

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: Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the house-tops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'



Reflection:

Today's reading is the second of three excerpts from Jesus' missionary instructions to the apostles that we hear on succeeding Sundays. Unlike the specific directives that precede this passage but are passed over in the lectionary, Jesus' advice here is more general and proverbial. It also looks beyond the immediate circumstances of the apostles' mission to that of the Church in the post-resurrection era.

Punctuating the lesson like a refrain is Jesus' three-fold exhortation to the apostles not to be afraid. Even as he offers this encouragement, he alludes to the danger they may face from "those who kill the body". Freedom from fear is not based on the absence of opposition but on God's providential care.

All the same there are two disconcerting notes in what Jesus has to say. The first is his warning that they should fear the one "who can destroy both body and soul in hell". The second is the threat of being disowned before God if they disown Christ on earth. Some might find here a hint of the last judgement as it is envisaged in the parable of the sheep and the goats much later in the gospel. In sum, this collection of sayings is as bracing as it is comforting.

Break Open the Word 2023

R.C.I.A. - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

An open invitation is extended to people who are not Catholic or as Adults have not received the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation and would like to fully participate in the Mass with the reception of the Eucharist. Please contact us and let's begin our enquiry time together. Eltham and Montmorency Catholic Communities welcome your participation.

What is RCIA? The RCIA, which stands for **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, is a process through which non-baptised men and women enter the Catholic Church. It includes several stages marked by study, prayer and rites at Mass. Participants in the RCIA are known as catechumens - and it's a wonderful adult journey of Christian discovery and personal renewal.

If you know of anyone in your family or friendship groups or neighbourhood that might like to begin this "enquiry" time, with no obligation to continue in the process to Easter 2024, then please feel free to ask them. Please let Kate (in the parish office) know by calling (9435 4742) or emailing (Eltham@cam.org.au or Montmorency@cam.org.au).



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

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 24

12:00pm Baptisms: Bennett Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency

Sunday 25

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Lucas, Bailee, Emilia Eltham

Tuesday 27

9:30am Mass 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

Friday 30

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Saturday 1 July

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 2

8:30am Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist Eltham

Tuesday 4

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

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

1:00pm Small Church Community Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 6

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 7

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Saturday 8

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 9

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Tuesday 11

9:00am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

2:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 12

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Thursday 13

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 14

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Saturday 15

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 16

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Tuesday 18

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 19

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

RECONCILIATION

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

Collections: 11 June 2023

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving		
Cash	\$341.00	\$616.00
Credit	\$xx	\$xx
Presbytery		
Cash	\$415.50	\$306.90
Credit	\$xxx	\$xxx

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



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:

John Amato, Rhys Branston, Tony Lier, Kevin Mannix, Maria Antoneta Pereira, Jack Ramsdale

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

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

Eltham

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Violetta, Michael Bonicci, 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.

Roster for week ending: 24/25 June

Armstrong, Miranda	C10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Beckford, Peter	R10:00
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	H10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	H10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Ryan Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR

Roster for week ending: 1/2 July

Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Armstrong, Miranda	H10:00
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	H10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	C10:00
Jones, Marion	W6:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Leahy, Michelle	R10:00
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Scannell Family	PRSE
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Wood, Marie	W8:30
	ASE
	ASRC
	ASRC

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



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 24 June 2023

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Bennett Axel George Baptism

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Martha Iris Hamilton First Eucharist

Sunday 25 June 2023

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 10:00am

Isaac David Hatty First Eucharist

Oscar Bernard Hatty First Eucharist

Chloe Marie Murphy First Eucharist

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

Emilia Burke Baptism

Lucas James Clarkson Baptism

Bailee Mia Judd Baptism



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

Thank you to Parishioners and SFX & HT School Communities

The Montmorency conference of SVDP wishes to thank all parishioners, and both the St Francis Xavier and Holy Trinity school communities who supported our Winter Appeal this year. We know that the families, and individuals, whom we (that is, you) assist are forever grateful and would like to give you all a loving thank you virtual hug for helping to make this winter just that bit warmer for them. They also know that there is a supporting community backing the Montmorency SVDP conference visiting teams.

If you would like to assist families in need in our local community 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, give to an 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. 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: please call 13 18 12, state your donation is for the **Montmorency or Eltham conference**.

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. Note: this is a different account number to previous years.

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

A revolution of the heart

It is 90 years since the Catholic Worker movement began, and more than 40 since its founder died. What is she still teaching us? Beginning this week, Dorothy Day's granddaughter will suggest a very personal novena of signposts and watchwords for those who are looking to follow her, each in their own way / **By Kate Hennessy**



RITA CORBIN

last years and where she died. I sat in the armchair where she read *The New York Times*, the *Catholic Worker* galleys or the Psalms, a cup of coffee at hand. I wanted to be comforted by her lingering presence, but instead I felt like a swirl of dead and dry leaves blowing about in the wake of her footsteps. I was unable to make any sense of her within my own life, and so I spent years living as if she weren't my grandmother, where people didn't know of her, or didn't know of my relationship to her. But there comes a time when you must return home, even though you aren't sure you're ready, for you can't keep running away, especially from the saint in the family closet.

There is no academic, political, theological or philosophical stance for me to take here. I have no room. If Dorothy Day doesn't rip something open within you, crack wide your heart and leave you with what feels like an affliction, and yet also leaves you breathless with wonder and possibility, then it is all for nothing. All the admiration, accolades, studies, even the canonization process are all for nothing. And I say this not only for myself but for each of us who has been grabbed by her, even if we don't fully understand why. There is pain, difficulty and an odd exhilaration in allowing and acknowledging Dorothy into your life. It will lead you down a path you have little control over, if you are true to it. When Dorothy died people wondered if the Catholic Worker movement would survive her passing. The CW is celebrating its ninetieth anniversary this year - I think that question can be laid to rest. A better question to ask now is: What is she still teaching us? I have - daringly - identified nine major teachings, which I have referred to as consolations, lamentations or ruinations, but most commonly "provocations". These are not rules or step-by-step instructions. They are more akin to adding ingredients to a soup, or a weaving of inter-twining threads, and I may be doing a disservice by putting them in some kind of order.

I can't claim to know much about

I once spent years reading Dorothy's diaries, articles, letters and books, and poring over videos, recordings and thousands of photographs. I examined every clue I could gather - in my memories, my mother's memories, the memories of friends, family and strangers. Anyone I could track down, or who tracked me down. Through this process I discovered that I am no different to those for whom even one

brief meeting with Dorothy decades ago changed their lives. Through these stories, I have come to believe there is little point in simply *admiring* Dorothy Day. If you're going to pay attention to her, your life will be turned on its head.

After her death in 1980, I sometimes would sit alone in Dorothy's room in Maryhouse, the Catholic Worker house of hospitality in the Lower East Side, New York, where she lived her

each provocation, and I have many more questions than answers. Dorothy spoke of the mystery of our freedom - one of the greatest gifts God gave us, she said. She also said that we struggle against both freedom and responsibility, and we always will. There is no point in telling people what to do. It has to be a revolution from within, a revolution of the heart. I do see the provocations as an alternative to anger, lethargy, despair, helplessness, or, worst of all, indifference. They are a practice and a map to a path you must forge for yourself. As Bilbo said (and I'm comfortable quoting Tolkien because my grandmother and I read *The Hobbit* together the summer of 1973): "It's a dangerous business, Frodo, going out of your door. You step on to the Road, and if you don't keep your feet, there is no knowing where you might be swept off to." But how do you take that first step? I think desire, however vague, and a deep sense of personal responsibility is the best way to begin.

One of the provocative choices Dorothy presents is: Do we declare we know exactly who she was? Or do we accept her challenge and just "do the work"? Dorothy famously said, "Don't call me a saint. I don't want to be dismissed so easily." Many have worried like a dog with a bone at this, wondering what it says about her, but, of course, it isn't about her - it's about us. And this fits nicely with the first provocation - make yourself deeply uncomfortable.

ONE: MAKE YOURSELF DEEPLY UNCOMFORTABLE

Dorothy's life, her work and words can be utterly uncomfortable. Pick any element of the Catholic Worker programme and philosophy, and you might find yourself running for the hills. Opening houses of hospitality in which nothing is asked of those who are given refuge, whether the "deserving" or "undeserving" poor. Her stance on non-violence can provoke people into anger, and her insistence on voluntary poverty cuts at the very roots of our society and most of what we strive for.

She was an "obedient daughter of the

Church" and yet challenged and chastised the bishops when she saw need. She insisted on always responding to the here and now in practical terms, emphasizing personal responsibility and not resting in ideology. All the Catholic Worker beliefs are expressions of the deep trust in the Gospels, a deep trust in Christ against all reason. Such trust can be deeply unsettling and uncomfortable.

