

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.

Where the Yarra River meets the Diamond Creek

Maybe its because of this Covid-19 time or in spite of it - having plenty of time to walk around the Parks & Ovals that are in abundance throughout Montmorency and Eltham, I have discovered this little sacred site: Where the Yarra River meets the Diamond Creek, and a lovely wooden platform to view the flowing - brown - river!



The afternoons this past week have been warm and lovely to venture out for such a stroll and enjoy the beauty of these surroundings.

I wonder if you know the spot that I am describing? Anyway, it was a perfect day!

While taking the 'parish dog' for his afternoon walk, two women walking in the opposite direction suggested that Lenny might enjoy a swim at this river's bend, and I had no idea of its location! What a beautiful surprise on a perfect afternoon, and your parish dog dived into the water without hesitation! Actually, Lenny loved it so much - he didn't like the idea of getting out! (Thank God for dog treats!)

I am regularly amazed by the beauty of this local parish area and the abundance of opportunities to enjoy walking through parklands that make living in the Diamond Valley so special. We are indeed fortunate to have this resource at our footsteps. Thus each day doesn't have to be such a drag on our spirits - the boring nature of this Coronavirus and Stage 4 lockdowns. Mental health has become our number one concern, and I'm truly sick and tired of eBay and Zoom meetings to buy and communicate with people as a normal way of life!

I can see why those of you who love gardening and spend lots of time in your own back yard have managed well during these months! Simply enjoying the lovely spaces around us, on a sunny afternoon, can certainly do wonders for your spirits!

The colour of plants this season have also been beautiful and intense, and I have enjoyed looking and appreciating these too.

Lenny is still very wet and needs to dry off before nightfall - so I have work to do!

Michael

Living in V.M.C.H. Eltham

Dear Parishioners,

Just letting you know that a unit has become available as a part of the Parish of Eltham.

We have 9 units on this beautiful site of **Our Lady Help of Christians** and if you are considering downsizing, then this unit and it's location might be just right for you.

If you are at all interested,
Amy Hudson from VMCH (**Villa Maria Catholic Homes**)
is the appropriate person to speak to, on: 03 9926 2052.

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@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: 11 October 2020

| Community | Thanksgiving | Presbytery |
|-------------|--------------|------------|
| Eltham | \$958.40 | \$520.00 |
| Montmorency | \$1,050.00 | \$670.00 |

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:

Patricia Laidler, Colleen Lourey

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Sylvia Bergamo, Peppino Costanzo,

Barrie Edwards, Joe McKinley

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,

Graham Neal, Geoffrey Nyssen, Mercy Ocon, Ron Pfeil,

Susan Phelan, Andrew Pighin, Terry Said,

Anthony Salvatore, Mary Salvatore,

Sr Amor Samonte RGS (Philippines), Maria Schroeders,

Jeanette Steward, John Tobin, Bruno Treglia,

Isaac Treglia, Aldo Viapiana, Sheryn Zurzolo.

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

Maria George

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Robyn Atherton, Ray Bowman, Geoff Bunton,

Andrew & Lucinda Collier, Albina Croce,

Eileen Culbertson, Jon D'Cruz, Ruth Decker,

Dennis Goddard, Luke Hawthorne-Smith, Jack Issai,

Diana Jackson, Jeanette Jenkins, Maureen Jenkins,

Moirra Lyons, Val McDonough, Baby Finley McPartlin,

Simone Owen, Kath Wheelahan.

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House

9435 2178 or eltham@cam.org.au.

Live-Stream Masses

Ecclesiastes tells us "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven". We see ourselves emerging out of a season of struggle and mourning for the freedoms we have been denied and the pain of things. As we take our walks we are astonished by the season of birthing, new life bursting forth everywhere, with so much energy and beauty. Let us also seize this opportunity to nurture that quiet glow within, to become brighter, in a new way for a new world... it is on its way! So, in Faith, trusting things are getting better, please join us again for live-stream Mass on Sunday at 10am. We stay alert for the hidden possibilities within our reach, the gold in the rubble, we have never needed each other more. Let us pray.

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

Patsy & Team (0429 439 675)

Homily

Children sometimes ask the most difficult questions. How many of you as parents have been asked, ‘who made God?’, ‘what does God look like?’, ‘why did God let my cat die?’ And you probably struggle to find any words that make much sense to this child.

Even for me, children ask difficult questions. I remember a few years ago some prep children, seeing me as I made my way towards the staff room of St Francis Xavier School. One child asked, as she pointed towards the Parish House, “Fr Terry, is that where your wife and children live?” When I said I didn’t have a wife or children, the little girl said, “why not?” I bumbled out some kind of response, but it certainly didn’t convince her or any of the children, so then came the question, “do you have a girl friend?”

What do you think I answered to that: “Yes, I have lots of girl-friends.” “Ooh”, said the children and I wondered what on earth are they going to tell their parents. Then another little girl said “am I one of your girl friends?” Again I bumbled out some kind of response that didn’t answer the question but she seemed okay with it.

Difficult questions. Children have a happy knack of asking them but they are not the only ones who ask difficult questions. In today’s Gospel Jesus is asked a very difficult question. “Tell us your opinion”, say the Pharisees and the Herodians, “Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” It’s a trap. If Jesus says ‘no’, he is in real trouble with the Roman authorities and his life is at risk. If he says ‘yes, pay taxes to Caesar’, he will certainly lose favour with the very people he has always loved and defended, the poor people who are squeezed by these unjust taxes.

What did Jesus do? He took a coin, a denarius, and asked his questioners, “Whose head is this? Whose name?” And when they said, “Caesar’s”, Jesus responded, “Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God.” A wonderful answer.

Yet, is it an answer? Jesus didn’t really say **what** belonged to Caesar or **what** belonged to God. He did look at the coin with the emperor’s head on it, and say, “give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.”

But did he give an answer? He gave an answer alright. What belonged to Caesar? Only his money, and Jesus didn’t even possess the coin with the emperor’s head on it. He had to ask someone to show him a coin.

Jesus was really saying ‘nothing belongs to Caesar, everything belongs to God’. His questioners would probably have been puzzled thinking Jesus was saying ‘pay the taxes.’ But they would also have realized the brilliance of Jesus’ answer in effect saying, ‘everything belongs to God’.

It’s true isn’t it? ‘Everything belongs to God’. We think of our own lives. Whatever you or I own in life, all belongs to God. We are stewards of life, meant to use wisely and responsibly what we are given. Everything is given, and even the very next breath we take is given. Everything belongs to God.

Perhaps today’s Gospel is a good reminder of the gift of life. Many of us are struggling with the impact of Covid-19 on our lives and we have good reason to be finding life tough. But the flowers of Spring-time are there for us to see, reminding us that we are so blessed to be part of God’s creation. For life is a gift and everything belongs to God.

Terry



SVdP Christmas Cards 2020



The Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul are pleased to advise that Christmas cards are now available. With just 5 cards per pack we have reduced the cost to \$2.50 per packet. This is slightly cheaper per card than last year but all we wish to do is to cover our costs and offer cards about the real meaning of Christmas.

Further details regarding purchase of the Christmas Cards will be in next week’s bulletin.

Any questions, please call Mike: 0417 221 245.

Help for marriages under stress:



The BreakThrough Online Course created by SmartLoving will enable you to identify your conflict triggers, learn strategies to de-escalate an argument and find constructive ways to re-establish connection. Restore hope for your relationship’s future.

Visit: www.smartloving.org/breakthrough

RELIGION

Fratelli Tutti: seeking the common good

Andrew Hamilton | 07 October 2020

Pope Francis' latest encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* is, as we might have anticipated, a reflection on our times. Its timing was fortuitous, bridging the inarticulate hostility of the presidential debate and Joe Biden's decision to forego negative campaigning in the aftermath of Donald Trump's COVID-19 diagnosis. The burden of the encyclical is to commend fraternity and social friendship and deplore selfishness and hostility in the response to the crisis.

The first words of the encyclical are part of a quotation from St Francis of Assisi, in which he commends a fraternity that crosses all boundaries of distance and culture as central to his followers. Social friendship - which refers to the privileging of respect for persons and so for the common good over individual interests in social, economic and institutional relationships - flows from an attitude of fraternity.

St Francis has deeply influenced the Pope, who took his name, has attended gatherings of religious leaders in Assisi to pray, and signed this encyclical there. Francis of Assisi, who had a deep sense of God's presence in nature, also undertook a dangerous journey to meet the Sultan in Egypt and dissuaded his Friars from dispute when meeting Saracens. In an encyclical initially intended to focus on the fraternal relationships between religions, exemplified in the common statement Pope Francis signed in Abu Dhabi with Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, the association with the saint was apposite.

As the encyclical developed, Pope Francis expanded its scope to reflect on the COVID-19 crisis and on the dangers and opportunities created by the need to respond to it. Stylistically, the change of focus makes for a baggy elephant of a document. The influence of Francis of Assisi, however, hangs over it. He was contemplative, radical in his poverty and his association with people who were poor, was a standing reproach to the greed and violence of his own society, and had an influence out of proportion to his social standing.

The encyclical begins by examining the signs of a lack of fraternity in society that contribute to a closed world. The list is long and comprehensive, including the erosion of human rights, the dominance of ideologies of economic self-interest over the common good, the treatment of refugees, the poisoning of public conversation and communication, and the many forms of discrimination. All these evils find expression in disrespect for vulnerable human beings.

The moral compass of the document is then provided by an exposition of the Parable of the Good Samaritan with its emphasis on practical friendship for the wounded stranger. The love that looks to the good of the other represents a counterpoint to the attitude that underlies the dehumanising signs of a closed world, and a bridge to an open world. Pope Francis describes this bridge of fraternity in terms of the central principles of Catholic Social Teaching, recently elaborated in his recent General Audience: respect for human beings for their intrinsic value and not for their use, solidarity based on their social nature and the primacy of the good.

These principles are then drawn on in the body of the document to propose a better way to deal with the aspects of public life which the CV crisis has shown to be at risk. It encompasses relationships between nations and particularly

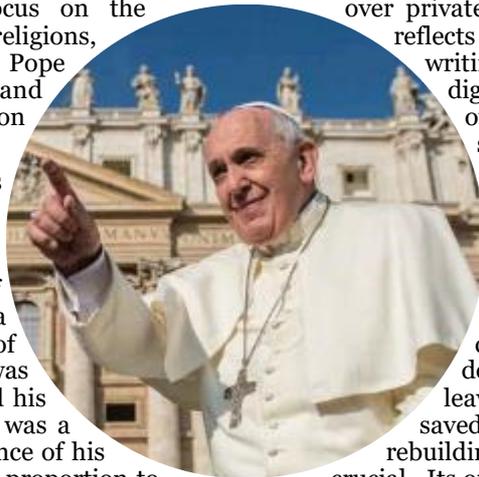
the need to open closed borders that hurt refugees and minorities, and to strengthen international conventions and institutions to make possible the remission of debt. It calls also for a reform of political life based on respect for persons, respect for law and for human rights, and attention to the common good rather than to individual and sectional interests. All these things call for a culture marked by the search for truth and openness to others. They must also be built on a commitment to peace, the rejection of war and capital punishment, and the encouragement of processes of forgiveness and reconciliation within societies.

The encyclical opens up little new ground in its argument, except perhaps in the priority it gives to the common good over private interest in the ownership of goods. It reflects the emphases of Pope Francis's life and writings, with a passionate assertion of the dignity of each human being and the respect owed to and expected from each other and society, and an equally passionate denunciation of the greed, violence and inequality that threaten the future of the world. Its detailed analysis of the world situation merits a close reading.

The tone of *Fratelli Tutti* is urgent. It echoes the vision of a world at the crossroads where the path we take will decide whether the inheritance that we leave to our grandchildren will be wasted or saved. The way in which we set about rebuilding society in the face of coronavirus will be crucial. Its outcome will depend on the choice we make between individual greed and the commitment to the common good. Given the evidence that many governments throughout the world are attempting to return to tried and failed economic and social models, urgency is appropriate.

The apparently limited space given to the environment in the encyclical deserves mention, given Pope Francis' constant insistence on its importance. In fact, the broader understanding of integral ecology evident in *Laudato Si'* to include social and institutional relationships flows easily into the emphasis in *Fratelli Tutti* on social friendship. The document also emphasises attention to the world outside ourselves, the friendship to it imaged in the stories of Francis of Assisi, and the need to maintain this attention and altruistic care in all human relationship - institutional and transnational as well as personal and local. The perspective adopted here could enrich reflection on the environment.

In this cantankerous time the emphasis on fraternity in public conversation and advocacy will surely be welcomed. The encyclical strongly endorses the human rights of people made vulnerable by society - of women and children, of racial minorities, of refugees, of the aged and others. It views the public conversation about rights as one of engagement and persuasion in seeking the common good, not as a closed and adversarial struggle between allies and enemies. That at least would be an improvement upon the public discourse to which we have become accustomed.





Spreading LOVE to one another – from our house to yours

I would like to invite you and your family to join me in colouring in 'baubles'. I have 5 different printed templates of baubles, each template gives us 5 baubles to colour. They all come in different names of Jesus. Jesus, our Savior, King, friend, etc. As we colour them we can reflect on Jesus, and who He is to each of us. He has different names at different times or stages of our lives. For me, He is sometimes my Saviour, other times The Light of The World and always my Friend. This gives us something meaningful to do and it will be lovely and colourful. We can decorate our house with it at Christmas time.

When you finish coloring as many as you can, you can cut them up. You can do one a day, or five, if you like. Make it a project with your children and grandchildren. Keep them and we will collect them towards the end of November. We will then glue them together and as a Christmas cheer and spreading LOVE, we will organize for family and friends to walk together and drop it into as many letterboxes as we can of Eltham and Montmorency.

Each week, we will have one sheet in the bulletin. You can choose to copy it yourself or email me and I can send you the lot. I also have some parishioners who have offered to print and drop it off for you. Please join me in doing this as it keeps us all together, focusing on Jesus and certainly Christmas. It will definitely cheer up lots of people this coming Christmas to receive this in their letterboxes. We have all been through a lot this year, let us bring some joy and hope into our community.

*I was told that Eltham library is also offering to print it at no cost up to 30 sheets a day. You need to send it to them and you can just go and pick it up.

I did this before with the youth of OLHC several years ago for the Nursing Home and have taken a photo (as above).

Gina



These baubles are an example only – full pages are coming in following bulletins.

| Calendar of Events | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|
| Sunday, 18 October | | |
| 10:00am | Eltham | Mass - live-streamed (https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE) |
| Sunday, 25 October | | |
| 10:00am | Montmorency | Mass - live-streamed (https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE) |
| Rosters - 24 & 25 October | | |
| Montmorency | | |
| Capuana, Marisa | | PRYR |
| O'Connor, Pat | | GRDN |
| Roy, Yvonne | | CLNR |
| Eltham | | |
| Frediani, Gabriella | | Altar Society |
| Leahy Family | | Pilgrim Rosary Statue |

 **Clean Energy Nillumbik**

Nillumbik Electric Vehicle Forum
Thursday 29 October 7:00pm – 8:30pm

The future is already here with electric vehicle sales growing and charging stations proliferating. Answer all your questions on range, charging and the smoothest of rides at the Nillumbik Electric Vehicle Forum. Hear from Australian Electric Vehicle Association expert, Bryce Gatton about all aspects of electric vehicles, their advantages and limitations, and how much fun they are to drive!

Register [here](https://www.cleanenergynillumbik.org.au/events-1/nillumbik-electric-vehicle-forum) now.
(<https://www.cleanenergynillumbik.org.au/events-1/nillumbik-electric-vehicle-forum>)

Sun 18 Oct: Please pray for our volunteers, who have been waiting so patiently, to be ready to resume visiting in prison again, once the restrictions across Victoria are lifted.

