

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.

Gospel: John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the Jews: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.'

Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'



Reflection:

This excerpt from the latter part of the sixth chapter of John's gospel has been chosen for its Eucharistic content. The chapter began with the story of Jesus feeding the crowd with a few barley loaves and a couple of fish. That was followed by Jesus' appearance on the stormy waters of the lake, then the first part of the bread of life discourse in the synagogue at Capernaum.

That was backward-looking in the sense that Jesus' teaching on the bread of life drew on the wisdom traditions of the Old Testament, especially Proverbs and Sirach. In the remainder of the discourse the perspective changes to anticipation of Jesus' passion and death. The talk is now of the flesh and blood of the Son of Man. As it did in the earlier part of the discourse, the horizon stretches as far as "the last day". Even after all this time, Jesus' words about eating his flesh and drinking his blood still bring us up short. That would be even more the case if "eating" was more literally translated as "chewing".

We are spared the aftermath of his teaching which resulted in "many of his disciples" leaving him. Instead, we are invited to concentrate on the good news. Our sacramental participation effects a mutual in-dwelling between Jesus and the believer that is akin to that shared by Jesus and the Father. Jesus has much to say about this to his disciples after he has washed their feet. Today's reading is well-known. The challenge for ministers of the word is to make it sound entirely new.

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 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

all correspondence to:

86 Mayona Road,
Montmorency Vic 3094
9435 4742

eltham@cam.org.au

montmorency@cam.org.au

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

Tue-Fri 9am-3pm

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au

Kerry Mash:

Volunteer

Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

Websites:

www.pol.org.au/montmorency

www.pol.org.au/eltham

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

Acting Principal: Mark Pinkerton: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

available half an hour before
any weekday or weekend Parish Mass.

Collections: 28 May & 4 June 2023

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving		
Cash	\$771.00	\$1,316.00
Credit	\$1,106.54	\$3,582.00
Presbytery		
Cash	\$1,269.95	\$748.20
Credit	\$950.00	\$895.00

Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
March	\$5,590.48	\$10,815.00	\$16,405.48
April	\$6,822.52	\$10,517.00	\$17,339.52
May	\$6,620.26	\$8,507.00	\$15,127.26

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 10

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist

Montmorency

Sunday 11

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Milan & Maia

Eltham

Monday 12 - King's Birthday Public Holiday

Tuesday 13

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

2:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 14

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 15

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

Friday 16

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 17

12:00pm Baptisms: Chloe, Luka & Lana

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 18

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & Baptism (Amelia)

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Ariana & Saskia

Eltham

Tuesday 20

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

Wednesday 21

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 22

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Mass

Calvary Lower Plenty Garden Views

Friday 23

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 24

12:00pm Baptisms: Makai, Bennett

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist

Montmorency

Sunday 25

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Lucas, Bailee, Emilia

Eltham

Tuesday 27

2:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 28

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 29

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

Saturday 1 July

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 2

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 4

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

Wednesday 5

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham



*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:

*Rose de Zilva, Frances Dooley, Charlie George, Terry Hollyoak,
Maurice Kerwin, Edna Mary McCudden, Giuseppina Pace,
Russell Rodrigo*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Gay, Gayle, Helen, Maurice, Edwinda Bacani, Perly Bacani,
Rita Bevanda, Maria Bredle, Kim Brisbane, Feliksa Chwasta,
Pat Collins, Allan Dooley, Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert),
Ysabelle Fanlo, Alana Foulds, Bob Fraser, Melanie Lam,
Cindy Morrissey, Andrew Pighin, Aquatha Spina*

Eltham

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Terry Hollyoak

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Violetta, Michael Bonicci, Bill Boyce, Shannon Donahoo,
Peter Gaffney, Jade McAlear, Beth Morganti,
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.



