



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.

# Happy 75th Birthday Congratulations Terry

*From the Parish,  
thank you for your Priesthood  
and Ministry among us.  
We wish you well in retirement.*



### Covid-Safe Child-Friendly Parishes:

- Please **record your presence** via: QR Code on your phone, this is essential for Record Keeping and if necessary, tracing and numbers
- Vaccination Status: double vaccinated = unlimited;  
unknown/single or zero vaccinated = 50 people in attendance
- Please use **Hand Sanitiser** provided or other personal cleaning agent
- **Natural air flow** – where possible, windows and doors open



### For all volunteers and staff:

- **WWCC** – current working with children's check
- **Code of Conduct** – ensure you have signed the annual code of conduct



*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](http://pol.org.au/eltham) or [pol.org.au/montmorency](http://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](mailto:terry.kean@cam.org.au)

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

[michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au](mailto:michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au)

Barry Caldwell

#### **Parish Office**

86 Mayona Road

**9435 4742**

Mon - Fri 9am-3pm

[montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au)

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

Peter Williams:

Child Safety Officer

[SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

Website:

[www.pol.org.au/montmorency](http://www.pol.org.au/montmorency)

[www.pol.org.au/eltham](http://www.pol.org.au/eltham)

(pol stands for Parish OnLine)

Facebook:

[St Francis Xavier Parish Montmorency](#)

Monty & Eltham Newsletter & Facebook items:

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

#### **Schools**

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

[principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

[www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

[principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

[www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Patrick Green: 9439 7824

[school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

[www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

#### **RECONCILIATION**

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742

#### **Collections: 7 & 14 November 2021**

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$660.00	\$1,107.10
SFX	\$2,129.00	\$1,530.65



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>

## Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

### **Saturday 20**

12:00pm Baptism - William & Olivia

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 21 - World Youth Day**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Madeline

Montmorency

### **Monday 22**

6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir Practice

Eltham

### **Tuesday 23**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

### **Wednesday 24 - Red Wednesday**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

### **Thursday 25**

10:30am ASRC food collection

Montmorency

### **Friday 26**

9:30am Mass

Eltham

### **Saturday 27**

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 28 - First Sunday of Advent (Year C)**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

### **Monday 29**

6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir Practice

Eltham

### **Tuesday 30**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

### **Wednesday 1 December**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

11:00am Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:00pm OLHC Prep 2022 Information Evening

Eltham

7:30pm Small Church Community

Montmorency

### **Thursday 2**

10:30am ASRC food collection

Montmorency

2:00pm Mass @ St Vincent's Care

Eltham

7:45pm Book Club

Montmorency

### **Friday 3**

9:30am Mass

Eltham

### **Saturday 4**

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 5 - Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

### **Monday 6**

6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir Practice

Eltham

### **Tuesday 7**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

### **Wednesday 8**

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

### **Thursday 9**

10:30am ASRC food collection

Montmorency

### **Friday 10**

9:30am Mass

Eltham

### **Saturday 11**

12:00pm Baptism - Archie

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### **Sunday 12 - Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)**

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Lillian

Montmorency

### **Tuesday 14**

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

## Are you the King of the Jews?

*As you know, I retire on this Sunday, 21st November, and so this will be the last of my homilies for printing in the bulletin. It was back in April last year when Fr Michael suggested that I write a homily each week to keep a connection with the Parish Community in Covid-19 times. I hope you have found them helpful.*

There are times in our lives when we must take a stand? Times when we have to stand up for people who are the marginalised and poor.

When I think of marginalised people, let me recall an interview with Bishop John Stowe from the United States. He was asked a question about the dignity of LGBTIQ people. This was his answer:

*“Faith filled LGBTIQ persons, whose Catholicism is just as much part of their identity as their sexual orientation, have made a profound impression on me. I have spoken to too many individuals who have questioned their self-worth, questioned whether or not they are loved by God, questioned why they are alive at all.*

*Of course I would advocate for the inclusion of LGBTIQ persons and promote their dignity because they are made in the image and likeness of God. I struggle to understand why treating such persons with respect and taking their stories and struggles, along with their joys and accomplishments, is a threat to straight Christians.”*

Would that we had more Bishops like Bishop John Stowe speaking these words into our Church story.

If ever there is a time when we as a Catholic Church need to be inclusive and welcoming, now is surely the time. As a Church we have been way too proud, way too judgmental, way too clerical in the exercise of authority. As if we had our own ‘ship’ in order, when we were so involved in sexual abuse of children and the cover up of the truth.

Why talk about this today on the feast of Christ the King? Where is the connection with John’s Gospel of today where Jesus stands before Pilate about to face judgment and Pilate’s approval of the punishment of crucifixion? All through his public ministry, Jesus stood up for the poor and marginalised and he was considered a threat that had to be eliminated.

Pilate asked Jesus whether he was a king. Jesus answered, “Yes I am a king. I was born for this. I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.”

Those words, ‘to bear witness to the truth’ are words for us to reflect on and take to our own lives. Jesus was not a king who lived in a palace. Power, authority, wealth, prestige and status were not the hallmarks of his reign as king. In fact he said, ‘mine is not a kingdom of this world.’

The kingdom of Jesus was about service, inclusion, compassion, healing, forgiveness, love and so much more and it was a kingdom that gave witness to the truth. We are to carry on the work of this kingdom, to stand up for the truth, to speak up even when we know we will meet disapproval. If the truth we speak is inclusive, welcoming, forgiving and compassionate we will be people of the kingdom that Jesus spoke about that day he faced Pilate.

As a Catholic Church, for too long we have excluded far too many people and it’s time to ask forgiveness and find ways of inclusion. Hopefully we are coming out of a Covid-19 time when the doors of our churches are opening up again. Hopefully the Plenary Council of Australia will help us to be a more humble and courageous Church in standing up for the truth that Jesus lived for, even if like Jesus, we have to suffer judgment and ridicule.

Thank you Bishop John Stowe for your speaking the truth and living that Gospel today.

*Terry*





## THE PILGRIMAGE OF LIFE

It was June 2013, just a few months into my second term of appointment as Parish Priest of St Francis Xavier Montmorency. I had concluded my first term of 6 years, and it was time for a Sabbatical. In being appointed for another 6 years at St Francis Xavier, I had to 'drink from the well', so to speak and take some for study, prayer, reflection and holiday. So my great priest friend Gerry and myself were on the way to Boston College in the United States for a 6 week Summer School and then to Spain to walk a part of the Camino Frances before concluding with a holiday in Turkey.

It was our second time to Boston College for a Summer School and once again we delighted in the courses on offer. I couldn't take enough of the lectures and presentations and like a 'thirsty well' I drank the contents into my being. It was a wonderful 6 weeks.

Then to Spain to St Jean Pied de Port, the starting point for the Camino Frances and the beginning of an experience that has so impacted my life. I had wanted for many years to walk the Camino, and at age 66, Gerry, and good friend Tony Skipper, and myself set foot on August 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 to walk to Santiago de Compostela, a distance of 780 kilometres.



We hadn't planned on walking the whole way but had decided on walking the first 160 Kilometres to Logrono and the final 210 kilometres from Ponferrada into Santiago de Compostela. It is a famous pilgrimage with a history of hundreds of years of pilgrims making this journey for many different reasons.

I thought it would be a time for me to reflect back on my life and sense the immense gratitude for

what had been and still is my life. Little did I know what was waiting for me.

It was a warm morning that 5<sup>th</sup> August, in the height of the Spanish Summer. My backpack of approximately 12 kilograms weighed heavily on my shoulders, as slowly but surely, we climbed the Pyrenees mountains across the border between France and Spain and into Roncesvalles, a 27 km walk. It didn't help that I got lost in the fog on that first day and walked an extra 8 km making it a total for the day of 35 km. I was exhausted.

