



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.

Homily

It was wonderful to see our communities of St Francis Xavier and Our Lady's gathering in larger numbers at Church last week. The restrictions have eased enough to have 80 people at Eucharist and though we had to socially distance and wear masks, there was such a buzz as people came together. I wasn't there personally, but during this week so many people have told me how much they appreciated the gathering again and how much they have hungered for Eucharist during this Covid-19 time. Let's hope that more restrictions ease and we can open our doors even more.

What is it that draws us back into the community and into the celebration of Eucharist? We are far from perfect as a community but so many of us have missed something. Remember that old saying '*absence makes the heart grow fonder*', and maybe the absence of being together in Church has helped us realise how important it is in our lives.

It will not be like this for everyone, for there are people still anxious about coming because of the virus or wondering whether there will be room for them. Only 80 can come at present. Hopefully this will change in the not-too-distant future.

Then there will be people who have formed a different pattern of life and are not sure about coming back to the community. When the restrictions ease and the church doors are fully open, please know that you will always be welcome and we hope to see you.

Advent is a beautiful time for us to regather. Advent invites us to hope. We listen to our Advent Gospel today where John the Baptist baptised the people of Jerusalem in the waters of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance and preparing a way for the one who was to come. We know that to be the person of Jesus.

John the Baptist seemed an odd bod, a wild looking character in strange clothes, and living on a very unusual diet of locusts and wild honey. But he was authentic and humble and he opened up the hope in people's hearts.

We listen for that hope as we prepare for another Christmas and the birth of Jesus born again and again into our world. Some of us have lost some hope this year, not just because of Covid 19. We have had a really difficult year for other reasons.

So let me offer you a blessing from a poet in Jan Richardson:

Look the world is always ending somewhere. Somewhere the sun has come crashing down. Somewhere it has gone completely dark. Somewhere it has ended with the gun, the knife, the fist. Somewhere it has ended with the slammed door, the shattered hope.

Somewhere it has ended with the utter quiet that follows the news from the phone, the television, the hospital room. Somewhere it has ended with a tenderness that will break your heart.

But, listen, this blessing means to be anything but morose. It has not come to cause despair, it is here simply because there is nothing a blessing is better suited for than an ending, nothing that cries out more for a blessing than when a world is falling apart.

This blessing will not fix you, will not mend you, will not give you false comfort; it will not talk to you about one door opening when another closes.

It will simply sit beside you, among the shards and gently turn your face toward the direction from which the light will come, gathering itself about you as the world begins again.



Beautiful blessing, not of words but presence as we turn our faces once more towards the one John the Baptist proclaimed.

Terry

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

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Website:

www.pol.org.au/montmorency

www.pol.org.au/eltham

(pol stands for Parish OnLine)

Facebook:

St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:

eltham@cam.org.au

Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Mr Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Mr Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Mr Chris Ray: 9439 7824

school@olheltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olheltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

Collections last weekend: 29 Nov 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$400.00	\$53.10
Montmorency	\$2,587.00	\$505.00

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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Gavan Duke

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Suashini Jeyakumar, Sybil Masson

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, Tania Inserra, 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:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Ray Bowman, Kate Boyce, Andrew & Lucinda Collier,

Eileen Culbertson, Jon D'Cruz, Ruth Decker,

Dennis Goddard, Luke Hawthorne-Smith, Jack Issai,

Diana Jackson, Jeanette Jenkins, Maureen Jenkins,

Julie Jones, Baby Finley McPartlin, Simone Owen,

Barry Scully, Kath Wheelahan.

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House

9435 2178 or eltham@cam.org.au.

Baubles

Thank you for participating in coloring the baubles. I am sure they look lovely. If you have some time, please cut them up but otherwise hand in the whole sheet.

I will put a brown paper bag in both churches and the presbytery for you to drop them in this weekend and next.

If you wish to DIY: A sample is attached to the bag and some color paper. Help yourself to the color paper & stick your bauble to it as in the sample, write a note at the back if you wish and drop it in letter boxes down your street or any street you choose.

Please put your name & the street/s down on the sheet available, so we won't double up.

If you just want to hand it in, drop them into the paper bag with the word **Baubles**

*You may put down your contact if you would like to help drop them into the letter boxes, during your walks and I'll drop them off to you once ready.

For further info, please feel free to contact me at

Gina.Ang@cam.org.au or 0423 947858





Please help our parish continue our important pastoral activities. You can give an offering online today with CDFpay. Find our parish by visiting:

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

It is that time again where the less fortunate can be supported with donations of NEW toys and gifts suitable for teenagers and adults for Christmas presents. These can be left in the baskets available in Our Lady's Chapel at St Francis Xavier, Montmorency.

Items may be delivered at Mass times, or to the Parish Office.

Baskets will be available Sun 6 & 13-Dec.

All enquiries to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your continued support.

SVDP Christmas Appeal 2020 & Christmas Cards/Calendars



Thank you to all parishioners who supported our Christmas Appeal last week. This year's Christmas Appeal theme 'A Christmas Like No Other' focuses on the ongoing impact that COVID-19 is having on Australian families who may have previously never needed assistance. As the long-term

repercussions of the pandemic come to light, we expect the pressure on individuals & families to worsen & more people than ever will turn to Vinnies to help get them through these difficult periods both now and in 2021.

Christmas is such a magical time but for quite a number of people in our local community, Christmas doesn't mean magic, it means hunger, hardship & stress. The Montmorency Conference will be providing hampers to the families based on the needs of each family, hoping to be able to brighten their Christmas day. This is only possible because of the very generous support of families from St Francis Xavier's, Holy Trinity, Catholic Ladies' College & our parishioners.

We wish to thank everybody for their continued support of our work & wish all parishioners & their families every blessing & happiness for Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year.

Envelopes are available in the SFX church pews or [online https://bit.ly/2JAsUaz](https://bit.ly/2JAsUaz). If you choose to donate online, please ensure you nominate Montmorency or Eltham in the Comments/Conference box to ensure your donation stays local. It would also be appreciated if you email msaid@netspace.net.au so that our conference can acknowledge your generosity.

Montmorency Conference: SVDP Charity Christmas cards

Gez Whiz. We have already sold 175 packets of cards this year and have only 65 packets left. A wonderful response. We were not expecting this. Monty SVDP members will again have a table outside all weekend Masses at SFX to enable people to purchase cards. 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 to do is to cover our costs and offer cards about the real meaning of Christmas.

Eltham Conference:

Christmas Cards and **Columban Calendars** are NOW available after Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians - please visit the St Vincent de Paul shop or see one of the SVdP members for more information.



Christmas 2020

Wow - Christmas is just 4 weeks away and the Advent season is now with us. To assist parishioners and their families with their preparation for Christmas, the Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul have a selection of small booklets which may be of interest:

- **Expecting Jesus – A Daily Advent Devotional**
- **Advent Reflections for Peace and Healing**
- **Praying with Scripture During Advent**
- **Advent and Me**
- **Prayers around the Advent Wreath**

Please feel free to browse these and other related booklets together with the many other topics of interest. They are located in the racks on the pillar in the front porch (between the two entrance doors in the foyer) opposite the morning tea table. We hope you enjoy the selection.

A gold coin donation in either of the SVdP boxes at the front or side entrance to the church will help defray costs.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul through our conference, perhaps at our Vinnies shop in Briar Hill, or is some other administrative capacity? If so please contact Mike on 0417 221 245 or the Parish Office

Breaking News !!!!!

After a 14 month search, the missing plaques have been found!

Yes, I can hear you all asking... where?

They were carefully stowed in the linen-press of the Parish House/Presbytery and soon will be returned to their rightful place in the SFX Church Foyer.

Thanks to everyone for their encouragement throughout the search.

Elizabeth



Leading Strings of Love

Retreat starts on 3 Jan 2021 and goes for 40 days.

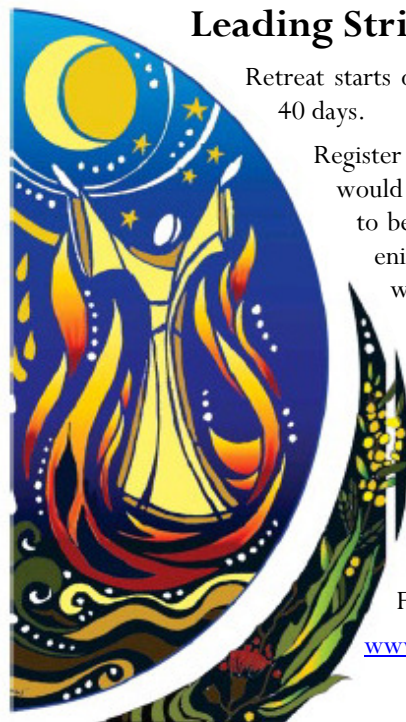
Register for the above retreat if you would like to gently give yourself to being exposed to ever deepening depths of relationship with the person of Christ.

The Benedictine Promises will be your leading strings of love during the retreat.

For more information:

www.jamberooabbey.org.au

Click on **Retreats**.



This might have been the year when Pope Francis would have seen his work completed. Instead, Covid-19 pitched the world into turmoil and darkness, with its future in the balance, and gave its most prominent spiritual leader his greatest challenge - and opportunity / by Austen Ivereigh

Our guide to the future

This will be seen by historians as the year Pope Francis relaunched his pontificate just as it was supposed to be winding down: 2020 was going to be the year in which his cycle of teaching and reforms would be concluded. Then Covid-19 landed the Pope an unexpected new global mission: to be the storm pilot leading God's People through the tempest to a new horizon of possibility.

This unexpected turnaround has happened before in his life, most recently in 2012-2013, when Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio turned 75 and offered Benedict XVI his resignation as archbishop of Buenos Aires. He began to put his papers in order and plan his retirement. Instead, he found himself called to Rome, and to what he likes laughingly to call a "change of diocese".

There is no evidence that Francis had been getting ready to retire in 2020. But he had seen it as the conclusion of a "seven-year plan" (it had originally been a five-year plan, but when the strength of the opposition to his reforms became clear, he decided to extend it). This was to be the year that the reorganisation of how the Vatican serves the life of the Church would be bedded down in a new constitution, when the financial reorganisation came together, and when the various pastoral reforms - in the selection of bishops and cardinals, the training of priests, the anti-abuse measures - acquired citizenship in the Church.

There would even be a final encyclical, on fraternity, to close out a teaching triptych aimed at regenerating the three key relationships made joyless by technocracy: with God (*Evangelii Gaudium*), with Creation (*Laudato Si'*) and with each other (*Fratelli Tutti*). In Bergoglio's mind, in other words, 2020 was to be a wrap-up year, his work completed, after which he would be ready to retire, if God so disposed: after Benedict's funeral, say; or if illness or frailty struck.

But it was Covid that struck. Initially, he seemed taken aback. The shock of the *papa solus* in an empty wet St Peter's Square on 27 March, speaking of the darkness enveloping the world, led Italian commentators to declare - in Alberto Melloni's words - the "beginning of the end" of his pontificate. But they hadn't seen what was emerging in that



Pope Francis pictured on Sunday

Urbi et Orbi address, and would be refined over Easter: Francis' deep discernment of the moment. It was laid bare, tantalisingly, in his interview with me published in *The Tablet* on 8 April, when he put on display his awareness of the swirling spiritual movements, the choices and temptations, facing the world.

I was fascinated by those intuitions, which left me hungry to know more. It was that interview - and the good working relationship I had with him preparing for it - that is in many ways behind the book that is about to hit the shelves. *Let us Dream: The Path to a Better World* is Francis' deep reading of this moment, this *Kairos*. Francis sees this crisis as a threshold moment, in which we can choose or refuse change. On our response, collectively, as a people, our future now depends. And to make the right choices means understanding where the Spirit is calling us.

These intuitions, of course, fed his startling homilies and speeches over Easter, which carried a new urgency and boldness; and they were behind his announcement of the post-Covid Vatican commission, which he entrusted to a dynamic young Argentine priest well known in the UK for his years of work at Cafod. The Pope told Augusto Zampini-Davies that his commission was to "prepare the future" in dialogue with experts across the world.

This wasn't a papacy that was winding

down, cut off, but the opposite: cranking up, refuelled, newly engaged.

My own intuition was that the Pope had not yet spelled out his thinking, and that the world badly needed it. So in a letter in May I plucked up some *parrhesia*. Would he consider this time addressing a broader audience than he had in his *Tablet* interview - and going much deeper? Might he use me to pen a book-length love letter to humanity, packed with spiritual guidance, for this time of crisis?

Yes, he replied by letter - but he would need my help. "I leave it in your hands," he added gnomically. I understood. We were both in lockdown; his time was limited; the world was in crisis. The book must be focused, tight, with a proper narrative; it needed a plan, and a form. My role would be to supply the scaffolding on to which he could hang his insights, his language, and his ideas. I sent him a detailed sketch for a three-part short book to come out in late autumn. We got to work in June, and finished in early September, as the world emerged from the first lockdown.

The SEE-JUDGE-ACT method that underpins *Let Us Dream* has long been used by the Latin American Church and in his pontificate - in *Laudato Si'*, for example - to reflect the process of conversion itself. In opening up to reality, to let it speak to us, we *contemplate* our world; we *discern* by uncovering what is of God and what undermines it, choosing the first; and then we *propose* bold plans and decisions based on that discernment. Hence the three "Times" of *Let Us Dream*: To See, To Choose, and To Act.

The raw materials varied: recordings in answer to my questions; existing writings of his that I was familiar with from his Jesuit period or his time as Archbishop of Buenos Aires; his Covid reflections; and unpublished texts he sent me. And there was also the odd phone call. Sometimes, in answer to a question, he would point to something he or someone else had written (almost always supplied with page references, "in case it's useful"), or he would give me a series of thoughts and say: "I don't know if that makes sense: if it doesn't, feel free to ignore it." I was given great freedom to draft; the Pope trusts those he gives tasks to. But the text is wholly his: not only

did I draft from his words, he did not hesitate to strike out and rewrite, or use drafts to jump off into a new text.

It was hard graft, because we were working both in English and Spanish against a horrendous timetable - "this is an inhuman process!" he at one point (rightly) objected - but somehow it worked. And all the time I never stopped thinking what a privilege it is to be a mediator in the true sense of the word: one who enables and facilitates without interposing. (In the book the Pope critiques those who "ceasing to mediate and become intermediaries, obscuring our view of reality".) The book inconventionally subtitled "In Conversation with Austen Ivereigh", but I like that I never appear, except for a note at the end to explain why.

Francis is a delight to work with: fast, precise, punctual, but also gracious, funny, and endlessly insightful. He is a natural writer. Allergic to clichés, adept at startling metaphors, he knows how to wrap up an idea by circling back to where he started, and he loves to go off in an unexpected direction, always opening out to the new thing the Spirit might be offering. In the book he calls this "unfinished thinking", and says he learned it from Romano Guardini. It means I often had to press him to spell something out, or explain it; and in his patient re-expression of the idea would stumble on the clarity that his initial, visceral intuition sometimes lacked.

Only one section caused tension: when I asked him to give examples from his own life of what he called "personal Covids" - times of stoppage when life is turned upside down. He dislikes intensely talking about himself, and I had to go back two or three times asking him for more, feeling guilty for pressing him; but he did as I asked, humbly apologising for "a certain inhibition, because I'm used to being reserved". These are some

of the richest passages in the book. Later, in Part Three ("A Time to Act"), he gives his first account - again, very moving - of encountering the *cartoneros* (garbage pickers) at Mass in Buenos Aires, and going off with them through the streets at night.

Three things make *Let Us Dream* unprecedented. It is the first book written by a modern pope in response to a particular crisis. It is the first to be addressed directly to the reader (rather than in response to questions). And it is the first to be simultaneously drafted in two languages: the original text is in both English and Spanish. To explain: my exchanges with Francis were always in Spanish. But at his suggestion I then produced a draft in English, so that it read more naturally and fluently. That freedom and trust meant that - as I told him - his would be the first book written by a pope in which the Successor of St Peter would not sound slightly weird in English. (He liked that.)

We also agreed that, in the Spanish text, he would keep the *vos* second-person singular typical of the Spanish of the *portenos*, the people of Buenos Aires. Spaniards tend to be snooty about this: in Vatican texts Francis sounds more *madrileno* than *porteno*. But in *Sonemos Juntos* - the Spanish-language title - the Pope speaks as if he is sitting opposite you.

Despite its directness and informality, the subject of *Let Us Dream* could not be more important or solemn. It is about how God enters history, above all at times of suffering and crisis. But it is also personal spiritual direction: it's about how we can open out to receive that Spirit, that new direction, in our lives as much as in society - the graces a merciful God holds out to us in tribulation, and how, in closing off, we resist and miss them. It is about the Flood, but also the Ark that waits to take

us to a better place.

But I suspect the immediate fascination of *Let Us Dream* is in what it reveals of Pope Francis' multi-layered mind. To hear him spiritually diagnose opposition and division in the Church in terms of the isolated conscience, or teach us how to maintain contrapositions (polar tensions) so they do not fall into contradictions, or explain how the discernment at the synods was undermined by black-and-white media reports, you realise what an original, and penetrating, intellect he has, steeped in tradition but never exhausted by it.

I did get to see him in person, at the end of September, while in Rome to speak at the Jesuit curia. At his office and residence in the Santa Marta I presented him with the copy-edited PDF text for him to make final corrections. He had lost weight, was upbeat, firing on all cylinders: as people close to him tell me, this crisis has energised him. As we entered his office, he pointed to a sign on the door in Italian: *Vietato Lamentarsi* ("No Complaining"). "If you come in here, you have to obey," he laughed.

His office was small, stacked with books and papers, but well organised. On one of the shelves I spotted a dictionary of *lunfardo*, the rich slang of Buenos Aires, and we agreed how useful it was. We had some business; he wrote a letter out by hand, and made a call. He never wastes a moment, but is unhurried. He gives off a deep peace.

When we were finished, he took me out along the corridor to his priest secretary to agree the best practical way in which to deal with any final corrections that he might have (he had a lot, of course). Then he took me downstairs to wave me off tenderly, a man with a mission to show us the horizon we cannot yet see.

Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future by Pope Francis is published by Simon & Schuster on 1 December.

Anointing Masses in the Second Week of Advent

This strange year has meant plenty of adjustments from our normal routine and regular practices given the Covid-19 restrictions, yet new opportunities can be possible, and Anointing Masses are a part of these creative options.

So, starting next Tuesday 8th December at St Francis Xavier Montmorency, and as part of our Masses for this coming week, including the weekend Masses, and concluding at Our Lady Help of Christians Eltham with the Sunday 10am Mass on 13th December - the Sacrament of Anointing will be celebrated for everyone and anyone who would like to receive this healing experience. So, just to be clear - at every Mass next week - an opportunity to be anointed will be made available to everyone who attends these weekday, Saturday and Sunday Masses.



