



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.

16 September 2020

To the People and Clergy of the Archdiocese of Melbourne

Dear friends in Christ,

As we now welcome the beginnings of easing in COVID-19 Restrictions in Victoria, I would like to take this opportunity to write to you, the Clergy and people of our Archdiocese. It is great news that regional Victoria will, from tonight, move into the Third Step of the Roadmap to reopening, which includes our parishes located outside the metropolitan zone. However, we have a long way to go.

The deprivation in sacramental life has been a profound loss for our people. As well as all the other sufferings of the Pandemic, the sense of estrangement from the Eucharist has been a particular struggle for Catholics. The Mass is our primary means of gathering together in faith; it is the source and summit of our Christian life, and its life-giving nourishment and healing is dearly missed.

In the midst of this loss, I am grateful to our Priests and Deacons for continuing to serve the faithful, for sharing a sacramental ministry even under strict conditions, and for being alongside our people and their loved ones in times of death and grief. Thank you for your faithfulness.

All of us are anxious to open church doors, but I want to emphasise our need to be creative in the ways we do so, especially with the thousands of children who have been waiting for Sacraments of Initiation. Countless Catholic families are awaiting Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation for their children. Adults, too, have longed to be received into the life of the Church. We shall be exploring possibilities such as outdoor liturgies in parish and school settings to facilitate these crucial events of grace and welcome.

Throughout the pandemic, I have been advocating directly with the Government, reminding authorities continually of our respectful compliance with each stage of restrictions, and seeking a fair consideration in what is permitted. The Catholic community throughout the pandemic has been constructive and positive. We have, and continue to act in a mature way, caring for the safety and vulnerability of Victorians facing great risk. Thankfully the signs of driving down COVID numbers are looking good at this moment and Catholics join other people of faith in giving thanks for this outcome and working to ensure the steps ahead do not take us backward.

Now, it is essential that the Government does not treat faith communities as an afterthought to the opening up of other sectors. Our churches are locations for communities of care and essential service, and must be treated fairly and reasonably.

Practically speaking, I have been in discussion with the Premier to thank him for overturning the restriction of spiritual ministry to the sick and the dying, and have assured him that the Catholic Church is able to manage restrictions (including good hygiene, face coverings, social distancing and density requirements). If pubs and restaurants can open, then places of worship should be open under similar conditions and numbers.

If case numbers track well, I expect we will see larger outdoor gatherings in regional Victoria become possible over the next few weeks, and proportionate opportunities for gathering in metropolitan Melbourne. I am hopeful that this may occur sometime in October, which would be a deeply welcomed improvement on the current Roadmap indications. If we can open our churches, even for outdoor gatherings, then we should open them.

The Deputy Premier and the Multicultural Affairs Minister are conducting discussions this month through the Multifaith Leaders Forum. The Archdiocese will be contributing to these meetings. In addition I will continue to engage with the Premier and Ministers directly on the Church's need for opening doors, carefully and safely.

Be assured of my ongoing closeness in prayer and concern. I have heard your cry, and I am working to bring your voice to the authorities. The Lord has promised he will be with us always; let us place our hope in Him.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Your sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

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:

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@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

Saturday, 10:30am Monty ~ Terry

1/2 hr prior to any mass said by Michael

Collections last weekend: 13 September 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:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Paul Collins, Eva Crowe, Ruth Elliott, Catherine Griffiths

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 Lagerevskij, Erin McLindon, Hasti Momeni, Therese Moore, Patricia Mulholland, Montagna Mustica, Hylar 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;

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, Jack Issai, 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.

Live-Stream Masses

For those who joined us for Mass last Sunday, apologies for the glitches in the system. A gremlin got in somewhere and took away some of our words! As we continue our journey of restrictions and isolation we continue with live-streaming Mass at 10.00am each Sunday and are pleased so many of you join with us from home. Where we stand determines what we see. At the end of this shutdown we will all find ourselves standing in very different places. Let us hope our hearts will be awakened to a new deeper and richer appreciation of Eucharist and the sacredness of what we share in belonging together in Community.

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

Pandemic

...when your body has become still, reach out your heart.

