

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.

ALL WELCOME
All Welcome

An Invitation to all Parishioners to join us at Eltham!

Dear Parishioners and Friends of these two Catholic Communities,

The Transition Leadership Community invite you to an important 'Parish' meeting on Sunday 28th August (1pm) in the Church Gathering Space at Our Lady Help of Christians.

It is intended that this meeting will go for about an hour and a half and be co-ordinated by Chris Pearson. The reason for this important time together is so that you might explore 3 areas: your experience of being a Catholic - both light and dark areas (good & bad), and your hopes for the future - what might a new active Faith Community look like (hopes & dreams).

On a practical level - it is suggested that as many people as possible might avail themselves of this opportunity to be together and explore important local church issues and the value of your lived experience.

Please see this message as a personal invitation & opportunity to be involved in a wonderful journey to develop our parishes for the future. A future contemporary Catholic community with your active participation and ministry to all is hopefully our common desire.

The most common expression in New Testament Scripture: *"Do Not Be Afraid"* - **Michael**

R.C.I.A. - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

An open invitation is extended to people who are not Catholic, or as Adults have not received the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation, and would like to fully participate in the Mass with the reception of the Eucharist. Please contact us and let's begin our enquiry time together. Eltham and Montmorency Catholic Communities welcome your participation.

What is RCIA? The RCIA, which stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a process through which non-baptised men and women enter the Catholic Church. It includes several stages marked by study, prayer and rites at Mass. Participants in the RCIA are known as catechumens - and it is a wonderful adult journey of Christian discovery and personal renewal.

If you know of anyone in your family, friendship groups or neighbourhood that might like to begin this 'enquiry' time, with no obligation to continue in the process to Easter 2023, then please feel free to ask them. Please let Kate know in the parish office: 9435 4742 / eltham@cam.org.au / montmorency@cam.org.au



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: 21 August 2022

	OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	\$711.00	\$1,733.00
Presbytery	\$1,032.60	\$1,486.35

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 27 - ACBC Social Justice Sunday

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 & First Eucharist 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

Wednesday 31

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

Thursday 1 September

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency
2:30pm Mass Calvary Lower Plenty Garden Views

Friday 2

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 3 - Collection: Priests' Retirement Foundation

12:00pm Baptisms: Lucas, Sebastian, Benjamin, Bobby, Zeke Montmorency
6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 4 - Collection: Priests' Retirement Foundation

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

Tuesday 6

9:30am Mass (SFX Yr 2 class) Montmorency
10:00am Craft Group Montmorency
11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

Wednesday 7

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

Thursday 8

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 9

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 10 - Child Protection Sunday

12:00pm Baptisms: Lola, Kenzie, Luca, Leni Montmorency
6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 11 - Child Protection Sunday

8:30am Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency
10:00am Mass Eltham
12:00pm Baptisms: Archie Eltham

Tuesday 13

9:30am Mass (SFX Yr 3 class) 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.





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:
Lorna Aicher, Bernie Kelly, Kevin Pritchard, Noreen & Eric Wohlfahrt

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, Aguatha Spina, Melina Tenaglia

Eltham

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:
Robert Lord

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 27 August

St Francis Xavier, 12:00 pm

Mila Ansell-Tan	Baptism
Zara Oppedisano	Baptism
Harper Wilkins	Baptism
Jake Wilkins	Baptism

St Francis Xavier, 1:00 pm

Scarlett Devita	Baptism
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St Francis Xavier, 6:00 pm

Aaliyah Clarke	First Eucharist
Aiden Dicello	First Eucharist
Elise Haase	First Eucharist

Sunday 28 August

St Francis Xavier, 8:30am

Annabelle Harford	First Eucharist
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Our Lady Help of Christians, 10:00am

Lewis Barber	First Eucharist
Mietta Barber	First Eucharist
Jessica Hibbert	First Eucharist
Brielle Kite	First Eucharist
James Kite	First Eucharist
Daisy Mair	First Eucharist
Seth Tsirbas	First Eucharist
Luka Vukelic	First Eucharist

Our Lady Help of Christians, 12:00pm

Leonardo Dattoli	Baptism
Gia Nicolazzo	Baptism
Liv Parnis	Baptism



OLHC Eltham Library - if you have books at home, please return them to the OLHC library - we are especially looking for "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr.

VOLUNTEER DRIVING INSTRUCTORS

Last year our focus on Shah Gul Nazari and Bano Watanyar was to free them from Afghanistan and reunite them with their husbands here in Australia.

And we succeeded!!!

The girls have settled well, and both couples have units in Greensborough.

The girls have passed their Learner Driver's tests and have begun some driving instruction.

But they need many more hours of practice.

If there are any brave hearted souls willing to take the girls driving, please contact:

Marlis 0407940528 or **Miranda** 0425766155



Melbourne Catholic News:

St Thérèse of Lisieux once wrote that what Jesus desires of his disciples is 'simply *surrender* and *gratitude*.' At the heart of Christian worship and spirituality is thanksgiving, receiving with gratitude the good and wonderful gifts God gives us.

This week [we give thanks for the life and legacy of Valerie Sumner](#). Valerie Sumner was a founding member of the committee of the Knights of the Southern Cross Victoria Archbishop's Dinner. Though she passed away in July 2021, this week we pay her tribute: she was a woman whose life was lived generously in service, and known affectionately as the 'Fundraising Queen'.

We also give thanks for [the life of Mother Ellen Marie of Jesus OCDM](#), Prioress of the Carmelite Monastery in Kew, who passed away recently.

Her life was a witness to the goodness of God and the generosity to which he calls all of us. [In his homily for her requiem Mass](#), Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reflected on the wonderful work of this 'good and faithful steward in God's kingdom', and on some of the ways we are all invited into a contemplative life.

We also hear from another of Melbourne's newly ordained priests, [this time from Fr Andrew Kwiatkowski](#), a young Polish-born man who shares about his experience of God's constant call, and about responding with a life of gratitude.

The second instalment of our series exploring some of [the modern challenges to discernment](#) includes some fascinating insights from Veronika Winkels, editor and writer for *Mathilde* magazine, and Fr Paul Rowse OP, who reflect on issues of anxiety, faith and maturity in the modern age, and how these influence how we might discern God's call on our lives.

Finally, St Christopher's Parish in Syndal were deeply grateful when they [were recently finally able to gather in thanksgiving for their 60th anniversary](#) after COVID lockdowns postponed the event. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli was present to bless their new facilities and encourage them in their commitment to forming intentional disciples.

www.melbournecatholic.org/news

Calls for Church reps to attend jobs summit



Francis Sullivan says representatives from the Catholic social services sector should be present at the summit and have traditionally been invited to consultations at this level.

“The jobs summit – as far as the media is concerned – seems to boil down to big business and the unions,” Mr Sullivan said.

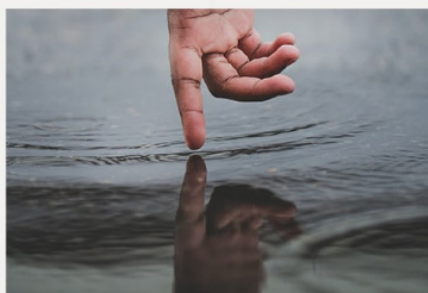
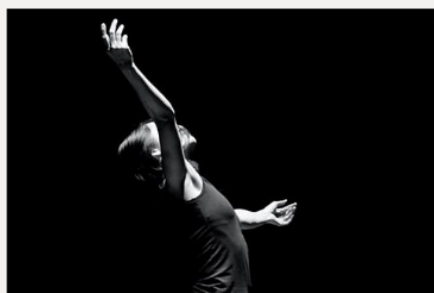
He said that the cost-of-living crisis could not be left

to markets alone to solve, and that Catholic social thought did not support a “one-trick pony” approach to economic matters.

It is understood the list of attendees is yet to be finalised, but that neither the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference nor key Catholic agencies like Catholic Social Services Australia have received invitations.

According to 2017 research from the Australian Catholic Council for Employment Relations, the Church employs approximately 220,000 Australians in a variety of sectors, including health, education and aged care.

In 2017, ACCER calculated the size of the Church’s jobs footprint, finding it employed a workforce nine-tenths of the size of the Commonwealth Government, bigger than the Woolworths Group, or the “Big Four” banks combined. <https://cathnews.com>



EMBODIED KNOWING: Knowing and Loving Our Bodies

After being diagnosed with Stage IV cancer, theologian and author Kate Bowler worked intensively to know and love her body and its ways of both serving and failing her. As part of her spiritual practice, she wrote this letter:

Dear Body,

Sometimes, I hate you. You ache. You get tired sooner than I’d like to admit. You wake me in the night for no good reason. Your cells duplicate at unpredictable rates. New gray hairs and fine lines and silver stretch marks show up out of nowhere. You let me down just when I need you the most...

