

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.

From Winter Blues to Spring Blossoms

Coronavirus or not - our beautiful Seasons come and go as normal.

Over the past few weeks I have noticed, and might I say been delighted to see, the Blossoms appear on some of the trees in various bright colours. For me, this has always been a childhood experience that I have looked forward to after the dreadful cold of winter! I don't know about you, but this year I have felt the chill of winter - more than ever, especially in the mornings, but for only a few really wet days, most afternoons have been bathed in glorious sun light - and not too cold. The superb greenery of the Diamond Valley can hide some of these seasonal changes but I have noticed with joy on my walks with Lenny, the Blossoms that tend to announce the coming of Spring! Good Bye August and Hello to September.



The Joy of having a pet during isolation

Now about the Parish Dog.....Lenny.

To be honest, I'm not sure if I would have survived this difficult time of self isolation and 'lockdown' if it hadn't been for the company of your Labrador dog. We tend to have 2 (half hour) walks a day - morning & afternoon, and in different spots just to break up the monotony of each time together. The parish dog, like the Moderator, loves company and creativity and these walks have become true adventures around Eltham and Montmorency.

Can I say, the parks around and in these two suburbs are simply amazing, and a joy to experience. Lenny just loves these regular times each day to breathe in the cold fresh air and company of other dogs!

Lenny doesn't wear a mask or socially distance from other dogs and his hygiene practices leave a lot to be desired - no regular hand washing either! Thus I am left to thoroughly clean Lenny on re-entering the house! Lenny is still a puppy and needs lots of training and affection, but the joy that he brings me every day is certainly part of my daily therapy! Yes, he is your dog that I am still looking after... and during

these difficult months I have just loved looking after him! Unfortunately I don't have photos of Lenny OUTSIDE. (photos: top - comfortable dog; left - interested; right - waking up)

Michael

Just in:

- Tragically, a 4 year old boy is among 3 people who died as a result of Thursday night's wild and windy weather;
- Sadly, this weekend Victoria has reached the milestone of 500 COVID deaths

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are mourning the loss of their loved one/s, and for those who are ill or injured. May God bless them and comfort them.

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 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

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

eltham@cam.org.au

Gina Ang:

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

gina.ang@cam.org.au

Peter Williams:

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Website:

www.pol.org.au/montmorency

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

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@olheltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olheltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 10:30am Monty ~ Terry

1/2 hr prior to any mass said by Michael

Collections last weekend: 23 August 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.

CDFPay: (alternate thanksgiving options)

Montmorency - <https://bit.ly/MontyCDFPay>

Eltham - <https://bit.ly/ElthamCDFPay>



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Ivor Clift

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Bernie Kelly

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 Oson, 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;

Kathleen Gribble, Jon Zales

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

Robert Lord

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Robyn Atherton, Francisco Azarcon, Hugh & Iris Azzopardi, Baby Harriet Banks, Ray Bowman, Geoff Bunton, Andrew & Lucinda Collier, Albina Croce, Eileen Culbertson, 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, Kath Wheelahan.

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

Gina's Update...

We have a few more days to go before we welcome Spring.

I always love Spring time, the sun comes out, our flowers bloom, the cold winter fades away... Spring is in the air!

There is an article in the Melbourne Catholic ([here](#)) encouraging Victorians to stand together in prayer on Sunday and Monday, lighting a candle, farewelling Winter and welcoming Spring:

Standing together to see the light in the darkness

Hosted by the Victorian Council of Churches, the Standing Together initiative on Sunday afternoon seeks to unite people from across the Christian communities in Victoria for a virtual prayer session.

We are encouraging people to stand in their front garden or at their door or in a window and acknowledge that there's now a light in this darkness, the darkness of winter is fading. And now we're coming into the light of Spring.

Join with us on Sunday and Monday ... send your photos to the Parish office so we can celebrate together (eltham@cam.org.au)



Prayers of the Faithful for 23 August 2020
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Peter & Anne Williams)

Celebrant: Lord, out of love you gave up everything, show us how to lose ourselves and find ourselves in you. In love we pray.

