

# Monty & Eltham



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 New Year 2022



### Mystical Hope

### The Gift of Confidence

Monday, December 6th, 2021

*Fr Richard describes the gift of confidence, which arises not from our ego or efforts, but from the foundational goodness of God.*

When we are confident, we believe in a deep way that life is good, God is good, and humanity is good. We become safe and salutary people for others. We do exciting and imaginative things because we are confident that we are part of a story line that is going somewhere, and we want to be connected to something good. This is what modern secularism cannot offer us.

Theologically speaking, we identify the virtues of *faith, hope and love as participation in the very life of God*. We don't achieve this by will power; we already participate in it by our deepest nature. It is not occasioned by perfect circumstances. In fact, most of the people I know who have great faith or hope live in difficult circumstances.

True confidence is really a blending of both faith and hope. I don't understand the alchemy of that union, but I know when it is present and when it isn't. It often feels like something which I have accidentally discovered, something given from nowhere, something that participates in Someone Else's life. It is of an entirely different nature than natural virtues like temperance or patience, which we gain through practice. I think that is why we pray for hope, wait for it, and believe in it, leaving the ground fallow until it comes. Those who do such things *know* that it does come and is always given - and all they can do is thank Someone.

The good news is that there *is* a guide, a kind of inner compass - and it resides within each of us. As the Scriptures put it, "the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5). This Holy Spirit, described in John's Gospel as an "advocate" (John 14:16), guides all of us *from home and toward home*. The Holy Spirit is entirely *for us*, more than we are for ourselves, it seems. She speaks in our favour against the negative voices that judge and condemn us. This gives us all such hope - now we do not have to do life all by ourselves, or even do life perfectly "right". Our life will be "done unto us", just as happened with Mary (see Luke 1:38).

Optimism is a natural virtue and a wonderful gift of temperament when things are going well, when we think tomorrow will be better than today. Yet Christian hope has nothing to do with the belief that tomorrow is necessarily going to be better. Jesus seems to be saying that if even one mustard seed is sprouting, or one coin found, or one sheep recovered (see Luke 15) - that is reason enough for a big party! Even a small indicator of God is still an indicator of God - and therefore an indicator of final reason, meaning, and joy. *A little bit of God goes a long way.*

#### Reference:

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *The Wisdom Pattern: Order, Disorder, Reorder* (Franciscan Media: 2001, 2020), 119-120; and *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* (Jossey-Bass: 2011), 91-92.

*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.*





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

**Montmorency**

For the recently deceased:

*Adrian Lamers*  
brother-in-law of Gerry Lamers  
*William (Bill) Whelan (Canada)*  
father of Kathy Maffei

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

**Eltham**

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

To include an anniversary please contact Parish House  
9435 4742 or [eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au).

**Rosters - 8 & 9 January 2022**

**Eltham**

Dhanasen Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Donnellan, Denice	Eucharistic Minister
Dopheide, Marlis	Eucharistic Minister
Haines, Jan-Marie	Reader
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
Hannon, Kevin & Genni	ASRC Food Collection
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Nolan, Kathleen	Commentator

**Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events**

**Saturday 1st**

6:00pm Mass *Montmorency*

**Sunday 2nd**

8:30am Mass *Montmorency*

10:00am Mass *Eltham*

**Tuesday 4th**

9:30am Mass *Montmorency*

10:00am Craft Group *Montmorency*

**Wednesday 5th**

6:30am Meditation *Montmorency*

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion *Eltham*

11:00am Small Church Community *Montmorency*

**Thursday 6th**

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion *Montmorency*

10:30am ASRC Food Collection *Montmorency*

**Friday 7th**

9:30am Mass *Eltham*

**Saturday 8th**

12:00pm Baptism - Thomas, Amelia & Zachariah *Montmorency*

6:00pm Mass *Montmorency*

**Sunday 9th**

8:30am Mass *Montmorency*

10:00am Mass *Eltham*

12:00pm Baptism - Mia *Eltham*

**Tuesday 11th**

9:30am Mass *Montmorency*

10:00am Craft Group *Montmorency*

**Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, the set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.



**Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:**

**Saturday 1 January**

*St Francis Xavier, 6pm*

Sophie Henderson

First Eucharist

Julia Martinelli

First Eucharist

**Sunday 2 January**

*St Francis Xavier, 8:30am*

Darcy Wong

First Eucharist

*Our Lady Help of Christians, 10am*

Francesca Bucknell

First Eucharist

**The quiet month of January (office hours!)**

The office will be open on Friday each week from 9am to 3pm.

During the month of January, we hope to have a bit of a break.

Michael will be around to answer phone calls, return phone messages and respond to emails.

Have a restful, safe & blessed holiday time,

Kate

