

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 Emily

Hi, my name is Emily Wiltshire. I have been doing the music and service PowerPoints for Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Eltham for a number of years now and have recently been asked to do the same for St Francis Xavier Parish as well.

A little about me: I grew up in St Francis of Assisi parish in Mill Park and was involved in Music and Youth ministry there for a number of years. At university I studied Music and sang with many early music ensembles as well as in a number of Catholic and Anglican churches. I am a secondary school teacher and I teach Music and Maths. I moved to Eltham in 2008 and I am married and with 2 little girls who are 2 years old and 5 months old.

Please feel free to contact me at Emily.Wiltshire@cam.org.au for anything relating to the weekly PowerPoints. Emily



You're Invited on a Journey - Sunday 22nd & 29th March

The Transition Leadership Community (TLC) and Chris Pearson as co-ordinator, invites the Catholic Community of Eltham to their 'First Reflection' time together on Sunday 22nd March, 11am to 1pm, in the church Gathering Area.

The TLC invites the Catholic Community of Montmorency to their 'First Reflection' time together on Sunday 29th March, 12noon to 2pm, in the Parish Hall.

The season of Lent seems the perfect time to begin this process of 'transition' and with your help we will journey on this important road together. Naturally, Terry and I welcome everyone interested in our special journey of 2020 to come together on these Sundays, and just to let you know that it is important to keep the 'Eltham Story' separate from the 'Montmorency Story' as we begin. People are very welcome to participate across each community if the day or date does not suit - however, you need to be aware that the emphasis at Eltham will belong to that Community, as is the same when we hold the gathering at Montmorency. Michael



Lenten Celebrations for the Month of March:

- **Communal Rite of Forgiveness**
Tuesday 10th March, St. Francis Xavier - Montmorency Time: 7pm
- **Communal Rite of Forgiveness**
Thursday 12th March, Our Lady Help of Christians - Eltham Time: 7pm
- **Communal Rite of Forgiveness**
Thursday 19th March, St. Francis Xavier - Montmorency Time: 7pm
- **Healing/Anointing Mass & Lunch**
Tuesday 31st. March, St. Francis Xavier - Montmorency Time: 11:30am



This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community.

For more information visit www.sfxmonty.org

We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.



PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION



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

OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



Parish Priests

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum
terry.kean@cam.org.au

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator
michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

Barry Caldwell

Parish Office

86 Mayona Road

9435 2178

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

montmorency@cam.org.au

Gina Ang: Pastoral Worker & Caring Group Co-Ord
gina.ang@cam.org.au

Beth Krolkowski: Parish Manager & Pastoral Worker
montmorency@cam.org.au

Kate Kogler: Parish Secretary & Finance
eltham@cam.org.au

Peter Williams: Child Safety Officer
montmorency.childsafety@cam.org.au

Website: www.sfxmonty.org
www.olhc.info

Facebook:

St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:
eltham@cam.org.au

Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Mr Philip Cachia: 9435 8474
principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au
www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Mr Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888
principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au
www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Mr Chris Ray: 9439 7824
school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au
www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Terry Dearsley

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Joyce Arundell, Paul Andre Said

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Baby Kylie, Sriyani Algama, Nikki Attwood, Justine Best, Kristina Brazaitis, Daniel Brewis, Desmond Deehan, Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Marilyn Fairbank, Julian Forrester, Gennie Hannon, Samuel Hauser (Kyabram), Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tina Inerra, Adrian Jones, Patsy Leed, Pat Longton, Erin McLindon, Hasti Momeni, Therese Moore, Patricia Mulholland, Montagna Mustica, Graham Neal, Geoffrey Nyssen, Mercy Ocon, Ron Pfeil, Susan Phelan, Andrew Pighin, Terry Said, Anthony Salvatore, Mary Salvatore, Maria Schroeders, Jeanette Steward, John Tobin, Aldo Viapiana, Remi Vulich, Sheryn Zurzolo.

Eltham

For the recently deceased;

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Baby Harriet Banks, Ak Callaghan, Jon D'Cruz, Ruth Decker, Fay Dobson, Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen, Jo Porter, Paul Rushbrook.

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House
 9435 2178 or eltham@cam.org.au.

Call for volunteers

If you would like to share your gifts and have a few hours here and there to spare to assist our parish with administration and/or be part of our baptism team, please contact Beth at the Parish Office.



RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 10:30am Monty ~ Terry
 1/2 hr prior to any mass said by Michael

Collections last weekend: 29 Feb & 1 Mar 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$696.50	\$682.95
Montmorency	\$1,492.00	\$1,452.10

Please note the above figures are monies banked & do not include visa/mastercard or direct debits.
 Thank you so much for your contributions.

Lent Reflection

In the second of her Lent reflections, Laurlia Johns OSB, a nun of Stanbrook Abbey, reflects on this as a special time for deepening our awareness of the hidden world that surrounds us.

In last Sunday's Gospel, we read how the Devil led Jesus to a high mountain, and tried to tempt him with promises of power and glory. In today's Gospel (Matthew 17:1-9) Jesus leads his disciples - us - up another mountain and we glimpse, in the face and even in the clothes of Jesus, something of the divine glory we are called to share. We are not made for the desert.

The Mount of the Temptation and the Mount of the Transfiguration form a diptych that puts into sharp relief the choice we make as Christians, which we will renew, or profess for the first time, at Easter, when we renounce Satan's version of glory, and affirm our belief in the creating, redeeming and deifying Trinity whose glory manifests itself in self-emptying love.

It is a choice we have to renew each day, not just through Lent but every day of the year, as we engage in the constant battle between the forces of light and darkness. So often, it seems as if it is the darkness that prevails. We need the eyes of a prophet to help us perceive the other world which is all around us but hidden behind the clouds for most of us most of the time.

St John Henry Newman has such a vision of the invisible world. "[The] wonderful things of the new world are even now as they shall be then. They are immortal and eternal," he writes. "We [shall find ourselves] gifted with fresh powers, vigorous with the seed of eternal life within us, able to love God as we wish,



conscious that all trouble, sorrow, pain, anxiety, bereavement, is over for ever, blessed in the full affection of those earthly friends whom we loved so poorly, and could protect so feebly, while they were with us in the flesh and, above all, visited by the immediate, visible, ineffable Presence of God Almighty ... in which [sight] is the fullness of joy and pleasure for evermore ... What secret harmonies awakened, of which human nature seemed incapable!" (Parochial and Sermons IV:13).

This other world is no science fiction planet peopled by aliens but a place we can already recognise, one that fits the longings of the human heart. Lent gives us opportunities to prepare our hearts for the gift. We can practise stillness and contemplation, sitting or kneeling comfortably before an icon or walking through the countryside. We can study the work of those who have already climbed the mountain, the prophets and saints and

the great spiritual guides.

Above all, in this Year of the God Who Speaks, we can listen to the Word speaking to us, strengthening us for the cosmic battle, deepening our faith in the invisible world, and our consciousness of the fragile beauty of our common home.

By keeping our eyes on Jesus, especially as revealed on the faces of those most in need of compassion, we may find even our present sufferings transformed.

Laurlia Johns is a Benedictine nun of Stanbrook Abbey. She is the author of *The Way of Benedict: Eight Blessings for Lent*.

The God Who Speaks is an initiative of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales aimed at encouraging Catholics to discover more about the Bible as God's gift. More details: www.cbcew.org.au/home/events/the-god-who-speaks/

From: www.thetablet.co.uk



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Coronavirus Update across the Archdiocese

Dear Parishioners and friends of Eltham & Montmorency, the Archbishop of Melbourne has been sending updates regarding the coronavirus and appropriate health measures that are to be followed while this Virus is yet to be contained.

Unfortunately, simple things like 'shaking hands' and 'sharing the Chalice' at Masses are to cease for the foreseeable future. The washing of hands and using sanitising lotion is required during all services, to those people involved in various ministries - materials will be provided.

These are important health measures, and will need some adjusting to as we move forward. Your help and consideration at this time would be gratefully received.

This Coronavirus is moving us into uncharted waters and it's rapid spread across the world is disconcerting to all. Naturally, we pray for all those on the front line of this epidemic.

Michael

Eltham News & Events



One of our parish dads, Duncan and his son Dom, spent some time in Tanzania late last year visiting a school that their family have been supporting since 2004 – one of the most amazing schools/communities on the planet – The School of St Jude.

The spirit of the school and the international community around it is inspiring and beautiful - come and experience it for yourself.

Come and hear St Jude's Australian founder, Gemma Sisia talk about her journey and **St Judes**.

