

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.

FEATURES / Sacred roots

A pilgrimage that included a walk through a grove of ancient yew trees was both a history lesson and celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi / by **Margaret Hebblethwaite**

The way of life - and death

The solemnity of the body and blood of Christ, which we celebrate this Sunday, was given a new and vivid aspect for me on a day pilgrimage that passed through Kingley Vale in West Sussex. We walked through the “Ancient Watchers” grove of yew trees, which our British Pilgrimage Trust guide told us were a traditional symbol of the Eucharist. We saw why with our own eyes: as the bark flaked off the yew branches it revealed the tree beneath, apparently bleeding with bright red blood. Meanwhile other areas of yew wood were revealed as pure white. As Blue Badge guide Sean Callery writes: “The heart of the tree is red, while its sap is white. These colour symbolise the blood and body of Christ.”

The effect of blood running down the branches was probably increased that day because it was raining. Undeterred, we went ahead, following the part of the Old Way from Stoughton to Chichester. This runs for 150 miles from Southampton to Canterbury, and is marked on Britain’s oldest road map, the Gough Map of c.1360. It was the route followed by many pilgrims who arrived by sea from all over Europe to visit Thomas Becket’s tomb after his 1170 martyrdom.

The yew is known as both the Tree of Death and the Tree of Life. It brings death because Celts used fluids from the spiny foliage and the red berries as a poison to dip their arrow heads in, while the branches were also used to make excellent bows. But the Celtic Druids also saw the tree as sacred, so when Pope Gregory wisely suggested in 601 that Christian churches could be established in places of pagan spirituality, the yew tree evolved from being a sacred Druid tree to a sacred Christian one. Thus it became the tree of church graveyards, and is said to thrive on corpses.

But it is also the Tree of Life. For a start, it is evergreen. And it seems almost immortal, for where branches cross they can fuse together, joining adjacent trees; and where they descend into the ground, they can make secondary roots and re-emerge a metre further off. The core of the tree becomes hollow with time so that the oldest rings are lost and the yew defies exact dating, but it has an unusual ability to stop growing for centuries on end and then reawaken and continue its growth, pushing out fresh shoots from the gnarled surfaces of old trunks, and growing new aerial roots which descend through the eaten-out centres.



The yew is the oldest tree in Britain but there is no common agreement on which particular yew holds the record.

If it is correct to date the Ancient Watcher yews to a battle between Vikings and Saxons, then it would fit in the subject matter of Scenes 4 and 5, with smashed crosses, burning houses, yelping dogs and fleeing peasantry. No wonder there are ghosts in the grove, and no wonder the Trees of Death sweat blood. But the yews could be a lot older: some of them have a girth of five metres. If the most ambitious estimates of 2,000 years were correct, that would make them even earlier than Scene 1, for the Roman invasion was in AD43.

Whatever the truth is, the Kingley Vale yews have stood firm for centuries, witnessing the world screaming and whirling around them at times, and not always living a rural idyll. As a symbol for the Eucharist, they remind us that blood and death always lead on to new life and nourishment, just as the tree regenerates itself naturally. Kingley Vale was one of the first areas to be declared a National Nature Reserve, in 1952, and thanks to that we can be confident that the Ancient Watchers will go on standing for generations to come, providing “tongues in trees” and “sermons in stones”.

Margaret Hebblethwaite is writing a book about the women in the gospels.

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

Tue - 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: 13 June 2022

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	\$782.00	\$1,615.00
Presbytery	\$900.25	\$1,653.55

Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
Jan	\$7,241.06	\$9,091.00	\$16,332.06
Feb	\$5,443.06	\$9,994.50	\$15,437.56
Mar	\$6,191.60	\$10,597.00	\$16,788.60

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 18

12:00pm Baptism - Berty Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 19

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Saylor Eltham

Monday 20

6:30pm Sisters & Misterys Choir Rehearsal Eltham

Tuesday 21

9:30am Mass & SFX Year 5 Class Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 22

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

11:00am Funeral: Euphrasia (Frae) Tapley Montmorency

Thursday 23

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 24

9:30am Mass Eltham

11:00am Funeral: Faye Pickett Montmorency

Saturday 25

12:00pm Baptism - Eloise & Leo Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist Montmorency

Sunday 26

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

12:00pm Baptism - Violet, Allira, Jonathan, James & Gia Eltham

Wednesday 29

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Thursday 30

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Saturday 2 July

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 3

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

Tuesday 5

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 6

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

1:00pm Small Church Community Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community 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**

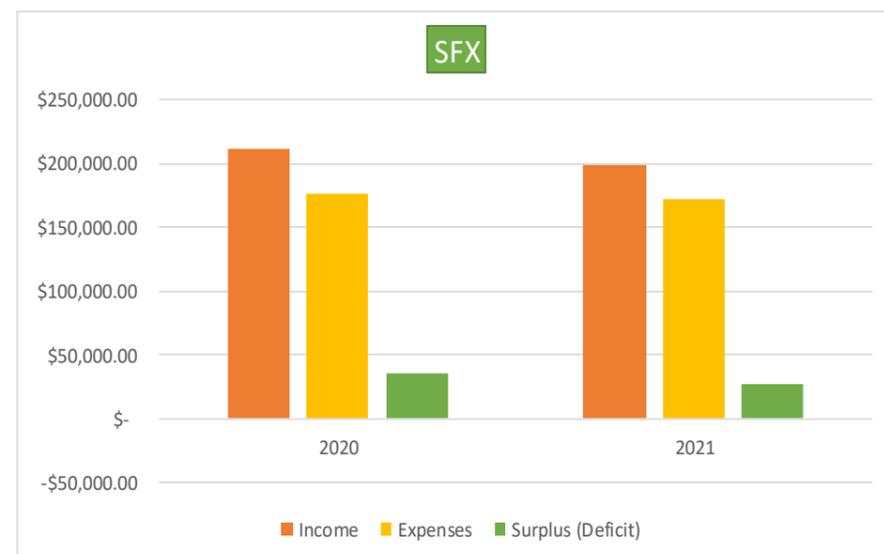
Simply scan the QR code with your mobile phone and in a few easy steps you can quickly and securely give to your parish.



St Francis Xavier

	2020	2021
	\$	\$
Income		
Thanksgiving	162,522	141,574
Covid Payments	34,300	41,627
Other Income	14,500	15,829
Total Income	211,322	199,030
Expenses		
Pastoral & Administration	47,881	50,925
Church Requirements	6,691	6,697
Property Costs	18,107	16,537
Church Repairs	35,000	30,000
Insurance	15,282	12,735
Salary: Parish Staff	47,066	46,172
Archdiocese Levies	5,766	9,369
Total Expenses	175,793	172,435
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	35,529	26,595

The Archdiocese negotiated payments of levies in 2020 & 2021 because of Covid-19.



Finances for Monty & Eltham 2020 and 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of
St. Francis Xavier - MONTMORENCY and
Our Lady Help of Christians - ELTHAM,

It is with much pleasure that I present to you the financial figures of both parishes during the two years of the Pandemic. It has been my 'normal' practice to communicate the parish finances each year in the month of March to the parishioners after we have lodged the AFS of Parish Accounts to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, and had concluded this process with an invitation to everyone to come together with the 'Finance Team' one evening and clarify any issues or questions that might arise.

Unfortunately, in March of 2020 we went into 'lockdown' for the first of many times in Victoria and Churches were closed. Naturally it has ended up being a very strange 2 years. Fortunately, with the support of 'Job-keeper' from the Federal Government and 'Local Business Grants' from the State Government of Victoria - and your local regular financial contributions, we have managed to successfully stay on track with our Parish finances at Eltham & Montmorency.

During these two years of Covid-19 Lockdowns, I have taken the opportunity to do some much needed maintenance on both churches including Heating/Air-conditioning, Plumbing and Lighting works and upgrading of both Sound Systems. I made the decision to take advantage of these three sources of Covid 'income' to achieve all this: Job-keeper, Local Business Grants and your ongoing local financial contributions.

I'm deeply grateful to our parish 'Financial Team' who have guided us through these 2 years and who sensibly came together from Monty & Eltham as 'One Finance Committee' just under 3 years ago. They have met regularly at the church of Our Lady's and sometimes online, via emails and Zoom. Kate Kogler together with Stephen Littleton and Stephen Steward from the finance department of the archdiocese have been tremendous in their efforts on parish finances.

Thank you, to the parishioners and friends of SFX and OLHC for your ongoing financial support via Credit Cards, Direct Debit and the Envelope System as apart of your Stewardship Program.

We could not have achieved this result without your love, support and contributions during these 2 years of Covid.

To conclude, you are cordially invited to gather with our amazing finance team - one evening in mid August to share our 'Stewardship' story thus far - and raise any issues, concerns or clarifications that you might have as we move forward.

