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.

Let's walk together...

Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission".

Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on this theme that is decisive for the Church's life and mission:

"It is precisely this path of synodality (walking together) which God expects of the Church of the third millennium. Synodality starts with hearing from the whole People of God. A Church that teaches must be firstly a Church that listens."



This journey, which follows in the wake of the Church's "renewal" proposed by the Second Vatican Council, is both a gift and a task: by journeying together and reflecting together on the journey that has been made, the Church will be able to learn through her experience which processes can help her to live communion, to achieve participation, to open herself to mission."

"This is what we are called to: unity, communion, and the fraternity born of the realisation that all of us are embraced by the one love of God. The Synod offers us the opportunity to become a listening Church and a Church of closeness." (Pope Francis)

The fundamental question that guides this consultation of the People of God is the following: A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together": How is this "journeying together" happening today in your particular Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?

In order to respond, you are invited to read and reflect on the questions in the material provided (https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch) and submit your response. You can contribute as a group or as an individual.

This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community.

For more information visit <u>pol.org.au/eltham</u> or <u>pol.org.au/montmorency</u>.

We support the recommendations of the Royal Commission into institutional abuse and pray for all the survivors.

PARISH TEAM & INFORMATION



Parish Priest

Michael Sierakowski - Moderator

michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

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

<u>St Francis Xavier Primary School</u> <u>Principal</u>: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474 <u>principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au</u> <u>www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au</u>

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: 6 February 2022

Community	Thanksgiving	Presbytery
OLHC	\$750.00	\$774.10
SFX	\$2,195.50	\$1,182.05

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 12 - Chaplaincy Sunday

3:30pm Baptism - Adriano, Sasha Montmorency 6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 13 - Chaplaincy Sunday

8:30am Mass Montmorency
10:00am Mass & First Eucharist Eltham
12:00pm Baptism - Franklin Montmorency

Tuesday 15

9:30amMass & SFX School MassMontmorency11:00amPrayer ShawlEltham11:00amSchool MassHoly Trinity

Wednesday 16

6:30am Meditation Montmorency 9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham 7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 17

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency 10:30am ASRC food collection Montmorency 2:3pm Mass @ Calvary Garden Views Lower Plenty

Friday 18

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 19

12:00pm Baptism - Maeve, Leo, Cody-James, Jack, Chloe

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency
Montmorency

Sunday 20

8:30am Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency 10:00am Mass & First Eucharist Eltham 12:00pm Baptism - Lucia, Henry, Chloe, Zachary, Heidi

2:00pm Baptism - Lucia, Henry, Chioe, Zachary, Heidi Eltham

Monday 21

6:30pm Sisters & Misters Choir Eltham

Tuesday 22

9:30am Mass Montmorency

Wednesday 23

6:30am Meditation Montmorency 9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Thursday 24

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency 10:30am ASRC food collection Montmorency 2:00pm Wedding - Morgan & Dylan Montmorency

Friday 25

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 26

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency

Sunday 27

8:30am Mass Montmorency
10:00am Mass & First Eucharist Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Zara, Hugo, Macie, Phoenix, Harrison

Montmorency

Tuesday 1

9:30am Mass Montmorency



Support

Support Eltham Parish by giving with CDFpay

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







86 Mayona Road Montmorency Vic 3094 03 9435 4742 11 February 2022

Sacrament of Confirmation - Class of 2021

Dear Parents and Students of Grade 6 Class 2021,

I trust that you are now settling into your new Secondary School environment and beginning to enjoy all the extra options that are now available to you beyond the Primary School experience.

In early January I sent a letter to the Archbishop seeking delegation to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with students from Year 6, 2021. With the support of our Regional Bishop Terry Curtin, approval has now been granted – and so I am delighted to offer Families and Students the opportunity to celebrate this special Sacrament at our local churches.

Beginning over the Easter Weekend in small groups, and concluding at Pentecost, students who wish to be confirmed at the 3 parish weekend Masses may do so, and be supported by their families, sponsors and friends. This is a wonderful opportunity now available to us that was possible last year for the first time, and was enthusiastically supported by 95% of the local families who took this opportunity.

Naturally, there are some restrictions during these Confirmations but we will try to help you navigate them with ease and support.

- 12 Confirmation Candidates per Mass over the Easter Weekend only (16th & 17th April) (https://www.trybooking.com/BXJRK)
- 6 Confirmation Candidates per Mass from 24th April till Pentecost Sunday, 5th June (https://www.trybooking.com/BXJRN)
- No limits on Family members in attendance
- · A choice of three Masses each weekend:
 - o SFX Saturday Night, 6pm
 - o SFX Sunday Morning, 8:30am
 - o OLHC Sunday Morning, 10am

That is 25 Masses to consider with your family & friends during the months of April, May & June. Booking for Confirmation Child ONLY available through TryBooking (links above).

I hope that each student and their family from St Francis Xavier, Holy Trinity & Our Lady Help of Christians take up this opportunity to Celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with us.

Warmest thanks for your ongoing support during these Covid19 times.

Michael F. Sierakowski

Moderator



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ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH THE BIBLE

Reading with the Divine Presence

Friday, February 4th, 2022

Lectio divina is a contemplative way of reading and relating to Scripture and other sacred writings. The medieval monk Guigo II (d. 1188) names the four steps of this foundational contemplative practice:

One day when I was busy working with my hands I began to think about our spiritual work, and all at once four stages in spiritual exercise came into my mind: reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation. These make a ladder for monks by which they are lifted up from earth to heaven. It has few rungs, yet its length is immense and wonderful, for its lower end rests upon the earth, but its top pierces the clouds and touches heavenly secrets. [1]

James Finley has taught extensively on lection divina and Guigo II. In the most recent season of his podcast Turning to the Mystics, he describes the intention to be present to God that underlies all lectio divina practice:

We sit in prayer, renewing our faith that we're sitting there in God's presence all about us and within us, closer to us than we are to ourselves. And we've come here with no other intention, but a kind rendezvous with God, as a way to turn to God to help us to deepen our experience of God's presence in our life. That's why we're there. It's a moment of intimacy, of devotional sincerity, of deepening this union with God in prayer. [2]

Finley explains Guigo's instructions for transformative reading:

The power of God's words works as leaven in the heart, awakening us to a personal experience of the presence of God that Scripture reveals. Read in this way, the Scriptures are one long love letter from God. Each verse tells the story of the love that perpetually calls us to itself...

The first rung of the ladder is that of reading the Scriptures as a way of seeking God. Then, in the midst of a quiet, sincere seeking, there is the graced event of coming upon words that embody that which we seek. As we read, we come upon something of God's presence in that which we are reading. And in coming upon that which we seek, we descend into the depths of our awakened heart, from which there emerge thoughts, images, and connotations that simply flow out, without being seized or grasped hold of in any way...

Daily meditation practice goes best as we learn to stand firmly on the first rung of the ladder to heaven. By this I mean learning to be attentive to God's voice reverberating in a poem, a novel, the refrains of a song, a report on the evening news, or a conversation overheard in the waiting room at the doctor's office. In learning to stand firmly on the first rung of the ladder to heaven, we learn to be receptive and open to God, uttering us into existence as we wash out a pot, or fix a broken gate, or slip off our shoes at the end of the day. [3] https://cac.org/reading-with-the-divine-presence-2022-02-04/

References:

[1] Guigo II, The Ladder of Monks: A Letter on the Contemplative Life, and Twelve Meditations, trans. Edmund Colledge and James Walsh (Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1978), 81–82.

[2] Adapted from James Finley with Kirsten Oates, "Guigo II: Dialogue One," November 8, 2021, in *Turning to the Mystics*, season 4 (Albuquerque, NM: Center for Action and Contemplation, 2021) podcast, MP3 audio.

[3] James Finley, <u>Christian Meditation: Experiencing the Presence of God</u> (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2004), 82, 83, 87. **Explore Further.**

- Listen to James Finley explore lectio divina through the writings of the monk Guigi II on the *Turning to the Mystics* podcast.
- Learn more about this year's theme Nothing Stands Alone.
- Meet the team behind the Daily Meditations.

Image Credit: Barbara Holmes, Untitled 17 & 20 (detail), 2021, photograph, United States, used with permission. Warren K. Leffler, Civil rights march on Washington, D.C., 1963 (detail), Photograph, public domain. Jenna Keiper and Leslye Colvin, 2021, triptych art, United States. The creative team at CAC sent a single-use camera to core teacher Dr. Barbara Holmes as part of an exploration into contemplative photography. Her photos are featured here together with historical images in a form inspired by early Christian/Catholic triptych art: a threefold form that tells a unified story.

Image Inspiration: The Bible reveals the ongoing work of liberation by God and God's people. It is a bridge to our understanding of God moving through the ordinariness of time and space. Just like this river: symbolizing the continuing story of the struggle for justice as it flows around and through this freedom fighter of the 1960s







NOTHING STANDS ALONE

Creating a People

Wednesday, January 5th, 2022

The Body of Christ is inherently a collective reality. Father Richard emphasises that to live the gospel, we need each other:

The Body of Christ, the spiritual family, is God's strategy. It is both medium and message. It is both beginning and end: "May they all be one... so that the world may believe it was you who sent me... that they may be one as we are one, with me in them and you in me" (John 17:21-23).

There is no other form for the Christian life except a common one. This may even be a matter of culture, if culture refers to something which is shared and passed on. In this sense, I am wondering if there is any other kind of Christianity except "cultural Christianity", for better and for worse.

Until and unless Christ is someone happening between people, the gospel remains largely an abstraction. Until Jesus Christ is passed on personally through faithfulness and forgiveness, through bonds of union, I doubt whether he is passed on at all.

We are now paying the price for centuries in which the Church was narrowed from a full vision of peoplehood to an almost total preoccupation with private persons and their devotional needs. But history has shown that individuals who are confirmed in their individualism by the very character of our evangelism will never create church, except after the model of a service station: they will use it as a commodity like everything lese. This is far cray from our "original participation" (Owen Barfield [1898-1997]) in the Body of Christ from the moment of our conception.

Certainly, we must deal with individuals. But the very nature of our lifestyle and our church teaching must say from the beginning what the goal is - the communion of saints, a shared life together as family, the Trinitarian life of God, the kingdom - *here*!

The prophet Haggai criticises the Jews after the exile for dwelling comfortably in their "panelled houses" while the common walls of the temple lie in ruins (see Haggai 1:4, 9). His prophetic call is now and forever. We still think that we can work with the world's agenda, where career and individual fulfilment are the basic building blocks of society. And we believe that we can build church from those well-educated and well-saved blocks. But God needs "living stones making a spiritual house" (1 Peter 2:5).

For Jesus, such teachings as forgiveness, healing, and justice are not just a spiritual test or obstacle course. They are quite simply the necessary requirements for a basic shared life. Peacemaking and reconciliation are not some kind of box seat tickets to heaven. They are the price of peoplehood. They express the truth in the heart of God, the truth that has been shared with us in the Holy Spirit, the union in Jesus the Christ who is reconciling all people to God (see 2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

https://cac.org/creating-a-people-2022-01-05/

Reference:

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Near Occasions of Grace* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993), 50–51. **Explore Further...**

- Read Richard on how you are the body of Christ and community as alternative consciousness.
- Meet the team behind the Daily Meditations.

Image credit: Brian McLaren, *Untitled 1-3* (detail), 2021, photograph, United States. Jenna Keiper and Leslye Colvin, 2021, triptych art, United States

The creative team at CAC sent a single-use camera to Brian McLaren as part of an exploration into contemplative photography. His photos are featured here in a form inspired by early Christian/Catholic triptych art: a threefold form that tells a unified story.

Image Inspiration: In this triptych, we begin by seeing just one fruit. Moving to the center photo, we see the whole tree. When we look at the third photo, we bring with us the knowledge that there is more to this tree, an abundance of fruit. It's not alone. Nothing stands alone.

Prayers of the Faithful

We are looking for more people to become involved in this important ministry for our joint SFX/OLHC parishes.

You don't have to be a Shakespeare, just someone who is prepared to write prayers on behalf of the community. Help is available if you are unsure of what or how to write.

At the moment, we only have a small number of people on the roster, which means that their turn comes around frequently, so it would be good to have a few more to spread the load.

We are looking for volunteers especially from OLHC.

Please give some thought to becoming involved.

Contact Kathleen if you would like to help.