I could write about the journey of each day and our eventual arrival at the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, but this would be a story way beyond the scope of these bulletin pages. What I would like to focus on are the learnings for me along the pilgrimage and how this may well be a parable of life for us all.

I had expectations that the Camino would be a time of deep gratitude as I pondered the experiences of all my life. All I could think about each day was putting one foot in front of another. Sometimes it was easier when I walked on flat ground, but the Camino has hills and mountains and with a backpack on my shoulders, it was hard work.

Needless to say my backpack became lighter along the journey. It's amazing how little needs to be in the backpack. I tossed stuff out of my backpack like so many of the pilgrims.

The heat of Summer, the struggle to find accommodation in the height of the Camino season, the very basic but enjoyable pilgrim meals, walking the journey in communion with others, not only now but in some way through the centuries of the past, the yellow arrows pointing the way, the respect of people in the towns as we passed through these towns, the wonderful beers and a glass of red or two to wash the day away, the farms, the quaint and ancient towns, the track, the hills, the vineyards, the mountains, the cows with the sound of bells ringing on their way to and from milking, are all just tiny snapshots of what I remember.

As I think back on my Camino I found it difficult but wonderful. I struggled physically to walk the 380 km with a backpack on my shoulders and without pre-booked accommodation before the journey. I had been told by pilgrims who had walked the Camino to trust that we would find accommodation and to not organise it too much.



As I walked each day it was like I just had to take in the present moment and not focus on the future. If I had thought much about the destination, Santiago de Compostela, I think I would have given up. It was about one day at a time, even one step at a time.



I had to listen to my body, with all its aches and pains and feel such gratitude that the next morning I'd be recovered and ready to take on the new day. Our bodies are extraordinary in their capacity to heal.

To walk with friends and to walk with pilgrims from all over the world and then to enjoy the companionship of people around the table for dinner is such a blessing. I remember one evening meal Tony and myself were the only ones who spoke English and we were sitting at opposite ends of the long table. It was just great listening to conversation without understanding it, but bonded together in our journey of pilgrimage.

And isn't this life? It is how I see life unfolding as I look to begin a new chapter of my life in retirement.

It's about living simply, with less and less in the backpack of my life. I have been blessed with an abundance of possessions in a home and a superannuation that will more than provide for my needs. I hope to share the backpack of my life's goods with people who are less fortunate.

It's about appreciating the story of my life as I wander in and out of memories, finding stories and people that have so blessed my life.

It's about taking one day at a time and celebrating the present moment without thinking too much of the destination. I hope there will be some, even many, years ahead of me, but one day at a time is enough for my focus.

It's about appreciating my body in all its fragility, for the life it has given and continues to give me, caring for it responsibly and well.

And as for the ultimate destination I leave that up to God of love, trusting that the Risen Christ will meet me beyond the horizons of this world.

It's about rejoicing in the gift of friendship and continuing to celebrate friendship in my retirement.

It's about appreciating the earth and its beauty and making sure to 'smell the roses'.

It's about making the pilgrimage together with people from all walks of life, respecting their journeys and listening to their wisdom.

It's about nurturing the 'within', the truth that lives within me and around us all, in the Spirit of God who breathes life into us.

And so the time has come for me to walk another Camino of life in retirement. It will be a different walk to the Camino Frances and who knows how it will all unfold.

I look forward to it, even though I will miss the life I have so enjoyed for 50 years as priest. I will continue to be priest and I will be prepared to help out in Parishes. I may volunteer for working with asylum seekers or perhaps Sacred Heart Mission in some way.

And so on this Sunday of my retirement I wish you well as you continue to be Parish into the future. It will be difficult finding the way after Covid-19. It will be challenging in responding to a plan for parishes to be formed into Mission Centres. But in both Our Lady's and St Francis Xavier's, you have great communities with so many wonderful people who will still be around as you find your way into the future.

I thank Fr Michael for all his support and wish him well in leading the parish story of Montmorency/Eltham into this future.

I say my heartfelt thanks to you all for 15 years of being with you in St Francis Xavier, Montmorency and for more than 2 years with you in Our Lady's, Eltham.

It's time to say goodbye, even though in friendship and for some celebrations of Eucharist, I will still join you, in the words of the pilgrims on the Camino saying to each other 'Bien Camino', may I say:

'Bien Camino' to you all and thank you.

*Terry*



## Prayers of the Faithful for 21 Nov 2021 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

**Leader:** Brothers and sisters, encouraged by the word of God we pray for our needs and those of humanity.

We pray that all members of the church will be servants to one another, paying attention to each other's needs and supporting those in difficulties. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

During the Covid pandemic many divisions have appeared in our society. We pray that we can be reconciled and work together to promote and restore a more harmonious and tolerant community *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the generosity of people in this parish who have provided their time, their talents and their gifts to bring joy and comfort to those in need during the lockdown periods. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Now that we can return to church and celebrate the Eucharist together, we pray for those people in many parts of the world who are denied this privilege and are persecuted for their beliefs. We pray that God will strengthen and support them in their faith. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Father Terry, we wish him a long and happy retirement and thank him for his many years of service to the people of the Melbourne archdiocese. His generosity of spirit and gifts of acceptance, welcome and humour will be long remembered. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sick, at home or in hospital, and for the elderly and housebound, may they all experience Christ's healing love. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died recently, and we remember *Ellen Bentley, Neil Patrick Donahoo, Kelvin Kenny, Francis James Mannix, Norma Georgina Mannix, Joseph McCudden and Eileen & Albert Nioa* whose anniversaries occur at this time and those in our Book of Remembrance. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** God, our creator, you raised up Jesus as King of all creation. Hear our prayers and help us to be ready for the day when Jesus comes again in glory. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen

### Roster for WEEKEND 27/28 November 2021

<i>Montmorency</i>	
Ramsdale, Sue & John	ASRC
Williams, Anne & Peter	PRYR
<i>Eltham</i>	
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Scully, Helen	Altar Society

#### USED STAMPS

Now that our church is open again please don't forget you can bring any USED STAMPS and leave them in the box in the church foyer. These will be sent to the Mary MacKillop centre in Sydney for them to sell & raise money for educational purposes.

#### MILK BOTTLE TOPS

ARE NO LONGER COLLECTED AT CHURCH. The company that collected these no longer wants them. Simply push the lid into the empty milk bottle and place in the council recycle bin.

#### BATTERIES

ALSO ARE NO LONGER COLLECTED AT CHURCH. If you have old batteries, they can be taken to the recycle station at Banyule Council, Watermarc building, 1st Floor behind the lifts. Banyule Council also collects and recycles a number of other things: spectacles, X-rays, Fluorescent globes and tubes, phones and CD's or Videos.

### Advent and Christmas Cards

Our preparation for Christmas commence next week with the start of Advent. The Montmorency conference of SVDP have some booklets that maybe of interest to parishioners that will assist us in our preparations for Christmas. Pamphlets are in the front foyer near the entrance doors. Some of the pamphlets include:

- Advent
- Advent Reflections for Peace and Healing
- One Minute Reflections for Advent
- Season of Gratitude
- Praying with Scripture During Advent



We hope that you enjoy the selection. Please feel free to browse all the pamphlets. A gold coin donation in the poor boxes located at the front and side entrances will help defray costs.

#### Christmas Cards

The new stock of Christmas cards have finally arrived. Members will be outside SFX for all Masses from this weekend. Cards are in packs of 5 and cost \$2.50 per pack.



**St Vincent de Paul Society**  
*good works*



### 2022 Columban Calendars

are available to purchase from the  
Piety Stall at  
Eltham & Montmorency for \$10.

Anne Cotter & Mary O'Conner

# A contemplative in Glasgow

Extracts from the diary of **Laurence Freeman**, the Benedictine monk and director of a global meditation community.

**1 November 2021**

I arrived in Glasgow yesterday. Although I don't much like crowded gatherings I felt that I should be a presence for our community at an event that involves us all as citizens of the world and contemplatives in the making. The Mill Hill Missionaries offered me warm hospitality. I learned on my arrival that a 20-strong meditation group meets at their house every week.

Last night I met an old friend who has achieved astonishing things on behalf of the global environment in the financial sector. He told me that this in one leg of a three-legged stool for stabilising and reversing climate change: the other two legs are technology and government. Perhaps we should identify two more, less visible but essential supports for an eventual balancing of human nature with the natural world. One is humanity's collective consciousness, which means something deeper than "public opinion", which is notoriously fickle and shallow. It is the common mind that Christians find in Christ, the Buddha mind that Buddhists recognise, Brahman or the Universal Spirit. It unifies us by whatever name. It is an energy source of pure consciousness that enters our lives and immediately begins to separate reality from illusion. It quickly exposes the virus of misinformation and restores honest conversation. The other essential element, which allows people of very different beliefs to understand how they share the same ground and goal, is not the unreliable friendship of alliances and factions but a friendship drawn direct from the ground-source of our common humanity. It is kinship and it is kind.

**2 November 2021**

As I passed through security at the Exhibition Hall my small backpack caused commotion. I was asked if I had a blade inside. When I showed them my little meditation bell - a six inch hollow metal tube, with the wooden ringer tucked into the wood base - they looked even more suspicious and asked what it was. I removed the stick and sounded the bell. I won't say the whole of the conference centre fell wondrously silent but at least they waved me through.

During my talk, the din of the hall, with thousands of simultaneous conversations colliding, seemed to exemplify the mind at the start of a meditation session. After the shared silence someone said how amazing



Laurence Freeman OSB

it was to be able to meditate even under these conditions and how different the noise felt afterwards. It was still there but it was less of an opponent. Could a huge convention like this could be imagined and handled differently? We have become a culture of meetings. We meet online or in person to discuss everything and often the final decision is to have another meeting. Being decisive requires faith in ourselves and courage in face of possible failure. There is not much time left for the planet but we are still scared of being decisive and unified. There are far fewer people who deny climate change but the new deniers are the delayers. Faith and courage and trust are at a low ebb.

I was moved recently to hear from a religious leader who meditates. He shared with me his near sense of despair with the kind of God-language he was expected to collude in. Speaking of God in ways that put God on the outside, turning Him into a potentate rather than revealing Him as a creating and loving power makes God a tribal totem. It is, after all, not only large convention centres that are so noisy they make communication almost impossible. It is also our churches, mosques, synagogues and temples. Our global crisis is calling forth a new kind of religion, using words to reveal the silence uniting us, healing division, and liberating the better angels of our nature.

**3 November 2021**

In the real world it seems there's always some people on top and others trying to topple them. All human beings live in constant tension between their inner and outer ecologies. Spirituality - if it means anything more than feeling good - aims to reduce this tension to net zero by making

the inner and outer one.

At COP26, this universal tension swirled around the hope that, yes, we can still heal the great disharmony of our time, the second Fall of humanity, the separation between ourselves and the natural world we are married to. As in all social organisations, COP involved distinct, sometimes clashing zones of influence and self-importance. Some of the people stand outside the fence demonstrating, some haranguing, like ancient prophets at the city gates. We queued good-humouredly in the cold, masked but in fictional social distancing. The biggest lane is for "Observers", the lowest in the hierarchy, of which I was one. Even when a great crowd of good human beings gather to save their planet, hierarchy is a necessary evil. It carries dangers: desire for higher status, power struggle, fame, recognition, resentment, angry or hurt shame. The best of intentions and the most altruistic, selfless commitments can be distorted by hierarchy and invisibly infected by the microbes of egotism long before we are aware it is happening. "The last temptation is the greatest treason, to do the right thing for the wrong reason."

**6 November 2021**

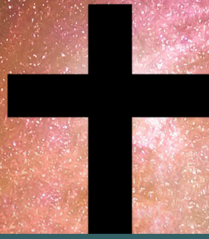
I am back home in Bonnevaux, happy to re-enter the rhythm of prayer and community after the meeting-rush of COP26, busy but in a different way. Reading the news about COP I am struck by how different first-hand experience is from the way it is headlined in the media. The headlines are generally pessimistic and angry. It's all a terrible "failure". Who's to blame? Everyone, it seems, except the people pointing the finger at eyes which perhaps only have splinters in them.

To my surprise, my sense of hope increased by being in Glasgow. The negotiators seemed to me realistic but also determined, with that quality of resilience you find in effective peacemakers anywhere. Failure or success are relative, fluid terms and often too visceral to allow for subtlety. I am not defending the defenders but questioning the attackers. One person over the last two years who has done much to ensure a good outcome and who will have a place in the history books, if there is still history, shared with me a sense of the pessimism that clung to him. Was it too late?, he wondered. But he was not surrendering to it. He exemplified "a pessimism of the intellect and an optimism of the will". Holding them together is like keeping both hands on the wheel while driving through a rainstorm.

**Laurence Freeman OSB** is the director and spiritual guide of the World Community for Christian Meditation, [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org).

## Gospel - John 18:33-37

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this. I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'



## Reflection

This final scripture reading of the liturgical year harks back to Good Friday. It is an excerpt from John's account of the passion. This seems to fall naturally into five acts:

1. Jesus' arrest (18:1-11)
2. Jesus before the Jewish authorities (18:12-27)
3. Jesus' trial before Pilate (18:28-19:16a)
4. The crucifixion and death of Jesus (19:16b-30)
5. From cross to tomb (19:31-42).

We hear from Act Three, the core of the drama. This act is subdivided into seven scenes which move us in and out of Pilate's stronghold as Jesus is tried. Today's reading is the second of these scenes. It presents the first exchange between Pilate and Jesus inside the fortress. The key issue emerges: the true identity of Jesus and the nature of his kingship.

Prior to the passion narrative, the term "king" only appears four times in this gospel. On each occasion it's clear that the term expresses false expectations of Jesus' messiahship. By contrast the word is used ten times in the passion story, three of which are in this passage, along with three references to "kingdom". John has already demonstrated the nature of Jesus' kingship in the story of the washing of the feet. It's a kingship of love, a love so powerful that it will overcome death. Now Jesus declares his kingdom to be a realm of truth, the kind of truth that "will make you free" (8:32).

As is generally the case in the dialogues of John's gospel, Jesus' conversation partner fails to grasp the true meaning of what is being said. Pilate's uncomprehending replies give Jesus the opportunity to teach ever more profoundly. Today's gospel reading features a short but crucial segment of the passion narrative that may be lost in the full narrative on Good Friday. It deserves to be read with deliberation so as to convey the full weight of the truth being taught.

**Break Open the Word 2021**



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

### Montmorency

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Ellen Bentley, Kelvin Kenny, Francis James Mannix, Norma Georgina Mannix,  
Joseph McCudden, Eileen & Albert Nioa*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Damian Brasier Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert),  
Nora Edmond, Terry Flannery (father of Elisha O'Dowd) Kate Lagerewskij*

### Eltham

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Neil Patrick Donahoo*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Violetta, Ryan Bennett, Lucy Bibby, Ruth Decker, Tom Nolan, Paul O'Dell, Les Robertson, Christine Scott,  
Rosemary Scully, Barbara Snopkowski, Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Sylvek Zyleviczc*

To include an anniversary in the bulletin, please contact  
Parish Office: 9435 4742 or [eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)