Dorothy rarely felt comfortable. She felt keenly the pressure of the drunkenness, the madness, the anger of those who came to the Worker, along with the never-ending struggle of living with the noise, filth and smells. She wasn't a natural public speaker, she could find people's neediness, and criticism, overwhelming, and she needed her solitude. It never became easy for her, and yet she continued.

There are no bromides to be found here, no cheap grace, no sentimentality, soothing or sensible solutions. And yet, paradoxically, all of these Catholic Worker elements also have such capacity to lead to joy. Making ourselves deeply uncomfortable requires an honest self-examination in how we are choosing to live our lives, but there can be a debilitating discomfort in feeling we have done far too little or made too many mistakes. Or that we are part of the problem, and not the solution, or maybe both. And what value lies in lingering feelings of deep regret and shame? Also sometimes it is difficult to recognise the difference between such powerful emotions as grief and feeling uncomfortable. Or of knowing the difference between which discomforts are meaningless and which aren't.

We do need to feel compassion for ourselves, rest when we can and find our spiritual sustenance, but still we can't stop there. It was often said of Dorothy that she afflicted the comfortable and comforted the afflicted. I think she asks us to do this within ourselves, holding oneself to discomfort while generously giving comfort to others.

It takes courage to make yourself deeply uncomfortable, and it is a form of intentional suffering. Truth

can be extremely uncomfortable, both in speaking it and hearing it. Then there's that discomfoting shock when you realise that something you were unequivocally sure of is just plain wrong. Probably the most difficult aspect of this is sometimes there is no solution, or no sensible solution, to what discomforts you.

There is no point in feeling comfortable with Dorothy, and yet we need comfort of some sort, and that, paradoxically, may lie within the discomfort.

I have found both in being Dorothy's granddaughter. I am comforted by my Dorothy stories and by the memory of our love for each other. For years I found comfort in the relics I held on to - her last driver's licence, the Hopi woven man in a maze she used to have in her room, and the woven Bolivian bag she used during her last arrest in California in 1973, picketing with the farm workers at the age of 75. I thought these relics would ground me in some way, slake a thirst for some mysterious element of hers. I have been letting these relics go one by one over the years, passing them along to others, as I don't feel the need for that comfort any more.

As Dorothy's granddaughter, I've been made to feel intensely uncomfortable, beginning when I was barely out of my teens and an old friend of the Catholic Worker asked me, "Are you going to follow your grandmother's footsteps?" And before I could stop myself, I said, "Hell, no." he was shocked, and replied, "You should be ashamed of yourself, you, Dorothy's granddaughter." I still stand by my statement, and I insist on forging my own path, but, of course, I did feel ashamed. And uncomfortable. I've been uncomfortable all my life being her granddaughter and will always be so. I have, though, made my peace with this, and I carry on as best as I can. Just as Dorothy did.

Kate Hennessy is the author of *Dorothy Day: The World Will Be Saved By Beauty - An Intimate Portrait of My Grandmother* (Scribner).

The CW website is:

www.catholicworker.org

Liturgy of the Word with Communion

As you are aware Fr Michael is away for the month of July. During this time there will be no weekday Masses. However, you are invited to join in the Liturgy of the Word with Communion which will be held in **SFX Church** at 9.30am on Tue & Thu, and in **OLHC Church** at 9.30am on Wed & Fri.

Why not come along, see this as an opportunity to experience one of the paths our Church Communities may need to take in the future as the number of working priests declines.

By our Baptism we are all called to discipleship, using our gifts in the service of our Community. We are a Pilgrim people; this is our place and time in the history of the Church. Moving forward, let us participate in doing what we can together to bring about the Reign of God in our time.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Prayers of the Faithful for 25 June 2023 - Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: My sisters and brothers, let us turn to our merciful and loving God who answers the prayers of those who seek him.

