

# 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.

## Homily – Fr Terry

It was during the years of my involvement as priest in Sacred Heart Mission, St Kilda that I met a lovely young woman at a Wedding. She left her table at the Wedding reception to tell me of her experience of lunch at the Mission. Sacred Heart Mission is probably best known for its open doors to people for breakfast and lunch everyday of the year. In these COVID-19 times, it's more takeaway but still the outreach is there for people who come for food and support.

Anyway, this young woman knew that I worked at Sacred Heart Mission and she wanted me to know that she really appreciated what the Mission had done for her. She had hit a low point in her life and she didn't say why, but she had nothing and she was hungry and she queued up with people in line for the lunch, a three course meal. She went one or two days to the lunch and that was enough.

Somehow she got her life back together again and she was fine. She reflected on her experience with me. She said, 'No one judged me. I was treated with respect and dignity and served with a lovely meal and a smile of acceptance from the people there. It really helped me to see such people who cared about others. I will never forget it.'

For some reason I was thinking of her as I prayed that Gospel for today. It's the story of another lunch, not altogether dissimilar to Sacred Heart Mission's lunch, where some hundreds come each day. Except it was a huge crowd Jesus faced that day, of '5,000 men to say nothing of women and children', as stated in the Gospel.

It had come evening time and the disciples asked Jesus to send the crowds home so that they could buy food to eat. Hardly likely you would think... it wasn't 24 hour shopping in those days and quite probably many of them had no means of buying food.

Jesus said to his disciples, 'No need for them to go away. Give them something to eat yourselves', and we know the rest of the story. The disciples brought forward the food they had with them, five loaves and two fish. Jesus blessed the food and the disciples shared it with the people. Everyone was fed and there were twelve baskets full of scraps left over.

We don't know how that exactly happened. Was it a miracle of Jesus or could it have been that some people had brought some food and they shared what they had? In a way it doesn't really matter, but there is a message for us all, 'a little goes a long way'. It's amazing how often there is abundance when we share what we have.

I think back on Sacred Heart Mission and the miracle of each day in providing such beautiful meals to the crowds of people who come for food and companionship. It all began with the Parish of Sacred Heart, St Kilda opening the presbytery to people knocking on the door. Ten people sitting around a table became 20 people, became 50 people. The meal then was located to the parish hall and from my memory accommodated 600 people at times.

And it has always been more than giving food. It's also about people's kindness in the giving of the food. Like it would have been that day when 5,000 plus people were fed. The people would have gone home so touched by the compassion of Jesus, who didn't send them away but treated them with kindness and generosity.

It's one thing to hand out food. It's also the way we do this in our meeting people with respect and warmth. Just ask that young woman I met at the Wedding. And in more ways than one, 'a little goes a long way'.

So we too ask ourselves, where are we in the picture? Maybe we too can recall times when even the smallest kindness has touched our hearts and made such a difference in our lives. And maybe we too are Jesus' people who show this kindness.



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](http://pol.org.au/eltham) or [pol.org.au/montmorency](http://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 Priests

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum

[terry.kean@cam.org.au](mailto:terry.kean@cam.org.au)

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

[michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au](mailto:michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au)

Barry Caldwell

#### Parish Office

86 Mayona Road

9435 2178

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

[montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au)

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

Gina Ang:

Pastoral Worker & Caring Group Co-Ord—**Eltham**

[gina.ang@cam.org.au](mailto:gina.ang@cam.org.au)

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

[SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

Website:

[www.pol.org.au/montmorency](http://www.pol.org.au/montmorency)

[www.pol.org.au/eltham](http://www.pol.org.au/eltham)

(pol stands for Parish OnLine)

Facebook:

[St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency](#)

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

#### Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Mr Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

[principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

[www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Mr Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

[principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

[www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Mr Chris Ray: 9439 7824

[school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

[www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)



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

#### Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

*Colin Maxfield, John Ryan, Antonio Treglia*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Francis Nelson, Andrew Watson*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Baby Kylie, Sriyani Algama, Nikki Attwood, Robert Baker, Justine Best, Ray Bowman, Kristina Brazaitis, Desmond Deehan, Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Julian Forrester, Gennie Hannon, Samuel Hauser (Kyabram), Val Hayes, Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tina Inserra, Adrian Jones, Glenn McKay, 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, Bruno Treglia, Isaac Treglia, Aldo Viapiana, Sheryn Zurzolo.*

#### Eltham

For the recently deceased;

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Robyn Atherton, Hugh & Iris Azzopardi, Baby Harriet Banks, Ray Bowman, Elaine & Geoff Bunton, Andrew & Lucinda Collier, Albina Croce, Jon D'Cruz, Claire Dakwar, Ruth Decker, Marlis Dopheide, Maria George, Dennis Goddard, Luke Hawthorne-Smith, Mary Irani, Diana Jackson, Jeanette Jenkins, Maureen Jenkins, Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen, Jo Porter, Barry Scully.*

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House 9435 2178 or [eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au).

## MASS LIVE – STREAMING

*Live-streaming Masses are scheduled for:*

***This Sunday, 2 August @ 8:30am***  
***St Francis Xavier, Montmorency***

*please keep an eye on the 'Calendar of Events' for dates and times*

Link: <https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE>

#### RECONCILIATION

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

#### **Collections last weekend: 26 July 2020**

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham		
Montmorency		

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

**CDFFPay:** (alternate thanksgiving options)  
Montmorency - <https://bit.ly/MontyCDFFPay>  
Eltham - <https://bit.ly/ElthamCDFFPay>

#### *Volunteers Needed:*

We are in need of volunteers to take donated goods, which can be left at the Parish House, from our parish to Alphington for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. One Thursday morning per month between 10am and 12 midday. Contact Tony Cotter (0408 028 501).

Your generous parish donations are enabling the ASRC to supply groceries to those people in lock-down in the housing commission towers in the inner city.

Thank you!



**Prayers of the Faithful for 2 August 2020**  
**Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**(Universal Children's Prayer - LiturgyHelp.com)**

Celebrant: Let us pray to God who cares about all of our needs.

For the Church: that it will always show the love of God, acting with kindness and compassion.  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who lack food and shelter: that those who have plenty will quickly come to their aid.  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are lonely: that the love of God will be their strength and companion.  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That those who are sick, including all those listed in our bulletin, will be comforted by our loving God.  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That those who have passed away recently, including Colin Maxfield, John Ryan & Antonio Treglia, and those whose anniversaries are at this time, including Francis Nelson & Andrew Watson, will live in the love of God forever.  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For this community: that we will become one in Christ.  
Lord, hear us.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: God of never-ending goodness, feed us with your love so that we may become strong and grow to be more like your son, Jesus, who lives with you, forever and ever.

**All: Amen.**



## *Live-Stream Masses*

Our Churches remain closed. As we see the number of positive COVID-19 cases increase, we realise how important it is for this to remain the case, sadly. This of course means we are unable to come together to celebrate Eucharist in the familiar way we know and love. While live-streaming of Mass is not our first choice of connecting, it is one option we have until the real thing returns. For the month of August we offer live-streaming of Mass each week, and hope you can join us in prayer and so feel the warmth of the community embrace you at this time.

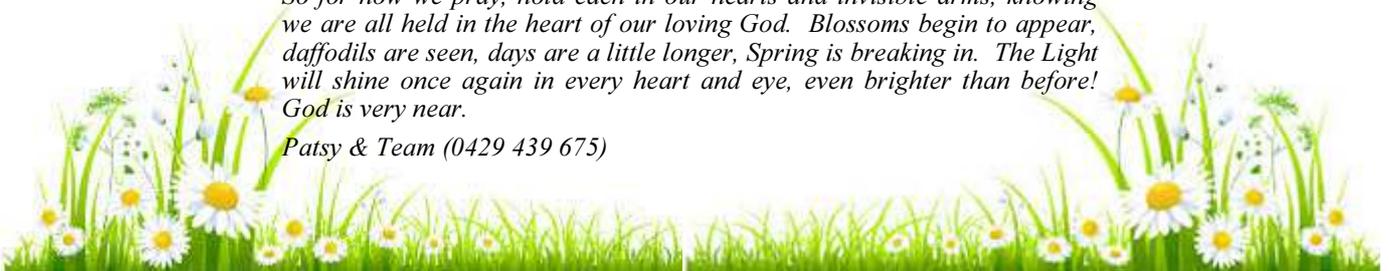
Technology throws us some challenges, but the simple steps below we hope will help you to get connected:

1. Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), type: olhc sfx youtube (click search)
2. OLHC SFX YouTube will appear (click on it)
3. You will see the thumbnail of Masses already streamed
4. You will see somewhere on the screen 'subscribe' (red box) (click it)
5. Then click on any of the Masses or watch the live-streaming of Mass of the day

Last Sunday, for whatever reason (youtube technology???) the above did not work for all. We believe it remains the simplest way to connect. If this eludes some again this week, you may need to fossick around a little, sorry, but you will eventually find us. We are sorry, but offering more options may create further confusion. Good luck!

*So for now we pray, hold each in our hearts and invisible arms, knowing we are all held in the heart of our loving God. Blossoms begin to appear, daffodils are seen, days are a little longer, Spring is breaking in. The Light will shine once again in every heart and eye, even brighter than before! God is very near.*

*Patsy & Team (0429 439 675)*



## Change Is Inevitable

Theme: *Wisdom in Times of Crisis*

Sunday, July 5, 2020

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

The word *change* normally refers to new beginnings. But the mystery of transformation more often *happens not when something new begins, but when something old falls apart*. The pain of something old falling apart — chaos — invites the soul to listen at a deeper level, and sometimes forces the soul to go to a new place. Most of us would never go to new places in any other way. The mystics use many words to describe this chaos: fire, dark night, death, emptiness, abandonment, trial, the Evil One. Whatever it is, it does not feel good and it does not feel like God.

We will normally do *anything* to keep the old thing from falling apart, yet this is when we need patience and guidance, and the *freedom to let go* instead of tightening our controls and certitudes. Perhaps Jesus is describing just this phenomenon when he says, “It is a narrow gate and a hard road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Matthew 7:14). Not accidentally, he mentions this narrow road right after teaching the Golden Rule. He knows how much letting go it takes to “treat others as you would like them to treat you” (Matthew 7:12).

While change can force a transformation, spiritual transformation always includes a disconcerting reorientation. It can either help people to find new meaning or it can force people to close down and slowly turn bitter. The difference is determined precisely by the quality of our inner life, our practices, and our spirituality. Change happens, but transformation is always a process of letting go, living in the confusing, shadowy space for a while. Eventually, we are spit up on a new and unexpected shore. You can see why Jonah in the belly of the whale is such an important symbol for many Jews and Christians.

In moments of insecurity and crisis, *shoulds* and *oughts* don't really help. They just increase the shame, guilt, pressure, and likelihood of backsliding into unhealthy patterns. It's the deep *yeses* that carry us through to the other side. It's that deeper something we are strongly *for* — *such as equality and dignity for all* — that allows us to wait it out. It's someone in whom we absolutely believe and to whom we commit. In plain language, love wins out over guilt any day.

At the Center for Action and Contemplation, we are blessed with a core faculty that comes from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences. We are from northern and southern States, the Midwest and the coasts, celibate and married, male and female, Black and white, Protestant and Catholic. Each of us speaks out of our commitment to practices of spiritual transformation drawn from the Christian contemplative tradition. This week I want to share some wisdom for times of crisis from these friends and teaching colleagues: Cynthia Bourgeault, James Finley, Barbara Holmes, and Brian McLaren. I hope they can serve as guides to your own internal *yes* to love.

### Reference:

Adapted from Richard Rohr, [The Wisdom Pattern](#) (Franciscan Media: 2020), 84–85.

<https://cac.org/change-is-inevitable-2020-07-05/>



## National Vocations Awareness Week 2020

This is a week for the entire Church to consider, support and pray for those searching for their vocations in life.

We might think about and pray for the young people in our community and in our families this week especially.

In prayer, ask the Lord to enlighten them and give them the grace and courage to respond to His call.

The Lord calls each of us to a particular vocation (marriage, consecrated life, priesthood or a single life of service).



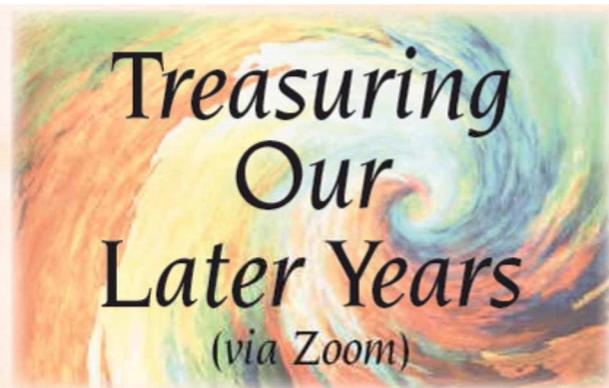
## CatholicCare Sunday Appeal

Next weekend is the CatholicCare Sunday Appeal. As our parish's social service agency, CatholicCare delivers family and relationship counselling, refugee and settlement support, education and school programs, and pastoral services. Donations from our parish community will help care for the most vulnerable families in our community.

**Please donate to CatholicCare Sunday Appeal.** Your support and generosity will help break barriers to social inclusion and strengthen families and communities to live life to the full.

You can donate online at  
[www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal](http://www.ccam.org.au/SundayAppeal)  
or call (03) 9287 5513.

All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible



# Treasuring Our Later Years

(via Zoom)

6 x Tuesdays, 1pm-3pm  
4 August - 8 September 2020

(Facilitator: Nicole Rotaruism (Sister of Mercy, Educator, Social Worker and Creative Arts Therapist, with a deep interest in spirituality))

Our ageing offers us opportunities to be awake to the new possibilities offered daily. Because of the Coronavirus, we have all had to make many adjustments in our lives. Our experience of ageing may be presenting us with both challenges and opportunities we did not expect. Our time together will include reflections on the following themes, which take on particular relevance and meaning in our ageing years.

Upon registering for this event, we will send you some tips to help you to gain the most from your time with us on Zoom.

Cost: \$115 for the Series, or \$20 per session  
Book and pay at <https://www.trybooking.com/BKLUH>



Heart of Life  
Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation  
296 Glenferrie Road, Malvern Vic 3144  
Tel: 03 9890 1101  
Email: [holsc@bigpond.com](mailto:holsc@bigpond.com)  
Web: [www.heartoflife.melbourne](http://www.heartoflife.melbourne)



## CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

17 July 2020

Dear friends,

Over recent months there have been a number of discussions across the Archdiocese about the future directions of Parishes. You would be aware that there are parishes that have been held together by priests who have generously continued past retirement age, others who are on temporary placements, and others again getting by with supply priests.

In looking to how we address this reality, rather than seeing it as something problematic, we are presented with an excellent opportunity to imagine new ways to reinvigorate the mission of the Gospel into the Archdiocese.

In considering the overall needs of the Archdiocese in its local faith communities, there is clearly a need for extensive planning, consultation and reform. We are currently working to establish processes to achieve this across the Archdiocese over the next few years. Nonetheless, some decisions need to be made now to ensure that the ongoing spiritual and pastoral needs of Catholics are being met.

So even as we develop a process to plan for parishes of the future some bold new ventures are already being put in place, along with many that have been successfully implemented over the past fifteen years.

Currently in the Bayside region, Fr David Cartwright and Fr Dean Mathieson are preparing to work together with the people across five parishes. In the inner north Fr Linh Pham and Fr Greg Bourke are also preparing to work together with the people of three parishes. Last month Fr John Salvano and Fr Toan Nguyen and their team took responsibility for the pastoral leadership of the parish of Greythorn in addition to the communities of North Balwyn and East Kew while their neighbours Fr Brendan Reed and Fr Trac Nguyen with their team added the pastoral care of the parishes of Surrey Hills and Wattle Park to their responsibility for Camberwell, Balwyn and Deepdene.

We wish them all well and offer them our prayers and support for these important missions.

### **1. MONSIGNOR GREG BENNET APPOINTED NEXT BISHOP OF SALE**

We congratulate Bishop-elect Greg Bennet, Parish Priest of St Joseph's, Brunswick West, on his appointment as the next Bishop of the Diocese of Sale. Bishop-elect Bennet's appointments in the Archdiocese included Assistant Priest at the parishes of Grovedale and Greensborough and as Administrator of Seymour parish. He was appointed Director, Ministry to Priests and Director of ongoing Formation for Clergy in the Archdiocese followed by later appointments as the inaugural Director of the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation and Parish Priest of North Balwyn. In 2012, Bishop-elect Bennet was appointed Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia and in that same year, he was appointed a Prelate of Honour by Pope Benedict XVI. We are most grateful for his service to the Church in Melbourne and wish him well in his new role.

With best wishes and blessings,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Caddy".

Father Joe Caddy AM  
VICAR GENERAL

## A Prayer for Our Uncertain Times

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have lower risk factors remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health and being able to pay their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children and grandchildren when their schools close remember those who have no options.

May we who have had to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are seeing our superannuation money declining in the turmoil of the economic market remember those who have no savings at all.

May we who settle in for isolation at home remember those who have no home.

As fear and uncertainty grip our world, let us choose love.

And during this time when we may not be able to physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. **Amen.**

Written by Rev. Dr. William J Barber

Source: <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/coronavirus-prayers>



### Calendar of Events

#### Sunday, 2 August

8:30am	Montmorency	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )
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#### Sunday, 9 August

10:00am	Eltham	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )
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#### Sunday, 16 August

8:30am	Montmorency	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )
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#### Sunday, 23 August

10:00am	Eltham	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )
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#### Sunday, 30 August

8:30am	Montmorency	Mass - live-streamed ( <a href="https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE">https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE</a> )
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### Rosters - 8 & 9 August

#### Montmorency

Davidson, John	PRYR
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#### Eltham

Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Scully, Helen	Altar Society
Stewart Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

## 55th Anniversary of SFX Church

### Appreciating our History

In last week's Bulletin, Elizabeth and David Warrillow provided an article about the 55th anniversary of the opening and blessing of St Francis Xavier Church, our first Parish Priest Fr Brendan Torr and the missing plaque commemorating this event. It is very easy to lose track of our history. Below is some further information about the Church blessed 55 years ago.

When we came to Montmorency, nearly 53 years ago, we were given a coloured pamphlet that described what all the stained glass and sculptured symbols meant. Unfortunately, we have lost this. However, a parishioner may still have one which we could copy.

This information below is contained in the yellow-covered booklet produced in 1982 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of St Francis Xavier Primary School. Many families in the Parish may still have a copy of this booklet.

All the windows and sculpture pieces in the church were designed by Marnius Rein Slagmolen, a Dutch-Australian artist and sculptor who rented a house, "Casa Maria", formerly "Woodside Farm" in Yallambie (two house which occupy the former front yard of Casa Maria at 38 and 40 Allima Avenue).

Next time you're able to go to our church, look at the stained-glass windows and see if you can identify:

- The *three-leaf clover* symbolising the Trinity;
- *Daisies* representing the innocence of Christ;
- *Laurel leaves* signifying victory of life over death;
- The *lily* of purity and the *rose* without thorns depicting Mary;
- A *caterpillar, chrysalis & butterfly*, illustrating the life, death & resurrection of Christ and of all men and women;
- *Circle of Eternity*, the *triangle* of the Trinity, the *square* representing earth and the *pentagram* (a five-sided figure) representing the five wounds of Christ;
- There is the *Pen* of Evangelist, the *Star* of Guidance, the *Lighted Lamp* of the Wise Virgins, the *Crown* of Kingship, the *Heart* of love and the *Rainbow* symbolising the union of pardon, reconciliation and final judgement; and
- There is the *Tree Cross* to remind the faithful of the hierarchical ranks in the Christian Church.

The colouring of the windows ranges from the violet of humility, the red of suffering, the brown of spiritual death to the green of the triumph of spring over winter, of life over death to the regal purple of the imperial majesty of God and the blue of heaven and eternal love.

In following weeks I hope I can include information about the sculptures and other symbols in the church. Mike Said



**FAMILY GROUP  
MOVEMENT**



To continue Fr Michael's theme of last week,  
*How Can We Help You?*  
In July, 2020 St Francis Xavier's  
**PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT**  
is celebrating 25 years of connection and support  
**A FAMILY FOR ALL**

The Family Group Movement was started by Fr Peter McGrath, a Priest of the Passionist Order, in a small but rapidly expanding Sydney Parish in 1973. The Movement came to the attention of SFX parishioners, Val and Terry Carrig and in 1995 they believed that this program would help to build on the life of our vibrant Parish that was overflowing with young, growing families. Fortunately, they had the help and support of Fr Peter Matheson and the resident Sisters of Mercy at that time.

The motto and guiding principle of Passionist Family Groups is "A Family for All". So who is this 'family'?

*Family isn't always blood. It's the people in your life who want you in theirs; the ones who accept you for who you are. The ones who would do anything to see you smile and whom you care about, no matter what. (Anon)*

*"Whether we are crawling, walking or running, we do belong to a Passionist Family Group - we come together in friendship to care for one another and to love one another. May we carry this spirit of the Passionist Family Group Movement forward with the years to come."*  
(Val & Terry Carrig, 1997)

Over time, the Passionist Family Group Movement continued to expand and be active throughout much of the English-speaking world as an ecumenical movement working with Religious to build Christian community and prepare for the future.

Now, twenty-five years on, the St Francis Xavier's Passionist Family Groups' parents are older, and their children are grown and many have families of their own. Some members have moved away from the Parish and some have returned, such as us. Over the years, new members, often new parishioners, have joined. Sadly some, including our founding members, Val and Terry, have gone before us, re-united with our beloved God. No longer are noisy families filling our church and generally our Groups mirror the congregation. Some Parishes continue to have vibrant, multi-national Family Groups continuing the cycle and new Groups continue to be formed, albeit at a slower rate.

In Montmorency, there are six active Family Groups with some members living outside the combined Montmorency/Eltham Parish. There are between eleven and eighteen families in each Group with approximately one third being single person families. Most Family Groups meet monthly and these gatherings vary widely from a light meal and drinks locally, to gathering in homes, visits to gardens, museums, live shows, ferry trips (always with food of course), 'special occasion' celebrations, combined gatherings and occasional weekends away. During this time of COVID-19, some Family Group Leaders and members are using Zoom or phone calls to keep in touch with their fellow members, sharing the highs and lows at this time.

If you would like to know more about Passionist Family Groups or if you are interested in joining a Group, please call us on the number below. New members are ALWAYS welcome.

Thank you.

David & Joan Muller  
Co-ordinators Passionist Family Group Movement  
St Francis Xavier Parish, Montmorency  
Phone: 9438 2748



## Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.



## Reflection

As suggested in the introduction, the story of the feeding of the crowd must have been valued highly in the early Christian community. In addition to being retold six times, it is the only miracle common to all four gospels.

Some might want to argue that it is an entire gospel in miniature. It offers the revelation that Jesus is the long-awaited Son of David (see Matt 1:1), the shepherd-king who looks after his flock, feeds them, and leads them to safety. At the same time it is a story of mission - the mission of the church to feed the hungers of humanity. Jesus said to the disciples, "There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves."

The six feeding stories have intriguing variations but the substance of each one is the same. In Jesus, God is gathering his people, nourishing them, and sending them out. It is a deservedly much loved story that never fails to stir our hearts.

**Break Open the Word 2020**



## *Zooming the Rosary*

### *Spending a lot of time at home?*

*I think this is the story for many people. Spending so much time at home has spurred me on to say the Rosary. After all, we are not attending Mass. Yes, I know some people have live-streamed anywhere from Montreal to Timbuctoo, but I am not that universally minded, so I have been praying the Rosary. Yes folks, all by myself. Now, I have an idea - how about we pray the Rosary together via Zoom? It's legit, if it helps us to pray.*

*If you intend to participate, please ring or email me at the Parish Office ([montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au) or 9435 2178). If you would like to participate, please be in touch as soon as possible, as we would like to have the first 'Zooming the Rosary' prayer meeting on Thursday 13 August at 11:00am.*

*You never know, it could be a 'zooming' success! Let's give it a try. Marisa*