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

Saturday 10 June 2023

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Miles McClelland

First Eucharist

Sunday 11 June 2023

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 12:00pm

Maia Kutenda Kandawasvika

Baptism

Milan Kudzwai Kandawasvika

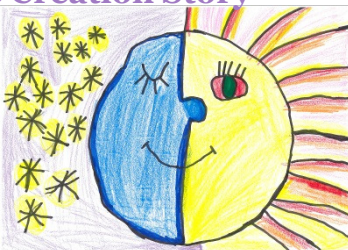
Baptism



If you, or someone you know,
are finding it difficult
to get to church on Sundays,
and would appreciate
someone to visit them
with Communion,
once a week or fortnight
on a mutually agreed upon day & time,
please contact Trish 0402 914 817.

SFX Grade 1 response to the Creation Story

Here are the remainder of
the artistic responses to
Grade 1 children learning
about Creation through
Godly play:



St. Francis Xavier
Catholic Primary School
Montmorency

PREP
ENROLMENTS
NOW OPEN

CALL 9435 8474
TO BOOK THE NEXT SCHOOL TOUR

2024

"Learning Today. Leading Tomorrow"

>> CONNECTING CHILDREN >> LEARNING & FAMILIES

EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION WITHIN A SAFE & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Southern Stars Social club

Party for Single Catholics in the 28 to 60 Age Group

Date: Saturday 24th June

Time: Starting at 8:00pm

Location: School Hall at St Scholastica's Parish
Corner of Burwood Highway & Stirling Street, East Burwood
Melway Map 60 D6

Cost: \$13.00

Includes Supper and Lucky Door Prizes

Enquiries: Peter 9885 2167





We proclaim a crucified Christ

1 Cor 1:23

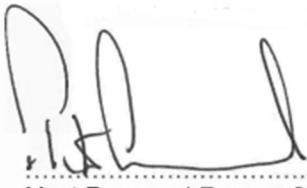
**PETER ANDREW COMENSOLI
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE
METROPOLITAN**

**DECREE AMALGAMATING THE PARISHES OF
ST FRANCIS XAVIER, MONTMORENCY AND
OUR ALDY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, ELTHAM
INTO THE
PARISH OF THE RISEN CHRIST - MONTMORENCY & ELTHAM**

1. A parish is a certain community of Christ's faithful stably established within a diocese, whose pastoral care, under the authority of the diocesan bishop, is entrusted to a parish priest as its proper pastor ¹. Each diocese must be divided into parishes, which are distinct parts of the whole diocese. It is the responsibility and authority of the diocesan bishop, and he alone, to erect, alter or suppress parishes, after considering the advice of his presbyteral council.² The Fourth Plenary Council of Australia and New Zealand of 1937 also decreed that consultation must be had with the College of Consultors.³
2. In 1961, the Parish of Montmorency was erected under the patronage of St Francis Xavier. In 1958 the parish of Eltham was created under the patronage of Our Lady Help of Christians, when it formally separated from the parish of Sacred Heart Diamond Creek.
3. In 2019, the two parishes were partnered under the leadership of a Moderator, and began to plan how the two parishes could better coordinate pastoral care.
4. Between May 2019 and November 2022 the two parishes explored and communicated a Pastoral Plan for these two parishes to become one parish - through open meetings, regular team meetings, Zoom meetings, and regular Bulletin inclusions. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Parish communities continued the pathway of dialogue, and engaged a retired professional psychologist to assist in navigating the community response to creative change. In addition, the Parishes also opened dialogue with other neighbouring parishes to ensure that a proposal for their own amalgamation will offer good relations for future developments and connections in line with the missionary vision of the Archdiocese.
5. On 1 December 2022, The Moderator, with the support of the parish communities formally petitioned for the amalgamation of the two parishes into one.
6. After carefully considering the motivations and observations presented to me, and after the required formal canonical consultation of the Archbishop's Council of Priests given on 24 May 2023 (cf. Canon 515 §2), and the College of Consultors of the Archdiocese of Melbourne given on 23 May 2023, I hereby decree the following:
7. **That the parishes of Montmorency and Eltham be amalgamated, so that the new Catholic Parish of the Risen Christ - Montmorency & Eltham shall encompass all the territory previously contained in the two separate parishes. That is for Montmorency: Commencing at the junction of the Plenty River with the Yarra River follow the Plenty River upstream (northwards) to Main Street and then Main Street a short distance to St. Helena Road; thence follow St. Helena Road eastwards to Ryans Road and then Ryans Road southwards, continuing to the railway line; thence follow the railway line westwards to Sherbourne Road and then Sherbourne Road south-eastwards to Bolton Street; thence follow Bolton Street southwards to Fitzsimons Lane, Fitzsimmons Lane, southwards to the Yarra River and then the Yarra River downstream to the junction of the Plenty River the commencing point. Unless otherwise stated boundaries run along the centreline of rivers, creeks, roads, streets - the point of commencement.**
8. **That is for Eltham: Commencing at the junction of Allendale Road and Ryans Road follow Allendale Road eastwards to its junction with Donaldson Road and continue along**