Michael

Rosters - 12 & 13 December

<i>Montmorency</i>	
Davidson, John	PRYR
<i>Eltham</i>	
Dhanasen Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 5th

6:00pm Mass (80 people) Montmorency

Sunday 6th

8:30am Mass (80 people)
(live-stream <https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE>) Montmorency

10:00am Mass (80 people) Eltham

11:00am Baptism: Phoebe Montmorency

12:00pm Baptism: Leandro Eltham

1:00pm Baptism: Joshua Montmorency

Tuesday 8th

9:30am Mass (80 people) Montmorency

Wednesday 9th

9:30am Mass (80 people) Eltham

Thursday 10th

9:30am Mass (80 people) Montmorency

Friday 11th

9:30am Mass (80 people) Eltham

Saturday 12th

10:00am Baptism: Imogen Montmorency

11:00am Baptism: Griffin Eltham

6:00pm Mass (80 people) Montmorency

Sunday 13th

Special Collection: Melbourne Overseas Mission

8:30am Mass (80 people) Montmorency

10:00am Mass (80 people)
(live-stream <https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE>) Eltham

11:00am Baptism: Peter Montmorency

1:00pm Baptism: Timothy Montmorency

2:00pm Baptism: Elena Eltham

Tuesday 15th

9:30am Mass (80 people) Montmorency

Wednesday 16th

9:30am Mass (80 people) Eltham

Thursday 17th

9:30am Mass (80 people) Montmorency

Friday 18th

9:30am Mass (80 people) Eltham

Saturday 19th

10:00am Baptism: Matilda Montmorency

Mass attendance numbers are correct at the time of publishing,
and subject to change as per Covid regulations.

Please call the Parish Office 9435 2178 for any clarification.

Live-Stream Masses

Well dear Friends, it is nearly time to say goodbye to the live-stream Masses. Now we are able to be fully present to each other in our Churches the live-streaming of Mass will no longer be required. We will continue with live-stream Mass until Christmas Day. This Sunday will be at St Francis Xavier Church at 8.30am. It has been a blessing to be able to remain in touch and connected with each other in this way during such isolating, unimagined times. May we take this Advent time to make room in our hearts, to welcome in a new way, the Christ Child... Emmanuel.

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



2020 Kadasig Christmas Hampers

Celebrate Christmas by making a difference to the lives of others! The [Kadasig Christmas Hampers](#) bring great joy to the receiving family hence in the Philippines they are called Bundles of Joy. Be part of the pleasure of giving. You can choose a special something from our list below and we will ensure it is given to someone in need. After purchasing you will receive a gift certificate of thanks to give to your gift recipient.

[Kadasig Gift Certificates](#) can be used for:

- **Christmas Hamper \$40** - provide food for a family for Christmas & New Year—these are packed and distributed by our staff
- **Galvanised iron roofing \$25** - to provide a roof for a family
- **Coco lumbar for construction \$40** - to provide timber for construction - many houses have been damaged following shocking weather or simply need to be safer
- **Livelihood/seeds \$20** - to provide vegetables for a family - due to recent weather many crops such as rice and vegetables have been lost
- **Medical care \$30** - families can't afford even basic medical care
- **Rice \$10** - 10kg for a family
- **Days for Girls \$20** - a reusable menstrual kit

We have put together a range of options to really make a difference to those in great need, we hope you can find some that interest you! Christmas Hampers guarantee a family has food over the Christmas and New Year time.

When you purchase one of these gift certificates you can request either a physical printed certificate or an electronic version to gift to your loved one. Please let us know which you would prefer.

For more information or to purchase a certificate please contact:
Juanita: 0409 514 565 or jtroemml@bigpond.net.au
Maree: 0430 549 516 or mareekulkens@yahoo.com.au
Fay: 0425 732 992 or fayasinclair@gmail.com

Then please transfer the dollar value to Kadasig No 2 Account:
BSB: 083 276
A/c: 172 040 420
Ref: Your surname & item - eg: Smith 2 Hampers

Prayers of the Faithful for 6 December 2020 Second Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: This is a season doubly important for the Parish of Saint Francis Xavier: we are waiting for the birth of Christ, and we observe the feast day of St Francis Xavier on December 3. In Navarra, Spain and in Goa, India it is a public holiday. Let us turn to God in prayer.

For our Parish of St Francis Xavier, Montmorency; may we learn from our Patron Saint to place God at the centre of our lives and by example help us to spread God's word.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham; may we remember our Patron Saint Mary at this special time, that we never forget her openness to the word of God through prayer and reflection. Let us not be distracted with the many trivialities that this season brings. Let us reflect on God's great generosity to the human family.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who feel empty at this time. They may not have family or friends to share this special time with. May we grow in sensitivity, Lord, and ease the way for those experiencing difficulty.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis and the Bishops of the Church, that through their prayers and service they will continue to bring Christ to the world.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For a new hope in the hearts of all: that the light of Christmas may give joy to struggling families and broken communities.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for people who work tirelessly for the health of others: doctors, nurses and health-care workers. At this time Covid-19 is spreading fast, it is highly infectious and spreading rapidly. May their work be appreciated by family and community.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord of heaven, bring into your kingdom those who have died recently, especially Gavan Duke; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Suashini Jeyakumar and Sybil Masson. May they rejoice forever in God's eternal glory.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord God, we thank you for revealing your grace to us. Help us accept your gift of salvation. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Just released:

The Place of the Kyrie - The Ordinary of the Mass – in Catholic History, Liturgy & Music by Marie Therese Levey rsj.

The prayers of the Ordinary, or the people's parts of the Mass, have formed a type of spiritual chain which has linked all the prayers of the Mass together since the first years of Christianity. The current book is a response by the author to a need expressed by fellow parish musicians to know more about the origin of the people's sung parts of the Mass. In this work the reader will meet well known saints who loved to praise God in song and contributed to the *Kyrie*: Ss Gregory I the Great, Bernard of Clairvaux, Hildegard of Bingen, Francis of Assisi, Dominic of Osma. You will also meet those who made life difficult for them. The work is full of stories of "saints and sinners ... very human figures (who) come alive in these pages".

Available for \$30 + P&P from *Congregational Administration Centre*, PO Box 1508, North Sydney NSW 2059.

Enquiries (02) 8912 4853 email CAC.reception@sosj.org.au

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Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart



Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you
he will prepare your way.
A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'



Reflection

The gospel writer Mark wastes no time with the start of his gospel. He bluntly declares what he is writing and plunges straight into the story. While Matthew, Luke and John concern themselves at length with Jesus' origins (whether from Abraham, Adam, or God respectively), Mark abruptly names Jesus Christ as Son of God. Then he cuts to the chase, identifying the Baptist with the prophetic words of Isaiah and Malachi.

His description of John and his ministry is typically vivid and engaging. He paints a picture that is easy for us to imagine in concrete detail. We can visualise the wilderness, the Jordan, the crowds, and above all the Baptist himself, garbed in camel-skin, living off the land, preaching the word, and thrusting sinners into the water.

But for all that, the focus is not the Baptist himself but the greater one who is to baptise with the Holy Spirit. Thus the reading serves as a prelude for what is yet to come. It stirs our hope and expectation that the long-awaited one will appear in our midst.

Break Open the Word 2021



Adore — Advent & Christmas Daily Reflections 2020

Adore is an 88-page pocket-size book containing short spiritually rich, yet accessible, daily reflections from the beginning of Advent (29 Nov 2020) through to the Baptism of the Lord (10 Jan 2021).

Copies are available at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, St Francis Xavier Church & the Parish Office.

Baptisms

This weekend we welcome to:

Montmorency Parish Community on Sunday at 11am:
Phoebe Estelle Scott, daughter of Royce & Elizabeth

Eltham Parish Community on Sunday at 12noon:
Leandro Mason Forte, son of Robert & Erin

and

Montmorency Parish Community on Sunday at 1pm:
Joshua James Smith, son of Alan & Gillian

We pray for *Phoebe, Leandro & Josh*, their parents & Godparents.
May God keep them always in His love.

