

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.

Still Not Too Late!

See how this jumper on Fr Terry looks for size! I think we may be in trouble for fake news! Just one week to go, so there is still time to book for one of the two events to celebrate Terry's time with us. **Book Now!**

Come along to one of the event planned for Fr Terry to say thank you for his 15 wonderful years among us. For some of us who missed out on a good-bye to Fr Terry due to covid restrictions, here is another opportunity, otherwise just come and say hi.

Just now we all need an occasion to celebrate with each other, so don't miss out on the fun!

Saturday Evening: Dinner provided, BYO glass & beverage of your choice! Coffee & tea provided.

Sunday Lunch: Finger food and drinks, all supplied. **All too good to miss!**

If you have not already booked & would like to attend, hop in & get your ticket now. If you have any trouble booking, don't hesitate to give one of us a call & we will be happy to help you.

See below contact names and numbers:

Noel: 0421 016 105

Patsy: 0429 439 675 or

Vinka: 0418 345 954



Saturday 21 May

7pm - 10pm, SFX Parish Hall

www.trybooking.com/BZBIR

Sunday 22 May

12:30pm - 3pm at the Monty-Eltham RSL

www.trybooking.com/BZBJF



Reflection:

Today's gospel passage introduces the farewell discourse of Jesus. It follows two prior events. The first - the washing of feet and Jesus' bidding his disciples to do the same - exemplifies the command he is about to give them: "love one another, just as I have loved you." The second event is Jesus' disclosure of Judas' treachery, a blatant counter-example to the humble service Jesus has just modelled.

The impending betrayal makes the opening words of the gospel reading all the more striking. Judas has just disappeared into the night, yet Jesus says, "Now has the Son of Man been glorified." This juxtaposition of betrayal and glory is unsettling, yet it is all of a piece with John's account of Jesus' destiny. All that happens in the course of Jesus' passion and death is tinged with glory. Jesus remains supremely free; his being raised on the cross is already an exaltation.

The community for whom John wrote his gospel would have understood that, when Jesus issued his command to love as he had loved, he was not just speaking of the washing of feet but anticipating the loving self-sacrifice that was to be manifest on Calvary. The first part of this text, on glorification, may seem rather convoluted, but the instruction on love that follows is crystal clear.

Break Open the Word 2022

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 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

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: 1 May 2022

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	\$898.35	\$1,604.00
Presbytery	\$879.20	\$1,164.05
Good Friday Appeal	\$1,000	N/A
Project Compassion	\$4,000 from our parish communities, including a generous donation from SFX Primary School	

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 14

12:00pm Baptism - Remi Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

Sunday 15

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & Confirmations Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Aria, Annika, Billy, Cecilia Eltham

Tuesday 17

9:30am Mass & SFX Year 4 Class Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 18

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Thursday 19

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 20

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 21

12:00pm Baptism - Iris, Audrey, Jax, Aurelia Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

7:00pm Terry's Farewell Montmorency

Sunday 22

8:30am Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

10:00am Mass & Confirmations Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Harley, Lilly, Jack, Evie Eltham

Tuesday 24

9:30am Mass & SFX Year 2 Class Montmorency

Wednesday 25

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Thursday 26

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 27

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 28

12:00pm Baptism Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

Sunday 29

8:30am Mass & Confirmations Montmorency

10:00am Mass & Confirmations Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Gia Eltham

Tuesday 31

9:30am Mass Montmorency

Wednesday 1 June

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Support

Montmorency 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.



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.





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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Sheila Smith
(wife of Kevin, Mother of Sue, Janet, Robert, Darren & Tony)

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Pat Longton, Angelina Spiller

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
Mona, Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane, Alana Foulds, Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Kate Lagerewskij, Melanie Lam, Frances McDonald, Andrew Pighin, Aquatha Spina

Eltham

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
Violetta, Elisabeth Edwards, Jade McAlear, Fiona Rogers, Rosemary Scully, Ian Sturman, Sarah Thompson

