

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.



Standing Still, Moving the World

Theme: Contemplation and Action Summary

Tuesday, December 29, 2020

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM

Give me a place to stand, and I will move the whole earth with a lever. - Archimedes

Archimedes (c. 287-c.212 BCE), a Greek philosopher and mathematician, noticed that if a lever was balanced in the correct place, on the correct fulcrum, it could move proportionally much greater weights than the force actually applied. He calculated that if the lever stretched far enough and the fulcrum point remained fixed close to the Earth, even a small weight at one end would be able to move the world at the other.

The fixed point is our place to stand. It is a contemplative stance: steady, centred, poised, and rooted. To be contemplative, we have to have a slight distance from the world to allow time for withdrawal from business as usual, for contemplation, for going into what Jesus calls our “private room” (Matthew 6:6). However, in order for this not to become escapism, we have to remain quite close to the world at the same time, loving it, feeling its pain and its joy as our pain and our joy. The fulcrum, that balancing point, must be in the real world.

True contemplation, the great teachers say, is really quite down to earth and practical, and doesn't require life in a monastery. It is, however, an utterly different way of receiving the moment, and therefore all of life. In order to have the capacity to “move the world”, we need some distancing and detachment from the diversionary nature and delusions of mass culture and the false self. Contemplation builds on the hard bottom of reality—as it is—without ideology, denial, or fantasy.

Unfortunately, many of us don't have a fixed place to stand, a fulcrum of critical distance, and thus we cannot find our levers, or true “delivery systems”, as Bill Plotkin calls them, by which to move our world. We do not have the steadiness of spiritual practice to keep our sight keen and alive. Those who have plenty of opportunities for spiritual practice—for example, those in monasteries—often don't have an access point beyond religion itself from which to speak or to serve much of our world. We need a delivery system in the world to provide the capacity for building bridges and connecting the dots of life.

Some degree of inner experience is necessary for true spiritual authority, but we need some form of outer validation, too. We need to be taken seriously as competent and committed individuals and not just “inner” people. Could this perhaps be what Jesus means by being both “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16)? God offers us quiet, contemplative eyes; and God also calls us to prophetic and critical involvement in the pain and sufferings of our world—both at the same time. This is so obvious in the life and ministry of Jesus that I wonder why it has not been taught as an essential part of Christianity.

Richard Rohr, www.cac.org

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.





Let us pray for all those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith ...

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Edward Smal

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Pat Heagerty, Walter Lee

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House 9435 2178 or eltham@cam.org.au.

Collections last weekend: 3 Jan 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$540.00	\$2,624.55
Montmorency	\$1,225.00	\$4,548.00

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>

Rosters:

Week ending 17 January

Montmorency

Said, Mike & Marie

ASRC

Eltham

Frediani, Gabriella

Altar Society

Scannell Family

Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 9th

6:00pm Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

Sunday 10th

8:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

Tuesday 12th

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

Wednesday 13th

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

Thursday 14th

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery

Montmorency

Friday 15th

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

Saturday 16th

6:00pm Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

Sunday 17th

8:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Evelyn

Montmorency

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist 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 with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'



Reflection

Marks' gospel is unique in comparison with the other three. He offers no account of Jesus' origins or birth but launches straight into the preaching of John the Baptist and his mission of preparing for the Messiah. Without any further ado he reports the baptism of Jesus. The account he gives is brief and direct. He is the only gospel-writer to say plainly that Jesus was baptised.

The three verses in which Mark narrates the event are extraordinarily rich. They allude to momentous stories in the Jewish tradition: creation, Noah and the flood, Moses on the holy mountain, Isaiah's suffering servant, the anointed kings of Israel. They also connect with pivotal moments in the mission of Jesus - his transfiguration and his prayer in the garden of Gethsemane - and anticipate the several outpourings of the Spirit in the Acts of the Apostles, beginning with Pentecost.

There is much to ponder, not only about the identity and mission of Jesus, but about our own as the community of the baptised.

Break Open the Word 2021

ASRC Food Collection and Deliveries have started for 2021!

Most-needed food and groceries are as follows:

Tuna in oil, 400g Tinned tomatoes, 400g
Coconut cream Sweet or savoury biscuits
Honey Full cream UHT milk, 1 litre
Black tea bags Instant coffee
Soap bars Toothbrushes: *adult single or twin*
Tinned vegetable: *peas, corn, carrots*
Tinned legumes: *chickpeas, lentils*
red, black & white beans
Unsalted nuts: *almonds, cashews, walnuts*
Spices: *turmeric, chilli cumin*
Pasta 500g packs: *penne, spirals, shells*
Buy sanitary pads through [Tsuno](#)



RECONCILIATION

available upon request
please call the Parish Office 9435 2178