Mon 19 Oct: Richard Boonstra will be leading a scheduled Zoom prayer meeting: 9.30am to 10am <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87230623040> Meeting ID: 872 3062 3040.

Tue 20 Oct: Please pray for our State leadership as we implement the following component of our PF Victoria strategic plan - *Develop a prayer plan and practice.*

Wed 21 Oct: Please pray for our State leadership as we implement the following component of our PF Victoria strategic plan - *Develop a comprehensive volunteer strategy.*

Thu 22 Oct: Please pray for our State leadership as we implement the following component of our PF Victoria strategic plan - *Develop a stepped strategy for achieving our program objectives.*

Fri 23 Oct: Please pray for our State leadership as we implement the following component of our PF Victoria strategic plan - *Develop a plan to strengthen local relationships including donors and corresponding State budget growth targets.*

Sat 24 Oct: Please pray for our State leadership as we implement the following component of our PF Victoria strategic plan - *Develop a State Advisory Council Member recruitment strategy.*

Sun 25 Oct: Let's spend today in thanksgiving to God for who he is and what he has done in the past, doing in the present, and will do in the days ahead. Count our blessings.
If you have a chance please send me something you can be thankful to God for and I will put a list together.
I am thankful to God for...


PRAYER DIARY

How to shop online for ASRC Foodbank

1. Go to shop.coles.com.au
2. Login or create an account
3. Select 'choose a collection time'
4. From the menu that appears, select 'choose another collection location nearby'
5. Type in postcode 3023
6. From the dropdown menu, select 'Coles Asylum Seeker resource Centre Donation'
7. Select next available **collection** window (although listed as a click & collect, your groceries will be delivered to us)
8. Select 'bag my groceries'* (the only option during C-19)
9. Start shopping!





URGENTLY NEEDED ITEMS



1. tuna in oil 400g
2. tinned tomatoes 400g
3. tinned vegetables: peas, carrots, corn
4. tinned pulses chickpeas, beans etc
5. coconut cream
6. sweet & savoury biscuits
7. deodorant
7. toothbrushes adult single or twin pack
8. dishwashing detergent
9. conditioner
10. soap bars

Please note that we do not require baked beans, tinned spaghetti, or tinned soup.
Inquiries 9326 6066 foodandgoods@asrc.org.au

Online grocery orders for the ASRC Foodbank: TROUBLESHOOTING



- 1. All the time slots except Thursday show not available.**
We have a special arrangement with Coles based on a click & collect model. Our supporters' orders are collated, picked and packed at Coles Deer Park and delivered to us each Thursday. Other time slots are not available.
- 2. The Thursday time slot shows SOLD OUT.**
Coles has capped the number of orders that can be placed through this portal at 50 per week. SOLD OUT means we have reached the maximum. The window for the following week's orders opens at midnight Thursday. The best time to place your order for the following week is Friday.
- 3. There is a delivery fee unless my order is over \$80.**
You have accidentally clicked *delivery* instead of *click & collect*. Return to click & collect and select *Coles Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Donation*.

Prayers of the Faithful for 18 October 2020
Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, God who is mighty has called each of us by name. With confidence let us bring our prayers before the Lord of all.

"I am the Lord, there is no other". God alone gives us the courage to live and love and trust in his ways. We pray for patience, and for the faith and resilience to listen, and be open to the Lord's presence in our lives.

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

"our gospel did not come to you in word alone". Saint Paul tells us that the gospels are not mere words. They come to us, armed with a message from the Holy Spirit. They provoke, challenge, and require action and response. May the Lord's words inspire our daily living and help us to be informed, active and involved citizens.

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

We pray for students preparing for VCE and final assessments, and for all students returning for face-to-face learning after many months at home. We remember their teachers and families. May God's gentle presence guide and calm them as they navigate through to the end of the academic year, under changed and challenging circumstances.

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

We pray for those who are finding it difficult to see light - those who have lost employment and career opportunity; those living in societies torn apart by division and racial tension; those who are seeking asylum and security for their families; and those who are struggling with mental or physical illness, loneliness and isolation. May we find ways to share light in our world, to provide love, encouragement and support. May the Lord's love shine a light on us all.

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

Jesus was true to his values. He was honest and spoke from the heart. He valued people for themselves, seeing the inherent dignity and worth of each person. May Jesus' life inspire us to be independent, clear thinking citizens, sensitive and responsive to the needs of all in our community.

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

We remember those who have died recently, especially Maria George, Patricia Laidler & Colleen Lourey, and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time, including Sylvia Bergamo, Kevin Boyd, Peppino Costanzo, Barrie Edwards & Joe McKinley. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ.

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

Celebrant: Lord, may your light and love be with us all in the week ahead. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



Online Safety tips to Help Grandparents and Carers

Children are online before we know it!

Using computers and other internet connected devices can be a great way for kids to play, learn and socialise – but there are also risks.

As a grandparent or carer, you have an important role to play in protecting the online safety of the children in your life. But knowing how to help them can be tricky, especially if you are not a tech expert.

So the eSafety Commissioner has recently published a free e-book resource 'Online safety for grandparents and carers' which provides advice about online safety issues that children and young people may experience. This resource provides "key advice about online safety issues that can affect children and young people" including practical tips to help grandparents and carers to talk about these issues with children and young people and manage them. Helpful topics include: setting up devices safely; managing time online; preventing unsafe contact from strangers as well as a guide to some of the most popular sites and apps.

Grandparents and carers can order a hard copy or download and view the resource online:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/seniors/online-safety-grandparents-carers>

Peter Williams



Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'



Reflection

What attitude should the new Christian movement have toward the Roman Empire? Should it accept and submit to the power of pagan Rome? Or should it challenge the very basis on which the Empire was founded - the quasi-divine status of Caesar and his military might? Should it run the risk of being branded a subversive organisation that threatened Rome with radical teachings and practices?

These were real and difficult questions for Christian communities long after Jesus' death and resurrection. Good reason for them to keep returning to this brief exchange between Jesus and his adversaries. In effect there are two animosities operative here. One is the smouldering hostility between Roman overlords and Jewish nationalists, each demanding allegiance in one form or another. The other is the hostility now flaring up between Jesus and the Jewish authorities. As the story is told Jesus negotiates his way through this minefield with consummate ease. What to make of his answer in practice is another matter.

The reading has all the elements of a tiny one-act play with three actors: the story-teller, the religious leaders and Jesus. The inherent drama of the interaction should be easy to communicate without becoming too theatrical.

Break Open the Word 2020

'Meditation & Mindfulness' - Reflection event via Zoom'

Saturday 7 Nov 2020, 10am-1pm. Facilitated by Carol Dyer (B.A. (Psych), Transpersonal & Experiential Psychotherapy Level 5 (Trainer), Cert. Spiritual Direction), this event provides the opportunity to broaden your ways of accessing your inner world and listening to what God is inviting you to at this time.

There will be some input to enable participants to learn some theory of meditation and mindfulness practices as well as time away from the Zoom screen for meditation and mindfulness practise.

Cost \$25. Bookings and payment via Trybooking at <https://www.trybooking.com/663916> For more information, contact holsc@bigpond.com or tel 9890 1101.

 **Heart of Life**
Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation

For the Joy of the
Lord is your
STRENGTH
NEHEMIAH 8:10

Still today, landmine accidents are prevalent in Cambodia, a cruel reminder of the country's troubled past, even for those who were not yet born during the tumultuous years of the Khmer Rouge regime and ensuing civil conflicts.

You will hear about Chen's story - how his landmine accident has affected not only his life, but that of his family; and how the Arrupe Centre, led by Bishop Enrique Figaredo Alvargonzalez, is providing many children and families affected by disability with the support they need to lead fulfilling lives.

Today you have the opportunity to support the Arrupe Centre as it continues this essential work. You may choose to become a monthly partner, in which your gifts will fund community and child-focused programs run by the Church in Cambodia. Your one-off gift today is also very much appreciated and will make a great difference to those in need in Cambodia and around the world.

Free-call: 1800 257 296 catholicmission.org.au/cambodia

 **catholic mission**
Reach out. Give life.