For our Church: we pray for the leaders of our Church, especially Pope Francis, as we move towards the Synod on Synodality. May they hear Jesus' call not to be afraid to speak the truth, so that they may have the courage to confidently bear witness to the gospel values and principles.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our parish community: we pray for our community gathered here in prayer. May our experience today of the Eucharist send us out ever more willing to be missionaries in our world. We pray that God will free our hearts from fear and anxiety, so that we may respond with love and concern in whatever God asks of us.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For a spirit of reverence: that our life goals may be based on the awareness that all life is a gift from God which leads us toward an ever-deepening relationship with God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For a deeper commitment to the truth: that we may speak the truth that the Spirit has planted deep in our hearts, even when we experience rejection and ridicule.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who have been wounded by gossip: that their reputations may be restored, their wounds healed, and their spirits renewed.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are suffering from the effects of natural disasters: that God will send relief and comfort, particularly to all affected by the heatwave in India.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are sick and those who are listed in our bulletin: may they experience the healing touch of Christ in their lives.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died recently; we also remember *John Amato, Rhys Branston, Tony Lier, Kevin Mannix, Maria Antoneta Pereira & Jack Ramsdalej* whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Just and gracious God, in you all things that are hidden are made clear. Hear our prayers and inspire us to proclaim your good news. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

One of the major works of *Aid to the Church in Need* is providing transport to priests, sisters, and catechists to reach the faithful, who are often at great distances and must go through difficult terrain. In 2022, CAN provided 1,253 pastoral vehicles. This included 564 cars, 406 bicycles, 252 motorcycles, 16 boats, 11 buses, and 4 trucks for the pastoral work of the Church - particularly in Latin America and Africa. Can you help us supply transport to priests and religious again in 2023? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/transport or scan the QR code to make an offering and learn more.



URGENT NEED TEMPORARY USE OF CAR

An heroic lady who is a recent widow with significant health issues requiring ongoing medical treatment, and who is caring for 2 adult children with disabilities, is in urgent need of a reliable vehicle in good order - if possible as a loan of 2 to 3 months. Her own car has "died" and is not worth repairing, and her story, if it was told, is an extraordinary mix of courage and heartbreak.



Do you know someone who might help? Any additional insurance required will be covered. For further information, contact Fr. Kevin Dillon on 0421 777 360 or frkdillon@outlook.com.au.



ASRC Foodbank 10 MOST NEEDED ITEMS



1. Tuna in oil (400gm)
2. Olive oil (750ml-1L)
3. Raw, unsalted nuts
4. Honey (small bottles)



5. Dried fruit
6. Tahini



7. Spices (turmeric, cumin, chilli, garam masala, curry powder)
8. Tomato paste
9. Toothbrushes & toothpaste
10. Laundry powder (1kg max.)



Please note that the ASRC does not need baked beans, tinned spaghetti, or tinned soup

Inquiries: donatefood@asrc.org.au Phone: 9326 6066

CHURCH LEADERS IN AUSTRALIA WELCOME SYNOD WORKING DOCUMENT



As the Church approaches the first session of the forthcoming Synod of Bishops, Australian Catholics are being encouraged to continue their

engagement with the global synodal journey through prayer, ongoing discernment and local conversations. Source: ACBC Media Blog.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/06/22/church-leaders-in-australia-welcome-synod-working-document>

ARCHBISHOP COSTELLOE SAYS WA'S CHANGES TO ABORTION LAW 'DISTRESSING'



Perth Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB says moves by the West Australian Government to make access to abortion easier will be "distressing" for many

people. Source: Perth Archdiocese.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/06/22/archbishop-costelloe-says-wa-changes-to-abortion-law-distressing/>

ALBANESE SEEKS TO PLACE LEGAL LIMITS ON VOICE

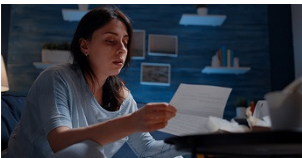


Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is seeking to place limits on the scope of the Voice to Parliament and executive government by assuring Australians its

remit would be restricted to issues that "specifically or differently" affect Aboriginal people. Source: The Australia.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/06/22/albanese-seeks-to-place-legal-limits-on-voice/>

LIGHTS OUT FOR GROWING NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLING TO PAY POWER BILLS



The number of Australian households struggling to pay their electricity bills has grown by 50 per cent in just one year, with falling temperatures and rising

prices pushing more families to the edge. Source: Daily Telegraph.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/06/22/lights-out-for-growing-number-of-households-struggling-to-pay-power-bills>

ORGANISATION THAT HELPS FIRST NATIONS CATHOLIC STUDENTS GETS TOP AWARD



The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Foundation, which has helped thousands of Catholic school students complete years 11 and 12, has been

named the 2023 Philanthropic Foundation of the Year at the Queensland Community Foundation Philanthropy Awards. Source: The Catholic Leader.