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



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday 14 May

St Francis Xavier, 12:00pm

Remi Parakh Baptism

St Francis Xavier, 6:00pm

Millicent Bernardi Confirmation

Lilly Burgess Confirmation

Orla Doherty Confirmation

Annaliese Moate Confirmation

Alannah Prowse Confirmation

Chloe Terpos Confirmation

Sunday 15 May

Our Lady Help of Christians, 10:00am

Freyja Crimmins-Craw Confirmation

Joshua Hibbert Confirmation

Oliver Marmo Confirmation

Isaac Myburgh Confirmation

Our Lady Help of Christians, 12:00pm

Billy Fuscaldò Baptism

Annika Fyfe Baptism

Cecilia Hayward Baptism

Aria Karczag Baptism

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

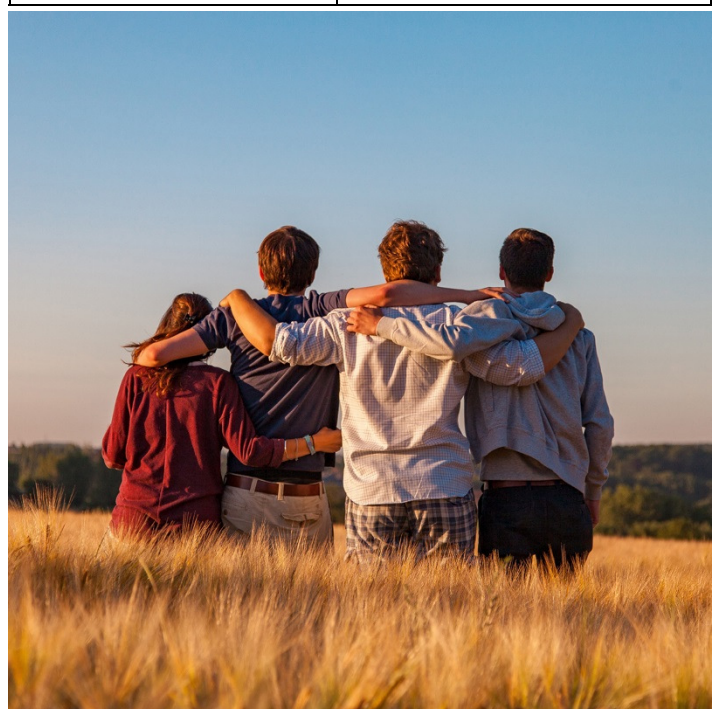
- **Communications Administration Support Officer, Communications Office** – (East Melbourne/Flexible Working Arrangements)
 - **Creatives Officer** (East Melbourne/Flexible Working Arrangements)
 - **Digital Communications Officer** (East Melbourne/Flexible Working Arrangements)
 - **Parish Secretary, St Mark's Parish, Fawkner**
 - **Parish Secretary, St Luke's Parish, Lalor**
- <https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Roster for WEEKEND 14/15 May 2022

Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Donnellan, Denice	Eucharistic Minister
Emslie, Maureen	W6:00
Furtado, Lorraine	Commentator
Goss, Marian	Eucharistic Minister
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Nolan, Kathleen & Mike	Hospitality OLHC
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Rigg Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
Scully, Greg	Reader
Scully, Helen	Altar Society
Williams, Anne & Peter	PRYR

Roster for WEEKEND 21/22 May 2022

Armstrong, Miranda	Eucharistic Minister
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Bylsma, Zvonka & John	Hospitality OLHC
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Furtado, Denzil	Reader
Haines, Geoff	Commentator
McAlear, Peter & Denise	ASRC
Reardon, Kathy	Eucharistic Minister
Rough Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Saltamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00
Williams, Peter	W6:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30



On Sunday 15 May, Pope Francis will canonize Charles de Foucauld in Rome. Although he died in obscurity, his message that the Gospel is best ‘shown’ rather than ‘told’ has since inspired a growing number of followers / **By Kathleen McKee**

In the footsteps of a saint

I was born in France but grew up in the city of London, Ontario. My father was a New Zealander and my mother French. My parents were deeply educated in their faith and religious books and conversations abounded at home. At 16, I was sent to Mexico on a student exchange. It ended rather badly, with me being shipped home nine months later. My parents were at the airport waiting for me. There were no questions, just a sense of gratitude that I was back safe and sound. I didn’t realise it at the time but the experience of the prodigal daughter would be the background on to which a call would be grafted.

During the following weeks, I picked up a copy of *Letters from the Desert* by Carlo Carretto. Until I began to read it I had a vaguely thought of entering a cloistered order. But Carretto spoke of contemplation in the marketplace. It was a shock and a call. Hadn’t Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived in the small town of Nazareth? Could you make a better choice than theirs? The incarnation had made the bustle of everyday life a meeting place with the Father.

I was particularly intrigued and disconcerted by the central character. His name was Charles de Foucauld. This former French cavalry officer seemed oddly out of sync with the rest of an otherwise riveting book. Carretto wrote that Foucauld “was convinced that the most effective method of preaching the Gospel was to live it. Especially today, people no longer want to listen to sermons. They want to see the Gospel in action.”

I decided to seek out the communities inspired by the life of Foucauld. Eventually, in 1981,

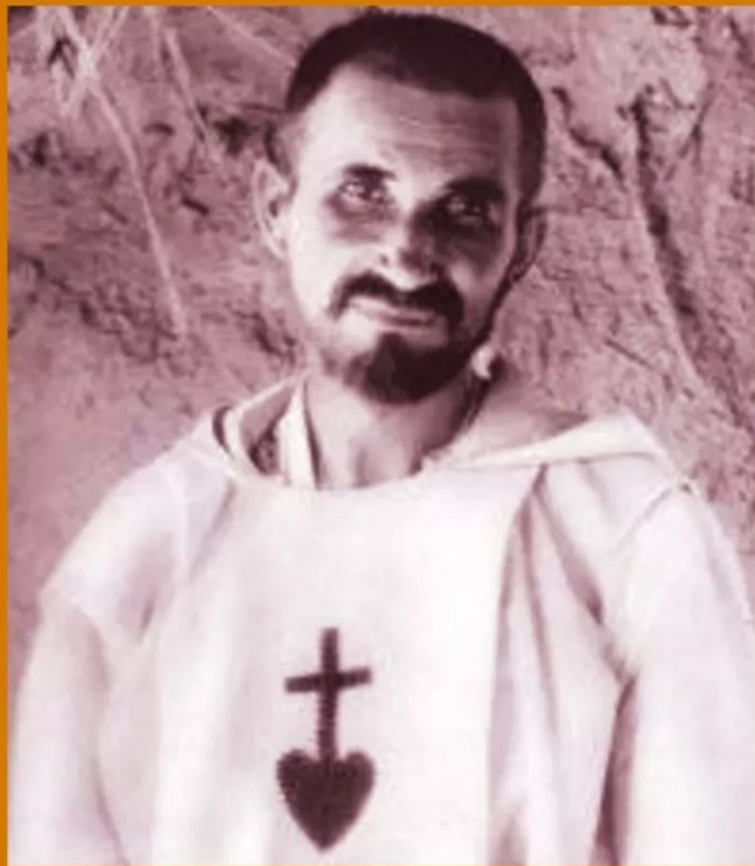


PHOTO: ALAMY/
THE HISTORY COLLECTION

Charles de Foucauld: ‘The good you do depends not on what you say or do but on what you are’

I joined the Little Sisters of Jesus in Montreal. They lived in a small house in a working-class neighbourhood. One of the sisters worked in the garment industry and another did cleaning jobs. The other two remained at home, so they could be available for neighbours and others who would often drop by. I was enchanted. Noise from the street would pour into the chapel through the window. Far from distracting me, it became part of my prayer, shaping it according to the conditions the Son of God himself had chosen.

During my years of formation, I learnt about our founder, Madeleine Hutin, who had taken the name Little Sister Magdeleine. She was easy to like, but the man whose life had inspired her, Charles de

Foucauld, was a harder nut to crack. I only had my first profound encounter with him just before I took my final vows. By then I knew my community and myself much better. But it was a time of crisis. Should I or shouldn’t I go ahead with making this commitment? Chastity had a painful bite to it. I was in Paris, staying with my grandmother for a few days before rejoining the group preparing for this decisive step, when I got up early one morning and walked to the magnificent Church of Saint-Augustin in the 8th arrondissement. This was where Foucauld had had his life-changing encounter with Abbé Henri Huvelin. The same confessional was still there. I sat on the step for a long time, unburdening my heart. And that day a relationship began.

I began to unpack the man and his message. Born into an aristocratic family in Strasbourg in 1858, Foucauld had turned away from the Church as a teenager and joined the French army. After his conversion, he had joined a Trappist monastery in Ardèche, France, and later transferred to one in Akbes, Syria. Leaving the monastery in 1897, he worked as gardener and sacristan for the Poor Clare nuns in Nazareth and later in Jerusalem. He would spend the last 15 years of his life among the Muslim Tuareg in the Algerian Sahara. In 1905, he came to Tamanrasset, where he lived a peaceful, hidden life. He attracted no companions. There were no conversions. He wrote rules for congregations that never came to birth and he died alone in the Sahara, killed by Tuareg rebels on 1 December 1916.

