

# 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.

Australian Cardinal George Pell, former Prefect of the Secretariat for the Economy and Archbishop of Sydney and of Melbourne, died 10 January in Rome. He was 81.

In a statement released this week as President of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB said it was with great sadness that he learned of the unexpected death of Cardinal George Pell in Rome on Tuesday evening (Rome time). Archbishop Costelloe continued by emphasising that Cardinal Pell's impact on the life of the Church in Australia and around the world will continue to be felt for many years.

Over the past few days, and no doubt over the next few weeks, much will have been said and written about Cardinal Pell. He was an ambitious man and became a polarising figure for many people throughout his ministry and meteoric rise up the church hierarchy. George held very strong beliefs on many topics and inevitably came into conflict with people on these issues.

It is too early to speculate on the legacy of Cardinal George Pell in our history of the Catholic Church in Australia - as he has dominated it's agenda over the past 25 years, but unfortunately the serious and shocking revelations of cover-ups with regards to historical child sexual abuse within our church during these times and under his ministry, will impact the outcome of his legacy and time in office as Archbishop of Melbourne and Sydney. To those many people who loved and admired George throughout his life and career, they will certainly hold fast to their prayers and thanks for his journey on earth, and to those many courageous people who stood up against George and fought for survivors and victims of child sexual abuse and a different vision of the Catholic Church in the modern era, my thoughts and prayers are with you.

It has not been an easy time!

Michael

## Gospel: John 1:29-34

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptize with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptize with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the chosen One of God.'

## Reflection:

In most years, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord both concludes the Christmas season and serves as the First Sunday of Ordinary Time, though in some years it is displaced to the Monday. Today's gospel, not from this year's evangelist Matthew but from John, indirectly records Jesus' baptism. As well as echoing the Christmas season in this way, its focus on John the Baptist brings back memories of Advent.

It's a rich text, full of allusions and connections. Here are some of them. The term "lamb of God" may combine reference to the paschal lamb and the suffering servant. In John's gospel (19:14) Jesus is taken away for crucifixion as the Passover lambs were being sacrificed. Jesus' eternal origin, spelt out in the Prologue, is implied in John's statement "he existed before me".

In this gospel the purpose of John's baptism was not to call for repentance but to reveal Jesus, in accord with the role of witness that the Prologue ascribes to the Baptist (1:7). Jesus' baptism is reported via the Baptist's testimony rather than directly described. The Spirit is said to rest or remain on Jesus, foreshadowing Jesus' words about the Spirit's abiding presence in his farewell discourse. Finally, most translations now prefer the reading "Son of God" rather than the JB's "Chosen One of God", in spite of the latter's allusion to the Suffering Servant.

In short, this is a reading to prompt deep reflection on Jesus' identity. It offers much food for thought at this stage of Ordinary Time.

**Break Open the Word 2023**

*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.*





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

For the recently deceased:

*Cardinal George Pell*

**Montmorency**

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Francis James Mannix, Christine Newton (nee Podger),  
Maria Zini (1 year)*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

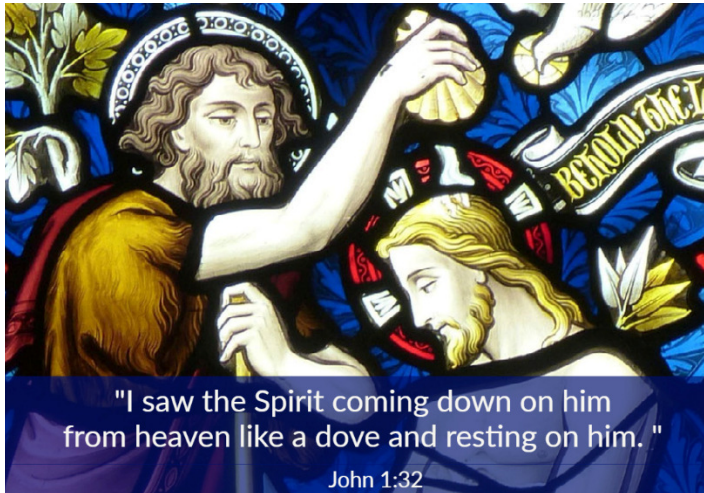
*Arturo Bacani, Tony Belfiore, Rita Bevanda,  
Kim Brisbane, Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert),  
Alana Foulds Bob Fraser, Melanie Lam, Lita Lee,  
Frances McDonald, Cindy Morrissey,  
Andrew Pighin, Aquatha Spina, Melina Tenaglia*

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



Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 14/15 Jan 2023	
Costanzo, Brenda	W8:30
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Frediani, Gabriella	ASE
Furtado, Lionel	R10:00
Goss, Marion	E10:00
Illiffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Rodriguez, Carlos	W6:00
Nolan, Michael	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
Scannell Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	C10:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30
Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 21/22 Jan 2023	
Beckford, Peter	R10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	W8:30
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Kotz, Sharron	E10:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
McAlear, Peter	ASRC
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Nolan, Michael	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Scully, Helen	ASE
Stewart Family	PRSE
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham; C = Commentator; E = Euch. Minister;  
H = Hospitality; PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;  
W = Minister of the Word; R = Reader

**Prayers of the Faithful for 15 January 2023 - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Leader:** Loving Father, as Christians and inheritors of the enthusiasm of the prophets and the apostles, let us turn to you as the God of love and truth, who sent His Son to ransom all humankind.

God of Love, blessed are you for your Word, the source of life for us all. May the Church go out to meet those who do not believe in you. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of Peace, we give you thanks for advocates of non-violence and justice. We pray that the Spirit will enlighten the leaders of all nations. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of Joy, we pray for everyone involved in charitable works within our community. May they be joyful witnesses of your love. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of Hope, we thank you for those who work for peace and for those who work on behalf of asylum seekers. May those who are victims of war, of famine and of poverty find strength and comfort. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of Healing, we pray for those who are ill in mind or body and especially those listed in the bulletin, that they will receive God's healing touch. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of Mercy, we pray for the repose of the soul of Cardinal George Pell and remember his service to the Church, and we pray for those in our community who have died. We remember also those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Francis James Mannix, Christine Newton and Maria Zini.*

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** God our Father, with confidence in your love, we ask that you grant us grace and peace and listen to our prayers. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen**