

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.

Welcome to the end of January 2023

The Australia Day long weekend concludes the school holidays for so many families and hopefully the journey home for those travelling will be safe! We can all agree that it's a beautiful land to call home.

- History of Australia Day -

Australia Day public holiday (January 26) **honouring the establishment of the first permanent European settlement on the continent of Australia.** On January 26, 1788, Arthur Phillip, who had sailed into what is now Sydney Cove with a shipload of convicts, hoisted the British flag at the site.

It was only in 1915 that Australia Day emerged, as a fundraising effort for the first world war. Held on July 30, the first Australia Day was directly shaped by the experience of the Gallipoli landing. It continued to be held in July for the remainder of the war.

By 1935, the states all agreed to use the name 'Australia Day' and celebrate it on January 26. But it was a decision that caused controversy and protest. The 150th anniversary in 1938 was celebrated nationally but also saw First Nations declare the date to be a "day of mourning".

Similarly, the 1988 bicentenary epitomised the contested meaning of January 26. It saw both sides - the largest party in Australia's history and the largest protest since the Vietnam moratorium.

It was only in 1994 that Australia Day became a public holiday in every state and territory, that's only 29 years ago.

- Reflect Respect Celebrate -

This day marks the beginning of a long and brutal colonisation of people and land. To many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, there is little to celebrate, and it is a **commemoration of a deep loss - loss of sovereign rights to their land, loss of family, loss of the right to practice their culture.**

We reflect on our nation's past, which began more than 65,000 years ago, and the impact of European settlement on the First Nations Australians. Our national day is a time, above all, for inclusion and respect. It enables us to pause, listen and gain a greater understanding of First Nations Peoples, culture and heritage as we work towards reconciliation.

We aim to respect the contributions of all Australians, and we celebrate our achievements by coming together and connecting with family, friends and the community.

Australia Day is also an opportunity to celebrate our cultural diversity and rich migrant heritage which is very much part of our unique Australian identity.

Michael



Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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.



Reflection:

Recent translations have Jesus going up the “mountain” rather than the “hill”. This allows a much richer play of biblical associations. Mountain-tops were traditionally places of encounter with God and of divine revelation. Mt Sinai and Elijah come to mind, for example, and most especially Moses. By incorporating five discourses into his gospel, Matthew alludes to the five great books of the Torah. As the new Moses, Jesus proceeds in this first discourse to bring the Law to fulfilment.

Like the twin commandments to love God and neighbour, the beatitudes are not exactly original creations of Jesus. What Matthew has done is distil insights and teachings from the prophets and psalms and fashion them into a manifesto of the reign of God. They function as a kind of overture not only to the Sermon on the Mount but to the rest of the gospel in which they are expounded and exemplified. As much as they draw on tradition, they look forward to the new way things are to be in God’s realm.

Though read only on this Sunday and All Saints Day, the beatitudes will be familiar to most worshippers. Those who proclaim this text will need to do so with freshness, conviction and deliberation. **Break Open the Word 2023**

Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 28/29 Jan 2023	
Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
Nolan, Kathleen	R10:00
Ramsdale, Sue & John	ASRC
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Williams, Peter	W6:00
Zavadil Family	PRSE
<small>ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham; C = Commentator; E = Euch. Minister; H = Hospitality ; PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham; W = Minister of the Word; R = Reader</small>	



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

Montmorency

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Rita Alampi, Annie Gatt, Bernie Lamers, John Longton, Antonietta Milone, Immaculata Mustica

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 whose anniversaries are at this time:

Gavan O’Connell

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.

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 4/5 February 2023

Armstrong, Miranda	H10:00
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	H10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	C10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Ilfie, Yvonne	E10:00
Jones, Marion	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Ryan Family	PRSE
Taylor, Trish	R10:00
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR

Prayers of the Faithful for 29 January 2023 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: We gather together with our hearts open in faith and prayer.

We pray for the Church: that we may be ambassadors of 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.

The Psalmist of Psalm 145 reminds us that God sets this unjust world right: ‘It is the Lord who sets prisoners free and the Lord who upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked.’ Help us Lord to trust in your saving power, may we come to know your intervening mercy.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

May our recent reflection of Australia Day strengthen our unity as one people and most importantly may we be truly thankful for the many treasures bestowed on this land.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who hold positions of influence or power, that God may work in their hearts and direct their minds to work for the common good. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our own parish community, that we may always give faithful witness by reflecting Christ’s gentle mercy in our daily living. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries are at this time, *Rita Alampi, Annie Gatt, Bernie Lamers, John Longton, Antonietta Milone, Immaculata Mustica & Gavan O’Connell.* For their family friends, may they feel comfort in the knowledge of the constancy and eternity of God’s love.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Dear friends, may Jesus’ love guide us through the week ahead. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen