# 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.

# Francis in Iraq - Force for Peace

Pope Francis' extraordinary visit to war-weary Iraq, now safely completed, sums up his pontificate in two remarkable ways. He went to bring succour and support to the remaining Christian communities, among the oldest in the world, which had suffered grievous persecution at the hands of Islamic State (IS). He was the Good Shepherd risking all out of concern for every member of his flock. And he came to preach peace, epitomising the words of Jesus: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be

called children of God."

The other part of his mission was to show the futility, insanity and sheer evil of violent conflict between religions. He had in mind not just the determination of IS to obliterate Christianity from the self-styled Caliphate, and the brutal Islamist treatment of other faiths it had taken exemption to, especially Pope Francis' pilgrimage of peace the Yazidis, but the **Christopher Lamb** fundamental source of conflict throughout the region - the divide between followers of the Sunni and Shia versions of Islam. demonstrated again the power of symbolic actions, exemplifying the call

The picture that spoke louder than words was of the Pope holding the hands of the eminent Shia religious authority, Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani. Sistani has been a constant critic of the war-mongering message of the Shia leadership in Iran, which had meddled with Iraqi nation-building to keep the two main Muslim communities apart, and is meddling still in Yemen and elsewhere. Violence in the name of

attributed to St Francis of Assisi, "Preach the

Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."

religion, said Francis, was a form of blasphemy; fraternity was stronger than fratricide. Those words seemed to reverberate way beyond the limits of the shrunken Christian communities he was addressing, because they echoed the thoughts and prayers of millions of Muslims exhausted by religious conflict.

Papal visits cannot be weighed by their immediate results, but they leave a legacy of symbolic images and abiding perceptions that can resonate for decades afterwards, shaping cultures in the long

> term. Pope Francis has an intuitive grasp of the soft power he wields, a more than adequate response to Stalin's famous sneer -"How many divisions has the Pope?" Yet Christians must not forget their own

culpability in the use of violence to pursue religious ends, not least in wake the European colonialism but also in fratricidal civil wars and religious persecutions that followed Reformation.

Pope Francis sees the great task that faces humanity is to protect the physical environment so that the planet remains habitable -

a cause which could bring him to Scotland this autumn to attend the global warming summit - and to cleanse the hearts of men and women across the globe of their poisonous addiction to domination and discrimination. He seeks to convince them of the great truth that they are all members of the same family, and are connected not only with each other but with the whole of creation. That was at the core of his encyclical Fratelli Tutti and of his visit to Iraq, and indeed of everything he does - using words only "when necessary".

This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community. For more information visit  $\underline{pol.org.au/eltham}$  or  $\underline{pol.org.au/montmorency}$ .

### PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION



### **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: <a href="https://www.pol.org.au/montmorency">www.pol.org.au/montmorency</a>

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**

<u>St Francis Xavier Primary School</u> <u>Principal</u>: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474 <u>principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au</u> <u>www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au</u>

**Holy Trinity Primary School** 

*Principal*: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888 principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School
Acting Principal: Therese Stewart: 9439 7824
school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au
www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

### ASRC — Donate Food and Goods

Our Foodbank is operating to support people seeking asylum. Most-needed food and groceries:

- Tuna in oil 400g
- Sweet or savoury biscuits
- Dishwashing liquid *1 litre*
- Pasta 500g packs penne, spirals, shells
- Tinned vegetable *peas*, *corn*, *carrots*
- Tinned legumes chickpeas, lentils, red, black & white beans
- Full cream UHT milk *l litre*
- Soap bars
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Tinned tomatoes 400g
- Honey small bottles
  - Coconut cream

Black tea bags





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

### **Montmorency**

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Joyce Arundell, Isabelle Borg, Terry Boyd, Jack Feil,
Mary Greenwood, Joyce Jakubik,
Margaret McKinley, Michael Morabito,
Gianluca Salvitti (1 year anniversary),

Benjamin Charles Vincent, Remi Vulich (1 year anniversary), Denise Wraight For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Debbie Edgley

# **Eltham**

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Mary Hollyoak

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Violetta, Fr Barry Caldwell, Lidia Marazzato,
Christine Scott, Ibyszek Wojciechovski, Sylvek Zylevicz

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

Across the world tens of millions of Christian families are in exile following persecution because of their faith. Could you help stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters and help ease their heavy burdens?

Visit www.aidtochurch.org/refugees



### RECONCILIATION

available upon request please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

Collections last weekend: 7 Mar 2021					
Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery			
Eltham	\$601.00	\$864.00			
Montmorency	\$1,149.00	\$562.65			

Please note the above figures are monies banked & do not include visa/mastercard or direct debits.

Thank you so much for your contributions.