<https://cathnews.com/2023/06/22/organisation-that-helps-first-nations-catholic-students-gets-top-award/>

Seeking more

The quest for something more - for truth, love, meaning, safety, a home - is a universal human experience. All of us are seeking something.



As we mark Refugee Week, we are called to remember and pray especially for those who have been forced to seek safety and hope far from their homelands, and on Tuesday evening Catholics from around Australia gathered online to do just that.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/they-are-your-brothers-and-sisters-catholics-pray-for-refugees>



Famed French philosopher and scientist Blaise Pascal was recently honoured by Pope Francis in an apostolic letter marking the 400th anniversary of his birth. We learn more about his brief but remarkable life, and why Pope Francis invites us to pay attention

to this 'tireless seeker of truth'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/tireless-seeker-of-truth-pope-remembers-blaise-pascal>



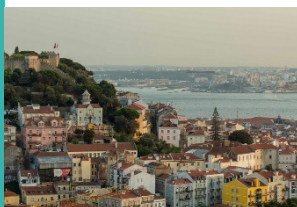
Another man of faith and science is Fr Simon Wayte MGL, who this week explores Vatican II's beautiful vision of Mary as both Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/mary-mother-of-god-and-mother-of-the-church-in-vatican-ii>



His (Fr Simon Wayte MGL) reflections are based on his recent talk in the *Engaging Your Faith* series hosted by Catholic Theological College, which also recently celebrated its Annual Mass and Prize-Giving Ceremony.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/theology-college-celebrates-student-achievers>



The opportunity to reflect on Mary's 'yes' and her cooperation with the Holy Spirit is timely as the world's youth prepare to descend on Lisbon, Portugal, for World Youth Day. This week we take a look at some of the places our pilgrims might visit in this

beautiful and historic city,

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/lisbon-2023-what-will-our-pilgrims-see-and-experience>



and we also explore the origins of WYD.

<https://melbournecatholic.org.au/news/called-to-something-higher-the-origins-of-world-youth-day>

As Pope John Paul II repeatedly reminded the huge crowds who gathered for those first global youth events, we will find everything we are seeking, and more, in Jesus Christ.

For more information: www.melbournecatholic.org

Freedom is the precious right of every human being. The freedom to speak the truth, to challenge evil, to dispute, criticize or challenge the ruling powers is a constitutional freedom that is now restricted and curtailed and speaking out could mean death. There have been more than 200 writers and broadcast journalists killed in the Philippines since 1986.

The freedom of speech and expression is almost squashed by draconian libel laws. To speak freely and challenge officials with the truth of corrupt deals or wrongdoings by powerful politicians could mean jail or assassination.

Freedom to live, survive, have a family & prosper in security free from fear, hunger, threats & crime are perhaps the most precious freedoms desired by humans but lacking for millions. An estimated 16 million Filipinos live below the poverty line while a tiny elite rich have lives of luxury and plenty. The right and freedom to know the truth and act on it is vital to change the situation. So what needs to come about is greater equality and social justice. The lack of these fundamental values puts thousands of children in conflict with law. They survive on the streets, in gangs & fall into temptations. For most of them, their lives are over but good judges, named below, are among many that are giving new life to hundreds of children in conflict with the law (CICL) by compassionate application of the Juvenile Justice & Welfare Law otherwise known as Republic Act 9344.

Corruption, unemployment & poverty is at the root of children's hardship. According to an excellent analysis by the economist Solita "Winnie" Monsod, "among the ASEAN-5, the Philippines has: "the lowest GDP per capita: a Filipino has the least income among the ASEAN-5, the most unequal distribution of income & the highest poverty headcount ratio." According to Prof Monsod, freedom for children to grow and develop through education is not a privilege, it is a right & it is the sworn duty of the government leaders to provide the highest quality education for the people. Quality education is what eradicates poverty. Real education is more than grades, it is teaching and inspiring people to think & act for themselves & know the truth & choose the good always. Otherwise, poverty persists. Prof. Monsod teaches us that the nation has "the highest learning poverty rate of 90.9%, meaning among 10-year olds, 9 out of 10 cannot understand what they are reading."

Most Filipino children are naturally intelligent, highly motivated to learn, & are gifted with many talents yet are denied a quality education. It is no wonder that so many youth end up on the streets as dropouts & too many people become "captured, mesmerised followers" of social media celebrities not knowing they are emotional & mental prisoners of bad influencers. They believe without thinking whatever they are told.

