



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.

A Pastoral Letter

Dear Parishioners, Parents, Students, Staff and Leadership Team,

The 'Road Map Out' has now been set by our State Government and Health Authorities in Victoria and supported by the local police, and it is at such a snails pace, that I thought of writing to you all at this terrible and strange time that we find ourselves in.

About 6 months ago I wrote to you, as we were entering into the First Stage of the Coronavirus Pandemic - totally a 'Health Crisis' above all, that is affecting the whole world. At the beginning, it seemed like a simple and doable adventure - relying upon our personal and family resources to do the right thing and keep everyone safe!

The daily adjustments achieved by everyone was amazing to witness and the new focus upon the use of technology was impressive!

The 'Second Wave' in our society has been a very different scenario, and as the months have drawn on, and on - with even more restrictions than before, face masks & curfew lockdowns, this has added huge stresses to daily life - and society as we know it, has stopped. Thus, I am aware of the local difficulty and anger that is present among so many families and single people in Monty & Eltham. (I don't like wearing a mask either.)

Human Beings are 'Social' by nature and these few months that have now stretched out to almost a full year ... is unbearable! I am beginning to feel very saddened by our ongoing predicament and the mental health effects, felt so strongly within the context of our Catholic community! Our once vibrant schools are by-and-large empty shells, our two beautiful churches remain closed, and we are still confined to our own resources to comply with this ongoing health crisis. Anecdotally, many students have begun to disengage with the educational requirements and parents are pulling their hair out (cannot go to the salon or barber) just to cope with each day! Teachers have been doing an amazing job in trying to connect and focus on each child - but it has not been easy.

Terry and I, Gina & Kate feel your pain and huge disappointment in these times! Our inability to celebrate milestones in the healthy life of each family - Baptisms, Reconciliations, First Eucharist and importantly Confirmations - plus the normal opportunity to pray together and grow as vibrant Catholic Communities on Sundays and during the week - having coffee together and just be socially normal! We miss this ordinary experience very much ... and thus we miss catching up with you!

I am a person of HOPE, and even though I am deeply disappointed, saddened and, at times, very angry about the Coronavirus in Victoria, the experience of recent funerals has readjusted my thoughts & emotions to one of gratitude for the richness of life!

We will get through this ... and my hope is that we will never again take for granted our daily freedoms and appreciation for each other! We will have survived a WAR against an unseeable 'enemy' that has indeed killed many people. Some of us will come through this time unscathed as a family - maybe even better than before, but many will come through this time a little more scarred, and thus need our love and presence as we move forward. We will get through this ... and have a lot to talk about and celebrate!

My deepest thanks to the Principals of our Schools, who adjust seemingly every day to the new challenges that confront them, and for their ongoing support of my ministry among you.

Warmest Love & Prayers

Michael F. Sierakowski,

Moderator

(Ps. Please contact us at any time)



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



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

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

eltham@cam.org.au

Gina Ang:

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

gina.ang@cam.org.au

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au

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: 6 September 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$900.00	\$855.00
Montmorency	\$675.00	\$400.00

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>

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Francis Borg, Vera Gregson, Andrew Lopuszynski, William Warrillow

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Baby Kylie, Sriyani Algama, Nikki Attwood, Robert Baker, Justine Best, Fr Glen Bourke, 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, Kate Lagerewskij, Erin McLindon, Hasti Momeni, Therese Moore, Patricia Mulholland, Montagna Mustica, Hyler Nagapatan (Philippines), 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:

Rosa & Salvatore Ficarra, Onofrio Saltalamacchia

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, Val McDonough, 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.

There's still time to ACT towards the Plenary Council

“September is the month of construction for the document from which the plenary council agenda will be set.

These next weeks are vital. Please write to “petergates@catholicmission.org.au” with your hopes/thoughts.

You will find some stimulus if you look up “senseofthefaithful.org.au”.

Please remember – It is our Church & we get what we work for.

“I have been a member of the Facilitation Team since its beginnings;

At this time, the ‘instrumentum laboris’, the working document for the Plenary Council, is being discerned and developed. This is being done by a small team working closely with the six discernment papers together with other material that has been submitted to the Bishops Commission for the Plenary Council and the Facilitation Team. From this document and woven with all the listening, dialogue, discernment and prayer over recent years will emerge the agenda for the Plenary Council.

We invite you to continue getting together your thoughts /hopes and communicate them to us.

Much peace to you,
Peter



Homily — Terry

Is there a limit to how many times we can forgive a person? That's the question Peter asked Jesus in today's Gospel. Peter himself no doubt thought he was being very generous, when he suggested 'as often as seven times?' Jesus responded: 'Not seven I tell you, but seventy-seven times'. In other words, there's no limit to forgiveness.

In families, workplaces, friendships, communities there will be many times when we have to forgive each other, and if there's nothing too serious, we can find this forgiveness time and again. But what about some situations where forgiveness seems impossible and totally unrealistic?

Ask a wife who has a husband who comes home after a few drinks at the pub and is violent. Does she keep on having to forgive him?

Ask a parent who has an ungrateful child and is now an adult who takes and takes but never contributes. Is there a limit to forgiveness?

Ask a child who has been abused sexually if he or she must forgive?

Ask a friend who has lent a significant amount of money and it has never been returned.

Ask someone in the workplace who has been seriously let down by a so-called friend and not supported in a time of crisis.

Sadly the list can go on and on and sadly in too many of our families there are unresolved issues that divide them forever. Or that is the choice that has been made, where family members will not even speak to each other.

What would the Risen Jesus say to us today if we asked the same question as Peter: 'How often must I forgive my brother, my sister? As often as seven times?' Would we hear the same response: 'Not seven I tell you, but seventy-seven'?

To respond to this question we look at the way Jesus lived his life and we have reason to think he would say, 'there is to be no limit to your forgiveness'. Jesus himself met terrible injustice and a violent death as an innocent person. Yet he spoke those famous words as he carried his cross: "Father, forgive them. They do not know what they are doing."

So many of his stories were about forgiveness. Think of the prodigal son, and how the Father embraced his son in love despite the hurt this son has caused him.

Yes, the Risen Jesus would probably say to us, 'You must forgive at all costs.'

Does this mean a battered wife has to stay home and cop the abuse her husband gives her? Surely it is best for the wife to leave for her own good and the welfare of the children.

Or does a child have to remain a victim of a sexual predator because he or she is to forgive this person? Heaven forbid, and today when once more as parishes we commit ourselves to being child-safe and protective of our children, we can't possibly say yes to any situation that would compromise any child.

What would the Risen Jesus say in all this? Surely he would be compassionate and very understanding and surely he would say there are situations where for protection, safety, health and some peace of mind, there has to be separation.

Yet I wonder whether Jesus would still say, 'There is to be no limit to your forgiveness'.

That probably seems impossible to so many of us and for that reason I think today's Gospel is one of the most difficult to live. Yet it is extraordinary how many people find a forgiveness that ultimately can only come as a grace from God. Perhaps you and I have a story of forgiveness as a grace from God and we are clearly a better person, a Jesus person, for finding this forgiveness.



55th Anniversary of St Francis Xavier Church

Appreciating our History – The Church Prior to Renovations

A few weeks ago, I wrote a couple of articles about the stained-glass windows and the sculptures in SFX Church. These were part of the church when it was built in 1965 by the then parish priest Fr Brendan Torr. In 1997 Fr Peter Matheson, the third Parish Priest of St Francis Xavier, undertook major renovations in line with liturgical and architectural policies resulting from the Vatican II.

There were five main attributes associated with those policies. They were:

- i. adequate lingering/gathering space (difficult at SFX because of its closeness to Mayona Rd);
- ii. shape of seating arrangement for the assembly;
- iii. the size, shape and placement of the font;
- iv. space for music ministers and their instruments in relation to the rest of the assembly; and
- v. the place for the altar, and the altar's relationship to the reservation of the Blessed Eucharist.

A number of parishioners recently sent me postcards (yes postcards) when the church was first built in 1965.

From the photos, you can probably identify the changes made to the church in the 1997 renovations. You may notice:

- Due to the dirt roads, the garden in front of the church was basically non-existent. Thanks to the care by Pat O'Connor (general garden maintenance), David Warrillow (native garden) and Pat McCrohan (rose garden) we now have a lovely front entrance to the church;
- Notice the grey Besser Blocks between the four red block square "rooms" at each corner of the church and the very small portico over the main entrance;
- The main doors were also sculpted in sympathy with the other sculptures;
- The large white cross above the church could be seen all around Monty and was flood light at night. (I think the light socket is still there at the base of the cross);
- Inside, there were no windows apart from those near the roof;
- Whilst there were lights above the altar, the only other lighting in the church was concealed behind about 18-inch-wide black boards around the side walls of the church. The stations of the cross were affixed to these boards. The side walls were also of grey Besser Blocks;
- You can just see the altar rails (which were used to make the existing altar and lectern);
- Notice the arches in the front right-hand red square brick alcove;
- The sacristy was in the red brick room to the left of the altar;
- The other two red square alcoves at the rear of the church, in what is now the gathering space, was entrance foyer and the confessional and on the other corner, where the main sacristy is now, was the Lady Chapel;
- I understand the bell at the front of the church was given to the parish a few years ago when St Faith's Anglican Church in Mountain View Road left Montmorency; and
- Another interesting fact is that the renovations were planned and effected during spring of 1997 from the last Sunday of August – the day Princess Diana was killed – to the last Saturday of November, Nov 29.

Thanks to all those parishioners who have supplied photos of the church and other material prior to the renovations in late 1997.

Mike Said



This month's return to school has built on expertise gained during nearly six months of lockdown. Now the test comes to keep children safe while learning, as head teacher **Matthew Condon** reports

School in the time of Covid

March 2020 seems like a very different and distant past. As the looming threat of an unknown virus began to sink into the reality of school life, the usual pressures of working in a school (budgets, accountability measures, admissions) was very quickly replaced with the new challenge of keeping everybody safe in the world of Covid-19.

As we all attempted to understand what the new reality of school life would look like, the immediate challenge was to remain connected to our families and children. Our school of Christ the King serves a strong and vibrant community in south Bristol; but also a community with high levels of disadvantage and many families who greatly benefit from the support a school like ours can offer. On an average day, our parents often drop into school to seek advice and support, and the conversations we have each morning keep us connected to our families.

With an imminent lockdown around the corner, how could this now happen? What would the school be like without the face-to-face contact and strong relationships which underpin everything that we do? To overcome this initial challenge we worked with families to build confidence in using online learning tools and we shared tablets or laptops with any family that needed them. Through email, text, newsletters and telephone, all school staff worked hard to remain available to children and their parents. We used class blogs, Facebook and the newsletter to celebrate what our children were doing at home. We then developed the use of video-conferencing technology to bring children together with their teachers and rebuild a sense of class and school community.

While this was happening, we also had to meet the needs of the small but

increasing group of key workers' children and vulnerable children, many of whom would now attend school on certain days but learn at home on others. The daily online learning helped to connect the work of everybody learning at home with those attending school, as the key workers' and vulnerable children would also do the same lessons as part of their time in school.

But as time went on it became clear that a large number of children were struggling to engage, or were finding life difficult beyond the pressures of school. We worked with other agencies, distributed food and did our best to ensure all eligible parents received food vouchers.

Although the number of specific safeguarding concerns dropped significantly, we continued to support families in need, offering an increasing number of places to vulnerable children alongside those in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who returned in June. We decided to end the summer term one week early in July for these year groups so that all our other children in years 2, 3, 4 and 5, alongside key workers' and vulnerable children, could return for at least one week before the summer holiday.

As well as this, we had 30 children come into school for two weeks of summer club at the start of the summer holidays. When offering places one very grateful parent responded to the offer by saying: "You don't know how much this means to me!" The summer club gave parents a positive way to manage that long wait to the return to school in September, especially in larger families.

During the summer break we were able to give these children food donations, including bread, fruit,



Pupils wear face masks as they return to a school in Doncaster, South Yorkshire

yoghurts, milk, butter and cheese. Staff feedback has been really positive too. As one remarked: "Coming to summer club meant many of our shy, less outgoing children grew in confidence, with many performing in a talent show, making new friends and learning new skills - knitting, skipping and roly polys!" For some of these children it has been their first experience back in school since March and it's been a lovely way to build confidence and relationships as we prepared for September.

It is impossible to predict what will happen next. Everybody in a community has to balance their own needs and concerns alongside the needs of the school and the changing national picture and accompanying government guidance. Now we return to classes of 30 in their own "bubbles" with minimal equipment in class, classes separated at lunch and play, staggered start and finish times, one-way systems, regular cleaning and minimal adult movement between these groups.

While remaining as safe as possible we want parents, children and staff to have confidence, so that those who have missed so much can return to school life. Once this happens we can properly focus on their learning needs, hopefully within an even stronger parish, community and school.

Matthew Condon is head of the School of Christ the King in South Bristol.

Calendar of Events		
<i>Sunday, 13 September</i>		
10:00am	Montmorency	Mass - live-streamed (https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)
<i>Sunday, 20 September</i>		
10:00am	Eltham	Mass - live-streamed (https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)

Rosters - 19 & 20 September	
<i>Montmorency</i>	
Davidson, John	PRYR
<i>Eltham</i>	
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Ryan Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue



Thank you ..

Heartfelt thanks to Anita Plant for her choice of song *Gentle Woman* on live-stream Mass. It took me back to all the years at St Mary's Greensborough when my children and I attended Mass, we would sing this beautiful song often, it brought tears of joy and longing to my eyes. God bless you Anita

~ Carmel Saltalamacchia

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



A gift of flowers and friendship...

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.

Season of Creation

Pope Francis is encouraging parishes and schools to participate in a Season of Creation, commencing September 1 and ending October 4, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. We are called to prayer, reflection and action towards care of our common home, the planet Earth.

Please pray...

Our grandchildren, our daughter, Elizabeth's children, Otto and Ava, attend a small school in London: The Beatrix Potter Nursery School, in Wandsworth, London.

Elizabeth arrived at the school to collect her children at 'pick-up time' at the same time another young mum mistook the accelerator for the brake and drove into the parents and children waiting. Many were injured, some trapped under the car. Thankfully there were no fatalities. To witness such a tragedy has caused Elizabeth to realise how easily it could have been her and her children in the accident. She was able to send her children to safety as she rang emergency services.

Of course the school community is rocked by the tragedy, and Barbara and Ian have turned to our community on the other side of the world. to join with them in prayer. Please take time to hold the whole school community: children, parents, staff, and particularly the mum who was the driver, in love and prayer. It is a reminder that sometimes life is fragile and it is wise to step back and take stock of how blessed we are. Even in this Lockdown time many people are reaching out to others. We are mindful others carry heavy burdens and our love goes out to you too.

Bless you,
Ian & Barbara Bibby



Live-Stream Masses

We continue with live-streaming of Mass each Sunday at 10.00am. We have received thanks and are glad these Masses are helping you feel connected with the Community. Last Sunday, our hopes were a little dashed as the end point of our restrictions have now become more distant. As we continue with our daily exercise, we see the branches are becoming tender and putting out green shoots and blossom ... unstoppable force of nature moving forward and taking us with it. Like the power of yeast in the bread for its rising, so the life of God quietly hidden in our lives has power to transform us. Give us eyes to see and hearts to know... God is in all.

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

In the depths of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger - something better, pushing right back.
~Albert Camus

Patsy & Team (0429 439 675)



Wednesday, 2 September 2020

MEDIA STATEMENT

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops in Victoria, on the release of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board Report of Operation January – June 2020

“The latest report from the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board is not a celebration of good healthcare, but a sad story of the loss of hope and care for vulnerable people.

The report is notable mostly for what it does not address: mental health, the proportion of patients who died alone, and the number of patients who were able to receive a comprehensive palliative care assessment before a VAD assessment.

Despite assurances that VAD numbers would not increase significantly in its early years, the numbers presented in the report are alarming. Comparatively, it took the State of Oregon in the United States 17 years to reach the same number of deaths that Victoria has reached in its first 12 months of VAD.

On the one hand, our nation is making sacrifices to protect people from the Coronavirus pandemic while on the other, this report is encouraging greater access to assisted suicide. The contradiction is baffling to many doctors, which is alluded to in the VAD report but not addressed comprehensively.

Our hearts go out to families in distress at this time and the lack of quality palliative care options available to them. It illustrates, just as recent Royal Commission findings have also shown, that the range of quality aged care options available to Australians is far narrower than what it should be in a prosperous country like ours.

One of the few ‘safeguards’ in the VAD legislation is that doctors are prevented from initiating the conversation with patients. This protects doctors from becoming stewards of death to their patients, and it protects vulnerable patients from having VAD pushed on them. We are surprised and disappointed that the VAD Board is now sympathetic to overturning this safeguard.

Despite the scant detail in the report, we are encouraged by those with the resilience to keep serving patients without resorting to VAD. Catholic healthcare providers will not abandon their patients, and believe they have a right to be loved from the beginning to the end of their life.”

Statement attributable to:

Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat
Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne
Most Rev Terence Curtin, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne
Most Rev Shane Mackinlay, Bishop of Sandhurst
Most Rev Bosco Puthur, Bishop of the Syro-Malabar Eparchy
Rev Peter Slater, Administrator Diocese of Sale

Media enquiries:

Nigel Zimmermann, Principal Advisor to the Archbishop (Melbourne)
0409 501 952 | Nigel.Zimmermann@cam.org.au

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Reflection

Today's text forms the conclusion to the fourth discourse in Matthew's gospel, Jesus' teaching on community. Peter's question about how often to forgive prompts Jesus to offer a brief reply and a lengthy parable.

The parable actually sheds more light on what we pray in the Lord's Prayer - "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us" - than on the issue of how often we must forgive. The story, found in Matthew's gospel alone, may have originated elsewhere and been inserted here.

Nonetheless Jesus' reply and the parable reinforce his teaching that those who wish to call themselves his disciples must engage in continual and unlimited forgiveness. This suggests that the need to forgive must have been a live issue in the community for whom Matthew is writing.

The story is set in the fabulous world of an ancient oriental despot. The sums of money involved are extreme. Ten thousand talents would have been a vast fortune beyond imagining, while one hundred denarii represented a tiny fraction of this, about three months' wages for a labourer. The parable invites us to see that the forgiveness we are called to offer one another is on a minuscule scale compared with the boundless mercy we have received from God. It's not the only story Jesus tells that has a disconcertingly harsh ending.

Break Open the Word 2020

Prayers of the Faithful for 13 Sep 2020 - Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers in the Lord, the Scriptures today have reminded us that if we desire God's forgiveness, then we must be prepared to forgive others from the heart

May our reflection on these readings lead us to remember that forgiveness is central to the life of a Christian. A virtue that Jesus showed us in deed and in word.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray that Pope Francis will continue to proclaim the mercy of God in word and action, with a special concern for the protection and care of children and teenagers.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That children and teenagers whose lives and education have been severely disrupted during the Covid-19 pandemic, will be a concern to us all, and especially in regard to their mental health.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray Lord in particular for the elderly, especially those who have not been able to see their grandchildren. May their patience be rewarded as the time of reunion approaches.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the many works of mercy and compassion supported through our September appeal for Catholic Charities will be available to those in need without any form of discrimination.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the life and death of family, friends and parishioners will continue to have a good influence upon us as we entrust them to God's loving mercy. We also remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Frances Borg, Vera Gregson, Rosa & Salvatore Ficarra, Andrew Lopuszynski, Onofrio Saltalamacchia and William Warrillow.

Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, kind and merciful, rich in compassion, receive our thanksgiving as we offer you our praise. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**