

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.

Christmas Mass Timetable

Christmas Eve:

<u>6pm</u>	Holy Trinity Primary
<u>8pm</u>	OLHC Eltham
<u>10pm</u>	SFX Montmorency

Christmas Day:

<u>8:30am</u>	SFX Montmorency
<u>10am</u>	OLHC Eltham

Boxing Day:

<u>8:30am</u>	SFX Montmorency
<u>10am</u>	OLHC Eltham

Our Lady Help of Christians, 2 Henry Street, Eltham &
St Francis Xavier, 88 Mayona Road, Montmorency



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 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

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

Terry Kean - Pastor in Solidum

terry.kean@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

Principal: Patrick Green: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

available upon request

please call the Parish Office 9435 4742

Collections: 21 & 28 November 2021

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$760.00	\$774.50
SFX	\$2,737.50	\$1,591.25



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 4

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 5 - Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 6

5:30pm Parish Futures Meeting

Montmorency

6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir Practice

Eltham

Tuesday 7

10:00am Funeral: Brian McInerney

Montmorency

Wednesday 8

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

Thursday 9

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection

Montmorency

Friday 10

9:30am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Funeral: Andy Clonan

Montmorency

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

Wednesday 15

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

11:00am Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 16

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection

Montmorency

2:00pm Mass @ Lower Plenty Garden Views Lower Plenty

Friday 17

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 18

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Henrietta

Montmorency

Tuesday 21

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl

Eltham

Wednesday 22

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

Thursday 23

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC food collection

Montmorency

Friday 24 - Christmas Eve

6:00pm Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass

Holy Trinity

8:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Eltham

10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

Montmorency

Saturday 25 - Christmas Day

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Sunday 26

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Henrietta

Montmorency



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Andy Clonan, Brian McInerney

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Suashini Jeyakumar, Sybil Masson

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert),

Nora Edmond, John Tobin,

Terry Flannery (father of Elisha O'Dowd),

Kate Lagerewskij, Adrian Lamers, Sheila Smith

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

Elaine Coolahan (sister of Peter Reardon),

Pamela Hancock, (mother of Simon Croke)

Ildiko Kruth (USA) (cousin of Claire Zavadil

Stella Iaconis (Italy) (sister of Emma D'Eliseo)

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Violetta, Ryan Bennett, Lucy Bibby, Ruth Decker,

Geoff Haines, Luke Hawthorne-Smith, Tom Nolan,

Paul O'Dell, Les Robertson, Christine Scott,

Rosemary Scully, Barbara Snopkowski,

Ibyszek Wojciechowski, Teresa Zammit,

Sylvek Zyleviczcz

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



Our Lady's church choir is seeking a pianist to play at Christmas Eve Mass (24 Dec 2021 – 8pm). The choir would also need a rehearsal with the piano. The pianist would need to be proficient (as an accompanist) in playing the usual Christmas hymns and parts of the Mass.

Enquiries can be made to the Parish on: 9435 4742

Hospitality Roster at OLHC

If you would like to participate in this very important ministry, please put your name and a contact number on the sheet which will be in the Gathering Area.



SVDP Montmorency Christmas Appeal 2021

Thank you to all our parishioners who made a donation to our appeal last weekend. Christmas cards acknowledging your donation have been sent to all who filled in with their address on the envelopes. We presume that receipts for credit card donations will be issued by our head office who will be processing your details. However, if you do not receive a tax receipt in the next few weeks, please email Mike at [msaid@netspace.net.au](mailto:m said@netspace.net.au).

This year's Christmas Appeal theme is **"No child should be born into a world without hope for the future"**.

As is the custom of SVDP Montmorency, all monies raised by the appeal are used **exclusively** within the local community and will go toward sharing the spirit of Christmas with those for whom daily life is a struggle. There are no administration costs associated with the preparation and distribution of hampers.

It is not too late to donate!

How to Donate

Envelopes are in the church pews for **cash, cheque or credit card donations**. Please place the envelopes in one of the three boxes in the church foyer.

On Line at Vinnies.org.au and ensure you **nominate Montmorency or Eltham in the Comments/Conference box** to ensure your donation stays local.

Phone 13 18 12 again state "for Montmorency or Eltham conference Christmas appeal".

If you choose to donate online, it would be appreciated if you email [msaid@netspace.net.au](mailto:m said@netspace.net.au) so that our conference can acknowledge your generosity.



If you, or someone you know, require assistance is always promptly available by contacting 1800 305 330 between 10am and 3pm weekdays.

Collection of quality household goods/furniture can be arranged by calling 1800 621 349. The St Vincent de Paul Montmorency's conference sincerely wishes to thank everybody for their continued support of our work and wish all parishioners and their families every blessing and happiness for Christmas and a very happy and safe New Year.

Christmas Cards

Members will again be outside SFX for all Masses again this weekend. Cards are in packs of 5 and cost \$2.50 per pack, our aim is not to make a profit but to cover costs and help put Christ back into Christmas. Thank you to parishioners who bought cards last week, we sold 130 packets in the first weekend (a record for 1 weekend sales!) and have just 76 packets left.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

2021 Kadasig Christmas Hampers

Celebrate Christmas by making a difference to the lives of others! The Kadasig Christmas Hampers bring great joy to many families in Cebu, Philippines. While you're sitting down to a feast with your family, know that a family in Cebu, Philippines will enjoy a hamper of food. There are a number of other 'grass root' options you can choose from to support families in need.

For more information or to purchase a gift certificate for a family or gift, please contact:

Maree Kulkens (0430 549 516 or mareekulkens@yahoo.com.au) or

Juanita Troemml (0409 514 565 or jtroemml@bigpond.net.au) or visit our website: www.kadasigaid.com.au

* \$20 - Days for Girls (reusable menstrual kit)

* \$30 - 25kg rice

* \$60 - 50kg rice

* \$20-\$100 - livelihood products

* \$40 - Christmas Hamper

* \$60 - piglet

* \$25 - medical care

* \$40 - house repairs

* \$100 - small baking oven

(Christmas Hamper = provide food for a family for Christmas & New Year, these are packed & distributed by our staff)



Monty & Eltham

The Catholic Parishes of
St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians

MONTY & ELTHAM
Parish Primary Schools
Holy Trinity-Eltham North, St Francis Xavier-Montmorency &
Our Lady Help Of Christians-Eltham

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

Re: First Eucharist for 2021 Year 5 Cohort

Thank you so much for your resilience, prayers and support during this long and difficult time of Covid. Many of our Year 5 2021 cohort were unable to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist due to the restrictions put in place by the Government and Melbourne Archdiocese, in relation to the Covid 19 pandemic. In order for our students to receive this blessed Sacrament we are inviting parents to consider booking their child into a choice of the following Mass times for their child to receive their First Holy Communion:

- **Friday 24 December 6pm – Christmas Eve Outdoor Mass Holy Trinity Primary School Top Oval– 50 children** – Children invited up to receive First Holy Communion. Eucharist certificates can be collected from Parish office in February. Bookings can be made via <https://www.trybooking.com/BVMUC>
- **Christmas Masses: 10 children per Mass**, Children invited up to receive First Holy Communion. Eucharist certificates can be collected from the Parish office in February. Bookings can be made via <https://www.trybooking.com/BVMUP>
24/12 – 8pm Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Eltham
24/12 – 10pm St Francis Xavier Church, Montmorency
25/12 – 8:30am St Francis Xavier Church, Montmorency
25/12 – 10am Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Eltham
26/12 – 8:30am St Francis Xavier Church, Montmorency
26/12 – 10am Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Eltham
- **First Eucharist Celebrations – Ordinary Time 2022; 6 children per Mass; 2020 & 2021 candidates: 1 Jan 2022 to 27 Feb 2022 & 18 Jun 2022 to 20 Nov 2022.** Bookings can be made via <https://www.trybooking.com/BVEOG>
Sat 6pm – St Francis Xavier Church, Montmorency.
Sun 8:30am – St Francis Xavier Church, Montmorency
Sun 10am – Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Eltham

Please note: dress code is neat casual, however First Eucharist children are free to wear special dress/suit if they desire.

May the spirit of God's love keep us one in faith and peace.

Michael F. Sierakowski
(Parish Moderator)

Kathy Toomey
(Education in Faith Leader)



86 Mayona Road, Montmorency Vic 3094
(03) 9435 2178 * montmorency@cam.org.au * eltham@cam.org.au



Hopes and Consultations

Here we are approaching Christmas and summer relaxation-time and yet Church discussions and consultations keep on coming. There are three on-going:

1. **Consultations re Missions Plan:** There is some rest on this one. At our last meeting of the PFT (Parish Future Team) 11/11/2021, we resolved to focus on developing the OLHC-Eltham/SFX-Montmorency tie, and to leave exploration of relations with other parishes etc. under the Archbishop's missions plan until we find our feet after Terry Kean's retirement and the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. There will be no further meetings on these matters until February or March 2022.
2. **PC consultations:** Leading up to the second Assembly, the Drafting Committee (the PC Assembly members plus *periti* – nominated 'experts' like Frank Brennan) will work with the PC steering Committee to continue "communal discernment". In December-January they will work to draft "thematic documents which collate and capture the proposals from the first assembly. After Easter 2022, the drafted versions of the documents will be made available for the whole People of God" for comment and discussion (quotes are from Lana Turvey Collins writing in *Plenary Post, Edition 41*). After editing (presumably to reflect comments from the faithful) proposals will be entered into the agenda for the second Assembly. The short of all that is that we are not yet served with any deadlines for further participation in the PC process leading up to the Second Assembly July 4 -9. They will come after Easter. There will be only a short time after Easter for submissions before the agenda for the second Assembly is finalised. In this perspective, the time between now and Easter is the time to formulate short-lists of concrete issues that we have reason to hope the Second Assembly will deliberate on. These include mandating diocesan pastoral councils, and the appointment of women to key positions in ecclesial decision-making bodies. Keep tuned for further details in New Year editions of Monty & Eltham. For ideas about how we may participate in the making of the agenda for the July 2022 Assembly see *Plenary Post Edition 41 Nov 2021*.
3. **Synod of Bishops consultations:** The good news here comes from Archbishop Coleridge, Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. He has addressed confusion about the overlap of the PC and Bishops Synod processes. He stresses that the PC and the Synod are 'interweaving' – "in other words, the local and the universal working together and enriching each other." The practical implication seems to be that consultations for both may proceed together and involve the same personnel. On timelines for Synod consultations, Trudy Dantis, who runs the Australian Council of Bishops National Centre for Pastoral Research and is the national coordinator for the Synod of Bishops process, has recently posted a revision: the deadline for local submissions on the Bishops' questions from December 12 2021 to February 27 2022. Those questions are to be found in Pope Francis' announcement of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which can be found, together with other information about the synod and how to participate, at www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch. Again, keep tuned!

Rowan Ireland

Advent Meditation / Peace through integrity

In her commentary on the first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent, **Leonie Caldecott** continues her journey through the season of waiting, puzzled and anxious, for the coming of the Christ-child

"A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight." St John the Baptist is the prophet of the turning point, where the old covenant cedes to the new. The moment is foretold by another great prophet, Isaiah. More than simply predicting events, a prophet tells us what is really going on. If you think about it, the two things are inseparable. What is coming in the future has its roots in the present struggle: between our alienation from the God in whose image we are made, and our need to reintegrate with that which we have despoiled.

The first reading (Baruch 5:1-9) almost seems to frame this reconciliation as a kind of forest bathing. "And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God: for God will guide Israel in joy



ILLUSTRATION: ROSE-MARIE CALDECOTT

by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort."

Integrity. The word was already there last week, in the reading from Jeremiah, who spoke of the need for "honesty and integrity in the land". Not just the land, but the city too. "And this is the name the city will be called: The-Lord-our-integrity."

This week the word appears again, several times, in the reading from Baruch, Jeremiah's disciple. Here, the

city is given a very particular title: "Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness."

What does Jerusalem stand for here? It is the place of integration, the peaceful haven, the site of the Temple. For Christians, of course, it is one image of the Church: a complicated body of people perpetually caught between trepidation and devotion as they await the *Parousia*. And that's another word to conjure with: an ancient Greek expression to denote the official visit of a powerful figure. With the coming of Christ, the power element is turned on its head: as Pope Francis has put it, the Church is not a business transaction, but a love story. She speaks through the prophets, not the profits. She sings through those troubadours of the Bridegroom, who is coming to turn water into wine, and

wine into our very lifeblood. We already know this love story will entail the Cross; we also know that what is sown in tears will yield a rich harvest.

So the prophet exhorts us to put off our "clothes of sorrow and distress" and put on "the cloak of the integrity of God" instead. The almighty, it seems, wants to crown us with his own glory. The coming of this "Tremendous Lover", as Catherine Hueck Doherty calls him, would overwhelm us, if it weren't for the fact that he hides within the safest, most ordinary of places. A hillside waystation for the feeding of beasts. The muted ocean of a woman's womb. Within this most intimate of citadels, mercy and integrity are united.

Within these walls of flesh, the child stretches out minute fingers towards the dim light of the star-shot sky: fingers destined to touch and heal the wayward world.

Leonie Caldecott is a write living in the West Country. She is the editor of the UK/ Eire edition of Magnificat.



Prison Fellowship Australia
RESTORING LIVES INSIDE OUT

Prayer Diary

Saturday 4

Pray for people in prison who are getting close to their release date. Give thanks for programs they can access that help prepare them for release. Pray for them as they understandably feel apprehensive and uncertain.

Sunday 5

Give thanks that almost 1000 children will be receiving a gift from their parent in prison this year. Thank God also for the way Victorian churches, individuals and even a school have stepped up to provide and post the gifts this year. Give thanks for Ann Voutier, Faye Butler and Amy Hermans who have coordinated the program this year.

Monday 6

We are blessed with an amazing team of volunteers and supporters across the ministry who faithfully and patiently serve as God calls them to. This week we will give thanks and pray for our volunteers. Today we give thanks for the many faithful people who support us in prayer. Each week over 1800 weekly prayer diaries are sent out and a wonderful team gather on zoom to pray.

Tuesday 7

Two of our volunteers, Ross Mackenzie & Warwick Davidson, finally were able to complete their orientation and first visit to Thomas Embling Hospital last Monday and will now begin regular volunteering. Give thanks for this new opportunity and pray for the volunteers as they meet with the men here.

Wednesday 8

Pray for the VIP (Visiting In Prison) volunteer teams visiting in Fulham CC; Port Phillip Prison; Melbourne Assessment Prison; Melbourne Remand Centre; Barwon Prison; Karreenga/Marngoneet CC; Dame Phyllis Frost Centre; Hopkins; Langi Kal Kal; Dhurringile.

Thursday 9

Pray for our team of T24 volunteers led by Graham Higgerson who are available to pick up people on release from prison and take them to their place of residence after prison. Pray for their safety and for the opportunities they have to share with people as they drive them to their destination.

Friday 10

Give thanks for our Victorian State Council members: Derrick, Brad, Delle, Peter and Phil and pray for them as they serve in this governing/advisory capacity.



St Patrick's Cathedral &
Cathedral Brass present:

Festive Music for Christmas

Wednesday 15 December,

7-8pm

Gabrieli, Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn & other
Christmas favourites.

Full program details, bookings and enquiries:

www.trybooking.com/BVJPD



2022 Columban Calendars

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

Anne Cotter & Mary O'Conner



Opening The Doors Foundation

*Keeping Koorie Kids
in an Education of their Choice*

For just \$30 you can buy one of our Christmas ornaments to hang on your tree or gift to loved ones.

By purchasing an ornament, you will be supporting Aboriginal students across Victoria. Our festive gum nut decorations are made from Australian timbers and are lightweight. Each one is 7.5cm in diameter and comes in a gift box.

Here's what your purchase can help us achieve...

- 1 ornament a school hat for a student
- 2 ornaments stationary, exercise books & pencil cases for a family
- 3 ornaments maths calculator for a Secondary School student
- 4 ornaments support a student with the costs of school camp
- 5 ornaments support a student with the costs of VET/VCAL
- 6 ornaments a full sports uniform for a student
- 7 ornaments stationary & books for up to 3 Secondary School students
- 8 ornaments a school bag
- 9 ornaments school shoes for a student
- 10 ornaments uniforms for up to 2 Primary School students
- 11 ornaments a blazer for a Secondary School student

<https://www.openingthedoors.org.au/christmas>

A message from Aid to the Church in Need Australia:

ACN is running an advent appeal to help Christian refugees who are suffering due to persecution, conflict and violence.

This year share the hope of Christmas with Christian refugees and help ease their burdens. To read stories and watch videos of how ACN is helping our suffering brothers and sisters and to make a

donation please visit:
www.aidtochurch.org/adventappeal.



Aid to the
Church in Need
ACN AUSTRALIA



It is that time again where the less fortunate can be supported with donations of NEW toys and gifts suitable for teenagers and adults for Christmas presents. These can be left in the baskets available in Our Lady's Chapel at St Francis Xavier, Montmorency. Items may be delivered at Mass times, or to the Parish Office. Baskets will be available 1 to 19 Dec.

All enquiries to the Parish Office.
Thank you for your continued support.

On the Top Shelf @ OLHC

Pro Hart's *Outback Christmas* is on the top shelf. Also, are two gems by Brian Doyle: *A book of Common Prayer* & *Grace Notes*.

Missing from library are *The Story of the Other Wise Man* & also *Grace in Dying*. The latter was returned on October '21, so someone took it out not long ago. Please return these books to the library when able.
Trish Taylor





Prayers of the Faithful for 5 Dec 2021 Second Sunday of Advent

Leader: Lord, we come in prayer, confident in your love.

“The Lord has done great things for us, we are filled with joy”. We thank God for the wondrous gifts in our lives. May we find joy in simplicity, kindness and friendship. We remember those who struggle, who have lost hope or security. May they find the love and support they need to rediscover joy in their lives.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we be informed, active community members, discerning and inclusive in our judgements. We pray for a spirit of respect, tolerance and understanding in our current troubled social and political debates.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

John felt God’s presence amidst the harshness of the desert. Let us pray for the courage to trust and be open to God even when the future is uncertain and our path is unclear. May his love comfort and steer us through the difficulties of these COVID times.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For justice. May all nations work together, in a spirit of cooperation and compassion, to provide education, aid and medical help for those nations struggling with low COVID vaccination rates and supply.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all students and teachers completing another very disjointed school year. May they feel a sense of pride and achievement for all that they have been able to accomplish. May they feel supported by their friends and community and remain engaged and connected with their peers.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling physically or mentally. May the peace and joy of the Advent season bring comfort and calm.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, *Andy Clonan, Elain Coolahan, Pamela Hancock, Stella Iaconis, Ildiko Kruth & Brian McInerney;* and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, *Suashini Jeyakumar & Sybil Masson.* May they rest in the peace and love of the Lord.

Let us pray to the Lord **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: May our hearts be open to the presence of the Lord in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen



Roster for WEEKEND 11/12 December 2021

Montmorency

Capuana, Marisa PRYR

Said, Mike & Marie ASRC

Eltham

Armstrong, Miranda Eucharistic Minister

Furtado, Lorraine Commentator

Hall, Vali Altar Society

Milwain, Gianna Altar Society

Reardon, Kathy Eucharistic Minister

Ryan Family Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Scully, Greg Reader

We are here for you!

If you or someone you know is unable to attend Mass due to ill health or for any other reason, we would be more than happy to bring Communion to you at home. The beautiful **Season of Advent** has begun and we would like you to know you are with us on the journey.

Please do not hesitate to call Kate (Parish Office) on 9435 4742, or Patsy Skipper on 0429 439 675. We are happy to arrange a suitable time to visit you.

You are in our thoughts and prayer during this Advent time.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

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

- **Parish Secretary, St Mark’s Catholic Parish, Fawkner**
- **Parish Secretary, St Brendan’s & Holy Rosary Parishes, Flemington**
- **Jo Care Digital Coordinator, Stonnington Area Lay Ecclesiastical Leader, St Kevin’s Parish, Templestowe**
- **Youth Minister, St Christopher’s Parish, Syndal**

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



Gospel - Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah:

A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.



Reflection

Advent is a season of patient waiting. While we wait for the story of Jesus' birth, Luke takes us some decades ahead to the preaching of John the Baptist. He prefaces this with an introduction that embeds his gospel in time and place. Having promised at the outset to write "an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us" (1:3), he now claims historical credence for his narrative by naming contemporary imperial and religious authorities.

Into this world of ceaseless power-broking the word of God is spoken. Luke's mundane roll-call of office-holders is suddenly shot through with surprise. A lone voice in the wilderness of Judaea speaks out, signalling the start of what would become a global revolution. The marvel of this unexpected turn of events will be conveyed to the assembly if the reader names each of Luke's movers and shakers in turn with unrushed deliberation, before proclaiming the dramatic main clause with conviction. This leads into a spirited rendition of the Baptist's proclamation.

Ironically John's use of Isaiah's oracle (cited also by Baruch) conjures up images of the progress of a conquering tyrant, for whose return in triumph every obstacle must be removed. Jesus' path, by contrast, grew narrower, harder and ever more lonely until it became a way of the cross.

But for now we let our hearts thrill with the promise of salvation for all. As Simeon proclaimed on seeing the child Jesus, here was "a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel" (2:29-32).

Break Open the Word 2021

Support Eltham Parish by giving with CDFpay

Simply scan the QR code with your mobile phone and in a few easy steps you can quickly and securely give to your parish.



FAST **EASY** **SECURE** **100% ONLINE**

About CDFpay

For over 60 years, Catholic Development Fund (CDF) has helped parishioners put their faith into action. We do this by funding and supporting Catholic organisations, for the benefit of local communities. CDFpay enables you to make quick and easy online thanksgiving payments – you can set-up a recurring payment, or you can choose a one-off offering for your parish or presbytery account.

Scan now to support
Eltham Parish or visit
melbourne.cdfpay.org.au to find your parish.



Support Montmorency Parish by giving with CDFpay

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