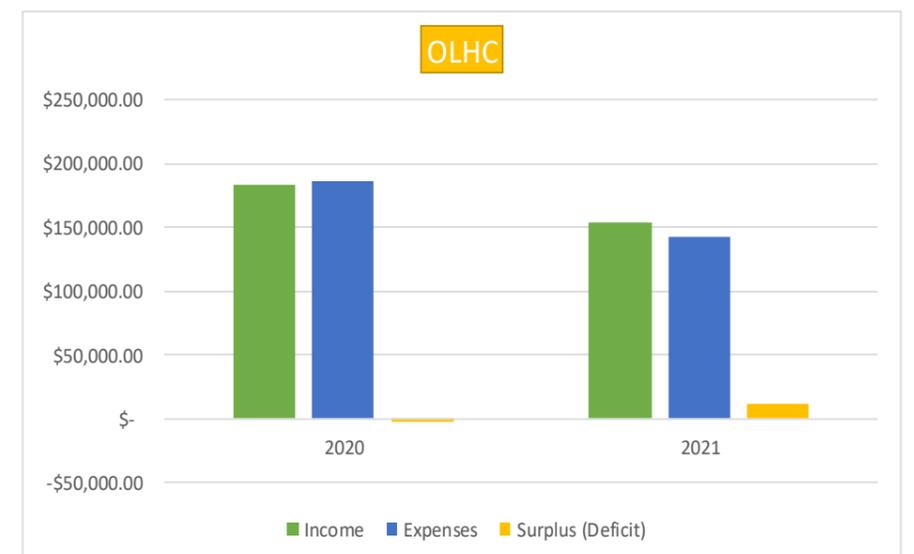
Warmest thanks and love for your ongoing support,

Michael F. Sierakowski
Moderator

Our Lady Help of Christians

	2020	2021
	\$	\$
Income		
Thanksgiving	80,690	87,570
Covid Payments	92,900	48,000
Interest on Investments	7,576	12,114
Other Income	2,036	6,029
Total Income	183,202	153,713
Expenses		
Pastoral & Administration	37,145	18,862
Church Requirements	8,262	9,002
Property Costs	16,665	27,832
Church Repairs	5,337	16,971
Insurance	12,038	12,880
Salary: Parish Staff	106,126	47,908
Archdiocese Levies	0	8,342
Total Expenses	185,573	141,797
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(2,371)	11,916

The Archdiocese negotiated payments of levies in 2020 & 2021 because of Covid-19.



Prayers of the Faithful for 19 June 2022 — The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Leader: Gathered around the table of God's Word, let us bring our needs before the God of all.

On this, the feast of Corpus Christi, we pray that Pope Francis will continue to lead our church in emphasizing the Gospel message of peace.
Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

In these uncertain and challenging times, we pray for leaders in all fields that they may work together to serve the common good and promote policies that ensure the care of the poor and vulnerable.

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

We give thanks for the generosity of people in this parish who continue to support those less privileged in their local area through St Vincent de Paul and overseas, especially in the Philippines and Kenya.

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

We pray for those people from St Francis Xavier and Our Lady Help of Christians who are members of the Transitional Leadership Community who are working to bring both communities together and plan for the future of the parish.

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

We pray that we always demonstrate a spirit of hospitality, that all people may find welcome and inclusion in our worship, in our social gatherings, and in our service activities.

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

We pray for all of those who are suffering in mind, body or spirit. We pray that they will 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 *Teresa Revitt*. We also remember *Rhys Branston, Tony Lier & Margaret Moylan* 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 most holy, you draw all people to yourself through your son Jesus Christ. Hear our prayers that our deepest hungers may be satisfied, one with Christ around your table. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen



History of this weekend's Celebrations

Feast of Corpus Christi, also called **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**, festival of the Roman Catholic Church in honour of the real presence of the body (*corpus*) of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. A movable observance, it is observed on the Thursday (or, in some countries, the Sunday) after Trinity Sunday and is a holy day of obligation in many countries.

The Feast of Corpus Christi originated in 1246 when Robert de Torote, bishop of Liège, ordered the festival celebrated in his diocese. He was persuaded to initiate the feast by St. Juliana, prioress of Mont Cornillon near Liège (1222–58), who had experienced a vision. It did not spread until 1261, when Jacques Pantaléon, formerly archdeacon of Liège, became pope as Urban IV. In 1264 he ordered the whole church to observe the feast. Urban's order was confirmed by Pope Clement V at the Council of Vienne in 1311–12. By the mid-14th century the festival was generally accepted, and in the 15th century it became, in effect, one of the principal feasts of the church.

The procession became the feast's most prominent feature and was a pageant in which sovereigns and princes took part, as well as magistrates and members of guilds. In the 15th century the procession was customarily followed by the performance by guild members of miracle plays and mystery plays. After the doctrine of transubstantiation was rejected during the Reformation, the festival was suppressed in Protestant churches.