Again, Prof Monsod tells us that the nation suffers "the lowest Human Capital Index score of 0.52. A child born today will have 52 percent of the expected productivity she would have had if she had complete education and full health." Besides, the good professor says that "in some international large-scale assessments, the Philippines has the lowest performance among all countries assessed.

Many millions are not fully educated. They are captives of mind-conditioning & prisoners of the political system that needs docile, dependent, non-thinking, gift-taking-voters. They are

always in poverty to keep the rich elite always in power & money. With such dire poverty, the politicians have no interest to alleviate it but it enables them to stay in power & increase their own wealth and that is vote-buying power.

The poor in this system are the victims of the cycle of poverty. They have the most children because so many keep dying of hunger & disease. The nation has "the highest infant mortality, the highest child mortality, the second-to- the lowest life expectancy," Professor "Winnie" Monsod tells us.

Freedom alone is not what makes us fully human but what use we make of our freedoms to help others preserve theirs. Are we ready, capable and willing to take risks, oppose evil and injustice & dedicate ourselves to preserve our freedoms & those of others? Freedom to think and reason, to know and learn and acquire knowledge of right & wrong, and make the moral free choice to act justly with compassion is to be fully human. The freedom to act & hope that good will overcome evil helps us belong to the millions of dedicated good people serving the poor. They chose serving professions that help win freedom for others from poverty & oppressed victims. Among them are the judges that have a heart for implementing the rule of law with compassion & care that saves the poor, the abused children and the abandoned youth that fall into conflict with the law.

In Cebu, Preda Foundation's New Dawn Home for Children in Conflict with the Law (CICL) supported by Aktionsgruppe based in Germany gives freedom to the youth. The Preda staff are welcoming more youth that are given their conditional freedom from life in harsh prison conditions to the life of peace and tranquility, thanks to the just judges. They are Judge Marlon Jay Moneva, Judge Jose Nathaniel Andal, Judge Ester Veloso, Judge Leah Geraldez, Judge Maria Dee Seares and Judge Stephen Ian Belacho. The "Magnificent Six", as they are called, apply the Juvenile Justice & Welfare Law with compassion and concern to restore a life of freedom.

They are more interested in restoring life than condemning youth to life behind bars for a serious crime committed in their impetuous ill-guided youth. The Magnificent Six have an enlightened interpretation of restorative justice and have found a role as healers, carers & supporters of compassionate freedom as the law dictates, helping these victims of systematic poverty.

They understand that the youth in conflict with law that come before them have experienced hunger from birth & dire poverty, their constant companion to adolescence. They are young people that have survived a violent & corrupt-ridden society that, due to unsatisfied needs, fell foul of its cruel seduction and temptations. They are the youth that have nothing in this world: no education, some no homes, others no hope of anything better in the underworld of drugs, violence and exploitation. They are the throwaway youth of a lost generation. Because of these compassionate and wise judges, the youth have hope, a contrite heart and repentance, a plea for forgiveness and ask only an opportunity to change, to learn, to be healed through friendship & understanding. Where before they lived in darkness and misery, now they have champions to guide and to lead them to freedom & to find the light and their true selves and a good life.

www.preda.org

Can you assist young people in need?

Kadasig Aid & Development Inc has contacts with several organisations assisting young people in the Philippines. One is PREDA Foundation, Olongapo, north of Manila.

Fr Shay Cullen, a Columban priest, is the founder who has been in the Philippines for 46 years fighting for human rights. Some parishioners may remember Fr Shay when we brought him to Melbourne for exposure of his work in 2015. The main focus of his work is rescuing young boys and girls who have been trafficked, forced to work in bars, abused and/or sexually abused - such a massive problem in the Philippines.

Fr Shay has a Home for girls and two Homes for boys - one for young boys and the other for older young men.

KAID is wanting to send toiletry bags for boys and girls, for those currently in care or for those who come in after being rescued after a rescue raid or brought by authorities when they have nothing.

With this in mind, we are asking for the following items to be donated:

Shampoo	Conditioner	Personal soap	Toothpaste
Toothbrush (soft)	Deodorant	Talc	Body Lotion
Hand Cream	Emery Boards	Face Cloths	Hand Towels

Card games and board games would be great too.

Washing baskets will be in the Gathering Area for the next two weeks for donations.

For further information, please contact:

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