



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.

What a Happy Week it turned out to be!

Nothing to do with American politics - Just that every day has turned out to be another 'Donut Day', a fantastic daily result of zero coronavirus numbers to clearly confirm our Victorian resolve to be relatively free of this terrible Covid19!

To travel and catch-up with relatives/family & locals, and enjoy the sunshine!

The restrictions are being slowly lifted and now we have to begin a Covid-Normal way of life! Now that makes me happy - 20 people at each mass! It's not perfect, but it is a great start. Obviously we have to 'sign in' and socially distance, wear masks and use the 'hand sanitiser'! (4 Masses during the week and 3 Masses on the weekend.) Terry and I have scheduled in 8 Baptisms each weekend till Christmas to cover the year-long backlog of reservations from February.



**Always Was,
Always Will Be.**
8-15 NOV 2020

- NAIDOC Week finishes on Sunday - and I have enjoyed very much listening to Radio National and ABC Classic to music and stories from our ancient past! We have much to learn and be proud of Australia's First Nations peoples. NAIDOC 2020 invited all Australians to see, hear, learn about and embrace the history of this country which dates back thousands of generations. The theme: 'Always Was, Always Will Be' reminds me to integrate into my life these amazing people.
- Remembrance Day online! "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn, At the going down of the Sun and in the morning - we will remember them" (the Ode). From World War 1 onwards we have kept this day sacred, and remembering all those people and all those wars since! And in particular the 'Dawn Service' and the 11th Hour on this 11th Day of November! - for me, its the single trumpet and the playing of the 'Last Post' that captures this special time! I'm thinking of my proud father with the Medals across his chest, not the '2up' played all day at our Pub after!

Changing the subject, this week we also heard the news from Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School that our Principal Mr. Chris Ray will be moving on at the end of this year to take up a new principal-ship at St. Mary's Thornbury. Chris has had a wonderful and significant influence upon our primary school - staff, students & families over the past 14 years and now its time to thank him and wish him all the very best for his future ministry at St. Mary's Primary School - Thornbury.



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

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

Collections last weekend: 8 Nov 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$375.00	\$200.00
Montmorency	\$2,291.50	\$31.60

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/CDFpayMontmorency>
Eltham - <https://bit.ly/CDFpayEltham>

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Desmond Deehan (Ireland)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Ellen Bentley, Cliff Bredle, Joseph McCudden, Eileen & Albert Nioa, Gwen Radcliffe

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, Renee Eastwood, Debbie Edgley, Julian Forrester, Gennie Hannon, Samuel Hauser (Kyabram), Val Hayes, Colleen Hussin, Jim Hussin, Tina Inserra, Adrian Jones, Angus Kossatz, Kate Lagerewskij, Erin McLindon, Hasti Momeni, Therese Moore, Patricia Mulholland, Montagna Mustica, Graham Neal, Geoffrey Nyssen, Mercy Ocon, Ron Pfeil, Susan Phelan, Andrew Pighin, Anthony Salvatore, Mary Salvatore, Sr Amor Samonte RGS (Philippines), Maria Schroeders, Jeanette Steward, John Tobin, Aldo Viapiana, Sheryn Zurzolo.

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time;

Neil Patrick Donahoo

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, Moira 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.



Happy Birthday Fr Terry

Fr Terry Kean celebrates his 74th birthday

this Friday, 20th November

May God bless you richly, now and always

November Remembrances...

Eileen & Albert Nioa; Ellen Bentley; Bernie Farrell; Maria, Vladyslav & Janina Rygala; Ryszard, Teresa & Zbigniew Cichacki; Janina Vrszcz; Kyszard Klepacz; Anthony & Elizabeth Corera; Denis Morganti; John & Flo Morganti; Martin Shelley; Irene Shelley; Kevin Shelley; Margaret Dalton; Carol O'Keeffe; Neil O'Keeffe



Homily

Have you heard the story from India about a man given a prison sentence and made to spend his first night in a prison cell with a deadly poisonous snake? If he made the slightest movement, the snake would bite him. All night the man stood petrified in a corner of the cell, afraid almost of breathing, for fear of alerting the snake in any way. Then as the light of dawn increased further and it became really bright, he saw that it was not a snake but an old rope lying in another corner of the cell.

What's the moral of the story? Perhaps we make poisonous snakes out of our own fears, and the fears are not snakes at all?

Fear can make us so powerless in our lives, like the third servant in today's Gospel. This man said to his Master, "I was afraid and hid your talent in the ground". And the Master was not pleased. He gave orders to throw the man out into the dark.

We must remember that the Master in Matthew's gospel today is not God. Most of us couldn't imagine God treating the third servant this way. In fact, the Master seems so very different to God. The Master is a serious capitalist by today's standards, rewarding profit and punishing a servant who did nothing to make him money.

So why did Jesus tell this story? It would seem that he was criticizing the Scribes and Pharisees for being like the third servant in building a fence around the Law and keeping things exactly as they had always been. That turns God into the Master, who then becomes a God to fear and the talent is hidden in the ground, so as not to make a mistake. Jesus was saying, that to follow him would lead them beyond the Law into a very different way of life of working for the Kingdom of God.

The third servant didn't want to take a risk or make a mistake. We don't know what the Master would have done if the first servant or the second servant had come back with less than what they were given. We don't know what the Master would have done, if the third servant had said, 'I traded with the talent but it didn't work out'. The Master probably would not have been impressed.

What matters more however, is what God would say, and we can ask ourselves, what if we or any of those servants said to God, 'Look I've had a go. I've made my mistakes and perhaps I have little to show. But at the end of the day, I have given something of my love to others and I have made a positive difference to some people's lives. I have tried to be generous to people who are amongst the world's poor and disadvantaged. I have less, have enjoyed and valued my life and the people I've come to know as friend. I am thankful for the beauty of the world and for the opportunities that you have given me.' None of us can presume to know what God would say, but we can imagine, God would be well pleased.

Perhaps today is a chance for us to look at any fears in our lives. Somehow these fears can become imaginary poisonous snakes and we can retreat into our own world, hiding behind the walls of our privacy. Today's Gospel says to us, 'Beware of the third servant syndrome taking over your life'. The Gospel calls us to live life to the full as best we can, trusting the goodness in people, giving who we are and not frightened of failing. We may think we have little to show but we will be working for the Kingdom of God.

Terry



SVDP Charity Christmas Cards 2020



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

The Montmorency conference of SVDP is pleased to advise that SVDP Charity Christmas cards are now available. This year the cards are in packs of 5 rather than 8 as in previous years. 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 is do is to cover our costs and offer cards about the real meaning of Christmas.

We will have a table outside Weekend Masses at SFX to enable people to purchase cards. Alternatively you may purchase the cards from any of the following SVDP Members:-

John Ramsdale: 0410 128 821; Bob Fraser: 0404 960 337; Mike Said: 0417 221 245; Vinka Heagerty

Fundamental flaws in the culture and decision-making at the highest levels in the Church have been exposed by an investigation into a disgraced American cardinal / by **Christopher Lamb**

The Vatican examines its conscience

The Holy See's long-awaited report into ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick is a first in many ways. Not least, it is the first institutional examination of conscience by the Vatican of its handling of a high-profile abuse case to be made public. Few involved, including the current Pope and his two predecessors, emerge from the story with their reputations enhanced.

What makes the document unprecedented is its willingness to confront the mistake that was made by a pope and now saint, John Paul II, in appointing Theodore McCarrick as Archbishop of Washington, D.C. in 2000, and a cardinal the following year. Pope John Paul took the decision despite being aware of sexual misconduct allegations made against McCarrick. But he did so, the report explains, due to inadequate information supplied by some United States bishops, suspicions about the truth of the allegations, and John Paul's years of working directly with McCarrick.

The report, commissioned by Pope Francis in September 2018, includes striking revelations about Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, the former papal ambassador to the US. According to its findings, in 2012, a year before Pope Benedict XVI's resignation, Vigano ignored specific instructions from his Vatican superiors to investigate an allegation of sexual misconduct against McCarrick. The detail is jaw-dropping, given it was Vigano who in August 2018 took the extraordinary step of issuing a dossier alleging that Francis had mishandled the McCarrick case and calling on him to resign. The decision to launch an investigation into the McCarrick case and to make it public was made by the Pope in the wake of Vigano's allegations.

In stark and forensic detail, the McCarrick report lays bare the weaknesses in the Vatican's system for appointing bishops during the final years of the John Paul II era, exposing a systemic failure by high-ranking ecclesial officials to respond



Theodore McCarrick meets Pope Francis at the Vatican in 2013

adequately to credible allegations of sexual misconduct.

The "Report on the Holy See's Institutional Knowledge and Decision-Making Related to Former Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick" was produced by the Holy See's Secretariat of State. It is an exhaustive 449-page document, with around 1,410 footnotes. It includes interviews with more than 90 witnesses and cites documents found after a trawl through the archives of the most powerful offices of the Roman Curia. Cardinals, bishops and current and former officials were interviewed about what they knew about McCarrick's rise up the clerical ranks. The report does not seek to justify the mistakes that were made, but it does try to explain why certain decisions were taken within the context of the time.

Theodore McCarrick, the report explains, was promoted to the position of Archbishop of Washington, D.C. in 2000 by John Paul II. At that time the Vatican was aware that McCarrick had been accused of sharing his bed with adult seminarians. A priest had also accused McCarrick of trying to engage him in sexual activity. In the early 1990s, anonymous letters accusing McCarrick of paedophilia had also been sent to the cardinals in the US, the bishops' conference and the apostolic nuncio. According to the

report, these claims were not forwarded to Rome.

Given the rumours swirling around McCarrick, Pope John Paul had earlier decided not to promote the then Archbishop of Newark, New Jersey, on three occasions, believing it would have been "imprudent". When the Washington vacancy came up, Cardinal John O'Connor, then the Archbishop of New York, summarised the allegations against McCarrick in a 1999 letter which was shared with the Pope.

But then the Pope changed his mind.

John Paul commissioned a secret inquiry into McCarrick via the apostolic nuncio at the time, Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo. According to the report this turned out to be inadequate because three US bishops provided "inaccurate and incomplete information". McCarrick vigorously protested his innocence, while the priest accuser of McCarrick was deemed unreliable because he himself was the abuser of two teenage boys. The Newark archbishop was viewed as "hard-working and effective". All these factors conspired to get McCarrick the nomination.

The report points to another factor in the puzzle of what led John Paul to override the concerns being expressed about McCarrick. It suggests that John Paul may have been influenced by his experience as an Archbishop in Poland, when the Communist regime often tried to discredit the Church by circulating false accusations against priests. John Paul had known McCarrick for decades, first meeting him before his election as Pope, when Fr McCarrick was the personal secretary of Cardinal Terence Cooke. "McCarrick's direct relationship with John Paul II also likely had an impact on the Pope's decision making," the report states.

Later, during the Pope Benedict era, new details about McCarrick's behaviour emerged which led to Benedict forcing the Archbishop of Washington to resign "spontaneously" in 2006. At this time, Archbishop Vigano was working in the Secretariat of State and he highlighted the allegations made against McCarrick. Following McCarrick's retirement, it was recommended to Pope Benedict that he open a church inquiry. But Benedict declined and opted instead to "appeal to McCarrick's conscience", indicating to him that he "should maintain a lower profile and minimise travel for the good of the Church". These were essentially informal

“indications” communicated to McCarrick by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, who was then in charge of the Vatican’s Congregation for Bishops.

In his 2018 dossier against Francis, Vigano claimed that after he succeeded Benedict, Pope Francis had ignored formal “canonical sanctions” that had been placed on McCarrick, and rehabilitated him as a trusted adviser. The McCarrick report shows these allegations to be false. There were no formal sanctions on McCarrick. “No one ... provided Pope Francis with any documentation regarding allegations against McCarrick,” the report claims. By the time the Jesuit Pope took office McCarrick was over 80 and past the retirement age of a cardinal. The report says that given that the allegations and rumours concerned immoral conduct with adults from several years previously, which McCarrick had always strenuously denied, Francis “did not see the need to alter the approach that had been adopted in prior years”.

In 2012, however, Cardinal Marc Ouellet, then Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, was informed by Vigano of a new allegation of sexual misconduct against McCarrick. Cardinal Ouellet explained what action should be taken “but Vigano did not take these steps”, according to the report. Furthermore,

McCarrick remained active in spite of Benedict’s instructions and the report explains that “McCarrick kept Vigano regularly informed of his travels and activities”. Yet Vigano remained inert.

McCarrick had been one of the most influential figures in the US Church. He was a networker with an array of political contacts, a globetrotter, fundraiser extraordinaire and he was close to the centres of power in both the Vatican and Washington, D.C. While his fundraising and gift-giving are acknowledged, the report concludes they were “not determinative” in the decision-making process that took McCarrick to the top of the US hierarchy.

For decades McCarrick was regarded as a hard-working, pastoral and intelligent church leader. He had first been appointed an auxiliary bishop in 1977 by Paul VI and then John Paul II chose him as Bishop of Metuchen and then Archbishop of Newark in the 1980s.

This report will be read in different ways by the different factions in the Church in the US and elsewhere. It has been a painful lesson-learning exercise. Many of the recent reforms Pope Francis has implemented to combat abuse can be linked back to the McCarrick case. In 2019, Francis widened the definition of abuse to include sexual misconduct involving

adults and those in positions of power, and in a recently published handbook on handling abuse allegations the Vatican informed bishops not to ignore anonymous allegations made by third parties. Pontifical secrecy for abuse cases has also been abolished.

Fundamental reform in the way bishops are appointed, so that candidates can be robustly assessed, and lay people given more of a say, is still required. The abuse crisis has exposed deep failures in the systems of clerical governance and highlighted the need to reform both processes and culture. Francis has been taking modest steps in the right direction. When the Pope two years ago announced a “thorough study” of what the Holy See knew about McCarrick he pledged to “follow the path of truth wherever it may lead.” The report still eaves some unanswered questions, but it is an attempt to walk down that path and is a long-overdue step towards the greater transparency that both survivors of abuse, and ordinary Catholics, have called for. It is another sign that the Church is, painfully and sometimes grudgingly, putting the years of cover-ups, denial and secrecy behind it, and trying to face up to reality.

Francis’ medicine for the abuse crisis is simple. It can be found in a dozen words from John’s Gospel: “You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”



By purchasing a
\$30 Christmas Ornament
you are supporting
Aboriginal Children
to reach their full educational potential.
Opening the Doors Foundation
www.openingthedoors.org.au/Christmas

Supporting self-regulation in your child

With Term 4 and the many challenges that Covid has brought among school communities, children and parents alike may be anxious about the coming months and the new school year in 2021.

Every student will experience their own challenges and frustrations, but parents can support their children through these periods by encouraging self-regulation of their emotions.

Self-regulation involves a set of skills that allow us to understand and manage our emotions and behaviour/reactions.

Visit CatholicCare ([here](#)) for some practical tips on how you can support the development of self-regulation in your child!

www.ccam.org.au/news/119/supporting-self-regulation-in-your-child



Reaching Beyond 2020

People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. Restrictions this year have made communities’ needs acute, but your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. [Palms Australia](#) will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes, and support on assignment.

See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

Rosters - 21 & 22 November

<i>Montmorency</i>	
Giddens, Matt	GRDN
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR
<i>Eltham</i>	
Frediani, Gabriella	Altar Society
Scannell Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Calendar of Events

<i>Saturday, 14 November</i>		
12noon	Montmorency	Baptism - Darcy
6:00pm	Montmorency	Mass (10 people)
<i>Sunday, 15 November</i>		
8:30am	Montmorency	Mass (10 people)
10:00am	Eltham	Mass (10 people) (live-streamed https://bit.ly/2ZNXaE)
<i>Tuesday, 17 November</i>		
9:30am	Montmorency	Mass (10 people)
<i>Wednesday, 18 November</i>		
9:30am	Eltham	Mass (10 people)
<i>Thursday, 19 November</i>		
9:30am	Montmorency	Mass (10 people)
<i>Friday, 20 November</i>		
9:30am	Eltham	Mass (10 people)
<i>Saturday, 21 November</i>		
10:00am	Montmorency	Baptism - Ted
6:00pm	Montmorency	Mass (10 people)
<i>Sunday, 22 November</i>		
8:30am	Montmorency	Mass (10 people) (live-streamed https://bit.ly/2ZNXaE)
10:00am	Eltham	Mass (10 people)
1:00pm	Montmorency	Baptism - Willow & Fletcher
2:00pm	Eltham	Baptism - Lily & Samuel

Live-Stream Masses

Joyfully we are shedding the weight of lockdown and walking more lightly into the dawning of a new day. Just how wonderful does that feel? We are glad indeed! We give thanks. The number of folk able to attend Masses, now twenty, will slowly increase till we are celebrating Eucharist together as before. For the time being we continue Live-Stream Mass on weekends alternating between St Francis Xavier at 8.30am and at Our Lady Help of Christians at 10am, where we will be this Sunday. We are delighted to have been able to offer the opportunity of Live-Stream Masses during lockdown. We know this falls short of the real presence of each other around the table, but we hope it has helped you feel connected to the Community in some way. Let us be vigilant and pray we are able to sustain the current low level of positive cases. Well done 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



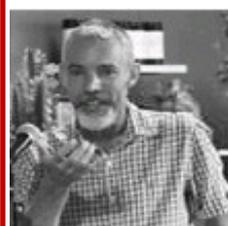
THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY: OUR SHARED MORAL CHALLENGE

Thursday 26 November 7.30pm to 8.45pm

An online Zoom session sponsored by Mary Mother of the Church Parish Climate Action Group. The session will feature two speakers addressing the current climate and ecological emergency and how they have responded in their own lives to this crisis. There will be question and discussion time.

Register your attendance by emailing
ivanhoe@cam.org.au

Tell us the number attending. A zoom link will be emailed to you.



Mark Delaney is the author of 'Low Carbon and Loving It' (with his son, Tom) and is a Christian climate activist who has been featured in the media for his work, including ABC's Compass programme, 'For the Love of Creation', 5 April, 2020.

Alice Carwardine experienced her ecological conversion after reading Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Laudato Si*. After giving up 40 things in Lent 2018, she now leads a zero-waste sustainable lifestyle. She runs workshops for Catholic parishes and schools to help them on their own ecological journey.



Prayers of the Faithful for 15 November 2020
Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
(John Ramsdale)

Celebrant: Brothers and sisters, with faith in our hearts, let us bring our prayers before God. We pray that, under the guidance of Pope Francis, we can see a rebirth in our Church. We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead all members in the way of love, truth, generosity, justice and the care of the poor and vulnerable. *Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for the leaders and the people of Australia and the world, that they can always work for the good of all in their community and emphasise and promote the things that unite us rather than those that divide us. *Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

We give thanks for the generosity of people in this parish who have provided comfort and support to others during the past few months, especially the isolated ones. *Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

As we approach another episode in the fight against COVID-19, we pray that we can avoid complacency. We also pray that we never forget the efforts of the many people in our community in various roles who have planned, worked and sacrificed to bring these new conditions about. *Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

At the end of what has already been a challenging and demanding year, students in VCE and University now face exams. We pray that they can approach these tasks in a positive manner and that they achieve the results that reflect their efforts. *Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

It is estimated that across the world more than 245 million Christians are experiencing persecution. We pray for these people and for all who suffer for their beliefs, that God will strengthen them in their time of difficulty and we pray that we will never take for granted our freedom of worship. *Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

We pray for all of those who are listed on the sick list in this bulletin and for all others who are suffering in mind, body or spirit. We pray that they will experience the healing touch of Christ. *Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

During this month of November, we remember our friends, fellow parishioners and family who have passed away. We pray for those who have died recently, including Desmond Deehan. We also remember Ellen Bentley and Eileen & Albert Nioa whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ. *Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.*

Celebrant: Loving God, as our creator you entrust us with gifts. Hear our prayers and help us to be faithful in sharing our gifts with others as we wait to enter the joy of your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



The following words were on a plaque
(that is currently missing, but soon to be replaced)
in the St Francis Xavier Church foyer:

**THIS CHURCH STANDS AS A
MEMORIAL TO ALL THOSE WHO
HAVE GIVEN THEIR LIVES IN
DEFENCE OF THIS COUNTRY**

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE



Gospel: Matthew 24:14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with great; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is' it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."



Reflection

The parable is the second of the last three that Jesus tells before the beginning of his final ordeal. It does not speak directly of the end time but of how his disciples should live while they await the end - in a word, with enterprise.

The word "talent" is open to misinterpretation by a modern audience, especially as the master in the story distributes the talents "each according to his ability". Here a talent is not an ability or gift that a person has but an extraordinary large sum of money, a life's fortune. The slaves entrusted with the five and the two talents respectively are rewarded for their enterprise. So far this is a simple lesson that of itself might not generate much discussion.

It is the conclusion that is provocative. What are we to make of the treatment meted out to the slave who did not dare venture with his one talent? Is the "moral" of the story (verse 29) an operational principle of the kingdom of God? These are questions that still engage us.

Break Open the Word 2020



Baptisms

This weekend we welcome to our Montmorency Parish Community on Saturday at 12 noon:

Darcy James Young, son of Ben & Cait

We pray for *Darcy*, his parents & Godparents. *May God keep them always in His love.*



Photos from last week's baptisms...

Madeleine Teofilo-Sciberras, Isaac Teofilo & family



Oscar & Mischa Whitmore & family