Supper provided afterwards.

Date: Monday 16 March 2020 at 7:00pm

Venue: Our Lady Help of Christians Church,
2 Henry St, Eltham, Vic 3095

Please use the trybooking link to book we have limited space.

www.trybooking.com/BIDFM

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On the top shelf I have put several small books that may enhance your Lenten journey:

**Brian Doyle:** *A Book of Common Prayer & Grace Notes* offer 5 minute gentle reflections;

**Daniel O'Leary:** *Prism of Love*, 70 uplifting short stories in 144 pages to fill your heart and soul with song (2 copies);



**Leunig:** *A Common Prayer & Tree of Life...*, wisdom in tiny books.

Teady gently,

Trish

### LENT 2020

Should you wish to further your Lent experience you may wish to give **Christian Meditation** a try. Every Saturday morning at 8:15am a group of like-minded people meet at St Margaret's in Pitt Street [opp. pub]. This ecumenical meditation group began 25 years ago. There are between 5 and 12 regular meditators and 5 are from **OLHC**. We listen to a CD talk of 5 to 15 mins, usually from Father Laurence or John Main. This is followed by 20 minutes of silent meditation. Some people come and dip their toes in the water and go away to think about it.

Renowned German theologian, Karl Rahner, prophesied that the church of the future would be contemplative or wouldn't exist. I joined St Margaret's group right back at the start. In those days

Fr Barry was also a member and is still a meditator, and on the committee of the World Community of Christian Meditators. If you want further information google **WCCM** or Fr Laurence Freeman and it is all there for you. I am available also on 0402914817.

We invite you to dip your toes in.

Trish Taylor

## Montmorency News & Events

### St Francis Xavier School Fencing and Security Update

Dear Parishioners and friends of SFX,

Over the past few months the school security and thus fencing has been tightened up - *in line with obligations to protect children under our care.*

The new school principal, Philip Cachia is now aware of several issues regarding gates & driveways being closed, with the need to seek permission to enter via the school office! After plenty of apologies and unnecessary anxiety among our seniors - we are moving towards a new and fresh approach to appropriate security and hospitality - especially around the SFX Church/toilets and access to the Parish/School Hall. This outcome will hopefully be a great 'Win Win' for all concerned.

This move forward - *which involves some new fencing being put in place* - will definitely happen, but not over night! Until then, please be patient while needing the hall and church toilets - and plan ahead if you need access into school areas.

*Thanks, Michael.*

### St Vincent de Paul – LENT 2020

To assist parishioners and their families with their preparation for Easter, the Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul (SVdP) have a selection of small booklets which may be of interest. Below are some titles of booklets which may be of interest to parishioners and their families to help in their preparation during Lent. These are just a few of the new titles:

- Lent for Busy Catholics
- 10 Creative Things KIDS can do for Lent
- Stations of the Cross for Married Couples
- What does Fasting Mean for Me
- These 40 Days – Understanding the Symbols and Practices of Lent

Please feel free to browse these and other related booklets together with the many other topics of interest. They are located in the racks on the pillar in the Gathering Space at SFX (between the two entrance doors in the foyer). We hope you enjoy the selection.

*A gold coin donation in either of the St Vincent de Paul boxes at the front or side entrance to the church will help defray costs.*

*Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul through our Conference, perhaps at our Vinnies shop in Briar Hill, or in some other administrative capacity?*

*If so, please contact Mike on 0417 221 245 or the Parish Office.*



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Thank you to the generous people who regularly donate non-perishable food and toiletries for asylum seekers, and to those who take those goods to the pick-up point for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

Please note the change in position and type of containers for collection of these goods in the narthex of St Francis Xavier church. The containers are along the wall beside the Piety Stall.

This change has been made to create more space in the transition from the outside world to the celebration of the liturgy.

Our parish continues to support and reach out to all people in need and this is but one practical way you might choose.



Combined Parish News & Events

Lectors & Commentators

Lectors and Commentators from the communities of both Our Lady Help of Christians and St Francis Xavier are warmly invited to a gathering on Saturday 21st March at 4pm to 5pm in the Gathering Area at OLHC.



In the interests of promoting One Parish/Two Communities, we are holding this gathering to come together as one to prepare for the Holy Week and Easter liturgies by refreshing 'best practice' of our important roles as ministers of the Word or as welcoming commentators.

All those who are currently on the rosters, and anyone who may be interested in becoming involved in either of the two roles, are encouraged to attend.

This initiative is the result of a decision at the OLHC Liturgy Group meeting on Feb 27th.

Light refreshments will be provided to add to the warm communal spirit we hope to engender on this occasion.

For the purposes of 'catering', please RSVP your intention to join the gathering by emailing Kathleen Nolan at maeka@optusnet.com.au.

Thank you

Once again, we had another successful Healing/Anointing Mass & Lunch last Wednesday. A big thank you to all parishioners both Eltham and Montmorency, choir members, school teachers, parents and students who have contributed one way or another towards the lunch. You have made a difference!



As a follow up to **The SFX Social Justice Group's** recent presentation on climate change and electric vehicles, there is a free event presented by the Manningham Council on 26th March.

This includes:



Electric Vehicle Display – 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Join us in the Civic Centre car park and view approximately 12 new electric vehicles on display by local manufacturers/dealerships.

Exhibition and Seminar – 6:30pm to 9:00pm

Information on the advantages and disadvantages of various vehicles, car charging and car sharing, presented by Bryce Gatton, Australian Electric Vehicles Association.

Where: Manningham Civic Centre, 699 Doncaster Road, Doncaster, 3108

Cost: Free, but bookings are essential via www.manningham.vic.gov.au/electric-vehicles

Info: environment@manningham.vic.gov.au



Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Primary School

OPEN DAY Thursday March 19

Tours throughout the day



2021 PREP INFORMATION NIGHT 7:00PM THURSDAY MARCH 26 (Babysitting available)

At OLHC, we help each other to be successful

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au | 9439 7824

1-13 Henry Street, Eltham | school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

TOURS CAN BE ARRANGED AT ANOTHER TIME THAT SUITS

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Invites You To Join Us For Our

Enrolment 2021 Prep Information Night

(Other Year levels Welcome)

Wednesday 18 March 2020

7.00pm – 8.15pm

(Child Minding Available)

Held in the St Francis Xavier Parish Hall



Developing... Faith, Resilience, Responsibility, Respect & Safety...

Principal Led School Tours with new Principal Mr Philip Cachia

Wednesday 18 March 2020 @ 11:30 am



Tours will be running regularly throughout the year. Please visit our website for further dates & book a tour by calling the School. www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Further information please contact the school
Or email: nsutera@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au 90 Mayona Road • MONTMORENCY VIC 3094
Ph: (03) 9435 8474
Email: principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Eltham & Monty Rosters

If you need to make changes, please arrange a swap. Thank you.

<i>Eltham</i>		<i>Montmorency 14 & 15 March</i>	
Saturday 7 March - 6:00pm		Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Commentator	Lorraine Furtado	Brincat, Victor	CLNR
Lector	Denzil Furtado	Ciavola, Kerry	E8:30
Eucharistic Ministers	John Gaspersz	Collins, Leo	CNTR
	Karen Gaspersz	Costanzo, Brenda	W10:30
	Natisha Gaspersz	Cotter, Anne	E8:30
Sacristan	Ramos Furtado	Davidson, John	E8:30
Sunday 8 March - 9:30am		De Bolfo, Paul	W10:30
Commentator	Paul Jakubik	Dean, Mary	W10:30
Lector	Miranda Armstrong	Egan, Clem	E6:00
Eucharistic Ministers	Denice Donnellan	Egan, Tess	E6:00
	Joan Gilbert	Evans, Gail	E8:30
	Marian Goss	Fraser, Bob	E8:30
	Greg Northrop	Hally, Laurie	E8:30
	Sharyn Northrop	Hanlon, John	CNTR
Sacristan	Jane Medeira	Hannon, Gennie	E8:30
Altar Society	Gianna Milwain & Vali Hall	Kulkens, Mark	W8:30
Morning Tea	Tom & Teresa Remy	Kuppe, Andy	W6:00
Pilgrim Rosary Statue	Dhanasen Family	McKinna, Jane	W6:00
Counters	Peter Rigg & Peter Reardon	Meredith, Jeanette	BPTZ
Saturday 14 March - 6:00pm		Meredith, Shane	BPTZ
Commentator	Jennie O'Dell	O'Connor, Pat	GRDN
Lector	Vicki Jordan	Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Eucharistic Ministers	May Foong	Roy, Rob	E10:30
	Vicki Jordan	Roy, Yvonne	E10:30
	John Stuyfbergen	Shirbin, Olesia	E10:30
Sacristan	Carmel Saltalamacchia	Siciliano, Ines	E10:30
Sunday 15 March - 9:30am		Siciliano, Pat	E10:30
Commentator	Trish Taylor	Smith, Patricia	E6:00
Lector	Maria Gartland	Thornton, Catherine	E10:30
Eucharistic Ministers	Miranda Armstrong	Toscano, Frances	E10:30
	Marlis Dopheide	Vincent, Donna	E6:00
	Linda Dunell	Walter, Alan	E6:00
	Peter Rigg	Walter, Kathleen	E6:00
	Trish Taylor	Zerjal, Frida	E6:00
Sacristan	Denice Donnellan	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div> <p style="margin: 0;">Sacred Heart Mission</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><u>Meals Program</u></p> </div> </div> <p>8 Mar Geoff Dean, Mary Dean, Danielle Williams, Kimberley Nailer</p> <p>15 Mar Jason Henderson, Daniella Henderson, Avathi Algama, Justine Mitchell</p>	
Altar Society	Gabriella Frediani		
Morning Tea	Indu Rose		
Pilgrim Rosary Statue	Leahy Family		
Counters	David Scannell & Neil Walker		