René Voillaume, the French priest who founded the Little Brothers of Jesus in 1933, took my understanding of Foucauld to a deeper level. He acknowledged that Foucauld's gospel meditations could be dull and repetitive, but suggested we pay attention less to their content than to the consistency and zeal with which he undertook them. "He constantly strove to know Jesus better because you cannot love what you do not know." That phrase cast all those meditations in a completely different light.

After I took my final vows, I was sent to Poland. I was asked to lead sessions about Charles de Foucauld, and after a few years I knew the details of his life story inside out. But the next question was: "What did that life mean for me?" I found the answer partly in conversations with other people ... my own sisters, the little brothers, priests and laypeople. But it also lay in unpacking my own experience as a Little Sister. Charles' intuitions were realized in the very house in which I lived. It's there I was being taught to be "little", to be a "sister" and, the hardest part, to be "of Jesus".

Today I live in Walsingham, "England's Nazareth", where the community has had a presence for over 50 years. I arrived after more than 10 years as a member of the community's formation team in Rome. It was an abrupt change to find myself back in a small town. I had begun my novitiate in Walsingham 35 years earlier, so it was very much a question of going back to the beginning "and knowing the place for the first time". And now, rather than talking about Foucauld as I had done in Rome, I found myself living the message again. He often referred to the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth as a kind of icon of his vocation. This was first of all a question of "setting out" as Mary had. Pope Francis often speaks of leaving our comfort zone in order to set out for the "peripheries". At age 59 I was lucky enough to get a job as a housekeeper in a seaside hotel five miles away from the community's home. It is a "setting out" in every sense of the word: I travel there by bicycle in all kinds of weather, but it is also a departure in the sense that I meet people who are very different from me, their lives often marked by rural poverty.

There are many ways of "being with" people, but taking a job puts you side by side with a random selection of people from very different backgrounds. All those I work with in the hotel know that I'm a nun, but what do they make of me? Foucauld liked to say: "The good you do depends not on what you say or do but on what you are." I'm not sure that I come across as a shining example of an evangelical life. But my prayer is that through my presence people might discover God's love and care for them. None of the people I work with is a churchgoer, and none has become a churchgoer since I started there. In this, I'm no more successful than Foucauld. But I have noticed that many people have an innate sense of God, though it is often overshadowed by a sense that they are living in a way that falls

short of the life God wishes for them. I believe that through sharing their lives and using the language of their daily existence, I can live another image of God. In the story of the Visitation, Mary says nothing. She simply brings Jesus into Elizabeth's house, and what she carries speaks to what the other carries deep within. Etched on Foucauld's grave are the words: "I want to cry the Gospel with my life". I believe that something like that happens. Perhaps those who are more aware of their sinfulness have a better chance at discovering a love of the kind God is. Certainly, that was Charles de Foucauld's own experience.

If Foucauld had set out for the Sahara to bring the Gospel to the people there, his first task was to learn their language. He had arrived in Tamanrasset with a translation of the Gospel but soon discovered how worthless it was. A friend who was a specialist in Berber dialects taught him to begin by listening. A language is bigger than words. They spent hours around the campfire listening to people sing, recite poetry and narrate their valiant deeds. Isn't that what Jesus did for 30 years in Nazareth, where the Word of God kept silence and listened? The people of Nazareth gave Jesus a language in which to speak about God: stories about sons that ran away to the big cities, and women who swept their homes to find lost coins. Later, people would be amazed and enthralled to hear Jesus speak of the Kingdom of God in terms of their own lives.

Perhaps the special gift of being a contemplative living among the poor, in the hubbub of the everyday, is to discover just how much God loved the world. And to feel a love of the kind that God is, well up inside, and to touch the people around us.

Kathleen McKee is a member of the Fraternity of the Little Sisters of Jesus in Walsingham. She is the author of *The Universal Brother: Charles de Foucauld Speaks to Us Today*.

LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT

Opposition to the papacy of Francis inside the Church may be noisier in the United States than elsewhere, but it raises questions of universal significance. Thus Pope Francis' latest strictures against the "liturgical formalism" and "closed mindset" of traditionalist Catholics, particularly in their support for the pre-Vatican II liturgy, do have lessons for those outside that American camp. And if dialogue - which involves listening as well as speaking - is the preferred communication model in the contemporary Church, then the question also arises: what does the traditionalist position have to say to the mainstream? Is it enough simply to say that resistance to liturgical reform is a key element in a fundamental rejection of the Second Vatican Council, rather than just an aesthetic preference for the Missal of 1962?