Donaldson Road to Eltham-Yarra Glen Road; thence follow Eltham-Yarra Glen Road southwards to Pitmans Corner and then continue in a straight line south-westwards to Glynns Road, Glynns Road south-westwards to Overbank Road, Overbank Road to its end and then continue in a straight line south-westwards to the Yarra River at a point adjacent to the northern end of Alexander Road (Warrandyte); thence follow the Yarra River downstream (westwards) to Fitzsimons Lane, Fitzsimons Lane northwards to Bolton Street, Bolton Street northwards to Sherbourne Road and then Sherbourne Road north westwards to the railway line; thence follow the railway line eastwards to a point adjacent to the corner of Ryans Road and Swan Street and then proceed northwards to and along Ryans Road to the junction of Allendale Road - the commencing point. Unless otherwise stated boundaries run along the centreline of rivers, creeks, roads, streets - to the point of commencement.

9. **Unless otherwise stated all boundaries run along the centreline of rivers, creeks, roads, streets, etc.**
10. Consequently, all the faithful with a domicile or quasi-domicile within this territory shall henceforth belong by law to the Parish of the Risen Christ, ⁴ which will be established by effect of this Decree from 30 June 2023.
11. I declare the juridical person of the Parish of St Francis Xavier Montmorency to be suppressed. The ecclesiastical goods that were the patrimony of the parish shall devolve to the new Parish of the Risen Christ.
12. I declare the juridical person of the Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham to be suppressed. The ecclesiastical goods that were the patrimony of the parish shall devolve to the new Parish of the Risen Christ.
13. The churches of St Francis Xavier Montmorency and Our Lady Help of Christians Eltham shall continue to enjoy all the rights, duties and prerogatives that they have hitherto acquired.
14. This decree will take effect from 30 June 2023. I order that this decree be published by copies of it being displayed on the noticeboards of St Francis Xavier Montmorency and Our Lady Help of Christians Eltham for one calendar month, and by the decree being drawn to the attention of the faithful by the celebrant of Mass at all parochial Masses in those churches on Saturday evening, 24 June 2023 and Sunday 25 June 2023.
15. I order that copies of this decree be carefully preserved in the parochial archives of the Parish of the Risen Christ - Montmorency & Eltham as well as the archives of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.
16. The Second Vatican Council proclaimed that "the parish offers an outstanding example of community apostolate, for it gathers into a unity all the human diversities that are found there and inserts them into the universality of the Church." ⁵ I pray that these arrangements that I have decreed will be a rich opportunity for the parishioners of the Parish of the Risen Christ to renew their commitment to the Lord, and to the building up of his Church. I invoke the blessings of Almighty God on the priests and parishioners of the Parish.
17. Given at St Patrick's Centre, East Melbourne, Victoria on this thirtieth day of the month of May, in the year of Our Lord, 2023.


 Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli
 Archbishop of Melbourne




 Notary



1. Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, can. 515#1
2. CF. *Ibid*, can. 515#2
3. Cf. *Concilium plenarium IV Australiae et Novae Zelandiae habitum apud Sydney anno Domini 1937*, deer. 148(d).
4. Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, cann. 102-107, 518
5. Cf. Vatican II, *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 18 November 1965, n. 10 (*Vatican Council II*, Austin Flannery O.P. (ed). P. 777)

Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 10/11 June	
Azzopardi, Michael	E10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	PRYR
Davidson, John	W8:30
Edwards, Elisabeth	C10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Rigg Family	PRSE
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scully, Greg	R10:00
Scully, Helen	ASE
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Turnbull, Mark	H10:00
Turnbull, Pauline	H10:00
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00
Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 17/18 June	
Ballenger, Nima	R10:00
Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
McAlear, Peter	ASRC
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Rough Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	H10:00
Scully, Helen	H10:00
Taylor, Trish	C10:00
Williams, Peter	W6:00
	ASE
ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham; C = Commentator; E = Euch. Minister; H = Hospitality; PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham; W = Minister of the Word; R = Reader	

A Charismatic Mass
will be celebrated on
Thursday 15th June
at St Thomas the Apostle Church,
251 Diamond Creek Rd, North Greensborough.



The evening will commence at
7.30pm with Praise & Worship,
followed by Mass and supper.

All welcome.

For further details, please contact
Emilia 0418 120 902 or Rose 0411 650 339.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Thank You

The Montmorency conference of SVDP wish to thank all parishioners who contributed to our appeal last weekend. If you missed our appeal last weekend you may be able to donate as indicated below.

How to donate to the SVDP Winter 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, -hand 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. To ensure funds are directed 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. Please send an email to msaid@netspace.net.au with your full name, address, amount & date of deposit so that the conference can acknowledge your generosity and ensure these monies are allocated to the Montmorency or Eltham Conferences.

By Phone: please call 13 18 12 and again state your donation is for the **Montmorency** or **Eltham conference**. Please send an email to msaid@netspace.net.au with your full name, address, amount & date of deposit so that the conference can acknowledge your generosity and ensure these monies are allocated to the Montmorency or Eltham Conferences.

Direct Credit: BSB 063003 Account 10081787 **with a reference Montmorency 916**. In this way monies will be credited to the Montmorency Conference account and stay within our community. Please send an email to msaid@netspace.net.au with your full name, address, amount & date of deposit so that the conference can acknowledge your generosity and ensure these monies are allocated to the Montmorency or Eltham Conferences.

NOTE THIS IS A DIFFERENT ACCOUNT NUMBER TO PREVIOUS YEARS



PROCLAIM

**LEADING MISSIONARY RENEWAL:
VIBRANT AND VITAL PARISHES
Saturday 15 July 2023, 10am - 3pm
Catholic Leadership Centre,
576 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne**

A formation day for parish priests, their (potential) teams and interested lay leadership in parishes to envision, and be equipped for, missionary renewal as we explore ways for parishes to be vital and vibrant.

Our speakers: **Ron Huntley, Fr Chris Ryan MGL & Cath Garner.**

Spend time in prayer, hear testimonies from parishes and work with your parish leadership team as you identify the needs and next steps for your communities.

Registration closes 5 July. Download flyer for further information including cost and registration details.

Prayers of the Faithful for 11 June 2023 - The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Leader: Each time we celebrate Eucharist, Christ is poured out in love for us, and at the same time gathers us as one body, one people. We make these prayers to God.

