

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.

Homily - Fr Terry

Holiday time has come to its close and here we are back in action, wondering how this year 2021 will turn out. Schools are back, and hopefully the year takes off with new energy and vision. We wonder how this year will be with the virus and how well we will be able to contain it. How will we respond to the vaccine and will we be able to have more connection with each other, without the burdens of social isolation?

What will our parish look like as we make our way through this year? Will our groups and meetings return to some kind of regular pattern? What about our week-end Masses? We realise that many parishioners have not returned to Sunday/Saturday night Mass and we hope of course that they will find their way back.

We don't know how this year will unfold and in the uncertainty, perhaps there's an anxiety that lives within many of us. We don't want to get too optimistic and we are not willing to plan too much in case it all gets reversed, because there's another outbreak of the virus.

So how do we approach Parish life as we step into this new year? Of course we have to follow the rules and obey the laws that protect our safety and the safety of others. Maybe it's still too early to call but how can our Parish find the way forward.

It's at a crisis time that a parish or indeed any community has to ask, what is our vision? What is the reason for our existence? Why do we think Parish is important?

We can say, friendship, and that's certainly true. So many of us have formed beautiful friendships in this community.

We can say we come here to pray and the Eucharist is central to our faith life. Hopefully many of us will say we really appreciate the way we celebrate Eucharist here.

We can say we come because the Parish has opportunities for us to be involved in various activities that enliven us and help us to be more compassionate.

Whatever we say, let's reflect on that Gospel today where Jesus is in a public setting, in a synagogue in the town of Capernaum. Let's see if we can find some word of inspiration for us today as we look to being parish this year.

We are told that *"Jesus' teaching made a deep impression on the people because unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority"*.

What would Jesus have been teaching? We can well imagine him re-interpreting the Jewish Tradition with wonderful insight. We can imagine him telling some parables. Jesus had an amazing gift of storytelling and we only have to think of stories like the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan to know this.

And then something unexpected happens. A man with an unclean spirit shouts out, *"What do you want with us Jesus of Nazareth"*. Did Jesus insist on this man being thrown out of the synagogue? Not at all. He healed the man.

So what is this teaching that is new? It's a teaching that proclaims God of unconditional love. A teaching that accepts everyone. A teaching that brings healing. And people in the synagogue that day, apart from the scribes, experienced Jesus speaking with authority.

We look to our own place of gathering in this Church of ours. Whatever the year holds for our Parish, let's remember our foundation is in Jesus Christ. We are to listen to his teaching in the Word of Scripture, and when we take Eucharist, we are to be like him in our way of life. Everyone is to be welcome here. God of unconditional love is to be proclaimed here and we are to be agents of healing in the way we reach out to people, not only in our community, but way beyond, in our care and compassion for others.



St Margaret's Pitt Street are returning to 8.15am Saturday meditation **this weekend** (30th January). There is an obvious shift in our church to guide us towards silence and meditation. You will have realised our schools are bringing it into their RE programs and maybe you've noticed our priests, Michael, Terry & Barry, have asked us to sit still for some moments... just to be still and silent! You are welcome to join me and a few of our parishioners at St Margaret's tomorrow. I've included a link for you to watch and listen to the wonderful Indian, Jesuit priest, Anthony de Mello. No-one could explain meditation better than he.
<https://youtu.be/TqT6Eazwq7A> Trish 0402 914 817

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:

Patricia Meaney, (mother/in-law of Joan & Paul Galea)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Annie Gatt, John Longton, Immacolata Mustica

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:

David Neil McCormack,
(father/in-law Pauline & Mark Turnbull)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Chris Mullens

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 | \$636.00 | \$594.60 |
| Montmorency | \$759.00 | \$539.95 |

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 7 February

Montmorency

Hannon, Kevin & Genni

ASRC

Eltham

Dhanasen Family

Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Hall, Vali

Altar Society

Milwain, Gianna

Altar Society

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

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

Tuesday 2nd February

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

Wednesday 3rd

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

Thursday 4th

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery

Montmorency

Friday 5th

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

Saturday 6th

6:00pm Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

Sunday 7th

8:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Harvey

Eltham

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Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.



Reflection

Mark wastes no time drawing us into the hurly-burly of Jesus' ministry. No sooner has Jesus summoned the four fishermen to follow him than he is fully engaged in the two activities that most characterise his ministry in Mark: teaching and healing. More than that, he does both with power and authority. His teaching has the full force of authenticity, and his healing word is dramatically effective.

Curiously, Mark notes that this first ministry of Jesus takes place on the Sabbath but records no controversy about Jesus' conducting an exorcism on this day of rest. He will turn to the issue of Jesus' actions on the Sabbath and the debate they stirred up a little later on.

A recurring theme in Mark is the wilful unbelief of the disciples. By contrast those who recognise Jesus as God's holy one are the unclean spirits and outsiders. Time and again Mark will confront us with the question of who Jesus is.

Break Open the Word 2021



Baptism

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

Zak Flynn Ayton
son of Rik & Kiera

And

Sammy Benson Gardiner
son of James & Bridie

We pray for *Zak & Sammy*,
their parents & Godparents.
May God keep them always in His love.

RECONCILIATION

available upon request
please call the Parish Office 9435 2178