For the Church: that during this difficult time, as the world struggles with the COVID crisis that all church leaders see this as a time to reassess and to find new ways to reach out o God's people.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish communities: that we continue to have a love for all; compassion for the sick, the lonely, and all in need. Give us the grace to live with the unknown, particularly in these uncertain times. May we trust in God, who is with us even when answers or new beginnings are not apparent.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are suffering for the sake of the Gospel: that God will protect and sustain those who risk their lives to bring the Gospel message, the sacraments, or medical care to those in difficult or distant places.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Healthcare professionals: protect them from the illnesses they are treating, and make them instruments of your healing. In times when treatments fail, help these healthcare workers to know that to simply comfort and support is itself holy work.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have lost someone during the COVID lockdowns: we ask God to support all who are mourning the loss of a family member or friend with very limited opportunity to share their grief. Also, for those family members and friends who cannot reach out to the bereaved physically or even to be in their presence to comfort and support them.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those involved in education: as our schools seek to continue their important work in stressful and difficult circumstances. Please keep teachers and students safe, and help them to care for each other. Also, for those who are preparing for their final exams and assessments. We seek your support and blessing.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray today for those belonging in the Small Church Communities. May their searching and commitment to the Word be rewarded, with a deeper understanding and relationship with Jesus. May Grace lead them to loving service of those most vulnerable and needy in our community and our world.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are ill, especially those listed 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 Ivor Clift, Kathleen Gribble and Jon Zales. We also remember Bernie Kelly and Robert Lord whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Father help us to grow and nourish us with your grace. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Some weeks ago, Glenys Gayfer submitted an article to our bulletin (26 July) regarding a new family in our Montmorency Church. This is the family's response:

***"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."
1 Corinthians 1:4***



We just wanted to write to let you know how much we appreciate your kindness and support. Thanks for being there for us when we really needed you, we appreciate it so much.

Few people have the privilege of having such a supportive community and parish, and we are beyond lucky to have you guys in our lives. All of you inspired us during these difficult times, words cannot express how grateful we are for your help.

Indeed, we are truly blessed to have you guys in our lives. We thank GOD for sending you to us in our times of need. We want to thank the entire Parish, including its leaders, members and staff, for reaching out to us and supporting us. GOD works in mysterious ways, but it's no mystery to us why you guys are in our lives. Bless You all for your kindness. The way that you guys helped us is a clear demonstration of why all of you are a shining example at our church and that you embody kindness, generosity, and so much more.

We hope to see you all soon in our parish, and so that we can thank you all personally, rest assured that we will reciprocate this kindness also to other people as an example of your greatness and kindness.

Love, Gary, Monivic & Yzabelle

If you have any comments, enquiries, love or support, please contact Glenys (papel-imports@bigpond.com)

Small Church Community - Celebrating 25 Years



In a normal year, around this time, those in the Small Church Communities would have an awareness raising weekend. Someone would speak at Masses and share some of their experience of belonging to a Small Church Community. Of course we all know, well and truly, there is nothing normal about this year. However, we try to hold on to some of the old but meaningful routines to remind us that some things will still be there after COVID!



One of those things will be our SFX Small Church Communities. I know this because several groups continue to connect with each other throughout this time of isolation, on a fortnightly basis, either via zoom or phone. In a time when many of our connections to others are denied us, we have been able to maintain the conversations through which our faith lives and grows. It is not the same as our face to face meetings, but nonetheless we count it a blessing that we can read the Gospels together and reflect on how they touch our everyday lives. This has been a wonderful gift for those of us who belong in a group.

This period of isolation has provided us with much time for pondering. Much has changed around us, and we are challenged to question if and how our way of seeing the world and our place in it has changed. Maybe questions arise in us, big questions. What is this life all about? What is Church all about? Who am I? What do I really believe? What does my faith mean to me? You may feel you have the answers to these questions, I must say I am still looking for the right paths forward.

It could be just now, God is inviting us to a new and different place. To take a closer look into ourselves, into the Scriptures, and there find a deeper relationship with Jesus: His mission and our own joined in our ongoing faith journey.

I think we could say the wider Church of late has suffered some deep wounds and very real brokenness. We can lose heart and hope, we maybe are feeling upset, vulnerable, a little lost, even angry.

Small Church provides a safe place to ask questions, to share insights, to help bring meaning to troubled hearts and current situations of church and world.

Small Church provides the opportunity of deepening our Faith. Since faith is a relationship between persons – God and me. In Small Church God is talking to us in community, we are talking to God in community.

Small Church helps us see faith at work in the lives of others which in turn affirms our own faith. We find God alive and active in the Word, in each other, in ourselves, in the world.

Small Church is quiet time. A time of listening, of prayer and reflection.

Small Church is also about love, caring, and friendship.

Over the years, twenty-five in fact, this and more has all been said before. Now we are in a different time and place. We have still three weeks or so of restricted movement. This affords us more time to think, among other things. Do give some time for prayerful thought, about belonging to a Small Church Community.

These are indeed strange times for us all, but if you are interested in knowing more about Small Church now or when some normality returns please contact: Patsy Skipper (0429 439 675) or Parish House (9435 2178) or email patsy_skipper@hotmail.com or annelorrainecotter@gmail.com.

Patsy

55th Anniversary of SFX Church - Appreciating our History – The Sculptures

A few weeks ago I wrote about the stained glass windows in SFX Church. This week I would like to share with you information I have about the original sculptures in the church.

All the windows and sculpture pieces in the church were designed by Marnius Rein Slagmolen, a Dutch-Australian artist and sculptor.

The front of the Altar (which is now on the wall below the tabernacle) is moulded in a cold casting medium of metal and plastic and carries on the front panel the symbols of the twelve apostles. They are:

- The keys and fish (St Peter)
- The sword and book (St Paul)
- The eagle and the cross (St John)
- The dragon (St Phillip)
- The saw (St Simon Zealot)
- The builders square (St Thomas)
- The cross of St Andrew (St Andrew)
- The scallop shell (St James the Great)
- The lance and halberd (St Jude)
- The club (St James the Less)
- The flaying instruments (St Bartholomew)
- The winged man (St Matthew)



The figure of the crucified Christ (without the cross) focuses on the emerging triumphantly resurrected body presenting the living Christ to people.

The Baptismal Font (now the holy water font in the foyer) and the Stations of the Cross are also cast in gun metal.

Next time we are able to go into the church you may be able to better understand the windows and the sculptures when our Church was first built in 1965.

Thanks to all those parishioners who have supplied photos of the church prior to the renovations in the late 1997. I hope to share these with you together as to something about the renovations.

Thanks, Mike

Women - seen and not seen during a pandemic

Patty Fawkner SGS

Sr Patty Fawkner SGS is Congregational Leader of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan. This article was first published in the May 2020 edition of *The Good Oil*, the e-magazine of the Good Samaritan Sisters www.goodsams.org.au.



Cometh the moment, cometh the leader. Around the world, in Oceania, Asia and Europe, we have witnessed displays of fine leadership in response to the coronavirus pandemic - consider New Zealand, Taiwan and Germany. What do they have in common? They are led by women.

NZ's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel have contained the pandemic with early decisive action informed by the best that science and medicine could offer.

Here in Australia, New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian has received bouquets for her state's response to the pandemic. The NSW Chief Health Officer Kerry Chant and Victoria's Health Minister Jenny Mikakos have emerged as authoritative, trusted sources of information.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the French President Emmanuel Macron have been praised for their quick actions to reduce the spread of the deadly disease. Even our Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has seen a dramatic lift in his approval rating, which had plummeted following the bushfire crisis earlier this year. In a recent Newspann poll that asked how well Australia's leaders were handling the coronavirus pandemic, Morrison scored a 68% approval rating.

The leadership of these women and men has been outstanding when juxtaposed with that of the 'strongmen' of Brazil, the Philippines, Russia and the USA.

The female leaders appear to have garnered a high level of public trust and are able to urge their citizens to adopt real sacrifices for the common

good. Their strength, compassion and warmth have come to the fore. Who will ever forget Jacinda Ardern reminding her Kiwi citizens that the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy were essential services!

To become a political leader, a woman has to be exceptional. A female leader endures extra scrutiny and critique far beyond those of her male counterparts. Just pause and ponder for a moment, what the media and public response may have been if Theresa May was still Prime Minister of Britain and had boasted of shaking hands with coronavirus patients as did Boris Johnson, who later contracted the disease and was near death?

In leading the response to the pandemic, women are highly visible - the high percentage of women in the essential services of nursing, aged care and child care, not to mention teachers who, with dedication and innovation, have become masters of teaching in a digital world. It is sadly ironic that these key professions are historically underpaid and undervalued. Let's not forget the working mothers who have added home schooling to their already crammed daily schedule.

Unfortunately, with the increase of domestic violence, women are also bearing a high level of pandemic lockdown pain.

It occurs to me that the welcome growing visibility of women in the public sphere at this time, highlights their near invisibility in the realm of religion. The image of Catholicism as clerical and male has been magnified during the pandemic. This was especially evident over Easter when virtual community numbers swelled to watch streamed Easter ceremonies. Various levels of social distancing restrictions will be in place for some time and the availability of online Masses will continue.

It is a shame that more attention has not been given to encourage families and communities to pray the Liturgy of the Hours and family Scripture-based prayer services, rather than watching Father "say Mass" online. Christ is present where two or three

are gathered in his name. Christ is present in the Word.

A week before the lockdowns in Australia, a group of 20 or so Good Samaritan Sisters came together from interstate and abroad for a weekend gathering. On Saturday evening we conducted a Liturgy of the Word, and because we had a number of hosts in the tabernacle in our chapel, we could have communion. We chose a Sister to lead our celebration. Cometh the moment, cometh the leader.

After the Gospel, which happened to be that wonderful story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well, we sat in silence, and then turned to each other in small groups, sharing our reflection on the Word. We recited the Creed, prayed our Prayers of Intercession, and then picked up the ritual at the Our Father. We received communion; our presider blessed us; we sang our final hymn and departed. It was simple, it was beautiful, and it was nourishing.

When the gifts of women and men - equally made in God's image and likeness - are brought together there are great outcomes as evidenced by the actions of political leaders and health experts during the pandemic. Look at what happens when women have the opportunity to lead.

This last week, I have had the privilege as a member of the Executive of Catholic Religious Australia of attending the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Plenary - 11 Zoom sessions in all. I was highly visible as the only female attendee with 30-plus Bishops! I enjoyed being with these fine men; I was included; my opinion was respected; and I shared their concerns and hopes for our Church.

The recommendations contained in the Royal Commission's final report for the Church to achieve better outcomes for people at risk highlight an increased role for women's voices to be heard. Encouragingly, more and more women are being appointed to positions of real influence in the Church, but from the perspective of the wider congregation, women Church leaders remain invisible and silent. Would that the "new normal" on the other side of the pandemic be otherwise.

Calendar of Events		
<i>Sunday, 30 August</i>		
10:00am	Montmorency	Mass - live-streamed (https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)
<i>Sunday, 6 September</i>		
10:00am	Eltham	Mass - live-streamed (https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)
Rosters - 5 & 6 September		
<i>Montmorency</i>		
Boyd, Mary	PRYR	
<i>Eltham</i>		
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society	
Rigg Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue	
Scully, Helen	Altar Society	

Live-Stream Masses

Well, for many, Stage 4 restrictions are affecting them badly, for some who are not so impacted, we are still finding Stage 4 is dragging on and is becoming rather tedious to say the least! We are all doing what we can for others within the framework of what is possible. At the moment live-streaming Mass is possible so we will continue to offer this during September. **Mass each Sunday will be at 10:00am** alternating between Eltham and Montmorency churches. Thank you to those who have given feedback of gratitude and observations or opinions on ways of improvement. I think for those who join in each week you will agree we are getting better! Thanks for your encouragement. Thank you also to those who work together each week to enable us to bring this Mass to you.

Let us continue to pray, daily, for a speedy end to this devastating world crisis.

We leave the steps below in case you still require them to help stay connected:

1. Go to 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

*The caterpillar,
interesting but not exactly lovely,
humped along among the parsley leaves
eating, always eating. Then
one night it was gone and in its place
a small green confinement hung by two silk threads
on a parsley stem. I think it took nothing with it
except faith, and patience. And then one morning
it expressed itself into the most beautiful being.*

Mary Oliver

So, what am I doing, at this time, to become a more 'beautiful being' when finally, we emerge from this cocoon?

Patsy & Team (0429 439 675)



Prayer Shawl is back on Zoom



YOU GAVE ME COMFORT

Come join our Zoom Prayer Shawl Tuesday, 1st September 2020, 11 am @ Your Living Room. You can BYO coffee/tea or wine but don't forget your knitting or crochet.

All are welcome...

Looking forward to see you then..

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76550519070?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76550519070)

[pwd=KzY3b05DV1JqQ0xLVGRReTFkdTg1UT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76550519070?pwd=KzY3b05DV1JqQ0xLVGRReTFkdTg1UT09)

Meeting ID: 765 5051 9070

Passcode: fgtHOS

If you need further details contact Gina at gina.ang@cam.org.au

RCIA on Zoom

Thursday, 3rd September @ 11 am.



If you or someone you know is interested to find out more about the Catholic faith or complete your sacraments, please contact Gina Ang at Gina.Ang@cam.org.au

We will be having a session, an introduction to our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program on Zoom.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Resources for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time can be found on the Liturgy Brisbane website at:

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/prepare/sunday-readings-and-family-prayer/>



Monty & Eltham : what Lockdown 2.0 looks like for us...



Here's a photo of an avid Brisbane Lions supporter... do you know him???

Please send through your pictures of what Lockdown 2.0 looks like for you.

By sending a picture you agree to it's use in the bulletin etc.

Homily

Many of us will remember a beautiful song, 'The Rose'. Bette Midler sings it so well and the tune is quite haunting. Its lyrics too are worth pondering and taking to heart. To recall some of the song lines:

"Some say love it is a river that drowns the tender reed. Some say love it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed. Some say love it is a hunger, an endless aching need. I say love it is a flower and you its only seed.

It's the heart afraid of breaking that never takes the chance. It's the dream afraid of waking that never learns to dance. It's the one who wont be taken who cannot seem to give. And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live."



How many of us as we ponder the words will say, 'yes that's me'? If we have tried or are trying to live the way of love we will know what it is for our soul to bleed, for our hearts to break at some time, for our dream to shatter and then dance in a new way, for being taken for granted and still giving, for our soul to live even in our dying.

Life has its many riddles, its ups and downs, its surprises, welcome or unwelcome and in the mix of it all, we find the way to love. It can be so difficult and yet so wonderful. Even in the bitter snows as the song 'The Rose' also says, lies the seeds that with the sun's warmth in the Spring becomes the Rose.

I found myself thinking of this song as I reflected on the words of Jesus in the Gospel today:



"If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let them renounce themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save their life will lose it and anyone who loses their life for my sake will find it."

When Jesus spoke these words to his disciples and especially to Simon Peter, designated by Jesus to become the leader of the band, what was he saying to them? He had already told them that the road ahead of him led to Jerusalem, where he would suffer, die and rise again. The disciples didn't want to know this. Simon Peter said, "Heaven preserve you. This must not happen to you", and he copped the rebuke of Jesus, "Get behind me Satan".

We can't blame Simon Peter or any of the disciples for not wanting this to happen to Jesus. They didn't understand and didn't want to understand.

So what was Jesus saying to them? Was he saying, 'If you want to follow my road, if you want to take the road of love, you will know pain, rejection and the carrying of your own cross. And you will also know what it is to rise again, for love to prevail'?

For many of these disciples the cross meant the giving of their lives. And they would make that sacrifice in love.

For us today what do we think the Risen Jesus is saying to us? We will not be asked to give our lives on a cross on Calvary, and yet in another way maybe we are asked to do this. To live a life of love asks many sacrifices.

Just think of a couple with their new born baby, how many sacrifices will be asked of them in loving their child. Just think of any year 12 student who wants to follow their dream and how hard it will be for them to sustain it. And maybe it will not come true. What then, but to pick up the pieces and follow a new dream.

Just ask ourselves, of the sacrifices we are asked to make in being people of love. Are we living the words of the song, 'The Rose'? And if we can say yes, or at least we are learning the song lines in life, then I think we will know what the Risen Jesus is asking of us:

"Anyone who loses their life for my sake will find it".

Terry

**# END COVID
FOR ALL**

It's not over until
it's over for everyone.

Pledge your support



It's not over until it's over for everyone.

COVID-19 continues to impact parts of Australia, while around the world, millions of people are dealing with the impacts of the virus. Many of these communities were already facing poor sanitation, overcrowding and limited access to healthcare. How can you combat COVID-19 without access to adequate sanitation and healthcare?

Caritas Australia has joined churches and aid agencies for #EndCOVIDForAll, a pledge of support that will be taken to government to show our support for vulnerable communities, because **it's not over until it's over for everyone.**

For more information on #EndCOVIDForAll or to sign the pledge go to www.caritas.org.au/end-covid-for-all

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'



Reflection

Today's gospel reading might be seen as a commentary on the final verse from last Sunday's text. We heard that Jesus "gave his disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ". This directive, repeated elsewhere, seems to be aimed at preventing misunderstanding about the kind of messiah Jesus was. The need for it becomes evident immediately.

In the religious and political ferment of Jesus' time, there were strong expectations in the land that a messiah would arise to throw off the Roman yoke. Memories of the armed uprising of the Maccabees were still strong. Jesus is determined not to be cast in the role of a violent insurrectionist who would triumphantly restore Jewish independence. On the contrary his destiny is to suffer rejection and execution. His is the path of Isaiah's "suffering servant".

Jesus' talk of suffering and death is more than Peter can bear. Impulsive as ever, he objects. Jesus instantly takes him to task. Not only is the Messiah to endure this fate, but all who aspire to follow him must take up their cross and lose their lives. The only path to life is the way of the cross.

Jesus' teaching remains a challenge for every generation of believers. These serious words call for serious proclamation.

Break Open the Word 2020

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Sally Heath
Executive Officer