GREAT “MND” RELAY – please help if you can

Marlis Dopheide’s eldest daughter, Catherine Zanatta, has MND. The progress of her symptoms has been aggressive, but like Marlis, Catherine has an indomitable spirit and tenacious faith. So it is no surprise that Catherine has been a lead promotor of the fundraising event – **The Great MND Relay**.

From June 23 to June 25, supporters will walk the Harold Stevens Athletic Track in Coburg for 41 hours non-stop to raise awareness and funds for the state’s only *Motor Neurone Disease (MND)* care provider, **MND Victoria**.

With no treatment in sight and an average life expectancy of just 27 months, those diagnosed with MND today will not live to see a cure tomorrow. Instead, what’s left behind for the living, is care – a message poignantly reinforced through the relays launch video.

Catherine is the first speaker on the video: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hkpPCcz5tqE>)

To donate to this cause, please click on the link below. In advance, the family thank you for your support, and acknowledge the vital role your ongoing prayers play in our daily lives.

<https://www.mndrelay.org.au/my-fundraising/28/zanatta-family>

Miranda



Reflection:

Unlike Matthew and Mark, Luke provides no account of John the Baptist’s death, but in the verse preceding today’s gospel reading he has Herod say, “John? I beheaded him. So who is this I hear such reports about?” Herod had wondered whether Jesus was Elijah or one of the prophets. In a sense his intuition was sound, as the gospel story shows.

Just as Elijah blessed the widow and her son with an endless supply of flour and oil (1 Kings 17:8-16), and his disciple Elisha fed the people with twenty barley loaves and had some left over (2 Kings 4:42-44), so Jesus feeds the crowd with more than enough. More generally the gospel story evokes the saga of the exodus and the rich theme of shepherding in both Old and New Testaments. In Luke’s infancy narrative he emphasizes Jesus’ Davidic ancestry; here he implies that Jesus is the true shepherd-king of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus’ gestures with the fish and the bread - taking, blessing, breaking, sharing - were typical of Jewish meals but had and still have special resonance for Christian communities breaking bread in his memory. His command at the last supper to “do this in memory of me” had its predecessor in the demand he made of the Twelve, “Give them something to eat yourselves.” The two directives go hand in hand. The eucharist is ever a missionary meal.

Break Open the Word 2022



Gospel: Luke 9:11-17

Jesus made the crowds welcome and talked to them about the kingdom of God; and he cured those who were in need of healing.

It was late afternoon when the Twelve came to him and said, 'Send the people away, and they can go to the villages and farms round about to find lodging and food; for we are in a lonely place here.' He replied, 'Give them something to eat yourselves.' But they said, 'We have no more than five loaves and two fish, unless we are to go ourselves and buy food for all these people.' For there were about five thousand men. But he said to his disciples, 'Get them to sit down in parties of about fifty.' They did so and made them all sit down. Then he took the five loaves and two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and said the blessing over the; then he broke them and handed them to his disciples to distribute among the crowd. They all ate as much as they wanted, and when the scraps remaining were collected they filled twelve baskets.



St Vincent de Paul – Winter Appeal June 2022

Thank You

On behalf of the people we assist in our community, the Montmorency conference of St Vincent de Paul wish to thank all parishioners for their generosity to this year's winter appeal last week.

Anyone who missed our appeal last week and still wishes to make a donation may do so in one of the following ways:

Envelopes: SVDP envelopes are available at SFX in church pews or at the tables at the entrance doors or at the Presbytery/Church office. You are welcome to leave your donations and/or envelopes in the SVDP Donation boxes on the tables near the entrances to the church, at the Parish Office, or give to an SVDP member or call Mike on 0417 221 245. Receipts can be issued by simply completing name and address on the envelope.

On Line: vinnies.org.au. In terms of directing funds back to the Montmorency or Eltham Conferences, we request that you state **Montmorency** or **Eltham** in the "Comments/Conference Name box" which is just after the postal address box.

By Phone: by calling 13 18 12 and again stating your donation is for the **Montmorency or Eltham conference**.

Direct Credit: BSB 063000 Account 106 07556 **with a reference W22 and Montmorency 916**. In this way moneys will be credited to the Montmorency Conference account and stay within our community.

If you are donating **online, by phone or direct credit** please send an email to msaid@netspace.net.au with your full name and address, amount and date of deposit so that the conference can acknowledge your generosity and ensure these monies are allocated to the **Montmorency or Eltham Conferences**.

*Parishioners are reminded that assistance is always promptly available to the community by contacting 1300 305 330 between 10am and 3pm weekday.
Collection of quality household goods/furniture can be arranged by calling 1800 621 349.
Donations of clothes and other goods are always welcome at any Vinnie's shop.*



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works