

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.

Gospel - Luke 24:35-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' As he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'



Reflection

Apart from passing reference to an appearance to Simon Peter (24:34), Luke records only two appearances of the risen Jesus, the first to the disciples at Emmaus, the second to the whole group back in Jerusalem. In a sense they are so closely linked as to form but one appearance that serves to link Jesus' resurrection with the final episode of the gospel, his ascension.

After the opening verse connecting today's story with that of Emmaus, the gospel falls into two parts. The first establishes the reality of the resurrection by emphasising the physical in terms that are reminiscent of John's gospel. As he does for Thomas (John 20:24-29), Jesus shows the disciples his hands and feet; and as he cooks fish for the disciples by the sea of Galilee (John 21:9-14), so he eats fish before them in Jerusalem.

In the second part Jesus repeats what he did for the disciples on the way to Emmaus. He recalls and reinterprets the scriptures for them, not only so that they can come to grips with what has already happened - his death and resurrection - but be prepared for the future. They are to preach "repentance for the forgiveness of sins... to all the nations". In one short declaration - "You are witnesses to this" - Luke paves the way for his companion volume, the Acts, to tell the story of the mission to the nations.

Break Open the Word 2021

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

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

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: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

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

Australasian Catholic Coalition for Church Reform

Sunday 2 May 2021; 9:00-10:30am
The Future of Catholicism in Australia
(via Zoom)

Guest speaker: Sr Joan Chittister OSB
(www.joanchittister.org)

For further information contact: **Kevin Liston**

auscathcoalition@gmail.com

0411 197 829

www.accr.com.au



*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:

*James Michael Caulfield, Greg Jackson,
Wally Krolikowski*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Estelle Levy
Rino Tessarotto*

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Clara Doroszlay

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Violetta, Fr Barry Caldwell, Denice Donnellan
Lidia Marazzato, Tom Nolan, Christine Scott,
Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zylevicz*

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 2178

Collections: 11 April 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery	Easter Offering	Project Compassion
OLHC	\$585.45	\$451.50	\$136.30	\$166.70
SFX	\$733.00	\$950.45	\$30.00	\$243.10

Collections: 4 April 2021

(correct breakdown of last week's offerings)

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery	Easter Offering	Holy Places Collection	Project Compassion
OLHC	\$280.00	\$1,147.35	\$440.00	\$493.50	\$1,730.45
SFX	\$1,590.00	\$2,283.10	\$540.00	\$564.30	\$406.00



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>



Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who has died at the age of 99, was the longest-lived consort of a British monarch who in her turn is the United Kingdom's longest serving sovereign. It was a marriage of opposites - one a shy, introverted woman with a sheltered upbringing, while the other an outgoing, brusque man with a nomadic early life - but both The Queen and Prince Philip had a strong sense of duty and sought stability.

But from the start of Elizabeth II's reign, Prince Philip, like Victoria's consort, Prince Albert, sought to carve out a role for himself that was more than just walking two steps behind his wife. He chaired charities, founded organisations, published books and gave countless speeches.

Both of them had deep Christian beliefs and a strong sense of service. People who worked with Prince Philip have spoken of his "stickability" - retaining commitment to his wife, his family and his causes. As a man keenest on action while thought and prayer came after, Prince Philip involved himself in several major religious projects, creating St George's House, part of St George's Chapel, Windsor, initiating talks in inter-faith long before it became fashionable, and bringing together in one organisation his two major interests - the environment and religion.

In 1988 in a talk given at St George's Chapel, and later broadcast as part of an Advent service on BBC Radio 4, he expressed his profound faith and love of Creation when he said: "Advent reminds Christians that there is the hope of spiritual re-birth at Christmas; it should also remind us that humanity is part of the natural order and it is our responsibility to give all life on earth that same chance of renewal and re-birth. ... God did not make us masters of His Creation, He expects us to be its guardians".

His interest in religion was always evident, and it found practical expression in organisations that linked worldly concerns with the spiritual, especially Christian thought. In 1966, together with the then Dean of Windsor, Robin Woods, he founded St George's House as part of the College of St George, whose heart is St George's Chapel where prayers have been said for the nation three times a day, every day since the fourteenth century. For more than 50 years the house, within the walls of Windsor Castle and next to St George's Chapel, has offered people of influence accommodation and hospitality, as well as privacy and confidentiality, for their discussions and analysis of contemporary issues. Prince Philip and Robin Woods were keen that the chapel's prayer life and theological purpose would give the house its impetus. Apart from offering space for secular discussions, it also provides the clergy with a week's stay to "reboot" and engage in discourse.

It was also at Windsor, at St George's House, that Prince

Philip's interest in inter-faith dialogue first became evident, long before the topic was fashionable. While Philip led the Christian contingent, Muslim participants had Prince Hassan of Jordan at the helm, while Evelyn Rothschild was also involved with other representatives of Judaism. The meetings struggled to find much in common via theological theory but there was more agreement on practical applications of theology. This led to the creation of a code of business ethics. Philip also developed a passionate interest in the environment and the way in which people of different faiths could work towards looking after the planet. In 1985 the Prince, who at the time was President of the World Wildlife Fund, met Martin Palmer who had written extensively on how religions view the natural world. The following year Palmer and Prince Philip gathered leaders of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism in Assisi, birthplace of St Francis of Assisi, patron saint of ecology, to discuss with conservationists and environmentalists how they could work together and how humanity could live harmoniously within nature.

Both the Queen and her husband found great solace in their faith and to them it seemed utterly normal for Princes William and Harry to accompany them to Crathie Church in Balmoral the morning after their mother Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed in a car crash in 1997. They were shocked when this gesture was decried as unfeeling in the tense days before Diana's funeral.

For his own funeral, Prince Philip long planned for it to be held at St George's Chapel, Windsor, the church with which he had been long associated not only through worship but through his innovative ventures. It is also the resting place of his father-in-law, whose premature death so profoundly changed Philip's own life.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, born Corfu, 10 June 1921; died 9 April 2021, Windsor.

Excerpts from The Table, 15 April 2021

Parish Priests, Moderators, Administrators, Assistant Priests, Deacons, and Parishes,
Archdiocese of Melbourne



Dear brothers,

We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor.1.23

My prayerful greetings to you as we immerse ourselves in the mystery of this Easter Octave.

In mid-February, the Principal Commissioner for the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) wrote to inform me that the CCYP intends to undertake a program of inspection and audit within the Archdiocese and its parishes to assist the Commission's understanding of our compliance with the Child Safety Standards that have been in place since 2017. These inspections will be undertaken during May or June of this year.

I briefly mentioned this to you in my letter of 17 February 2021, and now wish to offer more information as to what the inspections might entail, what to expect, and how you can be prepared if your parish is identified for inspection.

At the Archdiocesan level, Staff of the CCYP will engage with my Office in terms of policies, procedures, risk management and human resourcing of functions and activities. However, the bulk of the work of CCYP will be focused on our parishes and faith communities.

At this stage we believe that around 10-15 parishes could be inspected, but we have no clear indication as to the criteria CCYP will use for selection.

I am aware that our parishes in the main have been working diligently with their Regional Safeguarding Officer. I thank you for the work that you are doing for the care of our people. However, I am informed by our Professional Standards Unit that there is a small number of parishes that have a way to go in this regard. It will only take one or two concerns in an audit process to bring the good work of so many into question.

Those parishes where some existing concerns can be identified will be written to directly by the Vicar General in the coming week. These parishes will be asked to work immediately with their Regional Safeguarding Officer to bring compliance up to an accepted standard. If you are a parish that is contacted, I ask that you respond immediately and co-operatively to the Regional Safeguarding Officer to discuss what preparation should be done, and what shortfalls might need to be addressed.

We do not have details yet as to how the inspections will be undertaken or what will be required. It is likely, according to the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (Vic) 2005* that only 7 days' notice will be given. During such an inspection it is possible that the CCYP may:

- Observe the activities being carried out at the premises;
- Inspect documents; and
- Request any person to provide any information that it reasonably requires to determine whether the entity is complying with Child Safe Standards.

Should your parish be approached by CCYP for inspection, you should immediately notify the PSU. I ask that you give full co-operation and assistance to the CCYP at all times. As more information comes to hand, we will certainly share this with you.

I acknowledge the additional work that has been placed on already busy parishes. I want to extend my deep gratitude to the tireless efforts of those who have negotiated this complex space in order to build communities of safety and care for all.

St Joseph, our protector and guide, pray for us.

With every grace and blessing, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

The two disciples fleeing Jerusalem after Jesus' ignominious execution felt disappointed and let down. Their story is a masterclass in how to negotiate the tension between the convictions of the Church and the questions of the world / by Timothy Radcliffe

Coming home from Emmaus

Many Catholics are deeply scandalised by the Church's complicity in the sexual abuse scandal. Young people feel the Church is out of touch, against women, against gay people. They want out.

There is a story about a similar moment of disillusionment. It is our story too. Two disciples flee to Emmaus just after Easter. They had hoped that Jesus would be the one to redeem Israel, but he had failed. There were reports from women, who were saying that Jesus had risen from the dead, but this was dismissed as "an idle tale" (Luke 24:11). They are only women! The disciples have lost faith and are ditching the community in Jerusalem. They have given up. They are just like many disillusioned young Catholics whom the Church wishes to reach today.

How does Jesus reach them? The two disciples are talking intensely about what has happened when they meet a stranger. He asks them: "What are you talking about?" He invites them to express their disappointment, their anger. Our preaching begins in listening to the affliction of our people.

One of them replies: "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" (24:18). Like so many young people, they think he has no idea of what they are living, "You don't know what it is like to be a young woman with an unwanted baby on the way, or to be gay and to feel rejected by the Church."

We only have authority if we give authority to their experience and hurt. To be honest, I sometimes long to talk about something other than the sexual abuse crisis or the position of women in the church, but I must go on listening and sharing the hurt of people who are leaving the Church, which must be mine too. Then maybe a moment will come when I will be able to open up the Scriptures as the stranger did for those disciples.

We need to listen not just to their hurt but to their joy. What sets their hearts on fire? What are they passionate about? If it is football, then let's found a football club! The English Dominicans founded the club that became Newcastle United. The prior of our Newcastle priory used to kick the first ball of the season until the Second World War. If it is song, let's listen to their songs and compose ones that they will love.

The two disciples are going in the wrong direction, running away from the community in Jerusalem. They have given up on the Church. But the stranger does not tell them to turn back. He walks with them. One of my closest friends left the order before ordination and lost belief in God. We meet every couple of months for a meal and a drink. Some of his convictions are now contrary to my own. This is deeply painful. But he is a friend,

and friendships are for ever. And if I share his journey to Emmaus, away from the Church, maybe one day we will return home together.

Jesus is in Jerusalem, the place of the Resurrection. There he will show himself to the Apostles, and share a meal with them. He is in the centre of the apostolic community. But he is also with the disciples who are fleeing. He is in the centre, and on the margin. We must be in both places too. St Dominic was *in medio ecclesia*, in the midst of the Church. We think with the Church. She is our home. And yet we are also people who are at the peripheries. We identify with the questioners and doubters. We must be in Jerusalem, and we must be on the road to Emmaus. If we only identify with the Church, and have no solidarity with those who are far from her, we shall also have nothing to give.

We are called to live the tension between the convictions of the Church and the questions of the world. It is our pain and our living joy. None of us gets the balance perfectly right. Some will belong more naturally to the centre, with an instinctive, unquestioning adherence to her teaching. Others find their ministry in the peripheries, identifying with the people on the edge, the outsiders. Some are Peter the Rock; others are Thomas the Doubter. Some are more naturally conservative, and others temperamentally progressive. But each must value the vocation of the other. Some are the hearts and stomachs of the body of Christ, keeping the whole organism going. Others are the hands reaching out and exploring the outside world.

As the two disciples drew near to Emmaus, intrigues, they urge the stranger: "Stay with us, for it is towards evening and the day is far spent." He agrees. The Greek says that he *reclined* with them at table, at ease. Preaching begins in accepting hospitality. Even when Marie-Dominique Chenu OP, the grandfather of the Vatican Council, was 80 years old, he would go out most evenings to visit artists or listen to politicians, academics or trade union leaders. Late at night we would meet him in the refectory for a last beer. He would ask us: "What have you learnt today? At whose table have you sat?" Serge de Beaurecueil OP, for decades the only Catholic priest in Afghanistan, called himself "a guest in the house of Islam". If we are invited to rest with young people, or artists or workers, we should take pleasure in being with them, lingering over a meal, sharing their dreams. If we are at home with them, they may become at home in the Church.

"When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognised him." The



women were right. What opened their eyes to see the Lord? It was seeing the gesture with which, at the Last Supper, he had made his coming death a gift for them. The doors of their imagination were opened by gift. Meister Eckhart said, if the only prayer you ever say is "thank you", that is enough. Preachers are grateful guests, grateful for our own lives and for theirs, for each day we live, for the air we breathe, for the food we enjoy. Then our hosts may open their eyes to the greatest gift of all, God.

At the same moment their eyes are opened, Jesus vanishes from their sight. The best preachers, like the best musicians, fade into the background, because people are delighted in the Gospel or the music, not in the preacher or the musician. The temptation is to make ourselves indispensable. But if we are messengers of the Gospel, we too must disappear, like John the Baptist.

The disciples try to make sense of what has happened. "did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road?" they say to each other. Joy comes first, and then the knowledge of Jesus. The joy is a sign that they are drawing close to the Gospel but they did not know yet why they were joyful, until they recognised him in the breaking of bread. Now the disciples are free to go home to Jerusalem, just as Jesus left them free to walk in the wrong direction.

Young people want above all to be happy. But their happiness is fragile, to be fought for in a world of violence, sexual abuse, drugs, inner-city desolation and the collapse of the family. It is a happiness which is also an obligation. Shopkeepers tell us when we buy something, "Enjoy". We *must* be happy. If we feel sad, we must disguise it. It is shameful. One reason for the epidemic of suicides among the young is an imperative to be joyful which they cannot sustain.

The first witness to the Good News is therefore our joy, even before people understand why we are joyful. But this is not the forced jollity of those who insist we *must* be happy because Jesus loves us. It is the festivity of Jesus, his eating and drinking and pleasure in people that is his first preaching of the Gospel. When St Francis preached to the fish, it is said that the fish went away happy. Though, as a Dominican, I wonder how one can tell if a fish is happy!

Preaching to people who are angry and disillusioned with the Church begins in listening: "What are you talking about? What is your pain and joy?" We accompany them even when they walk away from the faith. We recline with them, we enjoy their hospitality. But what usually touches people first is our joy - above all, in them.

Timothy Radcliffe, a former master of the Dominican Order.,

ROSTERS:	
week ending 25 April	
<i>Montmorency</i>	
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Ramsdale, Sue & John	ASRC
<i>Eltham</i>	
Beckford, Peter	Commentator
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Rough Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Zylstra, Diane	Reader

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 17 April

11:00am Baptism: James Eltham

6:00pm Mass (160 people) & confirmations Montmorency

Sunday 18

8:30am Mass (160 people) & confirmations Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) & confirmations Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Ronni, Holly Maya, William Montmorency

Monday 19

9:30am Days for Girls SFX Parish Hall

Tuesday 20

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group SFX Parish Hall

Wednesday 21

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Thursday 22

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

1:00pm Deanery Lunch North Greensborough

Friday 23

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Saturday 24

11:00am Baptism: Andre Eltham

6:00pm Mass (160 people) & confirmations Montmorency

Sunday 25 – ANAZAC Day

8:30am Mass (160 people) & confirmations Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Maeve, Mason, Rachel, Isobella Montmorency

Tuesday 27

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

Wednesday 28

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Thursday 29

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

Friday 30

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Saturday 1 May

6:00pm Mass (160 people) & confirmations Montmorency

Sunday 2

8:30am Mass (160 people) & confirmations Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) & confirmations Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Alfred Montmorency

Fr Terry Celebrates 50 years of Ordination to Priesthood on 22nd May 2021... here is an update.

As indicated in last week's Bulletin there WILL be an event to celebrate Terry's milestone. It will be held locally on Sunday May 23rd between 5pm and 8pm.

Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions it will need to be an RSVP Event with limited numbers able to attend. There will also be other opportunities over a couple of organized lunches for Parishioners to spend 'Time with Terry' if that Sunday May 23 date is not suitable.

The details of how all of this is to work will be outlined in next weekend's Bulletin, Sunday April 25th Anzac Day. Covid restrictions are limiting numbers and what we are able to offer, so, finer details are still being organised and will be published in the Bulletin next week.

Invitation to all Parishioners

We invite you all to join us to celebrate with Gina

at a farewell lunch at *Montmorency RSL*

on 5th June at 12 noon.

Please put your name and contact number on the sign-up sheet on the table in the foyer of the SFX or OLHC church.

Donations for a gift for Gina will be accepted.

For more information contact
Sheilah: 0415 040 800, or
Mary O'Connor: 9439 5921



Sacred Heart Mission, St Kilda Parish Involvement

All parish volunteers to Sacred Heart Mission will be well aware that the dining room there has been closed for many months due to COVID-19 (though takeaway meals are available). The closed dining room is, unfortunately, not likely to re-open any time soon.

Over the past months, there have been changes to our parish arrangements also. Due to new circumstances, our previous roster coordinator, Kylie Ellis, is no longer able to continue, and the role will now be taken by Helen and Darrell Cain. As the situation clarifies, Helen and Darrell will notify us of developments at the Mission and help us as a parish to re-engage there.

Sincere thanks are due to **Kylie** for the management of the previous roster and for the very efficient and enthusiastic leadership she brought to our parish involvement with Sacred Heart Mission.

MEDIA RELEASE
13 April 2021

Public Consultation opens on Catholic Church's New Model for Complaints and Redress in Victoria

The Catholic Dioceses of Victoria have today announced the opening of a public consultation period for a new process of response to complaints and redress relating to abuse in the Catholic Church. It is important that voices of those who have experienced abuse are heard, and that their feedback helps to shape this new model.

The proposed model, **Pathways Victoria**, will provide an operationally independent structure for implementing the Catholic Church's National Response Protocol released earlier this year, and will provide a person-centred and trauma-informed response. This responds directly to Recommendations 7.7 and 16.37 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Pathways Victoria will replace the Melbourne Response and Towards Healing processes that have been in place for nearly twenty-five years and will operate alongside the vital and ongoing services of Carelink.

This new model will offer a set of compassionate, just and appropriately resourced processes to investigate complaints and respond to survivors, as an alternative to existing options such as the National Redress Scheme and civil litigation. It offers a pathway where survivors are listened to, acknowledged, compensated and given care. For those who seek it, survivors have an opportunity to reconnect spiritually, with the restoration of links with the Church community.

Early notification of this announcement was shared with individual survivors and advocacy groups to enable support to be sought where needed, as well as with key stakeholders including the Acting Premier and the Commission for Children and Young People.

Survivors, their support persons and others who have lived with the effects of abuse, or have professional experience in this area, are strongly encouraged to be represented in this consultation phase, which will run from 13 April until 14 May 2021.

A website has been established for Pathways Victoria, providing background and updates on the proposal, as well as information on how to participate in the consultation phase: www.pathwaysvictoria.com

For Media Enquiries please contact:

Annie Carrett 0439 600 233 | annie.carrett@cam.org.au

Seeing With New Eyes

Have you read anything interesting of late? I was given a book for last Christmas, by Charlie Mackesy: 'The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse.'

It is a lovely piece of writing with some profound insights into life. It is of course imaginary. The boy meets the mole and in turn they meet the fox and finally all three meet the horse. It's the story of these very unlikely companions journeying into life and friendship, each with their different insights. So let me take a small section for our reflection today.

"Everyone is a bit scared said the horse. But we are less scared together. Tears fall for a reason and they are your strength not weakness."

"What is the bravest thing you have ever said", asked the boy

"Help", said the horse.

"When have you been at your strongest", asked the boy.

"When I have dared to show my weakness. Asking for help isn't giving up", said the horse.
"It is refusing to give up."

And so the book continues with all these little pearls of wisdom.

So let's put today's words from the boy and the horse alongside our Gospel story of the Risen Jesus standing among the disciples and saying: "Peace be with you".

The disciples were alarmed and frightened, not only because they thought they were seeing a ghost but they were also terrified for their own lives. A knock on the door and they could be arrested and crucified for being followers of Jesus.

They were also full of guilt for they had deserted Jesus at his darkest hour of crucifixion and death. They were in a mess to say the least and they needed help.

It doesn't seem that they had the courage of the horse to ask for help, but the Risen Jesus offered them help. The Risen Jesus opened their minds to understand the scriptures, how he first had to suffer and die and on the third day, rise again. Just his presence alone, as they recognised him and realised he wasn't a ghost brought them great joy. So a new story was about to begin and their weakness became their strength.

And we know from the story of their witness to the Risen Christ that they did not give up on their understanding. They refused to give up and in fact many of them walked the way of the cross into death.

In all of this do we find resonances with our own lives? Let me suggest that our weakness can be our strength, for then we may see with new eyes. Asking for help is a very brave thing to do, and whether we ask for it or not, someone may open us up to seeing in a new way.

We think on our past lives and we realise that we have our weaknesses. Sure there are many stories and situations we remember with fondness...our successes, our highlights, our funny memories, our friendship times.

What about those times we don't like to talk about? Have we like the disciples of Jesus let someone down? Do we have our share of guilt and shame?

Can we sense the Risen Jesus standing in our midst saying to us 'Peace be with you'. Our weaknesses do not stop the Risen Jesus coming to us with love and peace. Even and especially in our weakness, we can be at our strongest.

We become less judgmental and more open and loving when we acknowledge our weakness and allow the Risen Jesus to transform our weakness into a strength that never gives up.

Terry

Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend.

Saturday 17 April

Our Lady Help of Christians, 11am

James Laurence Polchleb

Baptism

St Francis Xavier, 6pm

Zara Molly Johnson

Confirmation

Gisele Rose Marziano

Confirmation

Isabella Yasmín Frattali Raymond

Confirmation

Thomas Noah Frattali Raymond

Confirmation

Sunday 18 April

St Francis Xavier, 8:30am

Mitchell William Douglas De Martino

Confirmation

Our Lady Help of Christians, 10am

Isabella Evans

Confirmation

Lachlan Zinga

Confirmation

St Francis Xavier, 12noon

Maya Maria McBean

Baptism

William Martin McBean

Baptism

Ronni Williamson

Baptism

Holly Scarlet Yeo

Baptism



St Francis Xavier
Catholic Primary School
Montmorency

2022 ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

JOIN OUR NEXT PRINCIPAL LED SCHOOL TOUR BY CALLING OUR REGISTRAR ON 9435 8474

>> OUR EDUCATIONAL PACKAGE IS UNSURPASSED <<

- ✓ 7 SPECIALIST TEACHING AREAS EACH WEEK FOR PREP - YEAR 6
- ✓ INTERVENTION SUPPORT (ENGLISH/MATHS) AT ALL LEVELS
- ✓ STEPHANIE ALEXANDER KITCHEN GARDEN
- ✓ LOUIE BANGARIN
- ✓ PERFORMING ARTS
- ✓ S.I.L.M.
- ✓ SCHOOL CHURCHMAN / COUNSELLOR
- ✓ DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY (COMPUTERS)
- ✓ DISCOVERY CENTRE (LIBRARY)
- ✓ PHYSICAL EDUCATION

TOGETHER WE CAN ACHIEVE ANYTHING

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