Sometimes, I want a break from living with you. I’d prefer to trade you in for a newer model. A model that isn’t in constant pain that fits better in that pair of jeans, that has more energy. With you, I am limited - bound by skin and bone and thinning hair.

With you, I am fragile...

But God knows what it’s like to live in flesh... If God too lived in a body, then God knows the ache of growing pains and the feeling of goosebumps on a brisk day and the comfort of a warm embrace. He felt the gurgle of a hungry stomach and the annoying prick of a splinter after a day of hard work. He wept over the death of a friend. Ours is a God who sneezed and rubbed His eyes when He was sleepy. Ours is a God who know longing, heartbreak, excitement, frustration - the full range of what it means to be human... [and] live in a body.

So when my own body drags me down, when my muscles ache, when my worries keep me up at night, when my fear for the future leaves me motionless, when I feel lonely and exhausted and burdened, I do not worship a God who is far off.

This is a God who knows my humanity inside and out. God has counted every hair on my head (Matthew 10:30) and bottled up every tear I have shed (Psalm 56:8). Not simply because the Word formed us (Genesis 1:27), knit us together in our mothers’ wombs (Psalm 139:13), was there from the very beginning... but because God wore our skin.

By embracing the wisdom of incarnation, Bowler learned to listen to her body’s messages and be kind to herself:

Dear, dear body, I get it. Or at least I am starting to. You do not have an unlimited supply. You run out, and I need to listen. Maybe I really should go to bed a little earlier or let you off the hook for craving those extra salty chips. I need to sense when you are struggling, and gently acknowledge that you are actually changing. That time and love and grief and life have worn themselves into my skin. Day by day. This is the beautiful, terrible evidence that we have lived.

Catholic Religious Australia calls for action against violence

In a statement, CRA said it supported the call from the Australian Catholic Bishops for Church communities to confront this serious social injustice.

Earlier this month, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference released its Social Justice Statement, titled *Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse*, which condemns the scourge of domestic and family violence.

“The Church can play an important role in listening to and validating the experience of victims of domestic and family abuse,” CRA president Br Peter Carroll said.

“Forgiveness does not mean staying in an abusive relationship. Church leaders need to speak about this challenging topic in appropriate ways, recognising that abuse is occurring in families within their communities.”

This call is timely as the national conversation regarding coercive control in domestic abuse gains momentum. Recently, the federal and state attorneys-general agreed to create a national plan to respond effectively to coercive control, across all states and territories.

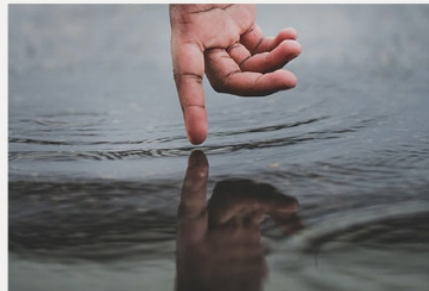
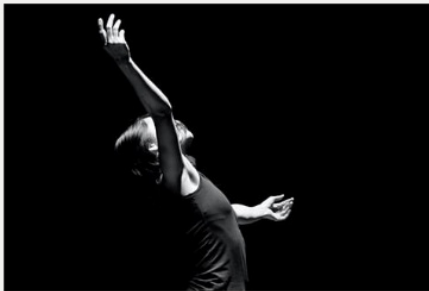
The New South Wales and Queensland governments have committed to introducing legislation to criminalise behaviour that amounts to coercive control.



CRA has made a submission to support the proposed NSW Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Bill 2022 to close gaps that exist in NSW criminal law. This includes a clear and accessible legal definition of domestic abuse and a stand-alone criminal offence of coercive control.

Anne Walker, CRA’s national executive director, said “Leaders of Church communities have a responsibility to educate communities on what constitutes abusive behaviour and assist those who are suffering to find a way to safety.

“Safeguarding, in all its forms, must be the continual work of the Church.” <https://cathnews.com>



EMBODIED KNOWING: A Source of Vital Information

Fr Richard reminds us of the importance of listening to our body's wisdom:

Though we begin our lives immersed in unitive, kinesthetic knowing, we learn quickly to see distinctions and divisions in the world. As a toddler, I learned: “I am not my mother. My mother is not me.” The developing ego sees by differentiation and negation - who we are not. While such an ego structure is a natural, necessary part of growing up, it always gets in the way of the soul’s holistic, nondual consciousness. My identity - intelligence, moral sense, wealth, and social class - is unfortunately gained in contrast, comparison, and competition to the person next to me.

My still centre, my True Self, does not need to oppose, differentiate, or compare itself. It just *is* and is content. This must be “the pearl of great price.” To the extent that our soul is alive and connected, we are satisfied with the “enoughness” of who we are and the present moment. (In our consumeristic, competitive, and increasingly online world, I fear this is becoming harder and harder to experience.)

Living solely out of our ego splits us off from our body and our soul. Western Christianity and culture have largely surrendered to the dualistic split of body vs. soul. Christians even speak of “saving their soul” instead of also saving their body. We often repress emotions and physical sensations for the sake of efficiency and success. There are appropriate times to let our thinking mind lead instead of immediately following our body’s instincts. But we must do so with awareness and appreciation for our body, rather than pushing feelings away and moving ahead with what we have to do in the next hour. Repressing feelings and sensations relegate them to our unconscious “shadow” self. They don’t go away. They come out in unexpected and often painful ways.

We need to understand kinesthetic, bodily knowing. We must learn to recognize our physical responses - be they fear, arousal, pleasure, or pain - because they reveal additional and important information. It may take a few minutes of intentional focus to become aware of tension in our shoulders, churning in our gut, a pounding heart, or goosebumps.

Irish poet and philosopher John O'Donohue (1956–2008) says this well:

Your mind can deceive you and put all kinds of barriers between you and your nature; but your body does not lie. Your body tells you, if you attend to it, how your life is and whether you are living from your soul or from the labyrinths of your negativity... The human body is the most complex, refined, and harmonious totality...

Your body is, in essence, a crowd of different members who work in harmony to make your belonging in the world possible... The soul is not simply within the body, hidden somewhere within its recesses. The truth is rather the converse. Your body is in the soul, and the soul suffuses you completely.



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

ANNUAL PRIEST RETIREMENT COLLECTION ON 3RD & 4TH SEPTEMBER 2022

The annual Archbishop's Collection For Retired Priests is an important opportunity for our communities to provide support and care for the priests who devote their lives to the Lord, their parishes and the communities of this Archdiocese.

Through their ministry and decades of service, our priests have been there when you, your family and your fellow parishioners have sought their guidance. They are there to celebrate the happiest moments of your life as well as provide comfort in times of need. But in retirement, it is they who count on you for prayers and support. Your individual gifts to this collection will help meet the needs of our ageing priests including physician services, hospitalization, nursing home care, vision care and disability.



Caring for those who cared



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

SVdP Eltham are in need of:

Soups
Tinned Stew
Pasta
Pasta sauce
Spaghetti (tin)

Baked Beans (tin)
Fruit (tin)
Breakfast Cereal
Long Life Milk



SAVE THE DATE SAT 15 OCT



2022 FUNDRAISING DINNER

ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL HALL, MONTMORENCY

2022 Annual Fundraising Dinner

After 3 long years, we are back fundraising for our Sponsorship Families & Livelihood Projects in Cebu.

We are excited to announce that our dinner will be catered for by Elena's Paella. We can't wait to have a great night, and fill our bellies with a chicken & chorizo paella, that will be made onsite on the day (with a vegetarian option available for our veg guests).

Please support this fundraiser to help many.

The focus of our dinner will be raising money for the construction of septic toilets for as many families as possible - but you will have to attend on the night to see what fun we have in store for this theme.

Early Bird Ticket Sales open August 15 - \$50 per ticket. Ticket will include an entree grazing plate on each table, Elena's Paella and something small & sweet for dessert.

After Sep 15, tickets will be full price - \$60 per ticket

For more information please contact

Glenys Gayfer

0411 196 395 or email paper-imports@bigpond.com

Embrace the Call to Global Mission

American Samoa, Cambodia, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste & Zambia are requesting Australian Catholics to live in & share their skills with parish communities. Embrace one of these [Mission opportunities abroad](#) & mentor those with little other opportunity. You will be well prepared & supported by Palms Australia who have engaged Australian Catholics in this mission since 1961.

[Enquire online](#) or Ph: 0422 742 567 & [Register](#) for a Webinar on Sat Sep 24 at 11:30am where you can talk directly with Veronica Lawson who is mentoring teachers in Pago Pago, American Samoa now. Or visit others already engaged in Mission with Palms on our [13-day Encounter Tour to Timor-Leste from October 16th to 28th](#).



Palms Australia

Prayers of the Faithful for 28 August 2022 Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Brothers and sisters, our God is rich in love, let us turn towards Him and offer our prayers for the Church and the world.

For our Church leaders: that they will be true servants to all the faithful and that they will listen to the needs of those they serve. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have difficulty finding their place in the Church: that through the grace of God they will be welcomed. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those countries where there is the urgent need for peace: that the world leaders will work harder to put an end to war and conflict and to find ways to bring about justice and equality. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish community: that we will remember Jesus' love for the poor and work to promote the well-being of the poor and vulnerable. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are receiving Baptism and First Eucharist this week: that they will grow in their understanding of Jesus' love for them. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those experiencing ill health, physical or mental: that they find people ready to listen to them and to sustain them. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died recently; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, *Lorna Aicher, Bernie Kelly, Robert Lord, Kevin Pritchard, Noreen & Eric Wohlfahrt.* *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God our Father, who loves us beyond understanding, hear and answer our prayers. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**



Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 27/28 Aug 2022	
Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Emslie, Maureen	W6:00
Frediani, Gabriella	Altar Society
French, Jossie	W8:30
Goss, Marion	E10:00
Jones, Marion	W6:00
Leahy Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Leahy, Colin	Hospitality
Leahy, Michelle	Hospitality
Love, Philip	W8:30
Nolan, Kathleen	Commentator
Ramsdale, John	ASRC
Ramsdale, Sue	ASRC
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Zylstra, Diane	Reader

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 3/4 Sep 2022	
Armstrong, Miranda	Reader
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	Hospitality
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	Hospitality
Illiffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	Altar Society
Rigg Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Scully, Helen	Altar Society
Taylor, Trish	Commentator

E10:00 = Eucharistic Minister @ 10am Mass; **W8:30** = Minister of the Word @ 8:30am Mass; **W6:00** = Minister of the Word @ 6pm Mass

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

On a Sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host come, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'



Reflection:

Characteristically, Luke reports that Jesus had accepted an invitation to a meal, this time on the Sabbath and at the house of an influential Pharisee. Perhaps word had not spread as to uncomfortable a guest he could be. True to form, he turns the tables on his antagonists. Perceiving their penchant for social status, Jesus tells a whimsical story about the jeopardy of seeking the places of honour at table. He concludes with what appears to be a commonplace of wisdom about humility, in complete harmony with what we heard from Ben Sirach. It's also in keeping with the kind of thorough-going reversal that Luke stresses and Mary extols in her *Magnificat*.

Jesus' second piece of teaching is doubly more radical. It's one thing to be modest in one's social interaction with peers, it's altogether something else to embark on table-fellowship with riff-raff and those beyond the pale. But if that's hard to stomach there's more to come. It's to be done purely gratuitously. The economy of favours given and favours returned is not the economy of the kingdom of God. That's one of generous hospitality offered to those poor and humble enough to accept it.

The reading progresses from the factual introduction through the parable to the concluding instruction. There's every reason to expect that a good proclamation will sustain the assembly's attention. **Break Open the Word 2022**

Father's Day Pamphlets

We would like to wish all fathers, grandfathers and uncles a very happy day. We hope that you can all catch up with your families next Sunday or in the very near future. We also offer our prayers for those who are no longer with us or unwell.

The Montmorency conference of SVDP have some booklets that may be of interest to parishioners that will assist us in celebrating and preparing for Father's day. Pamphlets are in the front foyer near the entrance doors. Some of the pamphlets include:

- Celebrate Fathers – Prayers and Reflections on Fatherhood
- Prayers for a New Father
- Celebrate Grandparents – Reflections in honour of Grandparents
- Praying for Grandparents

We hope that you enjoy the selection. Please feel free to browse all the pamphlets. A gold coin donation in the poor boxes located at the front and side entrances will help defray costs.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul through our conference, perhaps in the Vinnies shop in Briar Hill, or in some other administrative capacity? If so please contact Mike on 0417 221 245 or the Parish Office.

The Montmorency conference is continuing their work during this time. If you need assistance call 1800 305 330 Monday to Friday between 10am and 3pm.

