

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.

Tonight, we cry

*It's not about the badge or the uniform we wear,
We do it for you and because we care.
We leave our families to protect your home and you,
And we do it because we care about what we do.*

*We do it to serve you and protect you as best as we can,
We do it even knowing what risks are at hand.
Our uniforms aren't strong and they're not made of steel,
Nor are the emotions of how we can feel.*

*We are human, we feel pain just like you do,
We see so many things that you wouldn't want to.
But tonight we've all seen it and felt such a grief,
Of losing four lives in circumstances that beggar belief.*

*Tragically taken while they protected us all,
Tragically taken and can't protect us no more.
The tears are now flowing and our hearts are aching,
For the loss we are feeling and how our hearts are breaking.*

*Tonight we cry at the loss of family and friends,
And the tears will never dry and our thoughts will never end.
You will live in our hearts and thoughts in every way,
Of the risks that you took and the price that you paid.*

Shane



When Shane, a serving police officer, heard the news about four of his colleagues dying on the Eastern Freeway, he was filled with sadness.

"It broke me," he said.

But he had to do something. So he wrote a poem:

(<https://www.3aw.com.au/tonight-we-cry-police-officer-writes-and-reads-poem-for-killed-colleagues/>)

ANZAC DAY

April 25th has for a century been an important day, etched into the life of Australians.

From the *Dawn Service* - celebrated in cities & towns across our vast land, people gather to remember the huge sacrifice given by so many young people at Anzac Cove, Gallipoli, and in wars after, that forged our Nation. Side by side, New Zealand and Australian soldiers died in defence of their countries far away, and so we pause to remember them. The photos in the centre of this week's bulletin were taken by me on my travels to France and Canberra and would you believe it ... my first ever visit to our own MELBOURNE war memorial. Like so many people, I can travel the world and visit fantastic sites and forget the amazing important places on my door step!

I hope that you enjoy this collection of photos to mark Anzac Day 2020



VICTORIA POLICE - April 22nd. Wednesday night is now unfortunately etched into our history too as the senseless deaths of 4 Police men and women were recorded as a road accident that should never have happened. Our Police force and our nation mourn their loss and pass onto those families our condolences, and to the police women and men our thoughts and prayers at this tragic time. Senior Constable Lynette Taylor, Constable Glen Humphris, Senior Constable Kevin King and Constable Josh Prestney. R.I.P.

Michael

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

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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

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Kate Kogler: Parish Secretary & Finance

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Peter Williams: Child Safety Officer

montmorency.childsafety@cam.org.au

Website:

www.sfxmonty.org

www.cam.org.au/montmorency

www.olhc.info

www.cam.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: 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

With Saturday being ANZAC Day, I thought it appropriate to send a copy of the words of one of the three missing (from SFX church foyer) plaques:

This church stands as a memorial to all those who have given their lives in defence of this country. May they rest in peace.

If anyone has more information or better photos of these missing plaques, please share by sending an email to Kate at the Parish Office and she will forward to me. Thank you, Elizabeth

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Patsy Leed

For those whose anniversaries are at this time::

Jack Boyd, Maureen Briffa, Terry Carrigg, Jack Feil, Kate Feil, Pauline Jones

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Baby Kylie, Sriyani Algama, Nikki Attwood, Justine Best, Kristina Brazaitis, Desmond Deehan, Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Julian Forrester, Gennie Hannon, Samuel Hauser (Kyabram),

Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tina Inerra, Adrian Jones, 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, Sheryn Zurzolo.

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

Joan Whotty

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Baby Harriet Banks, Jon D'Cruz, Claire Dakwar, Ruth Decker, Fay Dobson, Jeanette Jenkins, Maureen Jenkins, Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen, Jo Porter, Sally Price, Paul Rushbrook, Pam Watson.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

St Francis Xavier community offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of:

Patsy Leed

cousin of Janet Vague.

Our Lady Help of Christians community offers its sincere condolences to the family and friends of:

Joan Whotty

sister-in-law of Patsy Cullinan.

our thoughts & prayers are with you at this time.

RECONCILIATION

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

Collections last weekend: 19 April 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$1,450.00	
Montmorency	\$732.00	\$470.00

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

Third Sunday of Easter

Another week with all its challenges of living in social isolation. Another week of on-line learning for so many students. How are you parents and teachers managing all this? Another week of much anxiety for those of you who are unemployed.

Who would ever have thought some months ago that we would ever experience a world, a country that would be forced into these measures of isolation to protect ourselves from the corona virus?