This ecclesial crisis would be fruitful if it turned attention to what has become a habitual neglect of the Council itself. Ever since it ended there has been an inadequate catechesis in parishes and schools not only in understanding the teaching of individual Vatican II documents but of the intentions and motivations behind the entire Council. It was essentially a project of reform, but it cannot be understood without knowing what it was reforming. What were the weaknesses in pre-conciliar Catholicism that an overwhelming majority of the world's bishops felt had to be corrected?

It is in this context that support for the pre-conciliar liturgy has morphed into bitter opposition to the entire Francis papacy and indeed to virtually every aspect of the reforming vision of the Council. But it would be too easy to dismiss traditionalists as nostalgically longing for a return to the Catholicism

of the 1950s, or indeed of the 1850s. Rather, they long for a purified memory of that Catholic era, with all its flaws and blemishes airbrushed out. One of the strengths of the pre-conciliar Church was a strong sense of a distinct Catholic identity and a refusal to be contaminated by hostile elements in the world outside; it was a "fortress Catholicism". One of its weaknesses was a tendency to think of the life of faith as obedience to rules and assent to propositions. The Council fathers wanted to return Catholics to a richer understanding of discipleship as a life of friendship with God and with their neighbours, and to recapture the experience of faith as an encounter with the Christ of the Gospels and the living Christ of today.

Even Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI displayed a certain ambivalence about some aspects of Vatican II, still harbouring a sympathy with a Catholicism that put rules and propositions first, even if slightly different rules and propositions to those that had applied before. Pope Francis is not that kind of pope. He is a teacher who relies more on encouragement than punishment. That is closer to the spirit of Vatican II. Pre-conciliar Catholicism might have seen fuller seminaries and fuller churches - though numbers were starting to decline before the Council started - and it had a sense of purpose, but it tended to infantilise the laity, who were led to understand that their role was to pray, pay and obey. The rapt attention to every detail shown by zealous traditionalist Catholics at Mass today has to be contrasted with the pre-conciliar reality: usually, a priest mumbling in Latin at one end of the church, his back turned to a congregation, while they fumbled through a perfunctory rosary. That had to change. Reform was unavoidable.

**Neighbourhood House
Week at Living & Learning
Nillumbik 9-15 May 2022**
Share, Learn, Connect



**LIVING & LEARNING
NILLUMBIK**

Nillumbik
The Green Wedge Shire

Living & Learning Nillumbik VIC
9433 3744 | info.livinglearning@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Come and join our new **Games and Cuppa** drop in session on Thursday afternoons! All welcome between 1pm to 3pm. Drop in for a chat and a game of cards or Scrabble or sit and read a magazine and enjoy some afternoon tea. There's no cost.

Where: Living & Learning Nillumbik - Diamond Creek

Address: 119 Cowin Street, Diamond Creek

If you register, it will help with catering: **9433 3744**

Invitation to Candlelight Mass

Come and pray for peace - Thursday 19 May

at St Thomas the Apostle Chapel,
Diamond Creek Road, North Greensborough

quiet music from 7.30pm
Mass at 8.00pm




Eltham & Montmorency Plenary Council Update & News

- Update on last week's news-and-opinion piece about failures in the Plenary Council consultation process.

On 5 May there was a national zoom meeting coordinated by the Sense of the Faithful group to consider a joint Plenary Council Statement. The meeting discussed a document detailing the problems raised about the PC process in last week's bulletin. Given that the Second Assembly of the PC is to meet in July it appeared to the 80+ zoom participants polled that there was insufficient time to fix the problems while ensuring transparency and synodality at the same time. A recommendation will be sent to the PC Steering Committee to seek extension of the process, possibly with a Third Assembly in 2023. I will keep you posted. Rowan Ireland



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### **Fortunately, it's happier news on the local Church front:**

On 5 May also, the Transition Leadership Community gathered for the first time. The Community consisted of parishioners of OLHC and SFX who had participated, pre-Covid lockdowns, in meetings of our two parishes to discuss relationships between the parishes when they would share one priest after the retirement of Fr. Terry Kean.

#### Pre-Covid meetings:

(These meetings were facilitated by Chris Pearson who had previously worked with Fr. Michael to help bring about a successful merger of 3 parishes in the Bentleigh area in 2010.)

Three meetings were held pre-Covid, and, by all reports, a team of members of both parishes began to take shape.

This team was to guide us towards a greater union of the two parishes while respecting the separate identities of both.

Then came COVID lockdowns 2020-2021 and the retirement and departure of Terry Kean. The future arrived quicker than anticipated!

#### Post-Lockdown meetings:

As we came out of lockdown, parishioners were faced by calls from the Archdiocese to respond to plans to move away from parishes as the basic structures to larger units called Missions formed out of merged parishes. The new plan was outlined in a document entitled: 'Take the way of the Gospel'. When the Archdiocese called for responses to the new plan, we members of our two parishes initially found ourselves without a parish Council and other means to respond. However, Zoom meetings set up by Frances Sullivan, and many informal exchanges, gradually brought us together to discuss the future.

A group called The Parishes Future Team (PFT) emerged in the second half of 2021. It included St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady Help of Christians volunteer laity and our Moderator who participated in our regular fortnightly meetings.

Three major decisions made by the PFT bring us down to the present.

- The first was that our two Parishes did not wish to follow the Missions path as mapped initially by the Archdiocese but urged a slower, more customised, and more consultative approach to the many urgent problems facing parishes and indeed the whole Church in Australia.
- The second PFT decision was that our two Parishes would not embark on an immediate and intensive search and negotiations for multiple partner parishes with a view to mergers. Rather, our energies would focus on deepening the merger already embarked on viz., between OLHC and SFX communities. At the same time, further ties with parishes to our North would be explored.
- The third and most recent decision was that deepening the two-parishes relationship would be best achieved by resuming the pre-Covid process with the help once more of Chris Pearson as facilitator. Fr. Michael prepared the way for that arrangement to resume.

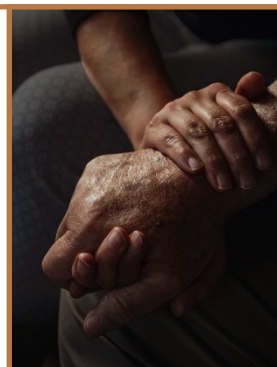
The implication of that decision was that the always interim work of the PFT would come to an end, and a new Team set up by the first meeting of the resumed pre-Covid process would replace it. And that is how it went. The last meeting of the PFT was on 28 April. The first meeting constituting the new Transition Leadership Community was held in the Montmorency Parish House on Thursday 5 May. The Community consisted of about equal numbers of each of the two parishes for a total of 15. It consisted of a core of members who had been part of the pre-Covid process and who chose to participate in the continuing process.

Yours truly was not involved in that meeting but was heartened by several reports, verbal and written of its proceedings. Suffice to say that the new TLC conceives its new role not to devise and put in practice its own new model for merger, but to encourage and facilitate the development of small communities of parishioners to formulate what was valued in the parishes as they were and what changes they would like to see in the future. To be continued.

**Rowan Ireland**

## Gospel: John 13:31-35

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'



## May - The month of Mary, Mother of God

During the Marian month of May, you're invited to join the Rosary on Wednesday evenings, at 7:30pm, at Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham.

Please come along and join us.

For further information, please contact Parish Office: 9435 4742.



## Our Lady around the world (Part 1): Poland and Ukraine

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a distinctive feature of Catholic and Orthodox Spirituality. The month of May is a particular time in which we give honour to the Mother of God (*theotokos*) and strive to imitate her humbler receptivity to God's grace.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/our-lady-around-the-world-part-1-poland-and-ukraine>

Sister Joan Chittister, American Benedictine nun, is in town. Joan is a theologian, author and speaker.

For those not fortunate enough to hear her speak on this tour please allow yourself the joy of reading anyone of the many books in our library.

There is also a book set of CDs on offer.

Another prophet of our time, leading us into a wiser more inclusive church.



## Prayers of the Faithful for 15 May 2022 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

**Leader:** Lord of mercy and love, as you take us to the heart of your infinite love, we bring these prayers before you.

For the Church: that we may be known as disciples of Jesus by the love and care that we show one another.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish communities: that we may recognise all that God is doing in our lives, our faith communities, and the world around us, so that we may assist in bringing forth the reign of God in our time and place.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our children who are celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend: that they may continually encounter the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our two parish communities: as the work of the Transitional Leadership Community is renewed. That God will strengthen their spirits, help them form supportive relationships, and guide the development of ministries and services within a future combined parish.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For peace in our world: we pray for the people of Ukraine, as we lament the violence that has come to their country. We ask for comfort for those who mourn, hope for those who despair and compassion for all who suffer. We plead for an end to violence and aggression in our world.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are sick and those who are listed in our bulletin. May they experience the healing touch of Christ.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died recently, including *Sheila Smith*. We also remember *Pat Longton & Angelina Spiller* whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in the peace and love of Christ.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** God of life, hear the prayers we have spoken and those held deep within our hearts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen