

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.

15th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2021

As NAIDOC week concludes this year we are mindful today, of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander brothers and sisters, of the gift of their presence among us and of the painful journey of so much of their past in this country of Australia.

How many of us know someone who is Aboriginal or a Torres Strait Islander? My question reminds me of a wonderful woman, Sr Rose Derrick, a very fine artist who used to take her easel and paints and brushes to a park in Fitzroy Street, St Kilda. She knew that the park was a sacred site for aboriginal people and she hoped she would meet some of them. Eventually some aboriginal people ventured over.

Aboriginal people are such a shy people, who live in the shadows in many ways, but Rose struck up a conversation with them and even encouraged them to join her in the art of painting. She had supplies for them and she was a teacher. So began a beautiful story of connection and even friendship.

She was invited to their rituals and gatherings, and she was sometimes asked to lead prayer with them. She always attended. She is someone who has really lived the meaning of our Gospel today.

So we look into this Gospel and see the way Jesus went about his ministry of teaching and healing. He went out to people and met them on their home turf. He never founded a centre asking people to come to him. Yes, he went to synagogues, and when in Jerusalem he went to the Temple. But we find him most times out there with the people in their homes and their meeting places. Sure they came looking for him once they realised his healing presence among them, but it was by the lake or even in some deserted place where he met them and not in the Temple or some cathedral.

And this was Jesus' instruction to his 12 apostles. They were to go out and be with the people wherever they were,

and if the people didn't listen, they were to move to another place and seek a welcome there. They were to live simply... no spare tunic, no haversack or backpack, no food for the journey.

We think back to Sr Rose and her setting up her art work in the park in St Kilda. On the one hand it was about beautiful painting. But most of all it was about her meeting with people who really lived on the fringes, the aboriginal people in St Kilda. And she became a trusted friend and was welcomed into their homes. That's the Gospel today.

If only we as the non-indigenous people of Australia had found a listening way to be with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We wanted to make them like us and we thought we knew what was best for them. If only we had listened and realised the gifts of country and culture they had to offer us and still have to offer us. If only we had met them where they were, the tragedies and misunderstandings of the past would not have happened. Hopefully we are making a different story together.

From another vantage point, is today's Gospel calling us as Church to be more out there among people? In these days of restructuring Parishes are we being called to listen and participate in various community groups and projects, beyond our own Church groups, living simply

and authentically?

Rather than drawing people back into our own structure, will it be more important to find ways in the future to be out there in the mix of life, finding ways to participate rather than control? Hopefully there will always be a way for us to gather in the Church for Eucharist. And hopefully the Eucharist will send us out to live the way of Jesus and for that matter Sr Rose in being with the people, listening and sharing the gift of life together.



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 4742

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



Collections: 4 July 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$277.00	\$711.50
SFX	\$1,581.50	\$622.45

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>



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Mamie Ruthven

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Stan Connelly

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Kate Lagerewskij, Estelle Levy

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

Barbara Hermans

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Violetta, Denice Donnellan, Geoff Haines, Lidia Marazzato, Tom Nolan, Les Robertson, Christine Scott, Ibysek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zyleviczcz

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House 9435 4742 or eltham@cam.org.au.

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 3 July

St Francis Xavier, 6pm

Josh Conlin

First Eucharist

Annabelle Dahne

First Eucharist

Lily Denton

First Eucharist

Amelia Flood

First Eucharist

Jobe Meehan

First Eucharist

Sunday 4 July

St Francis Xavier, 8:30am

Jacob Kulkens

First Eucharist

Isaac Phillips

First Eucharist

Ethan Tucker

First Eucharist

Our Lady Help of Christians, 10am

Holly Terpos

First Eucharist

St Francis Xavier, 12 noon

Luca Acquarola

Baptism

Madison Capan

Baptism

Summer Cassarino

Baptism

Beau Fuller

Baptism



More on choices re missions and parishes

The establishment of Missions to include 3-5 existing parishes in the Archdiocese of Melbourne is underway and cannot be avoided. However, much remains to be decided about:

- which parishes should be linked together in a Mission,
- how parish communities will function within Missions,
- what will be the division of pastoral, administrative, and sacramental functions between Missions and Parishes, and
- what are to be the roles and functions of lay and ordained ministries in parishes and missions.

To various, and to this point, unspecified degrees, lay members of parishes may influence Archdiocesan decisions on these matters.

As soon as we can, laity in our two parishes need to get together in familiar groupings to:

- 1) Discuss whether we wish to retain our parish communities within a Mission. For some of us, our parishes have a shared identity and liturgical customs that we want to preserve because they sustain worshipping communities and help us link our personal stories to the Gospel stories. Others may not feel so attached to the existing parish community and will be happy to shop around in the Mission for the most congenial or convenient Sunday Mass and other services.
- 2) Discuss which neighbouring parishes we might nominate as partners in a Mission, whether because of a history of cooperation, or even because we think the differences between the communities might complement and stimulate one another.
- 3) Consider the functions, and responsibilities of
 - * Mission and Parish, and
 - * The ministries of ordained and lay parishioners

There are several models which we might consider before presenting our preferences for negotiation with the Archdiocese. These will be described in *Monty & Eltham* in coming weeks. Suffice now to note the range from a fairly familiar 3.1, to a less familiar 3.2 which has been exemplified for several years in the Wellington Archdiocese NZ:

3.1. No parish closures in the medium term, but 2 priests living together serving as cooperating pastoral and sacramental leaders of the Mission. Sunday Masses rostered among parishes. Parishes without Eucharistic celebrations on a given Sunday to provide lay-led Prayer services. Parishes to continue with lay-led prayer, formation, social, and outreach groups.

3.2. Parish closures and amalgamations. Amalgamated parishes led by well-trained, paid, female or male lay leaders who undertake and coordinate pastoral and prayer functions (short of Eucharistic celebrations), as well as administration. Payments to lay-leaders by the Archdiocese out of a fund raised from the parishes.

More to come on these options in subsequent *Monty and Eltham* bulletins.

What comes next?

1. **Parishioners interested in having a say on any of the above to leave names and telephone numbers with our Parish Secretary, Kate Kogler, by Monday 19 July (9435 4742)**
2. **Interested parishioners will be contacted, and a meeting at a private home will be arranged.**



Last Sunday 4th July was Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders Sunday and the beginning of NAIDOC Week



NATSICC (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Catholic Council) asks Catholics to come together across Australia to acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of Australia's First Peoples in the Catholic Church. ATSI Sunday is usually in NAIDOC Week and this year NATSICC has decided to adopt the NAIDOC theme for 2021 of 'Heal Country'. Today our world is in need of healing – environmentally, spiritually and socially. We must all come together as a global community to fight the injustices of inequality, racism and environmental damage.

NAIDOC Week is an Australian observance lasting from the first Sunday in July until the following Sunday. The acronym NAIDOC stands for National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee. This year NAIDOC Week is from 4th July until 11th July.

Our Message Stick

We have had a message stick in our parish for a number of years.

For thousands of years the Aboriginal People used the message stick as a way of communicating across country. Symbols or markings were engraved or painted to tell of Sacred Ceremonies, asking permission to cross the country of another tribe with different totems and lore. Today Aboriginal Catholics carry the Message Stick with the bible, symbolizing the respect for cultural differences when spreading the Good News.

Our message stick is a reminder of Pope John Paul II 1986 message at Uluru when he said "You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made a contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others."

During Mass the Message Stick is associated with 'The Word' of God and should be held in an upright position next to the reader when the Gospel is read. The message Stick is then placed in a prominent position which in our church is on the front of the lectern.

If you would like to help with continuing this symbol by holding the Message Stick upright during the reading of the Gospel you are welcome to do so, just let the priest know at the beginning of mass so that he isn't too surprised when you come forward.

This is our Parish commitment to the Message Stick as we continue the journey.



Continue the Journey Commitment Statement

In committing ourselves to be custodians of these Message Sticks we are making a commitment to continue the journey towards Reconciliation by spreading the message of justice.

We commit ourselves to treating all people with dignity, for we are all created in God's image and likeness.

We commit ourselves to respecting the ancient Dreaming which has been a part of the spirituality of Australia since before the incarnation of Christ, and is the Aboriginal way of touching the mystery of God.

We commit ourselves to caring for the Message Stick respectfully, recognising the privilege we have in using another culture's religious symbol in our communities. In doing this we join together with courage and hope as we celebrate a living culture whose faith in the Creator can transform us.

We commit ourselves to spreading the message of Pope John Paul II so that we create a Church that joyfully welcomes the contribution that is made by Aboriginal Catholics.

We pray that our commitment today will bring about unity. That we will come together in forgiveness, love, hope and peace aware that we are all created and sustained by the same Creator Spirit. We ask this in the name of Christ, our Redeemer.

Amen



Artwork: Care for Country by Magge-Jean Douglas (Dubb Dubbi)

When creating 'Care for Country' I kept in mind that this meant spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and culturally—I chose to create a bright and vibrant artwork that included the different colours of the land but showed how they come together in our beautiful country and to make people feel hopeful for the future. I've included communities, people, animals and bush medicines spread over different landscapes of red dirt, green grass, bush land and coastal areas to tell the story of the many ways country can and has healed us throughout our lives and journeys.



[facebook.com/NAIDOC](https://www.facebook.com/NAIDOC)
[#naidocweek](https://www.instagram.com/naidocweek)
[@naidocweek](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

NAIDOC Week

4-11 JULY 2021



#NAIDOC2021 #HealCountry

www.naidocweek.com.au | www.health.gov.au | www.environment.gov.au | www.indigenousaffairs.gov.au | www.parksaustralia.gov.au | www.water.gov.au | www.wildlife.gov.au | www.wildnet.gov.au | www.wildnet.gov.au

Ongoing celebrations for Fr Terry's 50th Anniversary

The Lunch that got away!

With as much certainty as COVID will allow, we have re-scheduled the Friday Lunch with Terry that was cancelled due to Lockdown. This is set for **Friday 23rd July at 1pm, at Montmorency Eltham RSL**. You may book by ringing the RSL directly on **(03) 9434 2085** and mention 'Lunch with Fr Terry'. If you missed out on an event with Fr Terry, for whatever reason, here is another opportunity for you and the Community to gather again and continue celebrations. Space is the only restriction on numbers at this time, so do not be hesitant about booking in.

For any enquiries call:

Patsy Skipper: 0429 439 675,
noel Vincent: 0421 016 105, or
Barbara Bibby: (03) 9439 8594

Claire and Neil Walker have been very active members of OLHC Parish for many years. They have decided to move to the NSW Coast to enjoy their retirement.

We wish to acknowledge their wonderful contribution to our Parish over many years. We wish them every blessing and success in their sea-change.



FAREWELL

'Discernment Seminar' via Zoom & in-person 14 x Tuesdays, 9.15am-11am (AEST) 20 Jul - 16 Nov 2021.

This seminar focuses on the movements of God's Spirit and spirits not-of-God in our lives and in our ministries.

Discernment of spirits and discernment of God's will are explored.

The series is led by Paul Beirne (MA, MDiv, DMin, PhD, Cert Spir Dir, Supervisor: Australasian Assoc of Supervision), Director of Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation.

Cost \$450. Book and pay via <https://www.trybooking.com/BSUVX>, email secretary@heartoflife.melbourne, or tel (03) 9890 1101.



You are welcome to join us celebrate the next Charismatic Mass at St Thomas the Apostle parish, 251 Diamond Creek Road, Nth Greensborough on Thursday, 15th July.

The evening will commence at 7.30pm with praise and worship, followed by Mass which will include the Sacrament of Anointing.

Please note, bookings are required via TryBooking.

<https://www.trybooking.com/BSTOJ>

For any assistance with bookings or any further details, please contact Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.



The whole creation is eagerly waiting for the full revelation of the children of God... From the beginning until now, the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth. Romans 8:19, 22

Evolution is just the language of growth and change. In the classic quote above, St. Paul does not actively teach what we now call evolution. Rather, I think he fully assumes it when he says parenthetically "as we know".

It has always seemed completely strange to me that there should be any resistance whatsoever to evolution or evolutionary thinking in Christian theology or practice. Instead, Christians should have been the first in line to recognise and cooperate with such a dynamic notion of God. But maybe many do not enjoy such a relational God - with all that implies - and only recognise a "substance" (that which "stands under") they call God. A static notion of God makes everything else static too, including our very notions of spirituality, history, and religion.

I can only assume that this resistance reflects a very limited inner experience of God. Anyone with a sense of soul knows this to be true: God is never static within us. Only when God is held without can we continue to think of God as inert, static, and merely imposing laws. Anybody who has paid attention to their inner life or read history books surely recognises that life and love are cumulative, growing, and going somewhere that is *always new and always more*. Perhaps it is this newness and non-familiarity of which we are afraid? For some reason, we think that admitting such love dynamism and cooperating with it (see Romans 8:28) is going to compromise our eternal, unchanging notion of God. Yet the Bible is not afraid of a dynamic and unfolding understanding of God. The notion of "The Lord" clearly evolves with many other iterations in the Hebrew Scriptures. For the New Testament writers, these images inspire the Christian notion of Jesus and lead to the utterly relational and totally interactive doctrine of the Trinity. A dynamic understanding of God is not only rather obvious in the Bible, but also necessary - and surely exciting. Remember, the only language available to religion is metaphor. God is always *like* something else we have experienced visibly and directly.



Roster for WEEKEND 17/18 July

<i>Montmorency</i>	
McAleer, Peter & Denise	ASRC
McKinna, Jane	PRYR
Percy, Julie	W6:00
Stanton, Mark	W6:00
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Vander/Mitcham Family	CLNR
Wood, Marie	W8:30
<i>Eltham</i>	
Beckford, Peter	Reader
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Haines, Geoff	Eucharistic Minister
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Scully, Helen	Eucharistic Minister
Taylor, Trish	Commentator
Zavadil Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 10

6:00pm Mass (160 people) & First Eucharist Montmorency

Sunday 11

8:30am Mass (160 people) & First Eucharist Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) & First Eucharist Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Luca, Madison, Summer & Beau
Montmorency

Monday 12

9:30am Days for Girls Montmorency

Tuesday 13

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

11:00am Funeral: Barbara Hermans Eltham

Wednesday 14

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Thursday 15

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

10:30am Mass at Garden Views Garden Views

Friday 16

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

Saturday 17

6:00pm Mass (160 people) & First Eucharist & Confirmation
Montmorency

Sunday 18

8:30am Mass (160 people) & First Eucharist Montmorency

10:00am Mass (160 people) & First Eucharist Eltham

Tuesday 20

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Eltham

Wednesday 21

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

11:00am Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 22

9:30am Mass (160 people) Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection & delivery Montmorency

Friday 23

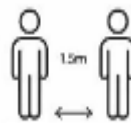
9:30am Mass (160 people) Eltham

CovidSafety

during Mass:



- Face masks are to be worn indoors (during Mass) unless you have personal health directives;



- Please maintain **social distancing of 1 person per 2 square metres** (families not included) at all times;



- Please **record your presence** via: QR Code on your phone, this is essential for Record Keeping and if necessary, tracing and numbers;



- Please use **Hand Sanitiser** provided or other personal appropriate cleaning agent.

Please note:

current Covid Regulations allow for **only 160 people** in the Churches of St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady Help of Christians.

Gospel - Mark 6:7-13

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals, but, he added, 'Do not take a spare tunic'. And he said to them, 'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them'. So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.



Reflection

Today's passage introduces a new section of Mark's gospel that records the mission of Jesus and the twelve in and beyond Galilee. It reads as though Jesus' rejection by his townsfolk is the spur for going further afield, just as persecution of the first Christians in Jerusalem led in time to the spread of the gospel elsewhere.

Jesus' command to the twelve to take nothing for the journey suggests that they are not being sent far. The mandate he gives them - to preach repentance, to free from demonic possession, and to heal - points both back and forward. It recapitulates the key features of his own ministry up to this point and anticipates the commission the risen Lord will give to the eleven in the last verses of the gospel.

This is the only place in the gospels, where reference is made to the practice of anointing the sick; the other key New Testament witness to this ministry is James 5:14.

The mission of the twelve, like that of Jesus, is to bring about the healing of body, mind and spirit by means of preaching, exorcising and anointing. Their capacity to achieve this depends not on the paraphernalia they take with them but on the power of Jesus' word.

Break Open the Word, 2021

Prayers of the Faithful for 11 July 2021—Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Celebrant: The Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. So let us gather our thoughts and prayers turning to the Lord who knows our needs.

For the Church: may we find our identity in our relationship with God, rather than the allurements of possessions, accomplishments or power. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the gift of hospitality: God's generosity to us is bountiful; let us extend this gift by welcoming the stranger and reaching out to those who are in need. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the gift of Wisdom: we pray that God's hand will guide us through negative encounters as we strive to oppose injustices and to uphold the values of the Gospel. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the gift of Hope: let us recognise the blessings that God has given us and pray that we find joy in living rather than wallowing in the struggles of life. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the gift of discipleship: may we hear God's invitation to bring forth the reign of God in our lives, our work and our relationships. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are suffering: may we be infused with God's strength so that we can help those recovering from natural disasters, protect those who live amongst violence, guide those who are seeking employment and comfort all who are grieving. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the enduring success of the Naidoc Week celebrations: may we continue to "Heal Country" by learning from our Indigenous Australians about the stewardship of the land and the importance of family bonds. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have received new life through the sacrament of First Eucharist: may they continue to feel welcomed and united in our Catholic community. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died recently, including Barbara Hermans and Mamie Ruthven; and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Stan Connelly, that they will have eternal life with Christ forever. For their loved ones and friends who are feeling the loss of their physical presence, may they be comforted by their memories. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Hear our prayers and enable us to reveal your love and life to all the earth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**