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 7th

9:45am Child Safety Meeting Eltham
 6:00pm Mass & Baptism Welcome Eltham
 6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 8th

8:30am Mass Montmorency
 9:30am Mass Eltham
 10:30am Mass Montmorency
 12:00pm Baptisms Montmorency

Monday 9th

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Tuesday 10th

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion (Beverley) Eltham
 9:30am Mass Montmorency
 10:00am Lenten Reflection Montmorency
 7:00pm Communal Rite of Forgiveness Montmorency

Wednesday 11th

9:15am Mass Eltham
 9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
 7:45pm St Vincent de Paul Meeting Eltham

Thursday 12th

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion (Marlis) Eltham
 9:30am Mass Montmorency
 7:00pm Communal Rite of Forgiveness Eltham
 7:30pm Prayer Shawl Eltham
 7:30pm Transition Leadership Community Meeting Eltham

Friday 13th

9:15am Mass Eltham
 9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Saturday 14th

6:00pm Mass & Baptism Welcome Eltham
 6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 15th

8:30am Mass Montmorency
 9:30am Mass Eltham
 10:30am Mass & Baptism Welcomes Montmorency
 10:30am RCIC Class Montmorency
 12:00pm Baptisms Montmorency

Monday 16th

5:00pm St Jude's Presentation Eltham
 7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Tuesday 17th

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion (Barbara) Eltham
 9:30am Mass Montmorency
 9:45am Craft Group Montmorency
 10:00am Lenten Reflection Montmorency
 11:00am Prayer Shawl Eltham
 8:00pm Social Justice Meeting Montmorency

Wednesday 18th

9:15am Mass Eltham
 9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
 1:00pm Small Church Community Meeting Montmorency
 7:30pm St Vincent de Paul Society Diamond Valley Regional Council Meeting Eltham

Thursday 19th

9:15am Liturgy of the Word with Communion



A 'Good News Story' from a Grandma...

A beautiful comment made by my grandson, who is in his first year of school at St Francis Xavier.

The class had a lesson on Jesus, and Sonny was telling his mum about him. She asked him who Jesus was, and Sonny said, "you know, Fr Terry's mate!"



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Invest in your most precious asset...
 Your Marriage!

Married couples, come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing!

The weekend is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome.

Next weekend is on 17-19 April 2020 in Melbourne

Other weekends on 17-19 July and 13-15 November 2020

Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided.

Information/Bookings: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au



**PROJECT
 COMPASSION**
 GO FURTHER TOGETHER

Second Sunday of Lent
 8th March 2020

Twenty-seven-year-old Phany, lives in a village in western Cambodia. Struggling to earn a living as a farmer, she was forced to leave her daughter

behind in the village, to take up construction work in the city. Phany joined the [Upholding Community Dignity Together program](#), where she learnt new farming techniques, such as a drip irrigation system, which enabled her to get a better yield from her vegetable crops and to conserve water in her drought-stricken region. Phany's community also took part in training in health, nutrition, hygiene and disaster preparedness, arming them with better strategies to cope with environmental changes.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help mothers like Phany continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families.

Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

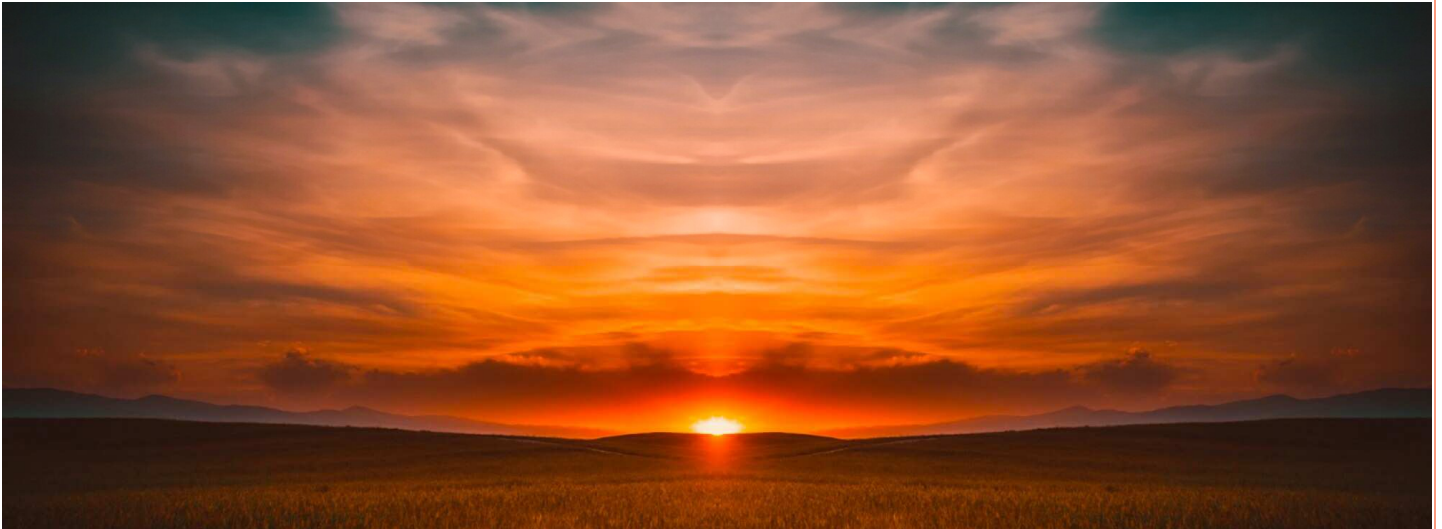
or phoning 1800 024 413.



Gospel: Mt 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'



Reflection

The story of the transfiguration is one of the richest in the gospel. It has links to some of the great figures and events of the Jewish tradition, especially Moses and Elijah and all they signified. It echoes the accounts of God revealing himself on holy mountains and in natural phenomena such as thunder and lightning and storm. It connects with the foundational story of the exodus when the Israelites dwelt in tents and were led by cloud and fire.

The narrative of the transfiguration also has important associations with other gospel stories. The words spoken from the cloud - "This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour" - parallel those spoken on the occasion of Jesus' baptism. And the naming of Peter, James and John reminds us of other occasions when they are Jesus' chosen companions, especially at his prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. Every one of these associations invites exploration.

Yet for all these allusions to people and events in the Old Testament and the gospels, the story of the transfiguration is suffused with mystery. To mine its riches we need to enter into it with imagination rather than a critical scientific mindset. It invites prolonged meditation if we are to grasp what is being revealed to us about Jesus and our discipleship of him. In the end the challenge is to come down from the mountain with Jesus and journey with him to Jerusalem.

Break Open the Word 2020



Baptisms

This weekend we welcome to our
Montmorency Parish Community

on Sunday at 12 noon:

Hudson Lavric, son of Matthew & Jacqueline,

Archer Roberts, son of Andrew & Stephanie,

Greta Bugeja, daughter of Ryan and Georgina, &

Zoe Dickinson, daughter of Samuel & Meaghan

Baptism Welcomes

This weekend we welcome to our
Eltham Parish Community

on Saturday at 6:00pm Mass:

James Polchleb, son of Christopher & Ciara

We pray for *Hudson, Archer, Greta, Zoe & James*,
their parents & Godparents.

May God keep them always in His love.