

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.

Jesus

Gift of love & hope for our world



Christmas Masses Timetable

OLHC Eltham - all services in church

Christmas Eve, 24 December:

5pm Family Mass & **8pm** Traditional Mass

Christmas Day, 25 December: 10am Mass

SFX Montmorency

Christmas Eve, 24 December:

6pm Outdoor Family Mass - Holy Trinity School Grounds

10pm Traditional Mass - in SFX Church

Christmas Day, 25 December: 8:30am Mass - in SFX Church

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: 13 Dec 2020

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$440.00	\$369.10
Montmorency	\$2,659.00	\$1,279.15

Please note the above figures are monies banked & do not include visa/mastercard or direct debits.
Thank you so much for your contributions.



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>

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Lovely Cabral (Philippines)

Gary van Summersen (brother of Gerry Lamers)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Vito Capuana, Peter Carbone, Bernie Farrell

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,

Princess Cabral (Philippines) 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:

Geoff Bunton (father of Jennie O'Dell)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Jack Beckford

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,

Kath Wheelahan.

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House

9435 2178 or eltham@cam.org.au.

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" Luke 1:28

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's call. Mary teaches us to live with joy for all we have been given. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ's light to the world through our gratitude and generosity.

Homily

How many of us have visited cathedrals, where we have simply stood inside, in awe of their magnificence? As we have looked at the stained glass windows, or wandered around a building so large and so decorated with art and monuments, we have probably applauded the craftsmanship and the talent of those who built it?

And yet is this where God is found? King David had a plan to build a house for the Lord after consultation with the prophet Nathan. It would have been a temple of immense structure and magnificence, but the plan didn't last long. The Lord revealed to Nathan that it was not for David to build the house. It was the Lord who built the house for David.

We listen again to some of the words Nathan spoke in the name of the Lord, "Go and tell my servant David. Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in?... I took you from the pasture to be leader of my people... I have been with you on all your expeditions. ...I will provide a place for my people... The Lord will make you great. The Lord will make you a House."

David had to learn that it's what the Lord does for him not what he does for the Lord. David is taking over, taking control and David must remember that's it's not about him.

Furthermore, what is the House the Lord has built for David? It's not a building. The Lord's presence is in people and not confined to some temple or cathedral.

It's the same story with Mary and Joseph. As a young couple with plans for their future, they too had an encounter with the Lord God through the presence of an angel. It's a beautiful story that we listen to time and again from Luke's Gospel. The angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she is to conceive and bear a son to be named Jesus. And the way Mary comes to accept the plan God has in mind for her. Those wonderful words, "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let what you have said be done to me."

We listen to the stories so full of imagination and poetry, cast in the language of dreams and angels. We listen to Joseph agonising over what to do and being told in a dream to take Mary home as his wife. We prepare for the story of Bethlehem and Jesus' birth in a stable with a manger for his bed.

No temples or cathedrals here. God is born among people. That's where God's presence is to be found. And it is the Lord God's plan that is first and foremost, not our plan, whatever that may be.

What do we take home from the Readings of today? Could it be that yes its okay to make plans but ultimately to realise that at times our plans reverse? And in the reversal God has a different plan for us.

It might be hard to see but the Angel Gabriel is alive and may well be knocking somewhere on the door of our human experience, asking us to take a road that we are not familiar with and sometimes not wanting to take.

What this requires of us is a listening and discernment and a 'yes' to let go of our own plans to take on a new story. God seems at times to be birthing some plan in our lives and we too are asked to be like Mary and say 'yes'.

It's time to look and see where this has happened or is happening right now. Remember God's House is not in a building called a temple or cathedral or even a church but is within us, in our very bodies and hearts.

And perhaps there's an Angel Gabriel in our lives at this very moment announcing a different plan God has in mind for us right now.

Terry





JESUS IS CHRISTMAS: CAROLS SPECIAL
SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER, 7PM
 Broadcast on C31 (Channel 44 on digital TV) and
www.youtube.com/archmelb

While our Christmas celebrations may look a little different this year, thankfully we can always return to the familiar sounds of Christmas to inspire and remind us of the reason for our Advent hope: the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is Christmas – then, now, always. Together with your families, join us for this one-hour Christmas special from the comfort of your home, and sing along to your favourite carols sung by some of Melbourne’s most talented musicians.

Featuring Silvie Paladino, Gary Pinto, Michael Petruccelli, The Saga, Larissa Cairns, The Sully Family, Tongan Choir, Sunshine, CBD Parishes Virtual Choir and Archbishop Peter A Comensoli.

Proudly sponsored by Australian Catholic University (ACU), Mercy Health and Villa Maria Catholic Homes (VMCH).



Advent 2020: ‘Wellsprings of Silence’ - Come with me; let us go to a quiet place...

By Grace Pratt Morris-Chapman

A gift Silence is a gift that many prefer not to engage. It is a bit like a forgotten Christmas present that ends up at the back of a cupboard we rarely open. It often takes life-shattering events that mess up our action-filled, well-manicured lifestyles, expectations, and perfectly good and purposeful godly pursuits to cause us to open the cupboard and retrieve this gift of grace. But then what does one really do with silence?

Dropping everything and stepping away from others and our commitments for a while means that emails will go unanswered, targets may not be met on time, meetings might be missed, the dishes in the sink will continue to pile up and our needs-doing-immediately list will grow longer.

For some of us the urge to achieve and to be appreciated for who we are and what we do is intrinsically tied to our sense of well-being and happiness, and so the thought of letting go for a while is fearsome. For others being alone is frightening; it may bring up thoughts and feelings we would much rather drown in activity and busyness. In some ways, we lose control when we embrace the gift of silence and solitude. However, in the end, we discover that we actually gain freedom – such a liberation that cannot be experienced any other way.

A Discipline “Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray” (Mk 1:35).

The Synoptic Gospels present to the reader an interesting glimpse into the life of Jesus: he often withdrew to spend time alone, usually early in the morning. There is also the account of Jesus sending the disciples and the crowd away and spending some time alone in prayer (Mt 14:22-23 and Mk 6:45-46). The reader understands that this was a regular part of his life, just as it is recorded that it was his custom to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath or to Jerusalem during the feasts.

Silence and solitude are to be built into the Christian life as a discipline alongside the other spiritual disciplines, such as prayer, service, generosity, meditation, confession and fasting. They are vital to our growth in the love and the knowledge of God and not just aids to the occasional pause in or remedy for our activity-filled, fast-paced, technology-driven world.

Silence and solitude are not some optional or pick-me-up exercises to make us feel good when we are overwhelmed by life, but spiritual disciplines to be practised. We need to daily, willingly, and intentionally submit to the gentle call of our Lord to come and be. When and how we do this is not prescriptive; there are of course a variety of techniques. But in reality, this is a divinely initiated dance, during which each disciple discovers their own unique steps as we daily, obediently follow the Lord’s lead.

A Natural Rhythm Silence and solitude as part of the spiritual disciplines lead to an awakening that ignites a natural thirst for God. There is no longer any fear of or reluctance towards being silent and withdrawing. What was once a discipline to be practised grows into something we desire and for which we eagerly yearn. The psalmist discovered this and exclaimed, “How lovely is your dwelling place... A single day with you is better than a thousand elsewhere!” (Ps 84).

Pausing to be quiet, to listen, to rest, to be challenged, and to be refreshed in obedience to the call of God in the midst of the crushing pressures of today’s world is radically life-changing and draws us ever more deeply into relationship with God. The Spirit of God places within the soul a refreshing, soothing spring, which overflows into the outer life; and permeates every aspect of a person’s life.

While many people search for ways to quiet the noise within and around them and to withdraw from crippling fears, demands and expectations, the disciple simply experiences an inexplicable freedom and peace as part of the gentle rhythm of the grace of God in their lives, an incomprehensible gift which they, in grace, can invite others to experience.

God in his grace invites us to draw near through the gift of silence and solitude; it is about time we opened up our lives more and more to receive the richness therein. It requires us to submit to God’s ways of ordering our lives and pausing ever so often to let the rhythm of grace order our steps.



Advent 2020: 'Wellsprings of Silence' - The 'deep end' of prayer

By Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch

I am looking out at the pool in my residential community. Due to the coronavirus, what is normally a busy, noisy hub of commotion in summertime is now empty and inviting, with light rippling across the pale blue surface. Imagining silence as a "pool" in this positive way changes my perspective. I am normally afraid of silence: pure, vast, unrelenting silence like one "hears" in a film when a character is floating away in a space suit, disconnected, lost in space. Lost in silence. I fear silence as a brand of loneliness that is forced on me, like a lockdown with no foreseeable ending.

But the silence of prayer is not like the empty silence of space. I have a lot of control in prayer because it is a pool with varying depths. When I am in the shallow end of prayer, so to speak, I hear children playing outside; I hear the washing machine going; I hear rain against the window. These sounds keep me in the present moment where God is. They remind me how blessed I am to share my life with other people, to have order and cleanliness, to be safe. The shallow end of prayer is the semi-silence of gratitude.

Then there is the deep end of prayer. There is no shame in being afraid of it. Don't our caregivers tell us that we need more skill before we can go to that end of the pool? It is hard to pray deeply. There is nothing superficial in that pool of silence to hold me up. I must stop thinking, stop fixing, stop trying. No thinking or fixing or trying? What will be left of me then? It will be my death. "I have sunk into the miry depths, where there is no footing; I have drifted into deep waters, where the flood engulfs me" (Ps 69:2).

When I was a child, on vacation with my parents, my father would wake me before dawn to join him in a "polar bear swim." Wrapped in coats and carrying towels we would make our way to the edge of the lake, where the water was dark and foreboding, offering absolutely no concession to the human desire for warmth and comfort. We had to fight that desire and choose the sting of cold that forced all breath from our bodies. First the sting, then the numbness — and then, peace and camaraderie and wellbeing. How hard it was to get into that water, and then how hard to get out!

This is my experience of the deep end of prayer. On the other side of fear, there is an amazing surprise: the deep end of prayer is not silent at all. I begin to hear a voice that I am always wishing to hear. It is the voice of the real me, the one who has died to herself and is hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3). Or perhaps it is the Holy Spirit. The voice is wise. It says, "You are not alone. You are clean. You are safe. There is nothing to fix. There is no need to try. You may float. You may splash around. You are loved."

Someday, I will no longer be afraid of silence. For now, it is enough that God is willing to meet me in the shallow end or the deep end of my prayer life. Everything I could ever need is waiting for me in God. "He lifted me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay; He set my feet upon a rock, and made my footsteps firm" (Ps 40:2).

Help is Required (SFX & OLHC)

To make these Covid Christmas Masses special

VOLUNTEERS ARE REQUIRED AND ESSENTIAL
for a wonderful celebration of Christmas at Eltham and Montmorency 2020
WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOUR HELP

Readers / Musicians / Sacristans / Eucharistic Ministers / Roadies - setup outdoor!
Special Ministers / Covid Coordinators / Clean up afterwards people!

Over the past week - we have had two liturgy meetings, Eltham & Monty specialists have shared their interest and expertise in these areas - and now that we know from Government & Church just what is required and possible in this year... away we go!

At **Eltham** all Christmas Masses are inside the Church and subject to the **160 people** Covid Maximum rule!
COORDINATING all 3 Masses: Gina Ang - 0423 947 858 (please contact her directly)
The music ministry teams are already set to go!

At **Montmorency**:

6pm Out Door Mass at Holy Trinity School - Top Oval (**800 people limit**)

COORDINATOR: MARK O'DOWD - 0409 516 911; Music: Susan Agius - 0409 807 101

10pm Mass - SFX, Church (**160 people limit**)

Coordinator: MARY DEAN - 0419 970 814; Music: Anita Plant

8:30AM - SFX, Church. (**160 people limit**)

COORDINATOR: JOSSIE FRENCH : 0439 943 885; Music: Lita Lee

AFTER these FANTASTIC MEETINGS TO SET A WAY FOWARD -
YOUR HELP is APPRECIATED and important for these wonderful
community celebrations. THANK YOU

Please note:

Rehearsal Music Meetings for the outside Christmas Mass at HT:

Friday 18 December, 1pm to 3pm - in SFX Church

Monday 21 December, 7pm to 9pm - in SFX Church

Please contact Susan - 0409 807 101



Rosters - 26 & 27 December

<i>Montmorency</i>	
Ramsdale, John	PRYR
<i>Eltham</i>	
Rearson, Kathy	Altar Society
Scully, Helen	Altar Society
Rigg Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 19th

10:00am Baptism: Matilda	Montmorency
11:00am Baptism: Abigail	Eltham
6:00pm Mass (160 people)	Montmorency

Sunday 20th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30am Mass (160 people) <i>(live-stream https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)</i>	Montmorency
10:00am Mass (160 people)	Eltham
11:00am Baptism: Theodore	Montmorency
12:00pm Baptism: Charli	Eltham
1:00pm Baptism: Sonny	Montmorency
2:00pm Baptism: Sofia	Eltham

Tuesday 22nd

9:30am Mass (160 people)	Montmorency
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Wednesday 23rd

9:30am Mass (160 people)	Eltham
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Thursday 24th - Christmas Eve

5:00pm Christmas Eve Family Mass	Eltham
6:00pm Christmas Eve Outdoor Family Mass	Holy Trinity
8:00pm Christmas Eve Traditional Mass	Eltham
10:00pm Christmas Eve Traditional Mass	Montmorency

Friday 25th - Christmas Day

8:30am Christmas Day Mass <i>(live-stream https://bit.ly/2ZNZxaE)</i>	Montmorency
10:00am Christmas Day Mass	Eltham

Saturday 26th

6:00pm Mass (160 people)	Montmorency
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Sunday 27th

8:30am Mass (160 people)	Montmorency
10:00am Mass	Eltham

Tuesday 29th

9:30am Mass (160 people)	Montmorency
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Wednesday 30th

9:30am Mass (160 people)	Eltham
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Thursday 31st

9:30am Mass (160 people)	Montmorency
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Friday 1st January 2021 - Happy New Year!

9:30am Mass (160 people)	Eltham
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Saturday 2nd

6:00pm Mass (160 people)	Montmorency
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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.

Advent Reflections:

A taste of eternity

In the last of her meditations for the journey through to Christmas Eve, Sr Teresa White finds the prayers of the season lift us into the light of God's presence.

God comes into our everyday lives, into the peace and the turmoil, the joys and the sorrows, the hopes and the disappointments, and often this happens in a gentle, low-key kind of way through prayer. The Mission of the Messiah, the Anointed One, whose coming we await in Advent, is to give good news to the poor, to open the eyes of the blind, to set captives free, to bind up hearts that are broken, to comfort those who mourn. As followers of Jesus, we share that mission, and praying is an important part of it.

Prayer, its practice, its essence and its spirit, crosses all faith boundaries. Some years ago, listening to "Thought for the Day" one morning in December, I heard Professor Mona Siddiqui, a Muslim, say that prayer was "a taste of eternity, where Heaven and earth meet". I was so struck by her words that I wrote them in my notebook - which is why I am able to quote them here (accurately, I hope). For me, they express something important about praying during the season of Advent. I have often noticed that our liturgical prayer at this time has a distinctive tone, a unique quality, which I would readily call "a taste of eternity". I have found that this is also true of personal prayer in Advent, for it is a special time, when "Heaven and earth meet". God lifts us from the darkness within us to the light of his presence, from despair and depression to hope and love, from anxiety and bewilderment to a refreshing serenity, from the fears of today to the hopes of tomorrow.

In Advent, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of Jesus Christ, our longing naturally finds expression in the hymns and prayers and readings of the season. In particular, those beautiful poetic prayers we call the "O Antiphons", which appear in the office of Vespers and are also used as the Alleluia verses at Mass from 17 to 23 December, offer a focus for our Advent meditation. These verses carry that "taste of eternity" that Mona Siddiqui referred to. Calling on the Messiah as Wisdom (*Sapientia*), our prayer is that Christ will teach us the way of truth, for he governs all things with a strong yet tender care. We pray to him as Lord God (*Adonai*), begging him to keep us safe as we try to follow God's ways and learn to act justly, according to God's will. As Root of Jesse (*Radix Jesse*), we ask him for freedom, praying that he will let nothing keep him from coming to our aid in times of trouble and adversity. We address him as Key of David (*Clavis David*), praying that he will break down barriers, marking a new beginning for a divided world. As Dayspring (*Oriens*), we beg him to lead those who live in darkness into the light of God's presence. We ask him as Ruler of Nations (*Rex Gentium*) to set free the whole human race, giving us a vision of global peace and sharing, and opening our hearts to one another. And finally, we pray that as God-with-us (*Emmanuel*), the hope of nations and our Saviour, he will bless the whole of Creation with his love.

The Medieval Church, with its love of every kind of symbolism, delighted in the two-word acrostic formed by the initial letters of these seven messianic titles as found in the original Latin text. Read from the last letter to the first, a short sentence is formed: ERO CRAS. In English, it means I WILL BE (*ero*) [THERE] TOMORROW (*cras*).

This is the final Advent message - and how fitting it is for Christmas Eve!

Sr Teresa White



Prayers of the Faithful for 20 December 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Celebrant: We bring the prayers of community to the Lord as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. With humble hearts let us pray.

We pray for our Church leaders, especially Pope Francis, Fr Michael & Fr Terry: may the birth of the baby Jesus be a time of rebirth and renewal in our church of today.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who will celebrate Christmas in isolation or separated from families due to the Covid virus. As this pandemic continues to reshape our daily lives, we give thanks for all those who work towards keeping communities safe and healthy as this health crisis continues across our world.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for peace among Nations and that everyone on earth has enough food and water to live. We remember all those who are displaced, and those struggling to survive in famine stricken countries.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our school children and school leavers: as the school year has now ended we pray that the joy of school, learning and friendships can be renewed in the coming year. We pray that the challenges of this year have strengthened our children and brought new ways of learning and developing.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all families, as they share celebrations on Christmas Day may each family pause and reflect on the unique gift of family. May we continue to share the bond of love between family members throughout the year.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick in mind, body or spirit. May our Advent prayers bring comfort and the promise of rebirth and healing.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died, *Geoff Bunton, Lovely Cabral & Gary van Summersen*, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Jack Beckford, Vito Capuana, Peter Carbone & Bernie Farrell*, may they come to enjoy eternal glory in God's kingdom.

Lord, hear us. Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Almighty God, prepare our hearts with your grace, that like Mary, we may be a worthy dwelling place for your Son. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Thank you from St Vincent de Paul Eltham Conference

The Eltham Conference of SVdP wishes to gratefully acknowledge the receipt of food donations from all sources.

The ready availability of a store of food enables us to quickly respond to emergency calls for assistance.

The generous continuing support of Our Lady Help of Christians School and Parish community with food and monetary donations joins us all in the charitable works of St Vinnies.

Please note:
We have now ***sold out***
of all Christmas Cards and Calendars
Thank you!



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Live-Stream Masses

Time has come to say goodbye! Being able to bring live-stream Masses to you at home during lockdown we hope has helped you, on what has been a long and difficult journey.

Many of you have thanked us and told us how it helped nourish your faith and feel connected to each other in the Parish Community. It has been our absolute pleasure to be able to serve you in this way. We will have live-stream Mass this Sunday at 8:30am from St Francis Xavier, and our last will be on Christmas Day, also at 8:30am from St Francis Xavier.

So, from Frs Terry & Michael, Gerard, Carlos & Patsy, God bless each of you and may your celebrations of the birth of Christ fill your hearts with overwhelming love and joy. Stay safe and well... we'll see you in Church!

We leave the steps below this one last time 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)

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.



Reflection

Since the gospel of Mark gives no account of how Jesus came to be born, the lectionary turns to the gospel of Luke for today's Mass. The passage chosen - that of the annunciation - recurs often on feast days of Mary but, surprisingly, is only heard on Sunday once every three years, on this fourth Sunday of Advent.

After first focusing on the end times, then on John the Baptist, Advent finally encourages us explicitly to prepare for the birth of the Saviour. The story of the annunciation is very familiar, so much so that it may be useful to find fresh insight from some of the masterpieces of art it has inspired. Luke's narrative is a work of art in its own right. He draws on ancient traditions to craft an account of something that is unimaginably new. This son of David will be Son of God.

Luke invites us to contemplate the scene once more and wonder at the interplay of divine initiative and human response, of grace and nature. He also drops a hint of the great mystery that lies ahead: Mary's response - "let what you have said be done to me" - will find its counterpart in Jesus' prayer - "not my will but yours be done" - in the garden of Gethsemane.

Break Open the Word 2021

Baptisms

This weekend we welcome to:



Montmorency Parish Community on Saturday at 10am:
Matilda Victoria Mihocic, daughter of Cory & Emma

Eltham Parish Community on Saturday at 11am:
Abigail Paula Margherita Ballerini, daughter of Steven & Bianca



Montmorency Parish Community on Sunday at 11am:
Theodore John Licciardi, son of Ross & Olga

Eltham Parish Community on Sunday at 12noon:
Charli Kelly Owen, daughter of Anthony & Elizabeth



Montmorency Parish Community on Sunday at 1pm:
Sonny Rhys Burke, son of Rhys & Laura

and

Eltham Parish Community on Sunday at 2pm:
Sofia Margaret Tabacco, daughter of Marcus & Jane



We pray for *Matilda, Abigail, Theodore, Charli, Sonny & Sofia*, their parents & Godparents.
May God keep them always in His love.