And what will happen in the future? When will life return to some kind of so-called normal? And what will we say about this isolation time when we look back on it in times to come?

We will certainly talk about the pain of it all, the loss of life, the fear of the virus itself, the losses of jobs, the loneliness for so many people, the closing of businesses and so on.

But I suspect we will also talk about some positives. The kindnesses of people in care for one another, the slowing down of life and a new appreciation for nature from our walks. We hear the birds sing. A new appreciation of those who work in health care and a gratitude for the leaders of our country, both State and Federal.

A gratitude for life and for each other. A chance to reflect, to ponder, to awaken to some new insights, questions. To let some of our grief and anxieties surface and somehow it's okay. We may even find a peace that fills us.

What about our faith community, our Parish? Will we be stronger as a community because we have missed each other and we are looking for connection? So many of us are telephoning, emailing to keep connection and to show our care for one another.

Who knows what we will talk about? How will we will talk about this time with children, grandchildren of future generations. Maybe we will see this time with a new understanding.

In so many ways our Gospel today is about understanding something new. Two disciples were on the way to Emmaus. Their dream has been shattered. They were walking away from Jerusalem. The death of Jesus was the end of the road of promise and even though they had heard whispers of people claiming that Jesus was alive, they thought it's all over.

A stranger came and walked by their side, listened to them and then opened up the scriptures for them, unveiling another story waiting for them to understand.

The stranger was about to leave but they pressed him to stay with them. It was that moment at table when the stranger took the bread and said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them that they recognised the stranger as the Risen Christ, but then he vanished from their sight. They immediately returned to Jerusalem. They had to go back to the community.

Here we have some wonderful insights into seeing with new eyes. Once the two disciples had talked about what had happened and once they had listened to the Stranger unpack the Scriptures, the word of God, they began to sense something; their hearts were burning within them. And when they recognised him at the breaking of the bread as the Risen Christ, it's like they understood something they had never understood before. They had to go back to the community to tell them.

Maybe the Stranger is walking with us at this very moment and we need to tell him all about what's happening to us. And maybe the Stranger is there to help open us up to the Word of God, to see an invitation to understand what's happening in a new way. And maybe the coming together, when we can, as a community to break the bread and share the cup of the Risen Jesus, maybe we will be all the stronger as a community of Parish. We hope and pray for this.

Terry

Rosters - 2 & 3 May

Montmorency

Boyd, Mary PRYR

Eltham

Dhanasen Family Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Hall, Vali Altar Society

Milwain, Gianna Altar Society

Asylum Seekers Resource Centre

Under the current circumstances the needs of the people assisted by the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre are even greater.

Donations can still be made at the Parish Office.

These will be collected and delivered to the collection centre at Alphington each Thursday morning.



A PRAYER FOR PEACE

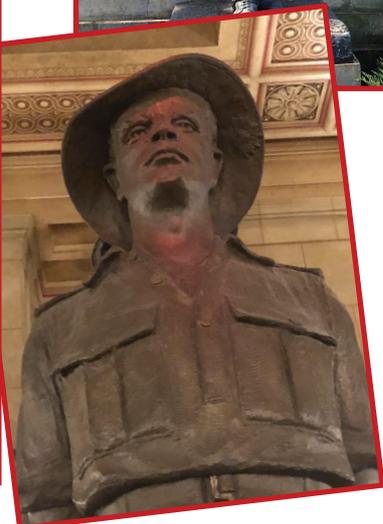
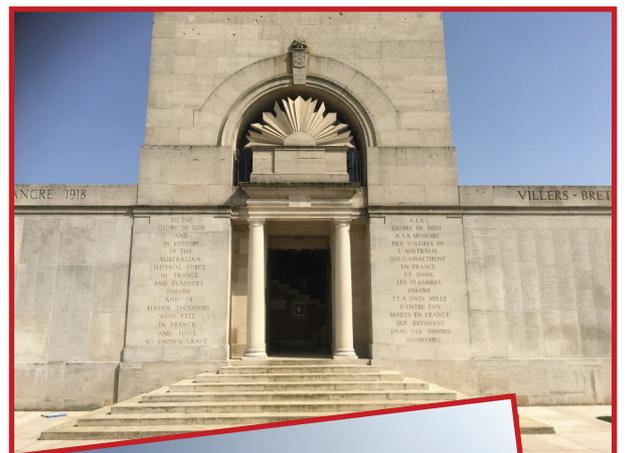
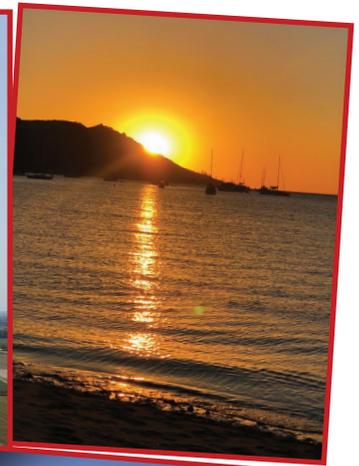
God of peace, may we become peacemakers
by feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger,
planting kindness and nurturing peace
wherever we are.

God of Justice, may we become justice makers
by sharing goodwill, upholding the rights of all
beings, sharing our gifts and nurturing justice
wherever we are.

We pray for these things with humility,
because of the hope that is within us,
and because of our faith in the ultimate triumph
of the good over evil.

We pray because of our love for Creation and
because of our trust in a loving God.

Above all, we pray for an end to violence, and
for peace throughout the world. Amen



Good Friday was Lifeline's busiest day ever as coronavirus puts strain on mental health.

ABC South West Vic / By Matt Neal



PHOTO: Lifeline received an unprecedented spike in calls on Good Friday. (ABC News)

In its 57-year history, crisis support & suicide prevention service Lifeline has never experienced demand like this.

The Australia-wide hotline has just smashed some unenviable records — March was its busiest month ever, and Good Friday was its busiest day ever.

Lifeline chairman John Brogden said the records had been tumbling since the start of summer.

"In recent years, we've been answering about 2,500 calls a day," he said.

"That went up to 2,900 calls a day when the bushfires became very severe back in December.

"Now we've had the coronavirus [shutdown], we've seen our calls get as high as 3,200 a day — that's the highest we've ever seen."

Mr Brogden said about half of the calls came from people talking about the COVID-19 crisis.

"These are extraordinary numbers and it demonstrates the stress on people's mental health that we're seeing with the coronavirus."

Key points:

- Lifeline says March was its busiest month on record and Good Friday was its busiest day ever.
- The crisis hotline received almost 90,000 calls in March, and more than 3200 calls on Good Friday.
- The coronavirus shutdown has been attributed to increase calls.

If you or anyone you know needs help:

- Lifeline on 13 11 14
- Kids Helpline on 1800 551 800
- MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978
- Suicide Call Back Service on 1300 659 467
- Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636
- Headspace on 1800 650 890
- ReachOut at au.reachout.com
- Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) on 1800 008 774

All the lonely people

He said while social distancing and self-isolation were helping win the war against the virus, one of the accidental casualties was mental health.

"We're seeing significant growth in anxiety and we're seeing real loneliness.

"[The Government] is effectively saying don't socialise, don't leave home — it can be a very, very confronting message for some people ... for those who already have issues with loneliness.

The shutdown is also triggering anxiety in people, even in those who may never have experienced it before," Mr Brogden said.

He said additional funding from state and federal governments had allowed Lifeline to answer more calls.

"We have more paid staff, we have more volunteer hours," he said.

"We're receiving more calls than ever before and our volunteers are saying, 'Listen, I'll do another shift because we know this is a difficult time for people'."



PHOTO: Many people are concentrating on what they're not doing more than what they are doing. (Supplied: Moyne Shire)

Not a good Friday for some

For many people, things came to a head on Good Friday.

Mr Brogden said the coronavirus restrictions on churches, travel, socialising and other typical Easter activities hit some people hard.

"People who would have been on the road or arriving at a campsite or whatever they do for their annual holiday, and might have done for 20 or 30 years, all of a sudden you're not doing it.

"You're sitting at home and you're concentrating on what you're not doing more than what you are doing.

Mr Brogden said the day-to-day number of calls also seemed to mirror the flow of coronavirus news.

"We think that if there's a couple of days of no big changes or announcements, then the numbers seem to drop.

"And if the Prime Minister or the premiers or the chief medical staff come out, or there's significant news that comes out, all of a sudden we see a jump up."

Prayers of the Faithful for 26 April 2020

First Sunday of Easter - Parishioner Contribution

Celebrant: Jesus himself drew near and walked with them. Jesus, please find us wherever we hide, from the virus and everything else. Come walk with us and be with us now as we pray.

For the grace to listen: that we may hear the voice of Christ in prayer, in events, and in our relationships so that we may respond more fully to God's invitation. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For a deepening of our love and hunger for the Word of God: that even though we are in isolation and unable to join our community in the church, through reading and praying the scriptures, our hearts may be set on fire, and our commitment to God grow. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the human family: in the midst of COVID-19 spreading across the globe, we ask in your mercy that you stop this plague and restore harmony and health to all nations, especially Australia. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Federal and State/Territory leaders: for their courageous leadership and national cooperation across States and Territories. Grant them wisdom in their decisions as they navigate the threats to lives and livelihoods and in developing safe and prudent methods for the eventual reopening of society. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For health workers, doctors, nurses, paramedics, and those who work in medical laboratories: that God will renew their strength, guide them in their work, and protect them and their families from harm. Give them wisdom, skill and patience in their work, and by your grace, give them success in their endeavours. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are unemployed: that God will help them too in this difficult time. That they will find the resources that they need and open new opportunities for them to use their gifts. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our ANZACs: help us to remember the sacrifice of the first ANZACs and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace. Help us to remember those who still bare the physical and mental scars and disabilities of their service. Help us to remember the mateship, agony, courage and compassion of war service, but save us from ever glorifying the horror and tragedy of war. Lest we forget. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are ill: especially those on the sick list in our parish bulletin, and for all who are suffering in mind, body or spirit. We pray that they will experience the healing touch of Christ. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died recently, especially Patsy Leed & Joan Whotty. We also remember Jack Boyd, Maureen Briffa, Terry Carrigg, Jack Feil, Kate Feil & Pauline Jones whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ. Lord, hear us.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Show us the new life that you are. Open our eyes and make our hearts blaze. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Tips for your mental health

Mr Brogden said it was alright not to feel all right and encouraged people to call Lifeline. He offered four tips to help people at this time.

1. *Keep a routine*
"Don't spend seven days a week in your pyjamas. Get up in the morning, shower, eat breakfast, have a routine."
2. *Exercise*
"There's absolutely no doubt that exercise is important, so if you can get out for half an hour and go for a walk, that's very important."
3. *Don't spend too much time following the news*
"Don't absorb too much negative news. If you want to spend a day listening, reading and watching negative news at the moment, you can spend your entire day doing that, but that's not really good for you long term."
4. *Stay in touch*
"If you're feeling lonely and unwell, pick up the phone. Picking up the phone can make an enormous difference to someone's day."

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.



Reflection

The beauty of the Emmaus story is that it engages us in all of our humanity. It is so wonderfully told that we are drawn deeply into the experience of the two disciples. We join them on their journey, a physical journey that becomes a journey of heart and mind and soul. We share their despondency, we feel the rekindling of the hope, we identify with their generous hospitality to the stranger, we are astonished by what is revealed to them, and we are filled with their exuberant joy.

Every time we hear this story we are summoned out of darkness into light, out of grief into gladness. We are invited into a world of generous hospitality - not the world of our limited efforts to welcome others but the world of unbounded divine hospitality to us.

Whenever we hear this story our eyes are opened to recognise that what happened at Emmaus is what happens when we meet for Eucharist: we gather, listen to the word of God, sup at the Lord's table, and go forth. This is the dynamic movement hidden in the static names for the parts of the Mass: Introductory rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist, Concluding rites. Would that we recognised the risen Lord in our breaking of bread and were impelled forth with the burning desire to share the good news with the world!

Break Open the Word 2020

Life and Energy.

How heartening it is to see how vibrant is the life and energy of this Parish Community. When one form of life is taken away or suppressed for whatever reason – the life-force within will find other ways to live and grow. This is seen and experienced in our Community at this time of isolation. People are finding technology in ways not used by some of us before. Keeping connected by email, text, phone, with jokes, reflections, snippets of all kinds, not only between friends but with people we know to live alone or to have needs. People are placing messages in letter boxes as they pass on their daily walks. Small Church Communities, Meditation Group, St Vincent de Paul Conference continue to meeting via zoom or WhatsApp. So there is sharing of information which keeps us in touch. We hear of those who need our prayer or have other needs or requirements.

We see the Risen Life of Jesus finding new ways to shine in us and in our Community – so though we may be confined to our homes we are not alone, our oneness and connection is keenly felt and grows stronger as we reach out and look out for each other. As the green shoot pushes through the black tree trunk after the bushfires, as buds burst forth on bare branches in Spring, as the sun rises and blesses us with light and warmth each day, and as Jesus shows Life is stronger than death, so too this life yearning and longing in us pushes us forward, not just to survive these painful challenging times, but to find new ways of being and seeing, new ways to touch, to love and to grow.

How wonderful it will be when at last we can look at, hold and touch each other again, hear the laughter and see the familiar smiling faces again. Till that time, we live in hope and with gratitude for the gift of belonging. Let us pray for our world and each other.

Patsy Skipper.