 Nov 2022

Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Armstrong, Miranda	H10:00
Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Costanzo, Brenda	W8:30
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	C10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	H10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Foxley, David	R10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Kotz, Sharron	E10:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Milwain, Gianna	ASE
Rodriguez, Carlos	W6:00
Ryan Family	PRSE
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30

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



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

God's grace, like water, always flows downward. We are called to be channels of this grace for a world in need, allowing the waters of grace not only to heal and renew us, but to flow through us into a world searching for meaning, for hope and for identity.

This past week [we celebrated the 125th anniversary of St Patrick's Cathedral](#), an important milestone in the history of Melbourne's family of faith. In his homily, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli spoke about the cathedral's significance as a meeting place between God and humanity, as a place where the grace of God can be touched, tasted and seen. He urged Catholics in Melbourne to take up the mission of St Patrick in our own time and to let 'the waters of grace flow from this sanctuary of St Patrick's to bring healing to us, and give life to our city.'

Melbourne also received a [visit last week from American author and speaker Mary Eberstadt](#), who spoke with clarity, wisdom and conviction in a wide-ranging public conversation with the Archbishop that touched especially on the family, religious freedom and secularisation. Speaking on the topic 'The Future of Humanity Passes by Way of the Family', Eberstadt focused on the unique place of the Church in a secular world, observing a deep hunger in the broader culture for meaning and identity, and championing the Church's noble, hopeful vision of humanity as created in the image of God.

John Casamento is a man of deep faith and a well-known photographer. This week [we hear his fascinating story](#) and about how his faith has guided him in a career filled with moments of grace and beauty, but also of human brokenness. From murderers to prime ministers, Hollywood stars to royalty, people on the street and even a pope, John reflects on the people he's met, the things he's seen and the need we all have for God's love. As he says, 'The way we treat one another is the way we show God's love.'

As floods continue to devastate communities across Victoria, we have an opportunity to show God's love in very practical ways. We learn about the [St Vincent de Paul Society's recently launched Flood Appeal](#), and about how our support will assist the efforts of local Vinnies' volunteers to lift people out of crisis for weeks, months and perhaps even years ahead.

Finally, as we observe All Souls' Day today, we are reminded that [the reach of God's grace extends even beyond death](#), gathering together the whole community of God's people, living and dead. While death plays an important role in the life of faith, Christ's resurrection turns us from defeat to victory, and from sadness to celebration. Death has its say, but not the last word.

May God's grace flow through our lives this week, bringing meaning and hope to each of one of us, and to the world we are called to love and serve.

melbournecatholic.org/news/

THE COST

The cost of living's very high
The modern world will make you pay
Bits of you might have to die.
They'll make you give your soul away.

Feelings must be put on hold
Your spirit blocked, your peace is lost.
The heart becomes afraid and cold.
War is added to the cost.

This is what you pay for living,
Truth is mangled, beauty trashed.
The speed of life is unforgiving
Loving minds are mocked and bashed.

But there's an angel, she will love you
She is called sweet sanity
She is priceless, there above you.
She is there to make you free.



Leung

Prayers of the Faithful for 6 November 2022 Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Confident that God hears the voices of those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we place our prayers before him.

For Pope Francis: that his message of respect and mercy will touch the lives of many.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the victims of crime: that their pain may be eased, their hope in life restored, and their feelings for revenge be tempered by the call to mercy.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For political prisoners, prisoners of war and people wrongfully imprisoned - that compassion will rise in the hearts of their captors and that those unjustly imprisoned will be released.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those imprisoned, not for crimes but for living their faith, for speaking out against corruption, for opposing oppressive governments, for the right of a free press or for their sexuality, that the knowledge of God's mercy will sustain them and justice be restored.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Church leaders: may they lead us to challenge unjust structures and work for the liberation of the dispossessed, the downtrodden, refugees and asylum seekers.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For ourselves and those we carry in our hearts: may we always know the redemptive power of Jesus' love.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That in places of suffering due to floods in Australia, violence in Nigeria, war in Ukraine, oppression of women in Iran and Afghanistan and religious persecution in China, justice and support will change situations.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick, especially those mentioned in the parish bulletin, may they experience the healing touch of God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, including *Marnie Jury*, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, remembering especially *Desmond Deehan*, *Rudolf Jakubik*, *Ian McCabe*, *Russell Mee* & *Maria Morabito*. May they experience the certainty of Jesus' resurrection.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray to you God, conscious of the need for your grace to be active and alive in our world. May we be true disciples and bring your reign closer each day. We ask this in the name of Jesus your Son.

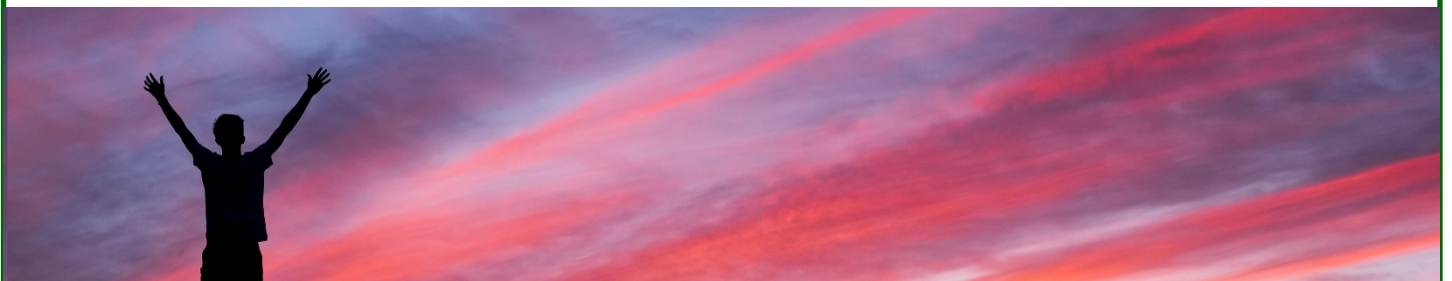
All: Amen



Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

Some Sadducees - those who say that there is no resurrection - approached Jesus and they put this question to him, 'Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man's married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well, then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?'

Jesus replied, 'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive.'



Reflection:

All three synoptic gospels report this theological skirmish between Jesus and the Sadducees, and all place it in the same place and time-frame. The place is Jerusalem, the time is the interlude between Jesus' stirring entry into the city and his execution, apt circumstances for a discussion about resurrection.

The Sadducees who put Jesus to the test may present an absurd example - seven brothers dying in turn after marrying the first brother's widow - but the practice is authentically based on the Mosaic Law (Dt 25:5-10). The legal principle and its outlandish application are both contained in the opening paragraph. The Lectionary allows the minister of the word to omit this, but to do so would deprive Jesus' reply of its rationale. As it is, the Lectionary inexplicably excludes the short conclusion that reports the happy outcome of the debate.

Jesus neither rejects the Law nor engages in theological justification. He simply asserts the reality of the resurrection and spells out its implications. Then he cleverly meets the Sadducees on their own grounds - their reliance on the written Law, not any oral tradition - by citing God's self-revelation to Moses on the holy mountain (Ex 3:6). The God in whom the Sadducees believed is "God, not of the dead, but of the living." It's possible that Jesus (or Luke) is also quoting from the non-canonical fourth book of Maccabees (7:19).

Break Open the Word 2022