

# 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.



## A Time to Listen - A Time to Chat - A Time to Pray



Dear Parishioners & Friends of St Francis Xavier, Montmorency & Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham

These are sensitive days, as we continue to adjust to a CovidSafe way of life, knowing that serious changes to our daily routine might occur at any time! ( What to do? )

It is my intention to still open up the '**Season of Lent**' to some opportunities for our Catholic Communities to come together to 'Listen & Chat & Pray' regarding any anxieties, concerns and hopes for our present & future as two vibrant local communities. These gatherings are important occasions to participate and hear from parishioners and thus continue to walk together in Faith and Love - as our future is not yet clear, given these terrible Covid19 era in which we live.

With this in mind and given our weekend timetable of Masses & Baptisms, I am going to suggest that Sundays at 1pm be our start time at SFX and OLHC.

Starting on the:

- **First Sunday of Lent ( February 21st. ) in the SFX Parish Hall - 1pm**
- **Second Sunday of Lent ( February 28th. ) in the Gathering Area, OLHC Church - 1pm**

These gatherings are important occasions to "Listen and Chat & Pray".

Should we need more opportunities to consider our future and seek answers then:

- **Third Sunday of Lent ( March 7th. ) in the SFX parish Hall - 1pm**
- **Fourth Sunday of Lent ( March 14th. ) in the Gathering Area, OLHC Church - 1pm**

Beyond these important opportunities to gather in a CovidSafe way - a time to pray and symbolise these meetings could be realised as we move into Holy Week:

- **Fifth Sunday of Lent ( March 21st. ) at the SFX parish Hall - 1pm**
- **Palm Sunday ( March 28th. ) at the Foyer OLHC Church - 1pm**

So, an opportunity is now being offered to the Catholic Communities of Montmorency & Eltham to get together - some 3 times during Lent, to Listen, to Chat and to Pray in response to these Covid days and our future possibilities as we move forward.

If you are available, please consider these dates and times - warmest thanks,

*Michael*



## PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION

### OUR PEOPLE & OUR CONTACT DETAILS



#### Parish Priests

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum  
[terry.kean@cam.org.au](mailto:terry.kean@cam.org.au)

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator  
[michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au](mailto:michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au)

Barry Caldwell

#### Parish Office

86 Mayona Road  
9435 2178  
Mon - Fri 9am-3pm  
[montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au)

Kate Kogler:  
Parish Secretary  
[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

Gina Ang:  
Pastoral Worker &  
Caring Group Co-Ord—**Eltham**  
[gina.ang@cam.org.au](mailto:gina.ang@cam.org.au)

Peter Williams:  
Child Safety Officer  
[SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)  
Website:  
[www.pol.org.au/montmorency](http://www.pol.org.au/montmorency)  
[www.pol.org.au/eltham](http://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](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

#### Schools

**St Francis Xavier Primary School**  
Principal: Mr Philip Cachia: 9435 8474  
[principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

**Holy Trinity Primary School**  
Principal: Mr Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888  
[principal@htelthamnths.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@htelthamnths.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.htelthamnths.catholic.edu.au](http://www.htelthamnths.catholic.edu.au)

**Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School**  
Principal: Mr Chris Ray: 9439 7824  
[school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)  
[www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)



"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'" - Mark 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus makes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what He wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.



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

#### Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

*Tony Henderson*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Marika Deylen, Eileen Frawley, Verna Maloney,  
Mariano Dalla Riva, Antonina Salvatore,  
Grace Catherine Vincent,  
Richard, Eileen & Eva Zann*

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:  
*Violetta, Christine Scott, Ibyszek Wojciechovski,  
Sylwek Zylevicz*

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House  
9435 2178 or [eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au).



#### **Baptism**

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

**Harvey Alexander Johnstone**  
son of Robert & Amy

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



#### RECONCILIATION

available upon request  
please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

#### Collections last weekend: 31 Jan 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	\$551.25	\$860.40
Montmorency	\$579.00	\$633.45

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



## Parish Rosters to Restart Soon

### What do I have to do to volunteer?

As we tentatively emerge from the COVID-19 lockdown, preparations are underway to reintroduce the parish rosters for all the volunteer roles, on which we rely so heavily to enrich our parish.

We are very grateful for the valued support that all our volunteers have given and hopefully will continue to give over the coming years. Without the wonderful support you provide, we would not be such lively and inclusive parishes or able to undertake such a broad range of service.

Our parishes have a commitment to safeguarding children and young people from abuse. This extends to clergy, employees and volunteers within both parishes, regardless of their role or level of responsibility or involvement.

