

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.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Gwynneth Hannasky,
aunty of Kathleen & Peter Cantwell

Aileen Spriggs, Valerie Heath,
Brian O'Donohoe, husband of Sarah

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Jan Collins, Sheila Lee,

Madge McDonell, Aileen Moylan,

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, Fr Barry Caldwell, Vicki Jordan,

Lidia Marazzato, Christine Scott,

Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zylevicz

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

Baptisms



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

William Paul Ferrantino
son of Tim & Ashleigh

Audrey Mabel Kitney
daughter of Jared & Gabrielle

&

Parker Crue Davies
son of Robert & Jacinta

We pray for *William, Audrey & Parker*
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: 14 Feb 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
Eltham	<i>No collections were taken due to Lockdown</i>	
Montmorency		

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>

PROJECT COMPASSION

BE MORE

"Aspire not to have more,
but to be more."

- Saint Oscar Romero

DONATE NOW 

Homily

How did you find the five days of lockdown? For myself it was back to my house in North Caulfield and a very quiet time of living on my own. I'm glad we're out and about again.

Yet lockdown does give many of us a chance to think about life and reflect on what's happening within us. It's not altogether unlike Jesus in the Gospel today journeying into the wilderness and being alone for forty days and nights. We are told he was with the wild beasts and the angels looked after him.

We can say this is not the kind of wilderness we experience. Yes some of us have been to the wilds of Africa where we have seen the wild animals, but few if any of us have actually stayed with them for they are dangerous.

Is there however a different kind of wilderness for us to visit? Maybe Covid 19 times are a chance for us to be in another kind of wilderness. For the isolation many of us have experienced provide us with the chance to be alone. How do we listen for the Spirit of God in discerning what's happening in our inner selves? Isn't this also the invitation of Lent to go within ourselves and see where we are to make changes or renew our commitment to what really matters in our lives?

Many of us have at some time been on a retreat, a spiritual journey of some days, even weeks, in a quest to listen for the wisdom of the Spirit of God to guide us. We may have a spiritual guide to help us open up the stories of our lives as we ponder and pray to understand their meaning and invitation.

And in our alone times of Covid 19 or Retreat we find ourselves in a wilderness where there are wild beasts and angels. Not lions and tigers or the angels we see in the paintings of ancient churches.

Yet it is a wilderness where we will meet the demons of the heart, the wild beasts that threaten to overwhelm us. Let's just name a few. The demon of hard heartedness where we make judgments and blame people. Many of us just have to look at our family stories where we are so angry and will not even talk to someone who has hurt us. How to listen again and see an invitation to find compassion and forgiveness.

Or the demon of possessiveness where we are never really satisfied. We always want more. We're never really content with what we have. We see what other people have and it's like we have lost the enjoyment of life. How to listen again and find the gift of gratitude.

Or the demon of anxiety. We wake up in the early hours of morning and worry sometimes about the most trivial matters. Then during the day, we are thinking always about the future and not living the present moment. How to listen again and find a gift of peace.

Or the demon of loneliness. We are grieving and sadness and loss are our constant feelings. We've lost a very dear friend, even our soul mate in death and life will never be the same. How to listen again and find pathways into life where we can be so giving and loving.

There are many demons or wild beasts in the wilderness of our heart and we are to name them, even confront them or else they will keep tormenting us. And in the recognition and naming of what's in the wilderness of our heart, we like Jesus will meet angels to minister to us.

Maybe God sends us a good friend or a mentor or spiritual guide to be with us. Or it can be in little things when someone rings and asks how are you or makes a dinner for you. Or it may be in our silences we experience an inner strength and insight that is the angel of the Lord visiting our heart. Welcome to the angels who minister to us. **Terry**

Lent and Easter Pamphlets 2021

You may have noticed that the supermarkets have been preparing for Easter some 54 days ago from Boxing Day with Hot Cross buns and Easter Eggs on the shelves. Our parish faith community 40 days of preparation for the greatest feast of our faith – Easter will start this week with Ash Wednesday. This week the Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) highlight a selection of small booklets which may be of interest to parishioners and their families to help in their preparation for Easter. Here are just a few of the new titles:

- ***These 40 Days – Understanding the Symbols and Practices of Lent***
- ***Lent and Me***
- ***10 Creative Things kids can do for LENT***
- ***Fasting – A positive Approach***
- ***Family Meal Prayers for Lent***

Please note the booklets are now located on the wall next to the front door. Please feel free to browse these and other related booklets together with the many other topics of interest. We hope you enjoy the selection.

A gold coin donation in either of the St Vincent de Paul boxes at the front or side entrance to the church will help defray costs.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul through our conference, perhaps at our Vinnies shop in Briar Hill, or in some other administrative capacity? If so please contact Mike on 0417 221 245 or the Parish Office.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Many have turned to virtual worship in the pandemic but they miss the physical consecrated host. Could those taking part in Mass online also receive Communion? / By David Grumett

Unlock the tabernacles

Public worship in Scotland and Northern Ireland is suspended; in England and Wales, churchgoing is still allowed but may be ill-advised on health grounds, and in some church buildings Covid-secure worship is difficult. Many Catholics are therefore being deprived of the consecrated host.

Early in the pandemic, bishops in dioceses all over the world - for entirely understandable reasons - removed the obligation to attend the Eucharist on Sundays and holy days. Yet as the Scottish bishops have said, the "Sacramental encounter with the Lord" that the Eucharist provides is "necessary to spiritual wellbeing and ultimate salvation". When I worship and receive the consecrated host I enter, in solidarity with others, into graced communion through Christ with the living God. I do this because I want to, not because I am required to. At a time when bodies are viewed as infectious and are distanced, physical communion with and in Christ's life-giving body is tremendously important. In the host, physicality is redeemed.

Over the past ten months, organisations and businesses have found new ways to distribute their products and services; like many of us, I have received far more home deliveries than ever before. The Churches have been less imaginative, acting under the assumption that the consecrated host may only be received during the Eucharist, except when it is brought to the sick or house-bound. As recently as the 1950s, however, lay people received it before the Eucharist, after the Eucharist or on some other occasion. Devotional prayer before and after making one's communion stems from this tradition and was essential when not much else preceded or followed the act itself.

Receiving the consecrated host in church during the Eucharist in the company of others is now the norm, for good reason: it reminds us of our collective humanity and identity as Christians. However, as early as the Council of Nicaea in AD325, provision was made for it to be reserved so that a lay person could convey it to a dying person if no priest were immediately available for a Eucharist. Wherever they may be, communicants enter into



spiritual and physical solidarity with Christ and with other Christians. This is because the host, once consecrated, is always the symbol and sacrament of Christ's body, which, being risen and ascended, is not in multiple earthly locations but in a single heavenly place.

This would be a good time to remind ourselves of the many historical accounts of the consecrated host being taken out of church for distribution elsewhere, often by lay men and lay women, with the full approval of bishops and priests. The layman Tertullian and his wife, whose name is unknown, reserved it at home. The priest and theologian Jerome, who was a stickler on many matters, commended domestic reservation, providing it was done with spiritual seriousness. Basil of Caesarea gave it his episcopal endorsement, recognising it as normal among desert hermits and during persecution. The Byzantine monk John Moschos describes a woman calling at her neighbour's house for the host. More recently, lay leaders in the Soviet Union collected bundles of consecrated hosts from distant clergy, transported them by train at considerable personal risk and hid them in their houses to distribute during secret worship and in pastoral emergency.

Those carrying, reserving and distributing the host needed to act responsibly. Cyprian, when bishop of Carthage, was concerned that during its transit from church to home the host might pass through inappropriate locations. He advises its bearers to avoid brothels and theatres. John Moschos, in another story tells of a man bringing the host home but then forgetting about it and going on holiday. Such accounts suggest the risk of easy familiarity with a practice that was widespread. They do not, however, call into question the practice itself.

The phrase "house church" has come to indicate, for both its supporters and detractors, a form of Christian observance that sits loosely with traditional worship and understandings of "church". The pandemic provides an opportunity to show how wrong this can be. In online worship, I experience several things that have recently been unavailable in church yet are fundamental to participation and inclusion. I may come and go freely and sit where I wish. I may join in the singing. There are lay people reading and interceding. My two-year-old son may be present without infringing social distancing requirements. Any elderly or vulnerable people in my house-hold may safely join in too. Thanks to clever camera positioning, previously unnoticed features of the church interior are revealed to me and provoke prayerful contemplation. If I wish, I may attend virtual coffee afterwards and easily put usernames to faces.

But the participants in online worship miss the physical consecrated host. This need not always be the case. With care, reverence and imagination there may be ways of allowing those taking part in Mass online to receive Communion. Access to the consecrated host is not straightforward, due not least to the canonical requirement, which has been in force since the thirteenth century, that it be reserved under lock and key. This is motivated by an understanding of its sanctity, although another factor was the wish of church authorities to restrict access to the host to formal Eucharists at which clergy presided, and to stamp out uses of it that could be superstitious.

In the stories related earlier, lay ministers chosen for their piety and trustworthiness were permitted to receive and reserve the host. They did so in close cooperation with clergy and bishops, who advised and intervened in cases of lax practice. Special receptacles for the storage of the consecrated host are sometimes described, such as decorated boxes, suggesting that these lay people understood their obligations. Many of today's laity are trained ministers and stand ready to share in this vital pastoral ministry; at present, some are more available to help than they might normally be. While the health risks of gathering for Mass remain, the tabernacles should be unlocked and local lay networks established to distribute the host in Covid-secure ways.

David Grumett is senior lecturer in theology and ethics at the University of Edinburgh. His latest book is *Henri de Lubac and the Shaping of Modern Theology: A Read* (Ignatius Press, 2020).

Tuesday 16 February, 2021

To the Laity, Religious and Clergy
of the Archdiocese of Melbourne



Vaccine Program

We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor123

Dear Friends,

It is welcome news that the first batches of the Pfizer vaccine have arrived in Australia.

Soon the most vulnerable people in our country – our frontline workers and those at greatest risk – will receive their first dose against the COVID-19 virus.

I will be grateful to receive a vaccination when my turn in the staged roll-out comes around.

None of the vaccines are a cure for COVID-19, but indications are that they provide a significant measure of protection from the worst effects of the virus, for the time being.

For the common good, it is appropriate that our governments work together to roll out a nation-wide process of vaccination for all residents.

Likewise, for the common good, everyone should respect the decisions of individuals who, for medical, safety or moral reasons, are not ready to receive a vaccination immediately.

At this early stage in measuring the longer-term effectiveness and safety of each of the COVID-19 vaccines, calls for a 'No jab, no service' policy would be unjust.

The Catholic Bishops have already endorsed efforts to offer a vaccination as soon as possible to all who can safely receive one.

<https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/a-letter-to-the-faithful-regarding-development-of-a-covid-19-vaccine/#more-8597>

However, the Government has indicated that there is likely to be little, if any, choice as to which vaccine will be available to individuals in the shorter term.

This means that you can receive any one of the three vaccines to be made available, without moral complicity in the processes of its development. On balance, it is a good thing to do.

For anyone with health and safety concerns, please speak with your family doctor.

For anyone with ethical questions, please read the statement issued by the Vatican or speak with your Pastor.

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20201221_nota-vaccini-anticovid_en.html

I encourage the Australian government to do all it can to make a vaccine choice available to all residents in Australia as soon as possible, and offer the same care to our poorer neighbouring countries.

Please continue to pray for those impacted by this pandemic, and to work in whatever way you can to support your neighbour in need. The God of mercy and compassion is present to us all, through the tender heads, hearts and hands we offer to one another.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

Rosters:	Week ending 28 February
<i>Montmorency</i>	
Ramsdale, Sue & John	ASRC
<i>Eltham</i>	
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Rough Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

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

11:00am Funeral: Aileen Spriggs Montmorency

Thursday 25th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

11:00am Funeral: Valerie Heath Montmorency

Friday 26th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Saturday 27th

6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Sunday 28th - Second Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Florence, Joshua, Romeo & Neve Montmorency

1:00pm Listen & Chat & Pray Eltham

Monday 1st March

9:30am Days for Girls Montmorency

Tuesday 2nd

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Wednesday 3rd

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Thursday 4th

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

10:30am Mass at Garden Views Lower Plenty

Friday 5th - World Day of Prayer

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Saturday 6th

2:00pm Kadasig Aid & Development AGM Montmorency

6:00pm Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Sunday 7th - Third Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Charlie & Sophie Montmorency

1:00pm Listen & Chat & Pray 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

Our Lady Help of Christians Readers' Roster

We are drawing up the roster for Commentators and Readers for OLHC. We would like all those who have read in the past, or who would like to become a new volunteer, to fill out the form available in the Gathering Area after Mass.

Please print your name and contact number and whether you wish to be either a commentator or a reader. Please also indicate if you are willing to do both.

Please note that, in order to be a volunteer in the parish, you must hold a current Working with Children Check or a VIT registration, as explained in last week's bulletin. Details of how to apply for a WWC Check were also in that bulletin. Any queries regarding this process can be directed to Peter Williams at the Parish House, 9435 2178.

Kathleen Nolan
(0432 391 105)

BOOKS! BOOKS! BOOKS!



Okay, I've finally got my act together and spent 3+ hours culling the library of 60 books and putting in 12 new ones.

Pope Francis' new book: **Let Us Dream**, is the book for February and is found on the top shelf [get to know your leader]. I've updated the catalogue too.

As we approach Lent I've placed a few booklets on the top shelves of the smaller of the book cases that may enrich your journey. I've included a book to help negotiate Mark's Gospel, as Fr Michael says we'd do well to read it.

If you've still got books to return please do so.

Furthermore, The Prayer Shawl ladies have a 'book-share-shelf' under the children's display of books on the other wall. I noticed several great books to borrow there, including Janine Shepherd's *Dare to Fly* [a lesson in resilience] and *The People Smuggler* [described as the Oscar Schindler of Asia] and the book that won the Premier's award last year: Written on his phone while detained on Manus, Behrouz Boochani's *No Friend But the Mountains*. He has a home now in New Zealand thanks to Jacinda Ardern.





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**

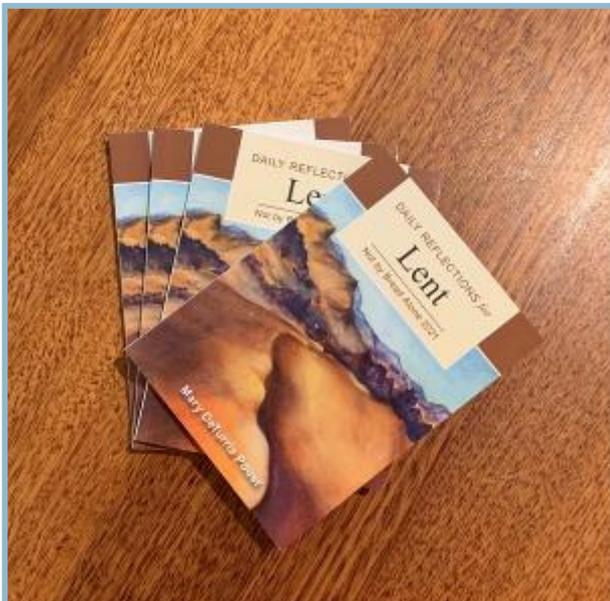
Beyond these important opportunities to gather in a CovidSafe way - a time to pray and symbolise these meetings could be realised as we move into Holy Week:

- **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



Daily Reflections for Lent

Now available in the Gathering Area at
Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham &
St Francis Xavier, Montmorency

“Give yourself permission to be less than perfect. We are not striving for perfection but for a prayer practice that will become like a well-worn sweater, something we long to put on when we roll out of bed, when we get home from work, when we just need to feel safe.”~ Mary DeTurris Poust

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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.'



Reflection

The story of Jesus' testing in the wilderness is found in all three synoptic gospels so we hear it every year in the course of the three year cycle. Today we hear from Mark. His account is very brief and matter-of-fact in comparison with the longer versions in Matthew and Luke. These two have much in common, as well as distinct emphases of their own. Comparing them all carefully is a rewarding exercise.

Mark seems to offer us no more than bare bones but each phrase in these few verses is full of meaning. Almost every word has rich associations. Consider "Spirit", "drove", "wilderness", and "fort days", just for a start. They conjure up the whole history of God's people of old, now culminating in the emergence of a new and authoritative prophet.

Mark's brevity allows us to hear the direct connection between Jesus' testing in the wilderness and the inauguration of his mission. We heard Jesus' clarion call some Sundays ago, but it is all to the good that we hear it again at the onset of this season of repentance and renewal.

Break Open the Word 2021



First Sunday of Lent
21st February 2021



Jamila, 22, is a Rohingya woman living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. She was forced to flee the armed conflict in Myanmar to save herself, her elderly mother and her eight-month-old baby.



With the support of Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila was able to access emergency food and shelter. She also received counselling, emotional support, and learnt sewing skills to help her earn an income.

Jamila now feels less alone, with a sense of community around her. She is able to 'Be More' to her little family. "Thank you, and thanks Caritas Australia," Jamila says.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God..." - Mark 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfil His plan for us.