For the Church: may we be a witness to the world of God's love and may our common beliefs bring us to unity.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we might grow into Christ: may our sharing in this Eucharist help us to acknowledge and cherish the gifts we each bring to this community and build up the body of Christ.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those making their first communion today: may this sacrament bring them to the fullness of life.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who hunger spiritually: may they find nourishment and life in the Word of God and in the Eucharist. And may the uniting of our two communities be a source of hope and life for all who join us.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the members of our families who no longer join us at this table: that they may not stop searching for truth and that they come once again to unity with Christ.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

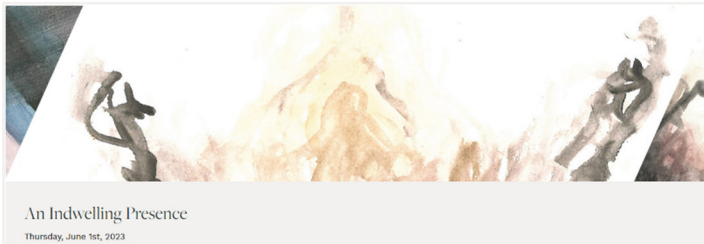
For all those denied the Eucharist: that God will strengthen them and bring them to himself.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who suffer in mind or body: that the prayers of this community and the hands of those who bring healing may strengthen and sustain them in their time of need.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Rose de Silva, Frances Dooley, Charlie George, Terry Hollyoak, Maurice Kerwin, Edna Mary McCudden, Giuseppina Pace & Russell Rodrigo*; may their life of faith and trust in Jesus bring them eternal life.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless and guide us all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen



Father Richard identifies the Holy Spirit as a divine “yes” within:

We must first remember who we are! Our core, our deepest DNA, is divine; it is the Spirit of Love implanted within us by our Creator at the first moment of our creation (see Romans 5:5, 8:11, 14-16).

Those who have gone to their depths uncover an indwelling Presence. It is a deep and loving “yes” inherent within us.

Christian theology names this inner Presence as the Holy Spirit, which is precisely God as immanent, within, and even our deepest and truest self.

Liberation theologian Leonardo Boff describes the signs of this interior awakening to the Spirit:

The principal characteristic of human beings is our role as bearers of consciousness, of intelligence - in a word, of the spirit. The spirit infuses the whole universe from its very beginning, but in human beings it becomes self-aware and free...

Nothing shows the presence of the spirit in human life as well as love does... When love is expressed as compassion, the spirit enables us to come out of ourselves, put ourselves in the other's place, bend over the person fallen by the wayside. In forgiveness we transcend ourselves, so that the past does not have the last word and cannot close off the present and the future.

The highest expression of the spirit is the one that opens us to the Great Other, in love and trust. It establishes a dialogue with God, listens from the conscience to God's call, and delivers us trustingly into the palm of God's hand. This communion can be so intense, say the mystics of every tradition, that the soul of the beloved is fused with the Lover in an experience of nonduality; by grace we participate in God's very being. Here the human spirit is touching the hem of the Holy Spirit's garment.

Richard writes:

Some saints and mystics have described this Presence as “closer to me than I am to myself” or “more me than I am myself”. Yet this True Self still must be awakened and chosen. The Holy Spirit is given equally to all; but it must be received, too. People who totally receive this Presence and draw life from it are the ones we traditionally call saints.

The Holy Spirit is never created by our actions or behavior; it is naturally indwelling, our inner being with God. In Catholic theology, we call the Holy Spirit “Uncreated Grace”. Culture and even religion often teach us to live out of our false self of reputation, self-image, role, possessions, money, appearance, and so on. Only as this fails us, and it always eventually does, will the Holy Spirit within us stand revealed and ready to guide us.

From this more spacious and grounded place, one naturally connects, empathises, forgives, and loves just about everything. We were made in love, for love, and unto love. This deep inner “yes” is God in us, already loving God through us.

[CALVARY OFFERED ACT GOVERNMENT LAND, NEW HOSPITAL BEFORE TALKS BROKE DOWN](#)

Calvary Public Hospital offered the ACT Government four hectares on which to build a new facility before negotiations over the forced takeover broke down, correspondence between the parties reveals.

Source: The Australian.



[POPE FRANCIS RECOVERING WELL, THANKS WELL-WISHERS FOR MESSAGES](#)

Pope Francis is continuing to rest and recover at Rome's Gemelli Hospital after successful abdominal surgery on Wednesday.

Source: OSV News.



[AUSTRALIAN APPOINTED TO PONTIFICAL ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES](#)

University of Notre Dame Australia research academic Tracey Rowland has been appointed to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, becoming the second Australian to receive the honour.



[PERTH LAUNCHES 2023-24 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY](#)

Perth Archdiocese has officially launched its 2023-24 Diocesan Assembly at St Mary's Cathedral, with Catholic communities across the archdiocese invited to select delegates for the assembly in July 2024.

Source: The Record.



[TWENTY-EIGHT SOUTH AUSTRALIANS ACCESS STATE'S EUTHANASIA PROGRAM](#)

A new report reveals 28 South Australians received a permit to die under the state's euthanasia laws in the scheme's first three months, and 12 people have died, including one who died without using the medication available.

Source: The Advertiser.



[STUDY PROBES RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, NIGHTMARES AND ANXIETY](#)

Australian researchers are investigating whether faith and spirituality influences how people dream - and whether people who are religious are less likely to have nightmares and dreams about death.

Source: ABC News.



[DESTRUCTION OF DAM AN ACT OF TERRORISM, SAYS US-BASED UKRAINIAN ARCHBISHOP](#)

The destruction of a dam and hydroelectric power plant in a Russian-occupied area of Ukraine marks a "dastardly and diabolical act" that "defies imagination", the metropolitan of Ukrainian Catholics in the United States said.

Source: NCR Online.



[JIM BROADBENT HITS THE ROAD TO HONOUR MATE](#)

In *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, a retired pensioner walks the length of Britain to offer support to a dying friend.

Source: Australian Catholics.



The ocean of God's mercy

In 1931, a Polish nun by the name of Faustina Kowalska began experiencing the presence of Jesus in an extraordinary way. Through a series of private revelations, St Faustina became the 'secretary of God's mercy', listening to the Lord's request that she make known to the world the infinite depths of his mercy. 'I am Love and Mercy itself,' Jesus told her.



One of the people transformed by this message of the Divine Mercy was Fr Christ Alar MIC, an American priest and Marian Father who recently toured Australia and New Zealand sharing his conversion story. He made some time to speak with us, sharing some

of his experiences and describing how the Divine Mercy changed his life.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/fr-chris-alar-mic-how-the-divine-mercy-changed-his-life>



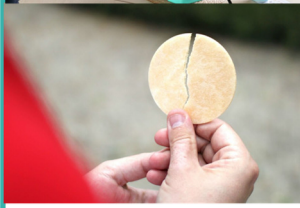
Also this week, we hear about how a number of parishes in Melbourne's east recently came together to make the feast of Pentecost a memorable one,

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/awakening-a-desire-for-the-holy-spirit-communities-come-together-at-pentecost>



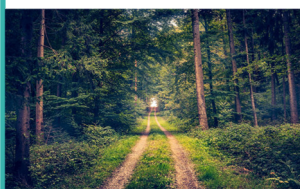
how ACU's *Read to Learn* program is helping disadvantaged school students,

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/read-to-learn-making-a-difference-in-the-lives-of-students>



and what the feast of Corpus Christi means to some past and present seminarians.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/we-must-become-bread-broken-for-others>



As World Youth Day grows ever closer, we also explore what it means to be a pilgrim, and how the elements of a good story might help us to understand the nature of pilgrimage.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/what-it-means-to-be-a-pilgrim>



Build a Shed, build a future. The Cre8 shed in Wangaratta - an initiative of VMCH - gives people with disabilities the opportunity to build on their carpentry skills, become more independent and confident, and connect with peers.

This month VMCH is launching its

Build a Shed appeal, aimed at raising \$80,000 to open two more Cre8 sheds in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/build-a-shed-build-a-future>