As you are aware it is now mandatory that anyone wishing to volunteer in either parish must hold a current Working with Children Check or VIT registration that nominates one of our parishes. Also, to have read and signed the 2021 Parish Code of Conduct Declaration. It is important to note that if you have a current Working with Children Check Card you must have nominated one of our parishes as a place in which you volunteer. Once you have done that, the Parish Office will be formally notified by the Working with Children Check Victoria.

It is essential to understand that it is no longer possible to undertake a volunteer role within our parishes or indeed any parish in Australia if you have not complied with these Child Safety requirements.

Copies of the Policies and the 2021 Code of Conduct Declaration can be found on both parish websites. In addition, printed copies are available in the parish office. Please contact the Parish office if you need assistance or have any questions about these requirements.

To apply for or amend your Working with Children Check/VIT registration, the links to the following Websites may assist:

To apply for a Working with Children Check:

[https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply#Complete\\_online\\_application](https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/applicants/how-to-apply#Complete_online_application)

To renew your Working with Children Check:

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/current-cardholders/renew-my-card>

To add the parish to your current Working with Children Check:

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/individuals/current-cardholders/update-my-details>

To add the parish to your VIT:

<https://service.vic.gov.au/services/teachers-notifications/>

Signed copies of the Code of Conduct Declaration can be left in the church foyers or at the parish office.

**Peter Williams**

Child Safeguarding Officer.



There are as many reasons to pray as there are people. But as one of the world's best-loved Christian writers explains, all are different ways of responding to an invitation from God / **By James Martin**

# Nine reasons to pray

**Why Pray?** Let me suggest the **first reason:** *God wants to be in a relationship with you.* How can you know this? Because you want to pray. And how do I know that? Because you're reading this.

That may sound sarcastic, but it's not. There's a serious point here: your desire for prayer reveals something about how God created you. Deep within you is a natural desire to communicate with God, to share yourself with God, to have God hear your voice, or, more basically, to encounter God. Deep within you is a longing to be in a relationship with God. So you long to pray.

You may doubt many things when it comes to prayer. You may doubt that you'll be able to pray. You may doubt that God wants to communicate with you. You may even doubt God's existence. But you cannot doubt that you feel a desire for prayer. After all, you're reading this. So clearly something within you desires prayer.

Where does the desire for prayer come from? *From God.* The most common way God draws you closer is by placing within you the desire to be closer, the desire that drove you to think about prayer and to read this article. Strange as it sounds, your reading of these lines at this moment is a sign of God's call.

How else would God draw us closer, other than by planting a longing inside us? Once I saw a ceramic plaque in a retreat house that summed this up: "That which you seek is causing you to seek."

This insight is helpful to those beginning their journey of prayer because it helps them feel, even before they've started to pray, connected to God. It helps them to know that God has taken the initiative, that God is calling to them, that God *wants* them. It helps people take the first tentative steps toward God.

Many of us have felt that there is

more to life than what we know. We feel a sense of incompleteness. We long to feel complete, to be connected, to be satisfied, to *know*. Inside us are nagging feelings of longing, restlessness, and incompleteness that can be fulfilled only in a relationship with God. There is a hole in our hearts that only God can fill. Augustine put it best when he wrote: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord. And our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Your desire to pray is a sign that God desires you. It's an indication God is calling you. And that is perhaps the most important reason to pray. Not simply because you desire it, but because the desire is a sign of something else. You desire to pray because God desires it.

A **second reason** for prayer is a slight reframing of this. We pray because *we want to be in relationship to God.* That may sound obvious - of course we pray to be closer to God. But it's important to state that the aim of prayer is not simply physical relaxation, mindfulness, knowledge, or a connection to creation, as important as those things are. These are goals that many people mention when speaking about meditation. But the

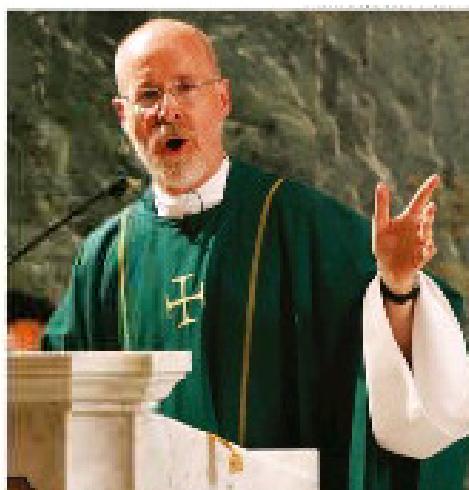


goal of prayer is closer union with God.

More basically, we pray because we love God. William Barry SJ writes: "The primary motive for prayer is love, first the love of God for us and then the arousal of our love for God." We pray to come to know God as well. "Who is God?" is an important question in the spiritual life. So are "Who is God for me?" and "Who am I before God?"

Prayer reminds us of our need for God. It reminds us that we are not the centre of the universe and that we are not God. Sometimes when things are going well, we can grow arrogant and complacent in our self-sufficiency. Prayer, which places us in the presence of God in an intentional way, reminds us of who is in charge, or rather who is nurturing us. Gerard W. Hughes writes in *God of Surprises*: "To begin prayer it is sufficient to acknowledge that I am not self-sufficient, that I am not the creator of myself and creation. If I can do this, then I acknowledge that there is some power - I may not know whether it is personal or not and may be in complete ignorance of its nature - greater than I."

This inevitably moves us to humility, as we realise more and more our need for God. Thomas Merton went further, saying that prayer is inseparable from humility. Humility, he said, "makes us realise that the very depths of our being and life are meaningful and real only in so



James Martin SJ pictured in 2019



far as they are oriented toward God as their source and their end."

A **third reason** is that *we have to*. If you're not used to praying, that may sound ridiculous, but once you start, you'll see that it can feel as natural as breathing. Our innate desire for God means we naturally crave a relationship with God. Prayer is an outgrowth of the human longing for the divine. In a sense, we can't *not* pray, because prayer is part of being human.

There are other reasons that prayer feels necessary. In the face of your problems, how can you not ask for help from your Creator? I've never met anyone who felt that his or her life was free of problems. So we pray for a **fourth reason**: *we are in need*.

A **fifth reason** is that *prayer helps us*. This may sound selfish, but it's another common motivation, similar to reasons for doing physical exercise. If you never get off the couch, you'll end up out of shape, and that will influence your overall physical condition; less exercise means more pulled muscles, perilous cardiovascular health, and greater stress. Not praying - not spending intentional time with God - means your spiritual life will be out of shape, even flabby, and that will influence the rest of your life. You'll probably be less grateful and thus more irritable, less connected to the deepest part of yourself and thus more scattered, less aware of your

reliance on God and thus more frightened. Prayer helps you.

On the rare days that I don't pray I feel of balance. And I always know why. Certainly I feel guilty that I've not spent time with God in an intentional way, but I also feel, to put it bluntly, worse. I'm more irritable, more distracted, less patient, and less able to maintain perspective on life. Even when prayer feels "dry" it helps me feel more connected to the centre of my being, which is God. Being centered in that way always means more perspective, because you know where you stand.

Prayer is also a way to *unburden* ourselves when we're feeling sad, angry, stressed or frustrated. That's a **sixth reason**. Often, after you have told God your problems, you feel less alone. God is always with you, but praying in this way is a great aid nonetheless. Sometimes I've stood up from prayer and said: "At least I know that God knows how I feel."

A **seventh reason** for prayer is that it helps us *praise God*. If you're a believer, you may wonder about the best way to express your gratitude. You can do good works, live a moral life, and help your fellow human beings. Those are fine ways to show your love in gratitude. As Ignatius Loyola says: "Love ought to show itself in deeds more than words." But it's just as important to say "thank you" to God. Prayer is one way of doing this. Simply resting in things you're grateful for is a way of giving thanks.

Prayer, however, is not a solitary act. This leads us to an **eighth reason: solidarity**. When we pray we are, consciously or unconsciously, expressing a connection to our brothers and sisters who also pray - even if they're not physically with us. Prayer in common is an essential aspect of the spiritual life. As social animals, we naturally find comfort and support in groups. Praising God in a group makes double sense: we naturally want to do it, and we naturally want to do it with others. Both are part of being human.

Whenever we pray, we are united with believers across the world who are lifting their hearts and minds to God. We are also united with those who have gone before us, who continue their prayers before God. This is one part of what Catholics mean by the "communion of saints".

A **ninth reason**: we pray to be *transformed*. This is somewhat different from praying to God for help - but it's related. Knowing that we are flawed and imperfect, many of us look to God to help us grow into better people. This is not to say that we are all terrible sinners or irredeemable reprobates. Rather, we

are all human beings in need of God's grace.

In my own life, that desire manifests itself especially during prayer. If I do something sinful, I am filled with a remorse that becomes more obvious when I spend time with God. A few years ago, I did something selfish that affected a friend. In my prayer the next day I saw how uncharitable it was and was moved to seek out my friend and apologise. I was also reminded of my need for God's grace and my desire for more charity. We might also become aware not of one particular sin, but of a general pattern in our lives, a place where we are unfree. We may ask for freedom from this in prayer.

There is a kind of petitionary prayer here too, but of a different nature. "Help me to be a better person, God" might be called a prayer of transformation.

Not long ago, I had been praying that God would change me in a particular way, and not much seemed to be happening. Then, suddenly, it was discovered that I would need some minor surgery. Lying in the hospital bed a few weeks later, tethered by tubes to various machines, I started to think about all the things I was hoping to change in my life: my flaws and failings, all the things I hoped God would change or eradicate. As I enumerated the things that were distracting me from being the person I wanted to become, they began to seem in a word, ridiculous. In other words, I saw the emptiness of whatever was moving me away from God.

During those days I felt God saying to me in prayer: "What kind of life do you want to lead?" It was not so much a matter of waiting for God to change me or remove my flaws; God was telling me that the change was largely up to me. It was a transformational moment, as it seemed to offer me freedom and reminded me of my own agency in life. Transformation is another reason for prayer.

That short list of reasons why people pray is by no means complete. There are as many reasons to pray as there are people. For now, let's say that there are many reasons to pray, chief among them that God is calling to you. It's as if God is saying: "Would you like to spend some time with me?"

Why not say yes?

Adapted from *Learning to Pray: A Guide for Everyone*, published next week by William Collins.

James Martin SJ is editor at large of America magazine, consultor to the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication, and author of numerous books, including *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*.

Rosters:	Week ending 14 February
<b>Montmorency</b>	
Maynes, Phil	GRDN
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
<b>Eltham</b>	
Frediani, Gabriella	Altar Society
Leahy, Colin & Mickey	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

### Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

#### **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

#### **Monday 8th**

9:30am Days for Girls

Montmorency

#### **Tuesday 9th**

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

#### **Wednesday 10th**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

#### **Thursday 11th**

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery

Montmorency

#### **Friday 12th**

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

#### **Saturday 13th**

6:00pm Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

#### **Sunday 14th**

8:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Rachel, Isobella, Maeve & Harriet

Montmorency

#### **Tuesday 16th**

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

#### **Wednesday 17th - Ash Wednesday**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

#### **Thursday 18th**

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery

Montmorency

#### **Friday 19th**

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

#### **Saturday 20th**

6:00pm Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

#### **Sunday 21st - First Sunday of Lent**

8:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: William, Audrey & Parker

Montmorency

1:00pm Listen & Chat & Pray

Montmorency

#### **Tuesday 23rd**

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

#### **Wednesday 24th**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

#### **Thursday 25th**

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery

Montmorency

#### **Friday 26th**

9:30am Mass (160 people)

Eltham

#### **Saturday 27th**

6:00pm Mass (160 people)

Montmorency

#### **Sunday 28th - Second Sunday of Lent**

### Parish House – Garden SOS

One day last week, we tackled the front garden of the Parish House. We did a reasonable job but as you can see much more needs to be done:

- one tree needs to be chopped before it crashes onto the roof and hits Fr. Terry or Fr. Michael
- the tree just outside the church window needs to be trimmed back

We are thinking of holding a working bee. If you are interested in helping it would be great to hear from you. Bring your own secateurs, or a digging fork, we would love to hear from anyone with a trailer or an electric saw, we can put them to good use!

Chocolate Tim-Tam biscuits will be provided for morning tea.

We are thinking of holding the garden working bee on **Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:30am**.

We will postpone the working bee if the forecast is predicted to be over 30 degrees.

Please leave your name at the presbytery if you can help.

Hope to hear from you.

*Marisa Capuana and Virginia Jackson*



### Pope Francis declares 2021 the Year of Saint Joseph

2021 marks the 150th anniversary of the Church's declaration of Saint Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church. In honour of this anniversary, Pope Francis, has declared 2021 as the Year dedicated to Saint Joseph.

[Click here to read more](#)

[Click here to read a letter from Pope Francis](#)



## THE PARISH OF ST FRANCIS XAVIER, MONTMORENCY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

The commitment and involvement with the Philippines continues in the Parish of St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, involving parishioners and the schools of St Francis Xavier, Montmorency and Holy Trinity, Eltham North.

From a parish/parishioners point of view donations of aid and taking up sponsorship of children has been, and continues to be, a massive help for extremely poor families in Cebu, Philippines. The program is Co-ordinated by Kadasig Aid & Development Inc, a voluntary group, working to make a difference in the lives of many families in Cebu, Philippines. The cost of sponsoring a child is \$260 per year. This covers a school uniform, school shoes, school needs, school bag and for some there is money for transport and basic medical care if required. Child Development and support seminars and extra classes at the weekend are part of supporting the young people.

St Francis Xavier Primary, Montmorency, and Holy Trinity Primary, Eltham North, are members of the Friendship School program that Kadasig Aid & Development Inc (KAID) operates to assist children and teachers in schools with extremely poor facilities. Our schools here collect educational and teacher supplies and send them to their Friendship School. They also conduct such things a free dress day, mini fete and social action days for example to raise money to send the special balikbayan boxes of goodies. What a help this is for so, so many! The average number of students in each class in Cebu is approximately 40-50 students. Currently we have 7 Friendship Schools making a great difference along with a Kinder.

Social outreach visits have taken place for both adults and students each with a parent over recent years. These are very special and allow those who are interested in learning about a Third World country and a near neighbour. They are conducted annually. These visits allow a grass roots experience of life in the Philippines.

KAID provides medical supplies to Val Smith-Orr OAM, of Triple B Care Projects based in Zambales north of Manila, Philippines. Val is an Australian nurse who has been working/volunteering in the Philippines for the past 15 years and provides free medical care and support to all with burns (very, very common sadly), co-ordinates the Australian Interplast team, children with cleft lip/palate and worming for thousands of children in many areas. We send toys and clothing of all ages as Val deals with many poor families.

Fr Shay Cullen, Columban priest, founder of PREDA Foundation, runs an organisation that we support. For Fr Shay we send school supplies, clothing, personal needs, games and sports equipment to mention a few items. Fr Shay has two Homes, one for young girls and another for young boys who have been sexually abused and maltreated, trafficked as well as being in adult jails – particularly the boys.

If you would like to assist in any way including sponsoring a child & family please contact **Glenys Gayfer**.

email: [papel-imports@bigpond.com](mailto:papel-imports@bigpond.com); mobile: 0411 196 395.

### **Pictures (top to bottom):**

- Loving and sharing – St Francis Xavier, Montmorency with Buhisan Elementary School, their Friendship School.
- One of many young children that Val cares for through her clinic Triple B Care Projects
- San Rafael Elementary students receiving school bags from their Friendship School, Holy Trinity Primary, Eltham North
- Unpacking donations for the children and young people in care with PREDA Foundation



## Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever, and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door, and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.



### Reflection

Mark's Jesus is constantly on the move. Again and again Mark makes reference to time and place to convey the dynamism of Jesus' mission. That's the case in today's gospel passage; the succession of times and places communicates an unmistakeable sense of urgency.

It's still the Sabbath when Jesus leaves the synagogue and goes to Simon Peter's house. There he cures Simon's mother-in-law. Then as evening falls he exercises his healing power on behalf of the locals who have respectfully waited until the Sabbath is over before bringing the sick and possessed to him.

Even the time Jesus spends in solitary prayer before dawn is but a short interlude before he must head off again to preach and heal "all through Galilee". Every episode in this first chapter of Mark exemplifies Jesus' campaign opener: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news".

**Break Open the Word 2021**

## Stamps

Thank you to all the people who donated their used stamps during 2020.

They have been sent off to the "*Mary MacKillop Today*" centre in Sydney where the nuns and volunteers will sort and prepare them for sale to raise funds for their many projects.

"*Mary MacKillop Today*" works with poor communities both in Australia and Internationally through "learning for life" programmes enabling access to learning opportunities in areas of education, health, financial inclusion and livelihoods. They share practical and essential life skills that enhance people's dignity across various stages of life and help develop self sufficiency.

For those who would like to know more about their work go to: [marymackilloptoday.org.au](http://marymackilloptoday.org.au)

Please keep the stamps coming into our collection box in the church foyer, the sale of them help support worthwhile causes.

When removing stamps from the envelopes please try and leave about a 1cm margin of envelope around the stamp where possible.

Get your friends or work places to start collecting also. The more the merrier!

Lita Lee



**Palms Australia**  
Reach Beyond

## The need is acute!

Low-income communities are not asking us for money or gifts. They reject degrading dependence. They want you to share your skills to help develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. The call is to all trades and professions to assist build the ability of their people and the capacity of their organisations. To properly prepare for a 2022 placement you do need to [enquire now](#).

**Find out more:**

**Ross House**, Mezzanine-Sue Healy Room  
247 Flinders Lane, MELBOURNE

**Saturday 20 February @ 10:00am**  
[palms.org.au](http://palms.org.au)

