

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.

Invitations abound and your participation is key!

Welcome to this busy August month for both parishes and a few opportunities to be involved and have your say on parish activities and finances.

* The **Transition Leadership Community** invites people mainly from the Catholic community of MONTMORENCY to this Sunday’s first public gathering in the Parish/School Hall at 1pm.

This time together is not exclusive of the Eltham community, and for those Montmorency and Eltham people who find this first date more suitable for them, than know that you are welcome.

* Also this week, Thursday night in fact, at 7pm - the combined **Parish Finance Team** invites all interested parishioners to the Eltham Church Gathering Space to chat about the financial position of both parishes during the past 2 years of Covid-19. You may have heaps of questions or none at all, but might like to hear and understand the financial issues that we have faced and what next as we move forward.

Everyone is very welcome to attend and participate in this meeting.

* Again the **TLC** invitation is extended to the ELTHAM community on Sunday 28th, at the Church Gathering Space at 1pm, for their opportunity to talk & listen and dream. If Montmorency parishioners find this date and time to be more appropriate for them - then by all means feel very welcome.

Please note that Chris Pearson will facilitate and lead us through this special process so as to achieve maximum listening and points of clarity for the next phase!

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On a personal note - last Thursday was a strange time for me and clearly one to remember.

I spent most of this day in the Emergency Department of Epworth Hospital as a patient.

After walking the parish dog in the morning feeling normal - at about 8:30am a kidney stone, that I never knew that I had - started it’s painful journey through my body. For the next 3 hours all I could manage was to focus on my breathing. The Ambulance Officers were fantastic and so, by the time we arrived at Epworth at 12, I was totally pain free - with a considerable amount of narcotics in my system. Following plenty of tests and a CT scan, all was revealed.

The female hospital surgeon said that I was fortunate that the Stone had passed its critical phase without any need for treatment. She called Kidney Stones in men ‘women’s revenge’. “Back to work tomorrow”, she said - absolutely no sympathy!

Thanks to the parish crew, ambulance officers and team at Epworth, I’m deeply grateful!!!! *Michael*

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: 7 August 2022

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	\$1,328.00	\$1,738.00
Presbytery	\$1,019.65	\$877.20

Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
April	\$7,964.46	\$11,281.00	\$19,245.46
May	\$5,768.51	\$11,421.00	\$17,189.51
June	\$6,530.13	\$10,509.05	\$17,039.18

Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

Saturday 13

12:00pm Baptisms: Emma, Lily Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 14

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

1:00pm TLC Parish Meeting Montmorency

Monday 15 - Feast of the Assumption

Tuesday 16

9:30am Mass (SFX Y4 class) Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 17

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 18

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

7:00pm Parish Open Finance Meeting Eltham

Friday 19

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 20

12:00pm Baptisms: Annabelle, Charlie, James, Angus, Everly Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 21

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Eleanor, Atticus, Theodore Eltham

Tuesday 23

9:30am Mass (SFX Yr 1 class) Montmorency

7:30pm Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 24

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Thursday 25

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 26

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 27

12:00pm Baptisms: Mila, Zara, Jake, Harper Montmorency

1:00pm Baptism: Scarlett Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 28 - ACBC Social Justice Sunday

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Gia, Leo, Leonardo, Liv Eltham

1:00pm TLC Parish Meeting Eltham

Tuesday 30

9:30am Mass (SFX Y5 class) 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 those whose anniversaries are at this time:
*Thomas Caulfield, Watty Gatt, Geoffrey Harris,
 Brian Lappin, Aileen Patricia Moriarty, Alan Radcliffe*

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
*Rita Bevanda, Kim Brisbane, Alana Foulds,
 Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert), Melanie Lam, Lita Lee,
 Frances McDonald, Andrew Pighin,
 Agnatha Spina, Melina Tenaglia*

Eltham

For the recently deceased:
Nathan Scott

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:
*Violetta, Elisabeth Edwards, Jade McAlear,
 Fiona Rogers, Rosemary Scully, Ian Sturman,
 James Sutton, 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 13 August

St Francis Xavier, 12:00 pm

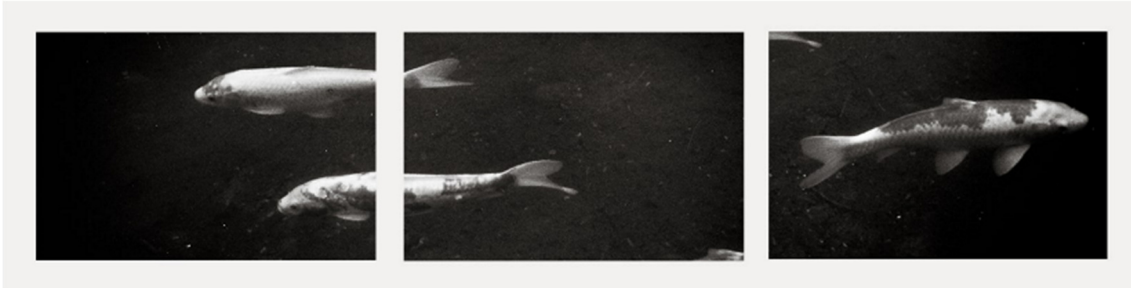
Emma Amiguet
 Lily Stafford

Baptism
 Baptism

St Francis Xavier, 6:00 pm

Owen Low
 Alana McParland
 Kara Torcasio
 James Weiland

First Eucharist
 First Eucharist
 First Eucharist
 First Eucharist



Living What We Are “For”

Father Richard teaches that we can only practice new ways of being in the world if we maintain some degree of nonattachment from the systems around us:

I would insist the foundation of Jesus’ social program is what I will call *non-idolatry*, or the withdrawing of our enthrallment from all kingdoms except the Kingdom of God. This supports a much better agenda than feeling the need to attack things directly. Nonattachment (freedom from loyalties to human-made, domination systems) is the best way I know of protecting people from religious zealotry or any kind of antagonistic thinking or behaviour. *There is nothing to be against. Just keep concentrating on the Big Thing you are for!*

Paul tries to create some “audiovisual aids” for this big message, which he calls “churches” (a term Jesus used only *twice and in only one Gospel* (Matthew 16:18 and 18:17). He needs living, visible models of this new kind of life to make evident that Christ’s people really follow a way different from mass consciousness. They are people who “can be innocent and genuine ... and can shine like stars among a deceitful and underhanded brood” (Philippians 2:15). To people who asked, “Why should we believe there’s a new or better life possible?” Paul could say, “Look at these people. They’re different. This is a new social order.” In Christ, “there are no more distinctions between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:28).

In Paul’s thinking, we were supposed to live inside of an alternative society, almost a utopia, and from such fullness “go to the world.” Instead, we created a model whereby people live almost entirely in the world, fully invested in its attitudes toward money, war, power, and gender - and sometimes “go to church.” This doesn’t seem to be working! Groups like the Amish, the Bruderhof, Black churches, and members of some Catholic religious orders probably have a better chance of actually maintaining an alternative consciousness. Most of the rest of us end up thinking and operating pretty much like our surrounding culture.

Many people, however, now find this solidarity in think tanks, support groups, prayer groups, study groups, house-building projects, healing circles, or community-focused organisations. Perhaps without fully recognising it, we are often heading in the right direction. Some new studies indicate that Christians are not as much leaving Christianity as they are realigning with groups that live Christian values in the world - instead of just gathering again to hear the readings, recite the creed, and sing songs on Sunday. Jesus does not need our singing; we need instead to act like a community. Actual Christian behaviour might just be growing more than we realise. Behaviour has a very different emphasis than belonging.

*Remember, it is not the brand name that matters.
 It is that God’s heart be made available and active on this earth.*

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/living-what-we-are-for-2022-07-11/>

Synodal Way publishes findings

Christa Pongratz-Lippitt

In Order to restore the Church's credibility, shattered by the clerical sexual abuse scandals, "the bishops need to take up a clear position on the pressing issues of our time", according to the participants in the German Synodal Way who on 5 August, through the bishops' conference, published a 13-page contribution to the 2023 General Synod of Bishops. Issues identified by the participants include "equal access for all baptised people to Church offices; a reassessment of sexual morality; & a non-discriminatory approach to homosexual and queer people".

The Synodal Way discussions have attracted keen interest both in the Church, among the general public in Germany and further afield, including drawing comments from bishops' conferences elsewhere in the world.

The Pope has also made his views clear. On 29 June 2019, he published a letter "to the pilgrim people of God in Germany" in which he said that, "the universal Church lives in and of the particular Churches, just as the particular Churches live and flourish in and from the universal

Church. If they find themselves separated from the entire ecclesial body, they weaken, rot and die. Hence the need always to ensure that communion with the whole body of the Church." The letter reminded people that the German Church is not autonomous.

On 21 July this year, the Secretariat of State published an unsigned statement saying it was necessary to clarify "that the 'Synodal Way' in Germany does not have the power to compel bishops and the faithful to adopt new forms of governance and new orientations of doctrine and morals". The presidents of the German Bishops' Conference and of the lay Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK) said they were stunned by the intervention, but powerful voices in the Vatican were obviously concerned. On the return flight from Canada on 29 July, Pope Francis was asked about this statement. He confirmed it came from the Secretariat of State but insisted he had said "all he had to say" on the German Synodal Way in his 2019 letter to German Catholics.

In their 5 August document, the Synodal Way participants revealed that fewer than 10 per cent of the diocesan faithful, most from the middle or upper classes of society,

took part in the survey for the General Synod. They expressly wished that the four fundamental issues that they have been concentrating on in the past three years, namely power and separation of powers in the Church, priestly ministry today, sexual morality and the role of women in the Church, should be integrated into the 2023 Synod. These are the issues, they say, that are important for local churches.

These issues were outlined by the authors of the 2018 Abuse Study commissioned by the German bishops' conference, which examined the causes of priestly sexual abuse. "Lending fresh credibility to the Church in Germany, and to her mission in today's society, is seen as a prerequisite for tackling the reforms needed within the Church relating to these topics. The core aim of the Synodal Path is to address the systemic causes of abuse and its concealment, so that the Gospel can be credibly proclaimed once more in the future," 5 August document states.

The topic of "listening" was discussed. "Listening that does not lead to joint decision-making and concrete action does not go far enough," the participants said.

Expert Eco Chats

Brought to you by *Clean Energy Nillumbik* and the Yarra Valley Community Power Hub

What: Book two free 20 minute appointments with the sustainability experts of your choice. Ask your questions about solar, energy efficiency, sustainable home design and building, EVs and much more.

Where: On Zoom



Time and date: Sunday 27 August 2pm-4:30pm

Registrations open Friday 29 July

<https://www.cleanenergynillumbik.org.au/eec>

Jobs in Waiting...

Lionel is newly arrived to our shores. He is looking to occupy his time & talents helping out with those tasks we mean to do but tend to put off, for one reason or another!

He is skilled in painting, paving, building, gardening, cleaning, clearing around the home. Lionel is genuine, thorough and honest, and his rates are reasonable.

If you feel you could use his services, give him a call on 0423 224 043 to discuss your requirements, he would appreciate your interest!



Pelosi visit to Taiwan tests Vatican diplomacy

PHOTO: ALAMY/ZUMA/TAIWAN PRESIDENTIAL PALACE

James Roberts

When Nancy Pelosi on the evening of Tuesday 2 August stepped off a Boeing C-40C jet - a military version of the Boeing 737 jetliner - at Taipei's Taoyuan International Airport, to be greeted by Taiwan's President, Tsai Ing-wen, she not only threw US-China relations into disarray but impaled the Vatican on the horns of a dilemma that will test its ablest diplomats.

China had made repeated threats of ferocious retaliation if the visit took place. The world held its breath, Beijing appeared to blink - there were no immediate reprisals. But days of military exercises around Taiwan soon silenced any sighs of relief.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (Asean's) foreign ministers expressed concern in a rare public statement about the "international and regional volatility" that the visit had set in motion. "This is a dangerous, dangerous moment for the whole world," said Singapore's foreign minister, Vivian Balakrishnan.

Meanwhile, Jing Quan, the third-ranking Chinese diplomat in Washington, warned that "Taiwan is one of the very few issues that might take China and the United States to conflict or even war."

No sooner had the Speaker of the House of Representatives departed than China dispatched 27 warplanes into Taiwan's air defence identification zone.

China sees Taiwan, with its 23.9 million people, as a wayward province that sooner or later it will retake. There is no ambivalence: Taiwan is Chinese territory, to be seized one day, by force if necessary. However, following rapid commercial and industrial growth since the 1990s, Taiwan has started to focus on independent recognition.

For decades a US policy of "strategic ambiguity" - accepting Beijing's "one-China" policy but not showing its cards on what it would do if China invaded Taiwan - allowed trade relations with China to burgeon. But if the US thinks mutual economic interests will allow this

US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen meet in Taipei



crisis to blow over, it has misread China.

The Holy See has a powerful card, too. Only 13 of the 193 UN member states plus the Holy See maintain formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan. And the Holy See is the only European entity to do so. But the ongoing silence from Rome indicates that only those in the deepest recesses of the Secretariat of State know how this card might be played.

In Ukraine, the Vatican has managed to maintain a semblance of diplomatic neutrality that may yet allow it to have a role in a negotiated peace settlement. But as regards China, Taiwan and the US, its already established positions mean it will be pulled in several directions at once.

Last month, the Pope said the Holy See's Provisional Agreement with Beijing signed in

2018 and due for renewal in October, "is going well", and that he hopes the deal, centred on the appointment of bishops, can be renewed.

Earlier this year the Vatican removed its unofficial representatives in Taiwan. Despite this, the Church enjoys excellent relations with Taipei. Meanwhile, on 29 June, Francis met Pelosi before celebrating Mass in St Peter's basilica, where she received communion despite her position in support of abortion.

Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin and his top advisers are no doubt wrestling desperately with what is a three-headed trilemma - Washington, Beijing and Taipei, all looking different ways - and two of them have vast nuclear arsenals. At the time of the *Tablet's* going to press, there was still only silence from the Secretariat.



A Unit is now available at OLHC. If you would like to move into a well-established and nice sized unit close to OLHC church and Eltham shopping area, please contact Peter Rigg (0421 703 523)

Free to a good home...

An electric chair that moves gently from reclined position to standing. For further information, or if you are interested, please chat to Duncan (0427 003 423)



JOIN US FOR A FIESTA TO CELEBRATE 90 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION IN MONTMORENCY

Fiesta Noventa

FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER

5.30PM - 8.30PM

FREE RIDES • FOOD TRUCKS • KIDS KARAOKE • DJ PHIL • FACE PAINTING • FIREWORKS
ANNIVERSARY PHOTO WALL • LIVE MUSIC WITH GARY EASTWOOD & BAND • SPECIAL GUESTS

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TRYBOOKING.COM/CBKUY



A GATHERING OF THE SFX PAST AND PRESENT SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

THIS IS A CHILD SAFE - ALCOHOL FREE EVENT

90 YEARS OF SFX

What can you share?

Items Wanted

St Francis Xavier School is celebrating their 90th birthday.

As part of the *Fiesta Noventa* event, the staff are preparing a display showcasing the change and consistency over time.

We are hoping you may have photos (pre 1970s), uniforms, memorabilia or stories to help create the display.



Share a Story

Share a memorable SFX event, tradition or memory in 50 words or less.

We hope to weave these stories into a collection which reflects the rich history of our school.

Contact Info

For physical items, please **clearly label them (including contact details)** and drop them to the school office for '90th Display' by **Monday 29th August**.

For digital items, please email Anne Hibbert:
ahibbertesfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

ST MARY'S PARISH
GREENSBOROUGH
PRESENTS AN AFTERNOON OF
OPERA FEATURING

MICHELLE
FRANCIS
COOK

RENOWNED SPINTO SOPRANO
SATURDAY 20 AUGUST 2022 AT 2PM
AND LIGHT AFTERNOON TEA

TICKETS \$20 AVAILABLE SOON

St Francis of Assisi * Parish Retreat 2022

Led by Lorraine McCarthy & the Proclaim: Office for Mission
Renewal of the Archdiocese of Melbourne

VITAL! VIBRANT! VIABLE!

- Growing Missionary Disciples!



Topic?

Being a Missionary Disciple
- What it means & why it matters?

'The purpose of evangelization is ... to bring people into an encounter with the person of Jesus and an ongoing relationship with him - a conversion'.

When? Saturday, 27th August, 8.30 am - 3.30 pm
Retreat begins with Morning Mass.

Where? Loyola College, 325 Grimshaw Street, Watsonia 3087

*** Cost: \$5 * Lunch - bring a plate * Tea & Coffee provided**

*** Booking Essential * RSVP: Tuesday, 23rd August**

Enquiries/Booking: Contact: 9407 6700
Email: Ruth.Lees@cam.org.au

Our Retreat will be an opportunity to be drawn into a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Everyone is invited!

Prayers of the Faithful for 14 August 2022 Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Let us call on God to come to our aid, for he is our saving help.

We pray for Pope Francis, that he will continue to spread the Gospel message of forgiveness and reconciliation as he did in his recent trip to Canada. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the leaders and the people of Australia: that we can work together to promote a cohesive and supportive community, emphasizing the things that unite us rather than those which divide us.

