

# 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.



### SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS ONLINE TRAINING & 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:

#### 1. Attend one of two group training sessions. 2. Complete the Training module Online

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

**Thursday 8 Dec – 7:00 to 8:00 pm, and  
Saturday 10 Dec – 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.

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 and 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 and an annual reminder to complete the course.

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



### Christmas Mass Timetable



#### Christmas Eve (Sat 24 Dec)

6pm Holy Trinity Primary School  
8pm OLHC Eltham Church  
10pm SFX Montmorency Church

#### Christmas Day (Sun 25 Dec)

8:30am SFX Montmorency Church  
10am OLHC Eltham Church

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: 20 & 27 November 2022

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	\$462.00	\$1,155.00
Presbytery	\$506.95	\$1,001.60

### 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 3**

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 4**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Mikayla, Jack, Isabella & Neve

Montmorency

### **Monday 5**

10:00am Holy Trinity End of Year Mass

Holy Trinity

### **Tuesday 6**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

### **Wednesday 7**

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 Small Church Community

Montmorency

### **Thursday 8**

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

11:00am Funeral: Veronica (Marian) Smith

Montmorency

### **Friday 9**

9:30am Mass

Eltham

6:00pm SFX Graduation Ceremony

Montmorency

### **Saturday 10: Collection - Melbourne Overseas Mission**

12:00pm Baptism: Miles, Thomas

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 11: Collection - Melbourne Overseas Mission**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Elle

Eltham

### **Monday 12**

6:00pm HT Grade 6 Graduation

Holy Trinity

### **Tuesday 13**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

### **Wednesday 14**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

6:00pm OLHC Grade 6 Graduation

Eltham

### **Thursday 15**

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

### **Friday 16**

9:30am Mass & OLHC Whole School Mass

Eltham

### **Saturday 17**

12:00pm Baptism: Arley & August

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 18**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Zoe

Eltham

### **Tuesday 120**

**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.




## Advent Reflection / The quiet zone

In a troubled and noisy world, we should take the time to slow our pace, pause to reflect, be still and hear the voice of God in a moment of silence / by **Teresa White**

O God, amid the clamour of our violence, your Word of truth resounds.

Over nations enshrouded in despair, your justice dawns.

Keep your household watchful and alert, mindful of the hour in which we live.

Hasten the advent of that day when the sounds of war will be forever stilled, the darkness of evil scattered, and all your people gathered into one. Amen.

In the midst of the pre-Christmas hubbub, Advent reminds us that there's more to life than continual movement, noise and clamour.

Advent is an invitation to enter the quiet zone, where we can give ourselves permission to be, for a time at least, contemplative in non-action. And there we can bring before God some of the unspoken pleas, dreams and

longings struggling for expression in our troubled, divided and wounded world. In the stillness, our innate capacity to hear God's Word can be sharpened, our hearing aids recharged. To take that Word into our minds and hearts, and to allow ourselves to be transformed by it, is the work of Advent.

Of course, many of us will be reluctant to get off the treadmill of busyness and enter the quiet zone. We want action, speed and movement, not calm meditation. As for silence, it makes us uncomfortable, so we tune it out and step up the volume. We're preoccupied, too, by our countless problems, and we want answers immediately. After all, with algorithms to do our calculations, deal with glitches and make complicated decisions for us, we're not used to waiting long for anything these days. And

we feel impatient and irritated when people tell us to slow down and just wait - we don't want to wait, we want instant gratification for all our desires. We want music in a major key, its tempo allegro; but the melodies of Advent, quietly hopeful, are in a minor key, their tempo adagio: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near..."

Nonetheless, the Advent invitation remains, echoing the words of Jesus to his disciples when, with so many people coming and going, they were run off their feet and had no time to think and reflect. "Come apart and rest for a while," (Mark 6:31) he said to them. It is in quiet moments that God's Word may be heard.

Advent is the time of great desiring. We long for God to tear open the heavens and come to save us. Restless and troubled, we long for peace;

in the darkness and confusion that surrounds us, we long for light; fearful and anxious, we long for courage; weighed down by sorrow, we long for joy; faced with the bleakness of life in today's world - poverty, injustice, wars, pandemics - we beg for comfort. For our lack of compassion for people in need, for our failure to acknowledge the damage we are doing to the earth, we seek mercy.

If moments of quietness are woven through the weeks of Advent, we will hear the voice of God, speaking gently, leading us out of the darkness, and when Christmas comes, we will see that the Kingdom of God is in our midst.

**Sister Teresa White** belongs to the Faithful Companions of Jesus. A former teacher, she spent many years in the ministry of spirituality at Katherine House, a retreat and conference centre run by her congregation in Salford.

### SVDP Montmorency Christmas Appeal 2022

Thank you to all parishioners who donated to our appeal last weekend. If you wish to help make Christmas just that little more enjoyable for people less fortunate, you can donate in one of the following ways:

#### **How to donate to the SVDP Christmas Appeal**

**Envelopes:** SVDP envelopes are available at SFX in church pews or at the tables at the entrance doors or at the Presbytery/Church office. You are welcome to leave your donations and/or envelopes in the SVDP Donation boxes on the tables near the entrances to the church, at the Parish Office, give to a SVDP member or to Mike on 0417 221 245. Receipts can be issued by simply completing name and address on the envelope.

**On Line:** [vinnies.org.au](http://vinnies.org.au) - in terms of directing funds back to the Montmorency or Eltham Conferences, we request that you state **Montmorency** or **Eltham** in the "Comments/Conference Name box" which is just after the postal address box.

**By Phone:** by calling 13 18 12 and again stating your donation is for the **Montmorency** or **Eltham** conference.

**Direct Credit:** BSB 063-000, Account 1060 7556 with a reference W22 and Montmorency 916. In this way moneys will be credited to the Montmorency Conference account and stay within our community.

If you are donating online, by phone or direct credit could you please send an email to [msaid@netspace.net.au](mailto:msaid@netspace.net.au) with your full name and address, amount and date of deposit so that the conference can acknowledge your generosity and ensure these monies are allocated to the Montmorency or Eltham Conferences.

*Assistance is always promptly available to the community by contacting 1800 305 330 between 10am and 3pm weekdays.*

*Collection of quality household goods/furniture can be arranged by calling 1800 621 349.*

### **KADASIG Christmas Hampers**

Celebrate Christmas by making a difference to the lives of others! The Kadasig Christmas Hampers bring great joy to many families in Cebu, Philippines. Christmas Hampers guarantee a family has food over the Christmas and New Year time. We have put together a range of other options to really make a difference to those in great need, we hope you can find some that interest you. Gift Certificates are also available.

- **Christmas Hamper \$40** - provide food for a family for Christmas & New Year, packed & distributed by staff
- Sack of rice 25kg - \$30
- Medical care - \$25
- Sack of rice 50kg - \$60
- House construction - \$50
- Livelihood products - \$20-\$100
- Contribute to water tank - \$50

For more information or to purchase a Gift Certificate for a family/gift please contact:

Maree Kulkens: 0430 549 516 or [mareekulkens@yahoo.com.au](mailto:mareekulkens@yahoo.com.au); or

Juanita Troemml: 0409 514 565 or [jtroemml@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jtroemml@bigpond.net.au); or

Visit our website to learn more: [www.kadasigaid.com.au](http://www.kadasigaid.com.au)



**Bank details: Kadasig Aid & Development: BSB: 083-276 A/c No: 172 040 420 Ref: [your name] Hamper**  
**Please make sure your name is on the reference.**



# THE YEAR OF MATTHEW

## The Gospel of Matthew

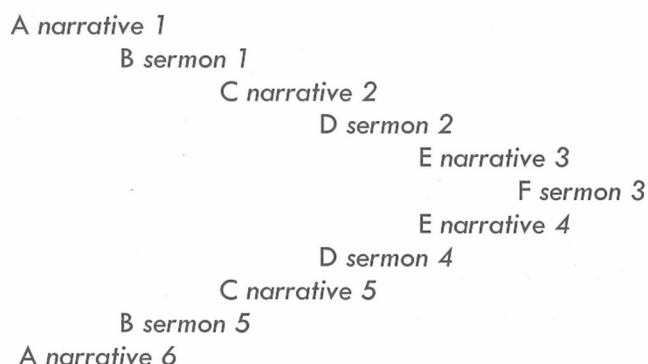
The three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) are closely related. Some material is common to all three gospels; some is particular to one gospel. Scholars generally agree that Matthew's gospel was written between the years 80 and 90 in the region around Antioch. One piece of evidence for this dating is that Matthew contains most of the gospel of Mark and hence must have been composed after 70 when Mark was completed.

As well as using Mark as a source, the writer obviously had access to other material that appears also in the gospel of Luke but not in Mark or John. In addition to these two sources, Matthew includes information about Jesus that is not given by the other evangelists. The two chapters of infancy narratives and five "Great Sermons" of Jesus which are found in Matthew make this gospel half as long again as Mark's.

Tradition attributes the writing of the gospel to Matthew the tax collector. What we do know for a fact is that the writer was a Greek-speaker who knew Aramaic and Hebrew but who was not an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry. He was most likely a Jewish Christian because one of the main purposes of the work is to provide consolation to those wrestling with the problem of reconciling their Jewish heritage with their belief in Jesus as the Messiah. This is why the gospel begins with a genealogy filled with Jewish ancestors, and frequently quotes from the Old Testament or introduces references to Jewish customs. Jesus the Christ is the fulfilment of the ancient promises.

A striking feature of Matthew's gospel is its organisation of material around the teaching of Christ. The gospel alternates between narrative and sermon. One way of understanding the gospel is to adopt an eleven-part structure built around the five teaching sections. The first narrative section, which serves as an introduction to the work, contains the stories of the annunciation (to Joseph, not to Mary as in Luke), of Jesus' birth, and of the visit of the magi (not the shepherds as in Luke). The remaining ten parts go in pairs: first a long speech (or 'Great Sermon') by Jesus followed by a description of actions that he performed.

The first teaching section is the Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5–7), the second shows the disciples being prepared for their missionary journeys (chapter 10), the third is filled with parables (chapter 13), the fourth deals with Church matters (chapter 18), and the last section concerns the end of the world (chapters 24 & 25). The gospel's alternating structure is symmetrical.



The opening narrative concerns the birth of Christ, while the last recounts his death and rebirth. The first sermon section centres on blessings and entering the kingdom, the last on woes and the coming of the kingdom. The second 'mission' discourse is balanced by the fourth 'community' discourse. The third narrative deals with the rejection of Christ by the people of the present generation and the fourth relates the acknowledgement of Christ by the disciples. And the whole gospel centres on a sermon containing seven parables of the kingdom of heaven.

The evangelist Matthew is depicted symbolically as a human figure because of Matthew's emphasis on the incarnation and on the humanity of Christ. He depicts Jesus as the teacher: his special contribution to the gospel tradition is the collection of sayings and discourses which he uses to structure his account of Christ. In addition his accounts of Jesus' miracles have fewer vivid concrete details than Mark and so become more symbolic in their meaning. There is a strong sense of Church in this gospel – indeed the Greek word *ecclesia* occurs only in Matthew's gospel – and he links the Church with the Kingdom of Heaven. The Christian life is always filled with a sense of expectation.

# THE SEASON OF ORDINARY TIME

## The Season of Ordinary Time — The Year of Matthew

The season of Ordinary Time falls into two parts, the first spanning the relatively short period between the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent, the second extending from the close of Easter until the start of Advent. Together they make up close to eight months of the year.

The dynamic of Ordinary Time is different from that of the twin seasons of Advent-Christmas and Lent-Easter. In their case it's determined by the mystery being celebrated, first the incarnation and then the paschal mystery. For the season of Ordinary Time, the itinerary is determined in two ways by one of the synoptic evangelists.

In the first place, each of these three gospels features for a year in the course of the three-year cycle. Its particular account of Jesus' public ministry (leaving aside the infancy and passion narratives) is read in an ordered semi-continuous sequence. Secondly, the gospel reading serves as the foundational text for the liturgy of the word every Sunday. The Old Testament reading, the responsorial psalm and the gospel acclamation are all complementary to the gospel of the day. The second reading — always a semi-continuous passage from a Pauline letter, except in Year B where we hear also from James — is completely independent.

Two-thirds of the Old Testament readings in Year A come from the books of the prophets, especially Isaiah. The rest come from historical books or wisdom literature. The dominant text for the second reading is Paul's magisterial letter to the Romans, along with 1 Corinthians, Philippians and 1 Thessalonians.

In the Ordinary Time of Year A, therefore, the evangelist Matthew is our leader and guide, and above all our teacher. Much of his gospel consists of five great discourses which echo the five books of the Torah. Matthew presents Jesus as a new Moses, teaching, reinterpreting and fulfilling the Law. This strong emphasis on Jewish tradition is accompanied by severe criticism of the Jewish authorities that reflects tensions and conflicts faced by the early Church. For Matthew, Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us, for ever with the Church in its mission to the world.

		Gospel	First Reading	Second Reading
	<b>The figure of 'Jesus – The Messiah'</b>			
1st Sunday	The Baptism of Jesus	Mt 3:13–17	Is 42:1–4, 6–7	Acts 10:34–38
2nd Sunday	The witness of John the Baptist	Jn 1:29–34	Is 49:3, 5–6	1 Cor 1:1–3
	<b>Christ's design for life in God's Kingdom</b>			
3rd Sunday	The call of the first disciples	Mt 4:12–23	Is 8:23 – 9:3	1 Cor 1:10–13, 17
4th Sunday	The Sermon on the Mount (1)	Mt 5:1–12	Zep 2:3; 3:12–13	1 Cor 1:26–31
5th Sunday	The Sermon on the Mount (2)	Mt 5:13–16	Is 58:7–10	1 Cor 2:1–5
6th Sunday	The Sermon on the Mount (3)	Mt 5:17–37	Sirach 15:15–20	1 Cor 2:6–10
7th Sunday	The Sermon on the Mount (4)	Mt 5:38–48	Lev 19:1–2, 17–18	1 Cor 3:16–23
8th Sunday	The Sermon on the Mount (5)	Mt 6:24–34	Is 49:14–15	1 Cor 4:1–5
9th Sunday	The Sermon on the Mount (6)	Mt 7:21–27	Deut 11:18, 26–28, 32	Rom 3:21–25, 28
	<b>The Spread of God's Kingdom</b>			
10th Sunday	The call of Levi	Mt 9:9–13	Hos 6:3–6	Rom 4:18–25
11th Sunday	The mission sermon (1)	Mt 9:36 –	Ex 19:2–6	Rom 5:6–11
12th Sunday	The mission sermon (2)	Mt 10:26–33	Jer 20:10–13	Rom 5:12–15
13th Sunday	The mission sermon (3)	Mt 10:37–42	2 Kg 4:8–11, 14–16	Rom 6:3–4, 8–11
	<b>The Mystery of God's Kingdom</b>			
14th Sunday	The revelation to the simple	Mt 11:25–30	Zec 9:9–10	Rom 8:9, 11–13
15th Sunday	The parable sermon (1)	Mt 13:1–23	Is 55:10–11	Rom 8:18–23
16th Sunday	The parable sermon (2)	Mt 13:24–43	Wis 12:13, 16–19	Rom 8:26–27
17th Sunday	The parable sermon (3)	Mt 13:44–52	1 Kg 3:5, 7–12	Rom 8:28–30
	<b>God's Kingdom on Earth – The Church of Christ</b>			
18th Sunday	The feeding of five thousand	Mt 14:13–21	Is 55:1–3	Rom 8:35, 37–39
19th Sunday	Jesus walks on the waters	Mt 14:22–33	1 Kg 19:9, 11–13	Rom 9:1–5
20th Sunday	The Canaanite woman	Mt 15:21–28	Is 56:1, 6–7	Rom 11:13–15, 29–
21st Sunday	Peter's confession	Mt 16:13–20	Is 22:19–23	Rom 11:33–36
22nd Sunday	The passion prophesied	Mt 16:21–27	Jer 20:7–9	Rom 12:1–2
23rd Sunday	The community sermon (1)	Mt 18:15–20	Ez 33:7–9	Rom 13:8–10
24th Sunday	The community sermon (2)	Mt 18:21–35	Sirach 27:30 – 28:7	Rom 14:7–9
	<b>Authority and invitation – the ministry ends</b>			
25th Sunday	The parable of the labourers	Mt 20:1–16	Is 55:6–9	Phil 1:20–24, 27
26th Sunday	The parable of the two sons	Mt 21:28–32	Ez 18:25–28	Phil 2:1–11
27th Sunday	The parable of the vinedressers	Mt 21:33–43	Is 5:1–7	Phil 4:6–9
28th Sunday	The parable of the marriage feast	Mt 22:1–14	Is 25:6–10	Phil 4:12–14, 19–
29th Sunday	Paying tribute to Caesar	Mt 22:15–21	Is 45:1, 4–6	1 Thess 1:1–5
30th Sunday	The greatest commandment	Mt 22:34–40	Ex 22:20–26	1 Thess 1:5–10
31st Sunday*	Hypocrisy and ambition	Mt 23:1–12	Mal 1:14–2:2, 8–10	1 Thess 2:7–9, 13
32nd Sunday	The final sermon (1)	Mt 25:1–13	Wis 6:12–16	1 Thess 4:13–18
33rd Sunday	The final sermon (2)	Mt 25:14–30	Prov 31:10–13, 19–	1 Thess 5:1–6
	<b>God's Kingdom fulfilled</b>			
34th Sunday	Christ the King	Mt 25:31–46	Ez 34:11–12, 15–17	1 Cor 15:20–26

\* In 2023, The Transfiguration of the Lord is celebrated in place of the 18th Sunday.



Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 3/4 Dec 2022	
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Emslie, Maureen	W6:00
Goss, Marion	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Jones, Marion	W6:00
Kotz, Sharron	E10:00
Leahy, Michelle	R10:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	ASE
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Taylor, Colin	H10:00
Taylor, Trish	H10:00
Zavadil Family	PRSE
Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 10/11 Dec 2022	
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Dhanasen Family	PRSE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Milwain, Gianna	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Scully, Greg	R10:00
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Turnbull, Mark	H10:00
Turnbull, Pauline	H10:00
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	



**Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:**

### Sunday 4 December

*St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm*

Neve Georgina Bugeja

Mikayla Jean Morello

Jack Andrew Roberts

Isabella Dianne Voucatos

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

### Calling for more volunteers to be Eucharistic Ministers!

We need more people to serve as Eucharistic Ministers at OLHC as we only have a small pool to work with at the moment.

So, if you would like to be part of this important ministry to help us out, please contact me on 0432 391 105.

You will receive the necessary training so that you will feel comfortable in the role.

Please consider being a part of the celebration of the Eucharist in this special way.

**Kathleen**

### Volunteers Needed for Christmas Masses

Please contact

Kathleen Nolan 0432 391 105; or

Patsy Skipper 0429 439 675

if you are able to help with any of the following:

- Reader/Commentator
- Eucharistic Minister
- Setup/Cleanup; etc



at any of our Christmas Masses:

#### Christmas Eve:

6pm

Holy Trinity Primary School

8pm

OLHC Eltham Church

10pm

SFX Montmorency Church

#### Christmas Day:

8:30am

SFX Montmorency Church

10am

OLHC Eltham Church



Shop Local this Christmas Season...



**Magenta Creative Jewellery** are offering

20-50% off all stock on display until Christmas Eve.

You can find them at Unit 3, 6 Pryor Street, Eltham Village;

@magentacreative on Instagram, ph:9431 6877; or visit [www.magentajewellery.com.au](http://www.magentajewellery.com.au)





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

### **Montmorency**

For the recently deceased:

*Veronica (Marian) Smith*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Alan Anderson, Joan Harris,  
Suashini Jeyakumar, Sybil Masson*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

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

### **Eltham**

For the recently deceased:

*John McPartlin*

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

**Christmas Boxes** will be in the church from Sunday  
until 11th December. A request is being made for  
*new gifts* for **children, adults** and for **teenagers** who  
often miss out at this time.

Thank you again for your continued generosity,  
Pat McCrohan



### **We are here for you**

If you would like Communion at home, or if you are  
unable to get to Mass and would like a lift, there is a  
small Pastoral Team who are here to assist you.

Maybe you are unwell or lonely and would  
appreciate a visit from someone from the Parish,  
please be in touch with us.

Contact Patsy: 0429 439 675 or  
Kate at the Parish Office: 9435 4742.

If you would like to **join** this small team to assist  
with Pastoral care of those in need, you would be  
most welcome.

You may also like to consider helping out with  
Liturgy of the Word in the Church at 9.30am on  
Wednesday mornings at Eltham or Thursday  
mornings at Montmorency.

We would love to hear from you.



### **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 4 December 2022 Second Sunday of Advent**

**Leader:** May the season of Advent serve to strengthen our time of prayer, making the birth of Jesus present and real.

For the Church: that we may be ambassadors for Christ, furthering God's work of reconciling the world, by  
acknowledging and inviting those who are alienated or wounded..

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

At this Advent time let us reflect on the wonderful miracle of Christmas. God becoming a little baby and all that  
entails: getting hungry, thirsty, tired, perhaps even getting grumpy but sharing a diving nature with His Heavenly  
Father.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the children at our three schools, Holy Trinity, Our Lady Help of Christians and St Francis Xavier:  
may the Holy Spirit guide their young minds to discern the important from the trivial in this hyper active, unbridled  
time of materialism.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for young people who have run away from their families: that God will protect them from harm and give  
them the courage to make contact with their families.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Today's gospel leaves us with questions that can make us feel slightly uncomfortable: Repent! And Prepare the Way  
of the Lord! Are there aspects of my life that require repentance? How do I prepare the way of the Lord? We need  
the guiding help of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for countries at war, like Russia and Ukraine. The endless conflict produces inexhaustible lists of death and  
injuries. May the Holy Spirit guide them to the conclusion that war is expensive and unproductive.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died, *John McPartlin & Marian Smith*, and those whose anniversary occurs at this time,  
*Alan Anderson, Joan Harris, Suashini Jeyakumar & Sybil Masson*. May the memories of cherished moments and  
the strength of Jesus' love comfort their families and friends.

Let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Let us place our hope and trust in the Lord as we journey through the week ahead. We ask this through  
Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**

## Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptize you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

## Reflection:

Matthew, unlike Luke, introduces the figure of John the Baptist abruptly, with no explanation of his origins. And Matthew alone of the synoptic gospels has the Baptist announce the arrival of the kingdom with the very same words that Jesus uses: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand".

John's clothes, diet, location and message all echo those of the great prophet Elijah who was expected to return to inaugurate the final judgement. John's message has an apocalyptic tone that anticipates Jesus' lengthy discourse on the end times before his passion and death. The reference to baptism "with the Holy Spirit and fire" has multiple associations - cleansing, purification, inspiration, judgement - that feed our Christian imaginations.

Matthew provides no explanatory introduction to John's diatribe against the religious authorities who are yoked together as "Pharisees and Sadducees". How much this vitriol is influenced by Jesus' own disputes with them or by later conflicts between the Jewish and the Christian communities is unclear. Contemporary scripture scholarship warns against an over-simplification of the issues.

This reading is full of drama and energy. It weaves narrative, proclamation and disputation together into an arresting whole. Readers who convey its colour and passion will have the assembly's full attention.

**Break Open the Word 2022**

Thank you to the kind people who have recently donated some splendid books. They are in line to be catalogued ASAP.

However, the library is up to Dolly's Wax and there is definitely no more room in the inn!

Blessings, Trish

PS Whoever has Bishop Geoffrey Robinson's book: *Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church*, please return ASAP.



## Vinnies Eltham

Christmas Time and again we request your help. As we no longer tag our Christmas Tree, a basket is available at the back of the Church, or goods may be left at the Piety Stall. Many of our clients are awaiting permanent housing, so cooking facilities are limited. Eltham Vinnies are grateful for the ongoing support we receive & wish all a safe & Holy Christmas, & Happy & Safe 2023!

Items needed:

Christmas Cake/Pudding	Custard	Shortbread
Pasta/Pasta Sauce	Fruit Mince Pies	Chocolate
Biscuits, Sweet/Savoury	Tinned Fruit	Tinned Ham/Fish
Breakfast Cereal	Soft Drinks	Coffee/Hot Chocolate
Milk, Long Life (full cream)		Toiletries (men's/women's)

(Please no alcohol, or children's toys, books or games)

