



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.



Australia Day

Reflect. Respect. Celebrate.

Nonviolence Works

How is it that many Christians have managed to avoid what Jesus actually taught? We've evaded major parts of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7): the Beatitudes, Jesus' warning about idolizing "mammon", his clear directive and example of nonviolence, and his command to love our enemies. I never see the Beatitudes on courthouse lawns. Perhaps we think his teaching is nice in theory but impractical in real life. Perhaps we do not believe nonviolence can actually effect real change.

A few years ago, people from around the world came together in Rome to discuss the Catholic commitment to peace. Marie Dennis writes: "One person after another shared how violence in his or her own experience, failed, and how nonviolence overcame violence". Pope Francis is helping reclaim Jesus' teachings on peace. Dennis continues:

He is saying that nonviolence is effective in the real world of politics - in fact superior to and more effective than violence. The world never gets to peace through violence and war but only begets more violence and war...

[One] active peacemaker the pope points to is Leymah Gbowee, the [2011] Nobel prize winner from Liberia... She organised pray-ins and nonviolent protests that resulted in high-level peace talks to end the second civil war in Liberia... The contributions of such women as Gbowee in Liberia and Marguerite Barankitse in Burundi are showing the way to the eventual cessation of violence and the dawning of peace...

In their book *Why Civil Resistance Works*, Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan write about the effectiveness of nonviolence, drawing from examples in Iran, Palestine, the Philippines, and Burma. Based on in-depth research, they observe that nonviolent resistance is "nearly twice as likely to achieve full or partial success as their violent counterparts". Nonviolent campaigns have greater participation, loyalty, resilience, innovation, and civic impact than violent one. While surprising, there's plenty of evidence that the very thing we consider foolish confounds the wise and that the powerless confound the powerful (see 1 Corinthians 1:27).

One reason for our failure to understand Jesus' clear teaching on nonviolence lies in the fact that the Gospel has primarily been expounded by a small elite group of educated European and North American men. The bias of white males is typically power and control. From this perspective nonviolence and love of enemies makes no sense whatsoever.

Because we Christians haven't taken Jesus' teaching and example seriously, much of the world refuses to take us seriously. "Christians love to talk of a new life," critics say, "but the record shows that you are afraid to live in a new way - a way that is responsible, caring, and nonviolent. Even the common 'pro-life movement' is much more pro-birth than about caring for all life - black and brown lives, refugees, the poor, the sick, immigrants, LGBTQIA people, the environment." In fact, many "pro-lifers" I know are the first in line to oppose any gun regulation.

I'm grateful that Christianity is finally becoming much more universal in its teaching, more effective in its action, and just more honest about Jesus.

Fr Richard Rohr, OFM

<https://cac.org/nonviolence-works-2019-08-22/>

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:

Gaetano Zappulla, remembering his 72nd birthday & one month anniversary of his passing will be celebrated at the 8:30am Mass at St Francis Xavier

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Alma Crimmins, John Skehill

Joan Stanhope remembering the first anniversary of her passing at the 8:30am Mass at St Francis Xavier

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Charles Burda, Carmel Corera, Gavan O'Connell, Janina Vreeszcz

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Violetta, Christine Scott, Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zylevicz

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

Collections last weekend: 17 Jan 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$176.00	\$553.40
Montmorency	\$879.00	\$682.25

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

Rosters: Week ending 31 January

Montmorency

Ramsdale, Sue & John ASRC

Eltham

Dunell, Linda Altar Society

Saltamacchia, Carmel Altar Society

Zavadil Family Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 23rd

6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Sunday 24th

8:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Rose Montmorency

Tuesday 26th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Wednesday 27th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Thursday 28th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

Friday 29th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Saturday 30th

6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Sunday 31st

8:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Sammy & Zak Montmorency

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his Brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.



Reflection

In rapid succession the opening verses of Mark's gospel deal with the preaching of John the Baptist and the baptism and the testing of Jesus. Today we hear about the start of Jesus' public ministry. It begins under the shadow of the cross, "after John had been arrested". At the outset Mark wants to warn his readers that Jesus will be a suffering Messiah. All the same, Jesus' first words, his manifesto, are full of promise: "The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News".

Immediately Jesus calls disciples to be associated with him in his mission. In contrast to the account that we heard from John's gospel last Sunday, this is the more familiar story of the call of the fishermen, Simon and Andrew, and James and John.

The reading is relatively short but full of action. In Mark's gospel Jesus and his disciples are constantly on the move. There is no time to waste, for "the kingdom of God is close at hand"

Break Open the Word 2021

Part-Time Cook Position



The Marist Community of Templestowe is seeking someone to prepare & cook evening meals 2 weekdays for the Brothers.

For further information contact Br Mark on 9846 6249.



Baptism

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

Rose Renée McKenzie
daughter of Mark & Rachelle

We pray for Rose, her parents & Godparents.
May God keep them always in His love.

RECONCILIATION

available upon request
please call the Parish Office 9435 2178