Know that we are connected in ways that are terrifying and beautiful. (You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives are in one another's hands.

(Surely, that has come clear.) ~Lynn Ungar

In the grimy morass of our present dilemma, amid the dis-ease and wrenching separation, lies the buried treasure of our belonging: our deepest passion.

Patsy & Team (0429 439 675)

Homily — Terry
25th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2020

How many meetings have you been to and the real agenda is not addressed? There's what's called an 'elephant in the room' and nobody will face it. I can think of the number of times when I've been preparing a funeral with a family and there are members of the family who can't stand each other. And here they are thrown together trying to organise a funeral. It's pretty shaky and difficult ground and you can just feel the tension that remains unresolved.

Perhaps this is the story of today's Gospel. A strange story where a landowner hired workers for his vineyard at all sorts of hours of the day and paid a full day's wage first of all to the latecomers who had just done an hour's work. In fact the landowner paid all the workers a full day's wage. Those who had worked the full day grumbled at the landowner thinking they would get more, but as the landowner said: 'You received what we agreed on, a full day's wage and why be envious because I am generous?'

There would be those of us who would say the workers who laboured the whole day in the vineyard were entitled to more and certainly entitled to be paid first. Yet to say this we would be missing the point of the story. There's another agenda; there's an elephant in the room and let's see if we can find it.

Jesus told this story for a reason. He was defending his disciples against criticism from the religious leadership of his time, the Pharisees and the Scribes. They had criticised the disciples for their lack of knowledge and their not keeping the law. Jesus dared to say that the new arrivals, his disciples, were equal to those who had been around a long time. They had as important a place as anyone else. In fact they would be the very people who would understand Jesus most of all and then would proclaim his story.

There's even more to the story of today's landowner. In a real way it talks about the people we call the 'Johnny-come-lately' people, the latecomers. It is a story of reversal where the people who are the poor and marginalised are the very people who are welcomed first into the kingdom of God.

It is a story that says, no-one is excluded from the vineyard. Mind you, there's work to be done. The landowner was certainly generous, but he didn't give hand-outs. He wanted workers for his vineyard.

We might wonder who are the 'Johnny-come-lately' people in our own situation today. Who are the overlooked people in our communities, people who are silenced because they are not educated, or they haven't been around long enough for us to take them seriously? How often is it so hard for newcomers to break into the life of any community. Who are the poor and marginalised in our country of Australia? Think of the unemployed, the depressed, the misunderstood, the rejected, the homeless.

These are the people of today's Gospel who were the ones at the eleventh hour given a chance to work in the vineyard. And the more we understand Jesus of the Gospels, the more we see, as Scripture Scholar, Denis McBride says, "Jesus has a clear prejudice in their favour, not least because he teaches us what we so easily forget: God's ways are not our ways. God does not work from the arithmetic of the calculator but from the fullness of the heart."

In the end, there's a place for everyone. No-one is treated unjustly. Everyone received a full day's wage. It's a story of extraordinary generosity. We would say the landowner was not a business man, but isn't this the point Jesus is making? God is not a business manager. God's generosity is beyond our calculations. Thank goodness. All are welcome.



Social Services Sunday, 20th September – a time to reflect and give thanks

On 20th September 2020, we mark [Social Services Sunday](#) within the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne. On this day we are invited to give thanks and pray for all who stand with and provide support to those who are marginalised and vulnerable within our communities. We recognise with deep gratitude, those working within Catholic Social Services Victoria's 45 [member organisations](#), the 7,000 staff and 17,000 volunteers, who together, serve more than 200,000 people in need each year. We also give thanks for all in our parishes, who are so often at the forefront of providing practical support and care to those in need within their local communities, and beyond. We call to mind the 2020/21 Social Justice Statement brought out recently by the Australian Catholic bishops, [To Live Life to the Full: Mental Health in Australia Today](#), and so draw your attention to a recent event hosted by CSSV, [Counselling and Therapeutic Support in a Time of COVID](#), which provided an opportunity to become more familiar with mental health services, and how to practically reach out for or point to assistance. Parishioners will find the resources in this article helpful.

[Prayer for Courage and Compassion](#)

Compassionate God,

Your unconditional love for all inspires our hearts and empowers our actions for those who are most vulnerable.

May we boldly and humbly serve one another and be steadfast in our work for justice for all people.

Keep our hearts open to the joys and the hopes of our world, and our ears ready to hear your call to truth, justice and reconciliation.

Let us continue to draw inspiration and strength from those, like St Mary MacKillop, on whose shoulders we stand.

We gather in Jesus' name to be nourished and to move forward together in hope and joy.

Amen



This prayer was the 2020 National Catholic Social Services Conference prayer held in February 2020 in Melbourne. The Conference was convened by Catholic Social Services Victoria and Catholic Social Services Australia.

I sat down and wept

An investigative reporter examines the lives of rough sleepers

LIZ DODD

PHOTO: PA. AARON CHOWN

No Fixed Abode: Life and Death Among the UK's Forgotten Homeless

MAEVE McCLENAGHAN
(PICADOR, 384 PP, £20)

TABLET BOOKSHOP PRICE £18 • TEL 020 7799 4064

The strangest thing about reading *No Fixed Abode*, a challenging and compassionate investigation into British homelessness, was meeting someone I know within the first few pages. I recognised Andy immediately from Maeve McCLenaghan's description: ebullient, canny and never without his dog, Bailey, he is a familiar face at the London Catholic Worker kitchen where I volunteer. He is among the first rough sleepers that McCLenaghan meets, at the very beginning of her deep dive into the lives and stories of Britain's homeless population, and the coincidence gave me goosebumps.

McCLenaghan writes with the pace and clarity you'd expect of an award-winning investigative reporter chasing a lead. At the beginning of 2018, she set out to find how many homeless people die on the streets every year, collecting their stories as she scrambled into squats and peered into the corners and dustbins that many call home. Lonely deaths and the families they tear apart sit alongside fond portraits of funny, personable and brave homeless people, rough sleepers and the volunteers and organisations that try to support them. The most breathtaking moment creeps up on you, gently and unexpectedly. Partway through her investigation, McCLenaghan visits University College London to speak to a lecturer in experimental psychology about "dehumanised perception". In one recent experiment into the phenomenon, subjects' brains were photographed by an MRI while they looked at archetypal images of a businessman in a suit, an elderly person in a cardigan, a homeless person in a sleeping bag. Their brains responded to pictures of homeless people as if they were looking at an object, not a person.

Having examined countless similar studies, Dr Lasana Harris concludes that, for most people, "extreme out-groups may be perceived as less than human [...]. The processes you have when you pass a homeless person are



the same processes that we think are active when you're committing genocide." "Dehumanised perception" explains why kind people walk past girls in shop doorways, or a man who lives in a pile of cardboard under a bridge. Short-circuiting this mechanism is astonishingly easy: researchers asked subjects to predict whether the homeless person whose picture they saw would prefer broccoli or carrots, and this small exercise in empathy rewired their brains. Further, McCLenaghan writes, "after taking subjects to the soup kitchens between scanning their brains, Lasana noticed massive differences in their results."

She is exhilarated by this finding, and it is - I think - the reason she ended up turning a year-long investigation into social statistics into a book about the stories behind them. Knowing that 726 people died on the streets in England and Wales in 2018 probably won't upset anyone's emotional foundations. Knowing that Tony, who froze to death in January 2018, loved karaoke; or that Hamid, an Iranian refugee who died in temporary accommodation, was a brilliant theoretical physicist, just might.

McCLenaghan goes with you on this emotional journey, and as she weaves in the stories of trafficked women, women fleeing domestic violence and destitute asylum seekers with no recourse to public funds, she concludes the cards are stacked

against the weakest in society. She dismisses the well-meaning adage that many of us are a missed pay cheque away from homelessness; this is only really true of people who grew up in poverty, whose childhoods were curtailed by abuse, drugs and violence. "My entire adult life I had thought there was a safety net designed to stop you falling, but over the past year I had learnt time and time again that this was an illusion," McCLenaghan admits.

Take Aisha, for example, who fled violence in Mogadishu in Somalia to spend a dark winter walking between north London shelters. Without warning, her benefits were cut - from £317 to £26 a month - because she had not applied for enough jobs. Aisha had applied for work - as a nurse - but because she lived in shelters, she couldn't provide the council tax bills required for background, or afford a DBS (disclosure) check. McCLenaghan is incredulous when she discovers that most young, white, male ex-offenders are released from prisons with a £46 discharge fee, no housing support and a five-week wait for Universal Credit.

Anyone who works with vulnerable people will know exactly what McCLenaghan means when she describes attending an annual memorial service for homeless people who died on the streets: "I was used to keeping a certain journalistic distance from my investigations - you need it to be able to do the job - but there in the church all the sadness and horror of what I had been researching washed over me. I sat on the pew and cried." I know from my own experience that this is the danger of flipping the mental switch that means people like Andy go from being a statistic or a bundle of blankets to a friend you recognise from a short description at the start of a book. You can't go back.

It can feel unbearable, and - with job losses, escalating food poverty and the continued denial of basic benefits to many migrants during the pandemic - it is going to get worse. But it is worth it, to stare down despair and bring hope where you can. For McCLenaghan, this journey ends with her peeling potatoes at a soup kitchen; for someone else, it could start by reading this book.

Gossip a plague worse than COVID says Pope

By Catholic News Service - September 8, 2020

<https://www.catholicweekly.com.au/gossip-a-plague-worse-than-covid-says-pope/>

Give up a tool of the devil, urges Pope Francis

Gossip is “a plague worse than COVID,” Pope Francis said, asserting that while speaking ill of others comes almost naturally, it is a tool of the devil to divide the Church.

Commenting on 6 September on the Sunday Gospel reading about Jesus telling his disciples what to do when a member of the community errs and requires correction, Pope Francis said that rather than helping the other mend his or her ways, “when we see a mistake, a fault, a slip, in that brother or sister, usually the first thing we do is to go and recount it to others; to gossip.”

Gossiping sows division, he told people gathered in St Peter’s Square for the midday recitation of the Angelus prayer.

“The great gossip is the devil, who always goes around recounting bad things about others, because he is the liar who seeks to divide the Church, to distance brothers and sisters and not create community,” the pope said.

“Please, brothers and sisters, let us make an effort not to gossip,” he said. “Let’s try: no gossip.”

The day’s Gospel reading (Mt 18:15-20) is often cited as a lesson in “fraternal correction,” urging people to speak directly and privately to a person they believe is in the wrong. If that doesn’t work, Jesus tells the disciples to take “one or two others along with you” and try again. If that, too, is unsuccessful, then the community of the Church should be informed.

The goal, the pope said, is not to embarrass or punish, but to rehabilitate.

In the Gospel, Jesus said that if even the love and support of the community are not enough to correct the person, then the community should treat him “as a Gentile and a tax collector”.

“This expression, seemingly so scornful,” the pope said, “in reality invites us to put the brother or sister in God’s hands: only the Father will be able to show a greater love than that of all brothers and sisters put together.”

After reciting the prayer, the pope greeted several groups in the square, including staff members and new students at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. The US seminarians arrived in Rome on 20 August and were required to observe a 14-day quarantine before venturing to the Vatican and out into the city.

Last week the Pope’s personal notes written during last October’s Amazon synod were quoted in a journal article by Jesuit Father Antonio Spadaro.

In his article, Father Spadaro included quotations from what he described as “personal notes Pope Francis wanted to share with *La Civiltà Cattolica*,” which included specific references to the October 2019 synod debate about ordaining married men to minister to Catholics in far-flung Amazon villages that go months without Mass.

At the synod, the pope wrote, “There was a discussion ... a rich discussion ... a well-founded discussion, but no discernment, which is something different from arriving at a good and justified consensus or a relative majority.”

As Pope Francis has said repeatedly, he wrote that “we must understand the synod is more than a parliament; and in this specific case” of married priests, the synod “could not avoid this dynamic”.

“On this argument there was a rich, productive and even necessary parliament, but nothing more. For me, that was decisive in the final discernment when I thought about how to do the exhortation.”



Pope Francis greets people as he arrives to lead his general audience in the San Damaso courtyard at the Vatican Sept. 2, 2020. It was the pope’s first public audience with pilgrims in six months. PHOTO: CNS/Paul Haring



Pope Francis meets indigenous people from the Amazonian region during the second week of the Synod of Bishops for the Amazon at the Vatican 17 October 2019. PHOTO: CNS/Vatican Media



Copies of Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation, “Querida Amazonia” (Beloved Amazonia), are pictured at a news conference for the release of the exhortation at the Vatican 12 February 2020. PHOTO: CNS/Paul Haring

Lord,

May your love and light shine in and through me today
in a way that no mask can hide.

May my eyes dance with the laughter and joy
replacing my hidden smile.

May my actions of care and concern
speak louder than my muffled voice ever could.

And may the generosity of my heart
radiate out through who I am
and how I respond to the world around me,
so that others may not see my mask
but your image shining out,
moving in and through me today.

Amen



Written by a teacher on bus supervision who noticed how impoverished were our encounters when our faces remain hidden behind masks. It was written on the first day that masks became compulsory in greater Melbourne, July 2020.

Catholic Theological College invites you to a **free** Zoom Information Session for the Graduate Certificate in Teaching Meditation. The course is designed to form leaders of prayer and meditation in parishes, schools, and pastoral settings. We warmly invite you to participate in this session.

Date: Tuesday 13 October

Time: 7:30pm to 8:00pm

Registration: to receive a zoom link, email Jenny Delahunt, jenny.delahunt@ctc.edu.au



Calendar of Events

Sunday, 20 September

10:00am	Eltham	Mass - live-streamed (https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)
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Sunday, 27 September

10:00am	Montmorency	Mass - live-streamed (https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)
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Rosters - 26 & 27 September

Montmorency

Cain, Darrell	CLNR
Giddens, Matt	GRDN
McKinna, Jane	PRYR

Eltham

Frediani, Gabriella	Altar Society
Scannell Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

OLHC and SFX Caring Group



Last year when I was in Washington, I managed to catch Diana Ross live. She sang her famous number, "Reach out and touch somebody's hand, make this world a better place if you can..." This song is ringing in my ear as I write this note. We all need to reach out to one another, especially in this challenging time.

Recently I missed a call and when I listened to the message, the caller said, it's a "care call" as she sees me caring for others and she wanted to extend that care to me. How beautiful is that. It really touched me and I had that warm feeling, the flow of God's LOVE working through this beautiful person.

I am privileged to work with the Eltham communities for several years and lately got to know some wonderful parishioners in Montmorency. The care and love that you have shown for one another and people around you, the generosity, the endless love, the true meaning of LOVE as Jesus taught us "Love one another as I have loved you", you are living by those words.

I am so blessed to have this opportunity to get to know both very beautiful, Christ-centered communities and we come as one in our OLHC and SFX Caring Group.

Last week, I'm sure you would have received a text or email on "R U OK?" day. Whatever your answer, if 'yes', we need you to hold on to someone who is not; if 'no', we reach out our hands for you to hold on to. That is what our caring group is all about. **Everyone is part of the Caring Group.**

I have set up a get together on zoom, Tuesday, 22nd September @ 11 am. Please join us, introduce yourself, see some familiar faces, share some ideas, etc. We haven't seen each other in months, so this is our opportunity to catch up. Looking forward to see you. Don't forget it's BYO coffee.

Topic: OLHC and SFX Caring Group

Time: Sep 22, 2020 11:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87558163542?pwd=MWRqT3FvQkxST3o2ak1peE1Jajd3QT09>

If you need further information or help with zoom, please contact me at Gina.Ang@cam.au **Gina**

**Prayers of the Faithful for 20 Sep 2020
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
John Davidson**

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, let us open our hearts in prayer for God is near to all who call on him.

For our Church leaders, especially Pope Francis, that they will continue to envision a church where all are welcome.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our political leaders, that they will continue to govern for all their citizens and take responsibility for ensuring the health of local and the world environment.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For scientist and health workers everywhere, as they continue to battle COVID-19 pandemic. Keep them safe and give them strength to continue their life saving work.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For parents and children in Melbourne during these school holidays - may the time away from classes online be a refreshing time.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who have lost their livelihood due to COVID-19, may we as a community be generous in supporting them. We pray especially for all those visa holders, refugees and Asylum seekers who have been denied assistance.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For ourselves, that we accept responsibility for our neighbor and demand the Federal government to provide a living JobSeeker assistance package to all in need in our community.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sick and in need of healing. We pray they receive the necessary care and support required to bring them back to health.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died recently, and those who mourn their passing. We pray also for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Paul Collins, Eva Crowe, Ruth Elliott and Catherine Griffiths. May they rest in the peace and love of the risen Lord.
Lord, hear us. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: O God, how generous is your love for us. Hear the prayer of your people and help us to work unceasingly in the vineyard for the coming of your kingdom. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

***'Walking with Wisdom' Contemplative Sessions
(via Zoom)***

*Thursdays, 10am-12.30pm (AEST) on
8, 15, 22 & 29 October 2020.*



We invite you to join us for a series of contemplative sessions with Carole Carmody rsm and Marlene McGrath, providing opportunities for Deep Listening: to oneself at this unique time in our lives; to Divine Wisdom in the Heart, and in the Hearts of Others; and to engage in a gentle, creative response.

Join for one or all sessions. \$85 for the Series or \$25 per session.

Bookings at www.trybooking.com/BLILH.

Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation,

tel 03 9890 1101, www.heartoflife.melbourne

Please email the
office
if you would like a
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afternoon.

montmorency@cam

.org.au

eltham@cam.org.au

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last."



Reflection

Jesus' parable on the labourers in the vineyard still has the capacity to raise hackles, and that's encouraging. It's doing what Jesus meant it to do. It offends our sense of what is fair and just. It uncovers our ingrained habit of calculating what others do or don't deserve from us or how much we feel we can or can't give of ourselves. This seems to have been Jesus' original purpose - to shock his hearers with a story of divine generosity not limited by legalistic or self-interested rules of rationing.

Like the majority of the parables this one will be familiar to most people, so it calls for a special effort to proclaim it afresh. There is an inbuilt dynamism to the story which helps. The tension builds up with each successive hiring until the payment is made at the end of the day, and we hear the punch-line: "Why be envious because I am generous?" The final saying about the first and the last seems to be added on to the parable as a general maxim.

Break Open the Word 2020

Oma's Boot Camp

The call came on a Wednesday in the depths of the pandemic.

"Joshua wants to study at Oma's. Would that be OK?"

The next day my house was transformed ... a bike and helmet in the garden, laptop and ipad and books on the dining table and clothes scattered around the spacious back bedroom. Colourful timetables were sprinkled about the walls.

Morning one

School day begins at 8.30

J must check-in dressed in school top. Soon, 12 faces appear on the screen as the teacher sets the agenda for the day. I was gently told not to tousle his hair while the camera was on!!!

First period Maths

I am sitting beside the ipad-focussed student. I shun a screen for a comforting paper and pencil. But he must straddle both worlds as the teacher always demands a photo of his workings.

Could I bring my algebra back? I recalled the dedicated work of my teachers 65 years ago. Bless those Mercy nuns! After some intense sessions, maths was less of a mystery to both of us!!

Day Five ... And then there was the Shark Tank ... a process to teach business techniques. J and I worked on a business model to sell terrariums! Costings, distribution etc ... how school has changed.

Day Six ... R E lessons. Class discussions tried to unravel the tragedy of racial discrimination; and for English, the chosen text was Anh Do's biography. This was to be the topic for a 600 word essay.

Leisure time arrived and Joshua had transformed my front wilderness into a BMX track. Great fun!

On *Day Seven*, the phrase that had him working was "Hyperlink on the style page".

He was on his own with this one but seemed to manage.

Prior to this time, results had been ordinary at best.

Ten days have passed and the new arrangement is working brilliantly.

The work-gaming balance is changing in favour of the former and as a consequence results are moving in the right direction.

The whole operation is a testament to a loving bond, 2-minute noodles and liquorice bullets.

J goes home tomorrow to face his particular brand of music!

Back to jigsaws and scrabble for me.

Barbara Hermans