(0432 931 105)



Positions Vacant

- Parish Secretary, St Brendan's & Holy Rosary Parishes, Flemington
- Sacramental Coordinator, St Dominic's East Camberwell Parish
- Pastoral Youth Worker, Parish of St Macartan's, Mornington
- Continuous Improvement Specialist Client Services Group, CDF
- Office Coordinator, Catholic Social Services Victoria (0.8 FTE)
- Communications Administration Support Officer, East Melbourne
- Executive Officer, Victorian Council of Churches, Melbourne
- Sacramental Coordinator, St Dominic's East Camberwell Parish
- Parish Secretary, St Luke's Parish, Lalor
- Parish Secretary, St Gregory the Great Catholic Parish of Doncaster

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies

Chaplaincy Appeal 2022

This weekend is the Chaplaincy Appeal. Donations from our parish community will help the Chaplaincy programs to support the most vulnerable people in our community.

Your support and generosity will ensure that Catholic Chaplains can continue to be the messengers of God's mercy, love and compassion. Parishioners are encouraged to offer prayers and financial support to help provide continued spiritual and emotional comfort to individuals and families in Victoria facing loneliness, illness, pain, grief and death.

You can donate using the envelopes available or online at **www.catholiccarevic.org.au** or call (03) 9287 5513.







Prayer Diary

Saturday 12

Pray for families dealing with a loved one in prison and for our Family Support Group meeting today.

Sunday 13

Thank God for the ministry of Prison Fellowship worldwide. This week pray for the ministry of PF in the Philippines.

Monday 14

You can join us from anywhere in Victoria this morning for a 30 minute prayer time as we pray together for the men and women in prisons and those involved in prison ministry in many ways.

Theme: Forgiveness in and out of prison.

Zoom Meeting ID: 861 5107 6709.

Passcode: 458560.

Tuesday 15

Pray for the ministry of Prison Fellowship and for each of the State Managers leading in these states and territories: Ian Townsend (SA/NT), Graham Hembrow (Qld), Steve McKinnon (WA), Peter Abood (NSW/ACT), Richard Boonstra (Vic) & Ministry Coordinator, Cameron Brett (Tas).

Wednesday 16

Pray for the Information Session being run tonight for people interested in finding out more about Prison Fellowship.

Thursday 17

Pray for our Vic. State Council meeting this evening. Pray for them as they serve giving assistance, oversight and advice.

Friday 18

Give thanks for the Op Shop as it operates each day and reaches out to the Reservoir community. Pray also for the manager, Faye Butler and the volunteers serving there each week.

You are invited to join us in celebrating a

<u>Charismatic Mass (incl. Sacrament of Anointing)</u>

on Thursday 17th February

at St Thomas the Apostle Church, 251 Diamond Ck Rd, Nth Greensborough.

The evening will commence at 7.30pm with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass.

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

If you are not yet familiar with Eckhart Tolle, there are two books on the top shelf, recently donated, that will grab your attention, and make you glad you've made his acquaintance.

1: The Power of Now

2: A New Earth

Trish



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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Denis Hollyoak

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane,

Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert),

Kate Lagerewskij, Andrew Pighin, Agatha Spina

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Elisabeth Bruitzman, Frank Bruitzman,
Denis Hollyoak, Arnaldo Molella

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
Violetta, Fiona Rogers, Ian Sturman

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

Roster for WEEKEND 19/20 February 2022		
Armstrong, Miranda	Eucharistic Minister	
Beckford, Peter	Reader	
Davidson, John	Prayers of the Faithful / PRYR	
Haines, Geoff & Jan-Marie	Hospitality OLHC	
McAleer, Peter & Denise	ASRC	
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society	
Reardon, Kathy	Eucharistic Minister	
Scully, Greg	Commentator	
Scully, Helen	Altar Society	
Stewart Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue	



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 12 February

St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm Sasha Cannuli Adriano Piazza

Baptism Baptism

Sunday 13 February

Our Lady Help of Christians, 10:00am

Matthew Hocking First Eucharist
Louis Webb First Eucharist
Adrian Zanic First Eucharist

St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm Franklin Barker

Baptism



Prayers of the Faithful for 13 Feb 2022 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Lord, confident in your enduring love, we come with open hearts to offer our prayers.

'Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose hope is the Lord'. We pray for the strength and grace to lay aside our daily anxieties, to trust and find peace in the Lord.

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

For courage and generosity: With your love as our guide may we always look outwards, reaching out to others in need. We give thanks for health professionals, teachers, police, volunteers and all who work daily in service of our community.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

'Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours'. May we find the courage to live simply, trusting in God's love and presence. May we realise our responsibility to be socially aware, actively seeking justice in our country and local community. We give thanks for all organisations who work to make our society more equitable.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

'Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied'. We pray for all those who have lost livelihoods and homes, who seek refuge and asylum in our land. May they find the kindness, welcome and support to re-establish their lives.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick: We remember those struggling with mental or physical illness, their carers and families. May God's loving presence bring healing and peace. Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died; and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, including *Elisabeth Bruitzman*, *Frank Bruitzman*, *Denis Hollyoak & Arnaldo Molella*. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ and may their families and friends take comfort in the knowledge of the risen Lord.

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

Leader: Let us place our hope and trust in the Lord. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Gospel - Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said: 'How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

'Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

'But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

'Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.'

Reflection

No doubt many a student has been directed to compare and contrast Matthew's beatitudes with Luke's list of blessings and woes. At one level it's a simple enough task. Matthew has Jesus deliver his sermon from the hillside. It's addressed to crowds that have come from as far away as the Decapolis and "beyond the Jordan." The beatitudes promise benefits that are primarily spiritual in nature.

Luke has Jesus speak not from a hill but from "a piece of level ground." In spite of the crowd that has travelled even from Tyre and Sidon, Jesus addresses his words not to them but to the disciples. He follows his quartet of beatitudes with an equal number of woes. They are very concrete and immediate. The deal with the all too familiar realities of poverty, hunger, grief and rejection and their unworthy counterparts, riches, surfeit, frivolity and status.

Luke's uncompromising placement of beatitude and woe in direct opposition reflects the sharp contrast between wisdom and folly spelt out by Jeremiah and the psalmist. Our initial instinct might be to dismiss these polarities as too extreme. That would excuse us from the challenge of the deep discernment that Luke demands.

Break Open the Word 2022

Mission Opportunities Overseas

Supporting Sustainable International

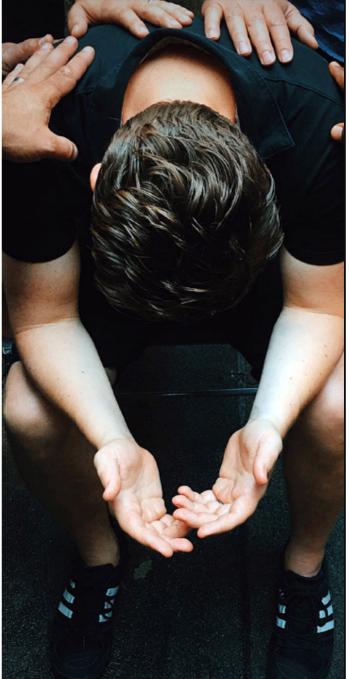
Development—Love

Getting involved in people centred Human Development as an invited guest means humbly putting your person and your skills at the disposal of your trusted hosts. You will be a stranger in the place and for six months a Pilgrim learning the wisdom of local ways.

Palms Australia has 60 years of experience preparing and assisting Australians to learn and pass on their skills in another culture. Is one of <u>our assignments</u> your opportunity to Reach Beyond?

Find Out More: Enquire Here or Phone: 0422 742 567. Join our online forum at 5.30pm AEDT on Thursday 17 March, attend & engage with a panel of Palms most experienced Program Participants.

Palms Australia



Christian Meditation

I agree with great German theologian, Karl Rahner, that if western Christianity does not rediscover its mystical foundations, we might as well close the doorways of our churches, because we have lost the primary reason for our existence.

I read this from Rahner in the early 80s and I see a tiny move within Christian circles, especially in our schools, that we are moving in this direction.

I have been a member of a Christian Meditation group for more than 25 years now. The group has been sustained over those years by about ten people from various denominations, including several from OLHC.

I recall a need to find something more to nourish my faith, and I know this is it. If you sense a hunger for more, you too, might find it here at **St Margaret's** in **Pitt Street** at **8:00 am on Saturdays**. We follow Laurence Freeman who carries on the method of John Main. You might like to google Christian Meditation [for further information, go to https://wccmaustralia.org.au/

or contact me: **Trish Taylor**: 0402914817]