# A Final Time to Chat & Time to Pray Together



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 continue with these special occasions during this 'Season of Lent' to 'Listen & Chat & Pray' regarding any anxieties, concerns & hopes for our present and future as two vibrant local communities. These gatherings are important to participate and hear from parishioners and thus continue to walk together in Faith and Love - as our future is not yet clear, given this terrible Covid19 era in which we live.

### A Time to Chat - Eltham

• Fourth Sunday of Lent (March 14th) in the OLHC Church - 1pm

## A Time to Pray - Montmorency & Eltham Together

• Fifth Sunday of Lent (March 21st) at the SFX parish hall - 1pm

So, a final opportunity is now being offered to the Catholic Communities of Montmorency & Eltham to get together - to Chat and to Pray in response to these Covid days and our future possibilities.

If you are available, please consider these final important dates and times during Lent warmest thanks,

Michael



Sisters and Misters of Song is a 'non-auditioned' community vocal group that aims to provide opportunities for people of all ages to be engaged in singing songs to improve their self-esteem, enrich their lives and to have the opportunity to provide entertainment for others. The focus is on inclusion of all people of all genders and nationalities. The age group ranges from people in their 20's to 80's plus and offers classes in Eltham, Reservoir and Phillip Island. The Sisters and Misters of Song group will be meeting for rehearsals in the OLHC church from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on





To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the canonisation of Saint Mary MacKillop

We invite you to order your <u>free</u> copy of Encountering St Mary MacKillop in Prayer

The Sisters of Saint Joseph have created a commemorative prayer booklet to inspire us all to "take fresh courage..." as Mary did so often. These prayers share details of her personal journey, highlighting Mary's values and spirit, and offering prayers and blessings for our modern world.

To order your exclusive copy please go to: www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/prayer-book or call us on Ph: 02 8912 2777

MARY MACKILLOP today

# **Homily**

Have you had a pet cat and if so, what was or is your cat's name? I know a person who called his cat Nicodemus, named after that character in the Gospel today, who visited Jesus by night and had a very interesting conversation with him.

Nicodemus the cat only appeared at night and he was nowhere to be found during the day. That's why he was called Nicodemus.

The Nicodemus of the Gospel was a Pharisee and a leader of the Jews and a teacher of Israel. He came to Jesus by night presumably because he didn't want anyone to see him talking with Jesus, deemed by the Pharisees a dubious teacher at best, and at worst a blasphemer. It would seem that Nicodemus wanted to know more about Jesus and considered becoming a new believer.

Later on in Jesus life, Nicodemus came to the defence of Jesus and he met the criticism of his Jewish leaders for speaking a defence.

Jesus and Nicodemus had a fascinating conversation at night and who knows how it ended up that night. The Gospel of John writes up this conversation that showed Nicodemus asking questions and finding responses from Jesus that he didn't understand at all. Nicodemus tried to take Jesus words literally and didn't understand the deeper meaning of what Jesus was saying to him.

Nicodemus came to Jesus by night and maybe there's a deeper meaning in all this. Not just because Nicodemus did not want others to know.

Remember that in Judaism the new day begins just after sunset and God's action begins anew. If you have been to the wailing wall in Jerusalem you will see people at various times after sunset beginning their remembrance of Passover each week. The new day really begins after sunset.

It would seem that Nicodemus may have been in Jesus' presence because the new day in his life was something he was considering in becoming a believer in Jesus. And he had many questions and he may have gone home that night more confused than ever, but still open to what Jesus was saying to him.

He would have struggled with the understanding of Jesus being available for everyone. How could the Messiah, the Saviour not be exclusively for the Jews? He didn't understand what rebirth really meant, although he still stayed in the conversation and he didn't seem to leave in frustration and anger.

Did he eventually become a believer? We don't really know, but given his defence of Jesus, we would have a good reason to say yes.

Where are we in all of this in our own stories of life? When do we make our best decisions? When are we most open to reflecting on life and listening to others? Maybe at night-time.

During the day, life is full of much activity for so many of us. It's at night we have our conversations over a meal and a glass of something. It's at night when we are probably most silent, even if it's in the wee small hours of the morning, when we wake up from sleep and find our minds and hearts pondering over new directions or worries and questions.

Perhaps there's a part of Nicodemus in all of us in searching out the meaning of Jesus and the various questions in our faith journey. We don't understand always what's happening and where we are being led. To remain open is the Nicodemus way.

Perhaps there's even a question right now we are asking and looking for an answer. And is it night-time where we will find the answer to our new day in living the Jesus story? Like the cat, maybe we can all be called Nicodemus, if we are around during the night, when the new day begins.

\*\*Terry\*\*



# John 3:16 Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. John 3:16 (NIV)

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	Z	R	Ι	Т	F	Е	U	Υ	А	Ι	Τ	٧	U	T
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# Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Vacant Positions

Please see below an update to current vacant roles listed on our CAM website.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced people for the positions of:

- Director, Mission and Pastoral Life, Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, Bendigo
- Business Manager, St John's Parish, **Mitcham**
- Safeguarding Officer, East Melbourne
- Senior Manager Product, IT & Products, **Catholic Development Fund**
- **Before and After School Hours Care** Coordinator, St Luke's Outside School Hours Care Program (SLOSH), Wantirna
- Marketing Coordinator, Catholic **Development Fund**
- Media & Communications Officer, Oblate Office of Mission
- Parish Secretary, St Patrick's Parish & St Kevin's Parish, Murrumbeena
- Parish Secretary, Catholic Parish of Castlemaine
- Parish Secretary, St Johns Parish, Mitcham
- Parish Secretary, Parish of St Dominic's, **Camberwell**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at: <a href="https://melbournecatholic.org/">https://melbournecatholic.org/</a> job-vacancies

# SVDP Lent and Easter Pamphlets 2021

We are now about a half way through our preparation for Easter. Following on from our note a couple of weeks ago, the Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) highlight further titles 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:

- Lent for Busy Catholics
- How to Celebrate Lent
- One Minute Reflections for Lent
- Stations of the Cross for Married **Couples**
- Calvary A Lenten Rosary Reflection

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.

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

ROSTERS:					
week ending 14 March					
Eltham					
Scully, Greg Commentator					
Nolan, Kathleen	Reader				
week ending 21 March					
Montmorency					
McAleer, Peter & Denise ASRC					
Eltham					
Beckford, Peter	Reader				
Haines, Geoff	Commentator				
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society				
Scannell Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue				
Scully, Helen Altar Society					

### **Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events**

Saturday 13t	h
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Saturday 13th							
9:30am	Garden Working Bee	Montmorency					
10:00am	Baptism: Lucas	Eltham					
6:00pm	Mass (160 people)	Montmorency					
•	14th - Fourth Sunday of Lent						
8:30am	Mass (160 people)	Montmorency					
10:00am	Mass (160 people)	Eltham					
12:00pm	Baptism: Emerson, Verity & Saige	Montmorency					
1:00pm	Listen & Chat & Pray	Eltham					
Monday	15th						
6:30pm	Sisters & Misters of Song	Eltham					
Tuesday	16th						
9:30am	Mass (160 people)	Montmorency					
10:00am	Craft Group	Montmorency					
7:00pm	Reconciliation Celebration	Montmorency					
Wednes							
6:30am	Meditation	Montmorency					
9:30am	Mass (160 people)	Eltham					
Thursda	y 18th						
9:30am	Mass (160 people)	Montmorency					
10:30am	ASRC food collection & delivery	Montmorency					
Friday 1	9th						
9:30am	Mass (160 people)	Eltham					
Saturda	y 20th						
11:00am	Baptism: Asher & Leo	Eltham					
6:00pm	Mass (160 people)	Montmorency					
Sunday .	21st - Fifth Sunday of Lent						
8:30am	Mass (160 people)	Montmorency					
10:00am	Mass (160 people)	Eltham					
12:00pm	Baptism: Leo, Jonas, Ellie & Charlie	Montmorency					
1:00pm	Listen & Chat & Pray	Montmorency					
Monday 22nd							
6:30pm	Sisters & Misters of Song	Eltham					
Tuesday	23rd						
9:30am	Mass (160 people)	Montmorency					
Wednesday 24th							
6:30am	Meditation	Montmorency					
9:30am	Mass (160 people)	Eltham					
Thursday 25th							



# The Way Prayer Group

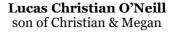
Our monthly Charismatic Masses have resumed at St Thomas the Apostle parish, 251 Diamond Creek Road, North Greensborough, the next Mass being on Thursday, 18th March in the parish hall. The evening will commence with praise and worship at 7.30pm followed by Mass. Please note, bookings are required via TryBooking. For any assistance with bookings or any further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.

Bookings: <a href="https://www.trybooking.com/BPNXR">https://www.trybooking.com/BPNXR</a>



# **Baptisms**

This weekend we welcome to our **Eltham Parish Community** on Saturday at 10am:



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

**Emerson Lyn Fusca** son of Francis & Rebecca

**Verity Grace White** daughter of Matthew & Rachel

Saige Patricia Gregory daughter of Daniel & Alexandra

We pray for Lucas, Emerson, Verity & Saige, their parents & Godparents.

May God keep them always in His love.







Montmorency

Montmorency

Eltham

Friday 26th

Saturday 27th

9:30am Mass (160 people)

9:30am Mass (160 people)

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery

# Daily Reflections for Lent - Not By Bread Alone 2021



**Reflection:** You see the signs everywhere - held up at football games, nailed to telephone poles, carried on placards. They say simply: "3:16". And without asking, without googling it, we know what it means. The passage from today's gospel speaks our truth so plainly in just a few words, only 135 characters. We often say that Twitter isn't a very useful communication tool because what can you say in so few characters or words? Well, as it turns out, you can say a lot. You can say everything that matters. There are many lines of Scripture that might equally convey the ultimate gift God gave to us, but this one has captured the hearts and minds of Christians of every stripe. Why is that? What is it

about this particular passage that grabs us, that is so powerful we need no words, only numbers to feel its power? When we unpack it, it's obvious. We have the incarnation, God's gift to humankind, but there's so much more. God not only sent his Son but sent him as one of us to save us. And, for our part, all we have to do is believe. No wonder those words, those numbers appear so often and in such unlikely places. It's a message too important not to share.

**Meditation:** When was the last time you saw "3:16" posted somewhere? What ran through your mind when you saw it? Did you roll your eyes, as if to say, "I don't need a cardboard sign to remind me of what my Saviour did for me"? Did you wonder why that person was holding up that sign in that particular place? Did you ignore it altogether, too busy to take the time to notice it any more than you might the "Lost Cat" sign fluttering in the breeze? Watch for the signs. The next time one crops up, pause. What do those words mean to you? How do they influence your behaviour, your choices, your attitude, your life? Write 3:16 where you will see it today and come back to it in prayer each time you notice it.

**Prayer:** Incarnate God, so often we do not take the time to reflect on the enormity of the gift you have give us - redemption, salvation, eternal life. Although we did nothing to earn it, we thank you and promise today to try harder to be worthy of you.

# Prayers of the Faithful for 14 March 2021 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Celebrant: Lord, we place our prayers before you.

We pray for the church, for Pope Francis, the bishops, priests, religious and church leaders that we will remain faithful to the Gospel and give witness to Christ's teaching.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the poor and vulnerable, the homeless and the unemployed, and those who are suffering during the pandemic. May they find refuge in God's love.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who are working to care for the sick and aged, especially for the Covid-19 front line workers. May God give them the strength to continue to serve.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who are working to overcome injustices throughout the world - injustices such as gender or racial discrimination, economic disadvantage, political instability. May they be strengthened by a faith in the providence of God.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the inspiration and courage to shine a light on global injustices, such as the lack of basic sanitation for so many in our world. May our own light shine on others, so that we may be agents of change who bring about the kingdom of God on earth through our support of Project Compassion.

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who are suffering ill health, that they will experience the healing touch of God's love in their lives. We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Joyce Arundell, Isabelle Borg, Terry Boyd, Jack Feil, Mary Greenwood, Mary Hollyoak, Joyce Jakubik, Margaret McKinley, Michael Morabito, Gianluca Salvitti, Benjamin Charles Vincent, Remi Vulich &Denise Wraight. May they rest in peace. We pray that the love of Christ will sustain those who mourn the loss of loved ones.

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pause for a moment for our own personal prayer. (PAUSE).

We pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Heavenly Father, we humbly pray that you will deepen our faith and guide us to

follow the right path. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

# **Gospel: John 3:14-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'



### Reflection

Readings from John dominate the Lenten gospel selections for Years A and B; only in Year C is there an exception, when we hear mostly from Luke. Today we hear a section from Jesus' dialogue with the Pharisee Nicodemus in Chapter 3 of John. While both translations set out the whole text as Jesus' speech, scholars suggest that after the first sentence all that follows is the gospel writer's commentary.

In that first sentence Jesus recalls the episode recounted in the book of Numbers (21:1-9) when the Israelites who were bitten by deadly snakes in the desert were saved by gazing at the bronze serpent raised by Moses. The phrase "lifted up" is intentionally ambiguous, suggesting both crucifixion and resurrection.

The reflection that follows plays off a series of opposing characters in the drama of salvation: the divine and the human, condemnation and salvation, belief and the refusal to believe, light and darkness. The gift is great - eternal life through believing in God's only Son - and the choice is ours. By contemplating the crucified and risen Lord we can come to see the truth of God's love and live in its light. This gospel should be read in a thoughtful, meditative manner.

**Break Open the Word 2021** 



# Fourth Sunday of Lent 14th March 2021





Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet, so he and his family always had to walk into the forest to an open defecation area.

His family was often sick and open defecation caused many neighbourhood disputes.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, Arsad took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He then funded the building of a toilet in his house and helped other community members to save for toilets

Now Arsad's family is healthier. Their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. Arsad inspired his community to 'Be More.'

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting <a href="https://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion">www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion</a> or phoning 1800 024 413.