

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.

Remembrance Day 2022 - 104th Anniversary

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted, either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfil in them the purpose of your love; and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

On Friday, we paused to remember, and pray - 'lest we forget' this important history.

At 11 am on 11 November 1918, an armistice signed 6 hours earlier between a German delegation and Allied representatives brought an end to fighting in World War I. Many still in the forward areas greeted the news with subdued relief and sorrow for the friends who'd lost their lives. Further from the front and around the world, there were joyous public celebrations and countless moments of quiet reflection in the homes of the fallen. People in the Allied countries rejoiced, but they also reflected on the terrible cost of victory.

In Australia and other countries whose soldiers had fought on the Allied side, 11 November came to be known as Armistice Day, a day to pause and remember the dead. Sixty thousand Australians had lost their lives in the war, almost one in 5 of those who served overseas. From a population of just over 5 million, this devastating loss touched families around Australia. After the war, Australian journalist Edward Honey wrote to a London newspaper, proposing 'five minutes of national remembrance' in honour of the fallen. His suggestion was well received, but 5 minutes of silence was impractical. So on 7 November 1919, King George V issued a proclamation calling for 2 minutes of silence at 11 am on 11 November. At the appointed hour, people across the British Empire paused for the first time in common reflection. It started an enduring tradition.

Two decades later, the world once again went to war. After another 6 years of global conflict and millions more deaths, including 40,000 Australians, the Australian Government agreed to a British proposal to rename Armistice Day. It has been known ever since as Remembrance Day. Initially observed to honour the dead of both world wars, it now honours those who have died or suffered in wars and operations.

Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old;
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

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
August	\$6,835.24	\$9,642.00	\$16,477.24
September	\$6,357.04	\$10,827.00	\$17,184.04
October	\$5,833.35	\$10,554.50	\$16,387.85

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

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

11:00am Funeral: Mary "Betty" Berry

Montmorency

Friday 18

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 19 - Youth Sunday

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

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 20 - Youth Sunday

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist

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

Thursday 24

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

Friday 25

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 26

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 27

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Phoebe, William, Juliet

Eltham

Tuesday 29

9:30am Mass (SFX Yr 2 Class)

Montmorency

Wednesday 30

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 1 December

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

2:00pm Mass

St Vincent's Care, 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.





SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS ONLINE TRAINING AND MEETING OF PARISH VOLUNTEERS

The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM) has launched the Safeguarding Essentials online training module for all volunteers within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM).

The Safeguarding Essentials online training is a 20-minute training module that is compulsory and must be completed each year by all volunteers.

The purpose of this training is to provide our volunteers with:
foundational knowledge that will help them to perform their roles, and
a clear understanding of their duty of care and of expectations with regards to safeguarding children, young people and adults from all forms of abuse and harm

To introduce this new Safeguarding Essentials online training to our parishes our Safeguarding Committee is suggesting there are two ways in which you can complete this training.

Attend one of two group training sessions.

Two group training sessions will be held at Our Lady Help of Christians Church Eltham on:

**Thursday 8 December – 7:00 to 8:00 pm, or
Saturday 10 December – 10:00 am to 11:00 am.**

These training sessions will also be an opportunity to undertake refresher training for a number of roles within the parish. e.g., Readers/Commentators, Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, etc. Tea and coffee would be available. Please bring a plate.

OR

For those who cannot attend one of our parish training Sessions, then the Training module can be completed on line.

To complete Online this is how you get started

To access the online training go to: <https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/safeguarding-training-and-upcoming-events/safeguarding-training-modules>

To login, each volunteer will need:
their unique Working with Children Check ID
an email address.

To register, volunteers will need to select their parish from the dropdown menu as their Primary Organisation of Service.

Each registered user will receive:
a certificate via email, once the training has been successfully completed.
an annual reminder to complete the course.

You will need to complete this training option by **19 December 2022**.





KEEPING FAITH WITH OUR ANCESTORS
The Continuum of Life

This week's meditations celebrate the gift of our ancestors in family and in faith. CAC faculty member Dr. Barbara Holmes writes of the broad and deep life to which her ancestors helped awaken her:

A world without ancestors is lonely. I am so grateful for the elders in my family who introduced me to the continuums in life. It matters how we understand our sojourn in this reality. If we consider our lives to be comprised of segments separated by a dash that encompasses birth and death dates, we will be

inconsolable when trauma truncates our realities and delays our destination. But, if we consider ourselves to be part of a continuum of life that does not end with death, but transitions to a life after life, our perspectives can change.

The community of the ancestors, already inhabiting the life beyond life, kept in constant contact with us. They sent messages and intervened when necessary. They prayed with me and whispered warnings... Whether we call them ancestors or elders, only those women and men who led good lives in the physical realm are considered to be wise guides in the spiritual realm. In some African cultures, they are called elders, "the old ones". Any elder represents the entire legal and mystical authority of the lineage. For me, ancestors, living and dead elders, commanded my respect and were always present, abiding and guiding me.

At the passing of his mother, Father Richard Rohr experienced a connection or "bridge" to the life after death:

I believe that one of the essential events that we must walk through is the experience of the passion and death with someone we love, with someone we are bonded to, with someone we really care about. When my mother passed over, I had no doubt that she built a bridge - I don't know what other words to use - she built a bridge and she took some of me over with her, and she sent some of herself back. I understand now at a deeper level what Jesus meant by "unless I go, the Spirit cannot come" (John 16:7). I think the normal pattern in history is for each generation to pass over, and to build the bridges of love and trust for the next generation coming afterwards. The all-important thing, for all of us, is that we be bonded somewhere. If you have never loved, there is no bridge...

When you walk through someone's passion with them, through someone's learning to let go, and pass over with them in a moment of death, I'm convinced it's then and only then that you really are prepared to understand the resurrection... All Jesus came to teach us, and only needed to teach us, was how to walk through the great mystery, and not be put to shame and to trust that God is on the other side of it.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-continuum-of-life-2022-10-30/>



KEEPING FAITH WITH OUR ANCESTORS
Voices of Our Female Ancestors

Author and podcaster Kat Armas shares how honouring the voices of our female ancestors enriches our faith. She calls it "abuelita theology":

Scripture testifies to the power and influence of grandmothers among the people of God. For years I overlooked this details because I hadn't been trained to recognise the importance or value of women in the Bible...

I overlooked the introduction to Paul's second letter to Timothy until one day it caught my attention, affirming my curiosity and conviction of the importance of both abuelitas and the faith of my ancestors. In this short passage, Paul says: "I'm grateful to God, whom I serve with a good conscience, *as my ancestors did*. I constantly remember you in my prayers day and night. When I remember your tears, *I as my ancestors did* long to see you so that I can be filled with happiness. I'm reminded of your authentic faith, *which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice*. I'm sure that this faith is also inside you." (2 Timothy 1:3-5, emphasis mine).

Here Paul names the power and importance of abuelita theology.

By acknowledging Timothy's faith (a faith birthed from his abuelita and his mamá), Paul honours [and] ... acknowledges that their faith is a communal faith that takes seriously the impact of ... the *women* who formed and shaped him ... I often wonder what Abuela Lois and Mama Eunice's faith looked like. How did they live it out? Were they dedicated to serving the community like Tabitha? Were they leading house churches like Lydia did or instructing leaders like Priscilla did?

Armas recounts losing sight of Christianity's communal nature, and how the communion of saints inspires her:

I internalised the hyperindividualistic view of faith and salvation... I bought into the idea that my spirituality is private, that my spiritual growth has absolutely nothing to do with my community, my ancestors - the cloud of witnesses, those I knew directly and indirectly - as well as the countless number of people who have influenced me or even those I myself have influenced...

The communion of saints has enriched my theological imagination, particularly when it comes to my ancestors and las madres of the faith, the women throughout history who have gone before us paving the way, building their own tables, and offering a perspective of the divine, without which our faith would be lacking...

My hope is that those without power or privilege in society, many of whom hold our families together, would be highly honoured by all... My desire is that the stories of these women in Scripture and beyond illuminate something new in us so that when we see those on the margins living life en la lucha, in the struggle, we would be drawn to their experiences and drink from their wells overflowing with sabiduria, wisdom, about the divine.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/voices-of-our-female-ancestors-2022-10-31/>



KEEPING FAITH WITH OUR ANCESTORS
Part of One Body

Father Richard connects the church's teaching on "the communion of saints" and our ancestors:

Humans throughout history have often had a strong appreciation for and connection with their ancestors. I think the collective notion of oneness is what Christians were trying to verbalise when they made a late addition to the ancient Apostles' Creed: "I believe in the communion of saints." They were offering us the idea that *the dead are at one with the living*, whether they're our direct ancestors, the saints in glory,

or even the so-called souls in purgatory.

Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh (1926-2022) wrote of experiencing a tender oneness with his mother in a dream and in nature:

The day my mother died, I wrote in my journal, "A serious misfortune of my life has arrived." I suffered for more than one year after the passing away of my mother. But one night, in the highlands of Vietnam, I was sleeping in the hut of my hermitage. I dreamed of my mother. I saw myself sitting with her, and we were having a wonderful talk. She looked young and beautiful, her hair flowing down. I was so pleasant to sit there and talk to her as if she had never died. When I woke up it was about two in the morning, and I felt very strongly that I had never lost my mother. The impression that my mother was still with me was very clear. I understood then that the idea of having lost my mother was just an idea. It was obvious in that moment that my mother is always alive in me.

I opened the door and went outside. The entire hillside was bathed in moonlight. It was a hill covered with tea plants, and my hut was set behind the temple halfway up. Walking slowly in the moonlight through the rows of tea plants, I noticed my mother was still with me. She was the moonlight caressing me as she had done so often, very tender, very sweet ... wonderful! Each time my feet touched the earth I knew my mother was there with me. I knew this body was not mine alone but a living continuation of my mother and my father and my grandparents and great-grandparents. Of all my ancestors. These feet that I saw as "my" feet were actually "our" feet. Together my mother and I were leaving footprints in the damp soil.

Father Richard continues:

The whole thing, all of life, is one, just at different stages, all of it loved corporately by God (and, one hopes, by us). Within this worldview, we are saved not by being privately perfect, but by being "part of the body", humble links in the great chain of history. This view echoes the biblical concept of a covenant love that was granted to the Jewish people as a whole and never just to one individual like Abraham, Noah, or David.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/part-of-one-body-2022-11-01/>



KEEPING FAITH WITH OUR ANCESTORS
Nature: Our First Ancestor

Once we know that the entire physical world around us, all of creation, is both the hiding place and the revelation place for God, this world becomes home, safe, enchanted, offering grace to any who look deeply. - Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ*

Patty Krawec, an Anishinaabe and Ukrainian writer and activist, invites us to consider the land itself as our original ancestor:

I want us to consider our relationship with land... To think of ourselves as a part of creation rather than apart from it. What if

the land is a being in its own right? That concept is not as foreign as you might think. And what if the land and all that grows from it and on it and in it are sentient beings in their own right?...

When I say that the land is my ancestor, that is a scientific statement: I want to reflect again on this claim by Dr. Keolu Fox, a Kānaka Maoli anthropologist and genomic researcher. The land itself and the conditions of that land, like altitude and climate, impact our genome just as our human ancestors do. We are born on it, die on it; we come from it and return to it. The land and the waters, oceans and rivers, are part of us, relatives and ancestors in a very real way...

Our emotions have a physical response. We feel sadness, and our body responds by crying. In the ancient Middle East, drought was often connected with mourning as *the land's* physical response to an emotional state. Just as a Hebrew mourner would fast and pour dust over their head and body, so, too, the land expresses her grief by fasting and covering herself in dust. "Human action has caused desolation and destruction", Mari Joerstad writes. "Further proof of human perfidy is *their inattentiveness to the suffering of other creatures*. The earth is left with no option but to cry directly to YHWH."...

The land mourns, but it also responds with joy. The same prophets who describe a land fasting and covering herself with dust in response to human wrongdoing and harm also describe beautiful scenes of rejoicing and jubilation upon the return of the people. "The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom," the prophet Isaiah says [Isaiah 35:1].

Krawec tells her readers of an ancient Anishinaabe prophecy that envisioned a choice between two paths for the future: one scorched and barren, the other green and fertile:

Remember the two paths of the Seventh Fire - one parched and blackened and the other green and lush. How we prepare now will determine what comes next: either a healing fire that brings wild strawberries and lush pathways or a charred landscape that cuts our feet. For Indigenous people, that means holding on to the knowledge of our ancestors. For the light-skinned people, that means making the right choices about how to life.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/nature-our-first-ancestor-2022-11-04/>

Roster for THIS 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

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 19/20 Nov 2022	
Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	W8:30
Frediani, Gabriella	ASE
Goss, Marian	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	R10:00
McAleer, Peter	ASRC
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	H10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	H10:00
Scannell Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	C10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00
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



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 12 November

St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm

Scarlett Clara Cortese

Baptism

Jack Danny Ellis

Baptism

St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm

Joseph Panettieri

First Eucharist

Lenny Payne

First Eucharist

Mason Gerald Testolin

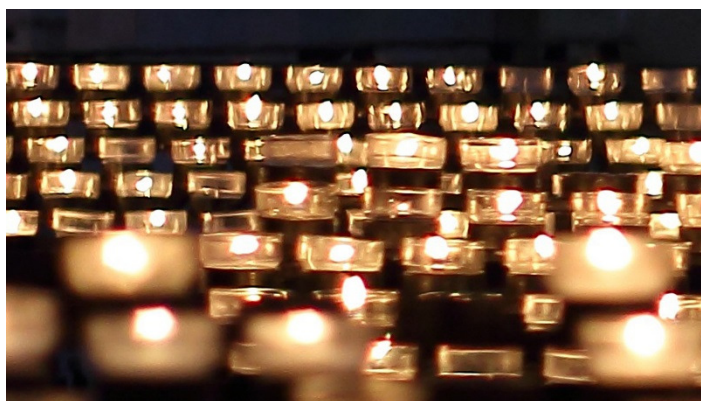
First Eucharist

Sunday 13 November

Our Lady Help of Christians, 10:00am

Harley Patrick Fitzgerald

First Eucharist





NAPLAN 2022 SUCCESS



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR YEAR 3 & 5 STUDENTS ON OUTPERFORMING THE VICTORIAN AVERAGE IN ALL 10 NAPLAN AREAS IN 2022.

GREAT TEACHING + GREAT PROGRAMS + GREAT STUDENTS = EXEMPLARY EDUCATION

WORKING HARD TO BE THE BEST. ✨





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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Patrick Anderson
brother-in-law of Maree & Rob Rankin

Mary "Betty" Berry
wife of Alan

Mary Perry
wife of Murrell; mother of Lauren, Joanne, Janene, Michael, Luke & Nicholas; sister of Trish, Brian, Cath, Kerin & John Stoddart

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Julian Keogh, Melinda Layne, Joseph McCudden

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 whose anniversaries are at this time:

Matthew Bibby

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.

November Remembrances...



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



OLHC Piety Stall:

2023 Columban Calendars (\$10) now available after Mass on Sundays at OLHC Piety Shop Eltham. Christmas cards **are now available**, \$3 per pack.

Prayers of the Faithful for 13 Nov 2022 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: The time of God is near. With perseverance and hope let us come before God with our needs and the needs of the world.

For the Church: that where the Church is hated on account of Jesus we shall be like the Apostles and persist in love for, and fear of, our Lord. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish community: that all the quiet and industrious work freely given to our parish communities will continue to bear a rich harvest for everyone with whom we have a connection, here and in the wide world beyond. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For peace in the world: we pray with Pope Francis that justice will be done through all difficulty, bitterness, and old and new enmity. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For faith communities throughout the world: that religious and political leaders will work together to defend the rights of all peoples to follow their faiths in mutual respect. That all believers, and those whose faith is weak or faded, will be reconciled in love, tolerance and harmony with their neighbours. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the spirit in us all: that by growing and living and learning, we can join with all nature in the celebration of the coming of the Lord, and be ready to meet that Day. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are baptised or celebrate their First Eucharist or are confirmed this weekend: that the Lord will rain the richness of his blessings on them, now and forever. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who are sick and whose names are in our bulletin. Let them experience the healing love of God. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died recently, including *Patrick Anderson, Mary "Betty" Berry & Mary Perry*; and for *Matthew Bibby, Julian Keogh, Melinda Layne & Joseph McCudden* whose anniversary we mark at this time. May they be surrounded and warmed by the Lord's perpetual light. May they rest in peace.. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of all time, in these days of uncertainty you are our constant hope. Give us eloquence and wisdom as we live out your Gospel and wait with patience for your coming in glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, 'All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed.' And they put to him this questions: 'Master,' they said, 'when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?'

'Take care not to be deceived,' he said, 'because many will come using my name and saying, "I am he" and , "the time is near at hand." Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not soon.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name - and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.



Reflection:

In the interval between Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem and his execution outside the city, the Temple plays a significant role. Having cleansed it of merchants, Jesus makes it his base for teaching and disputation. In the episode immediately before today's reading, he contrasts the widow who contributes a couple of coins - "all she had to live on" - with the wealthy who give from their surplus.

The people's comments on the Temple's magnificence trigger a series of warnings from Jesus. The Temple will be destroyed, there will be wars and cosmic convulsions, betrayals and persecutions. As with the parallel discourses in Mark and Matthew, it is difficult to distinguish between historical events such as the destruction of the Temple and early Christian persecution on the one hand and prophetic imagery about the end times on the other.

Certainly there are signs of Luke's awareness that time was to pass before the parousia. "The end is not so soon," Jesus says. Persecutions and betrayals will occur "before all this happens." What his followers need is stamina: "Your endurance will win you your lives." All succeeding predictions of the end times have proved false. Even contemporary threats - the possibility of planetary catastrophe from either nuclear war or global warming - are no guide to the divine wisdom which will determine the ultimate destiny of creation. Faith and hope remain integral to daily living.

Words of encouragement leaven the dough of Jesus' warnings. These should be given clear emphasis when they appear in this turbulent text.

Break Open the Word 2022

On the weekend of November 20 & 21 there will be a display of quilts at SFX. These have been donated by Val & Greg Hayes.

You have an opportunity to purchase one or more from the display. Funds will be given to **Kadasig** for the Philippines.



The quilts are generally designed for use as a display on chair or a knee quilt for cooler evenings.

The quilts are priced well below the retail cost, so you can grab a bargain.

SVDP Charity Christmas Cards 2022

The Montmorency conference of SVDP is pleased to advise that SVDP Charity Christmas cards are now available outside Church over the next few weekends (unless sold out). The cards are again in packs of 5 and we have maintained the price at \$2.50 per packet. All we wish is do is to cover our costs and offer cards about the real meaning of Christmas.

Alternatively you may purchase the cards from any of the following SVDP Members:-

John Ramsdale 0410 128 821
Anthony Gioules 0431 104 642
Mike Said 0417 221 245
Vinka 0418 345 954