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

In Australia we are able to practice our religion freely. We pray for Christians in over fifty countries who suffer persecution or oppression because of their faith. We pray that God will sustain them in their time of need.

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

We pray for all students and teachers whose schooling continues to be disrupted by absences due to Covid. We pray that these young people will be able to fulfil their potential and become confident, cheerful and caring members of the community.

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

We pray for members of the Transitional Leadership Community and all parishioners as we work and plan for the future of the parish in the upcoming community meetings.

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

We pray for those being baptized and those receiving the Eucharist for the first time this weekend: that they will be beginning or continuing their faith journey. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sick, at home or in hospital, and for the elderly and housebound, may they all experience Christ's healing love.

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

We pray for those who have died recently, *Nathan Scott*. We also remember *Thomas Caulfield, Watty Gatt, Geoffrey Harris, Brian Lappin, Aileen Patricia Moriarty & Alan Radcliffe* 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 our help, with our eyes fixed in Jesus we desire to rid ourselves of every burden and sin that hides us from your presence. Hear our prayer and help us always to choose the path that Christ has won for us. We ask this in Jesus' name..

All: **Amen**

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said: 'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and my spirit exults in God my saviour; because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid. Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed, for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him. He has shown the power of his arm, he has routed the proud of heart. He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy - according to the promise he made to our ancestors - of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

Reflection: Mary's canticle of praise, her *Magnificat*, is most familiar to two cohorts of people - those who pray the Evening Prayer of the Church and those who enjoy sacred music. The former pray it daily, the latter are blessed with a wealth of compositions. Surprisingly, even those who faithfully worship every Sunday and major feast-day never hear it, except once a year on this day.

What prompts Mary's outburst of praise is the greeting she receives from her kinswoman Elizabeth when she visits her before the birth of John the Baptist. Luke artfully weaves human appeal and theological purpose into this story of the visitation. The heart-warming sight of the two expectant women greeting and blessing each other engages us in their confession of faith. Inspiring the Baptist's homage even from the womb, the Holy Spirit brings the ancient hopes of God's people to fulfilment in an unimaginably new way.

Luke's weaving skills come into their own in the *Magnificat*. It's a tapestry of Old Testament quotations and allusions that acquire fresh and profound meaning on Mary's lips. Not least of these is the canticle Hannah prayed as she dedicated her son Samuel to temple service (1 Sam 2:1-10). Both hymns pay tribute to the God who reverses human fortunes and raises up the lowly. Today we celebrate the flowering of this divine blessing in Mary's assumption into heaven.

The minister for whom this gospel is a standard text may be wise to assume the assembly is not familiar with it. That creates the opportunity to proclaim it with Mary's own joyful spirit.

Break Open the Word 2022



Gospel: Luke 12:49-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over!

'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'



Reflection:

Baptism and fire may appear strange companions but Jesus connects them closely today. He's speaking out as he continues on his way to Jerusalem, the city he is soon to address as "you that kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you!" (13:34, a lament never heard at Sunday Mass).

Well aware of the ordeal that awaited him, Jesus cries out with a strength of feeling that brings the agony in the garden to mind. Would that the fire of purification or judgement were already blazing! Would that he were already being plunged into the tide of suffering that lay ahead! The stark choice he was facing sheds light on the dire prediction of division with which he continues. Those who chose to follow him needed to be ready to face conflict, even with those dearest to them. As we will hear in a few Sundays' time, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters ... he cannot be my disciple" (14:26, NRSV).

The catalogue of relationships in dispute makes for difficult proclamation; it's not a cheerful topic and it seems labored. But it ought not be hurried through. It needs to be heard as a corollary of Jesus' own passionate commitment to his mission.

Break Open the Word 2022

Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 13/14 Aug 2022

Beckford, Peter	Commentator
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Goss, Marian	Eucharistic Minister
Leahy, Michelle	Reader
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Ramsdale, John	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	Eucharistic Minister
Said, Mike & Marie	ASRC
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Taylor, Colin	Hospitality OLHC
Williams, Peter	W6:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30
Zavadil Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 20/21 Aug 2022

Armstrong, Miranda	Eucharistic Minister
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Costanzo, Brenda	W8:30
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Dhanasen Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Dopheide, Marlis	Commentator
Furtado, Lionel	Reader
Haines, Jan-Marie	Eucharistic Minister
Hall, Vali	Altar Society
McAleer, Peter	ASRC
Milwain, Gianna	Altar Society
Scully, Greg & Helen	Hospitality OLHC
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR