

# 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.



CELEBRATING FATHER'S DAY

## FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

GOD MY FATHER, on this day set aside to honour fathers, I place myself before you in thanksgiving. Thank you for the precious lives you have placed under my care and responsibility.

I carry a joyful burden, and I pray the load will never be so heavy that I forget the pleasures of my role, nor so light that I forget the magnitude of my duties.

Give me knowledge and wisdom to usher my children toward responsible adulthood - and a true and mature faith in you.

Give me courage to make difficult decisions. Help me guide my children with a discipline that is fair and centred on Jesus Christ.

Grant me the humility to admit my own failings as a father and the ability to ask forgiveness.

Most important, draw me ever closer to you - remain my rock, my strength, and a model of selfless fatherhood.

Amen

*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](http://pol.org.au/eltham) or [pol.org.au/montmorency](http://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](mailto:michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au)

#### **Parish Office**

86 Mayona Road

9435 4742

Tue - Fri 9am-3pm

[montmorency@cam.org.au](mailto:montmorency@cam.org.au)

Kate Kogler:

**Parish Secretary**

[eltham@cam.org.au](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

Peter Williams:

**Child Safety Officer**

[SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:SFX&OLHC.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

Website:

[www.pol.org.au/montmorency](http://www.pol.org.au/montmorency)

[www.pol.org.au/eltham](http://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](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au)

#### **Schools**

##### St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

[principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

[www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

##### Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

[principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

[www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

##### Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Patrick Green: 9439 7824

[school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

[www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](http://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
May	\$5,768.51	\$11,421.00	\$17,189.51
June	\$6,530.13	\$10,509.05	\$17,039.18
July	\$6,285.38	\$10,092.00	\$16,377.38

## Monty & Eltham Calendar of Events

### **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

### **Wednesday 14**

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

### **Thursday 15**

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

### **Friday 16**

9:30am Mass Eltham

### **Saturday 17 - Social Services Sunday**

12:00pm Baptisms: Tommy, Gordon, Chloe, Luke, Jaxon Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

### **Sunday 18 - Social Services Sunday**

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

### **Tuesday 20**

9:30am Mass Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

### **Wednesday 21**

6:30am Meditation 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:

*Brian Toomey*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Antonia Capuana, Urszula Doss,  
John Elliott, Don Horne, Nereo Zini*

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 the recently deceased:

*Greg Harris*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

*Ada Beech*

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](mailto:eltham@cam.org.au).



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

**Saturday 3 September**

*St Francis Xavier, 12:00 pm*

Benjamin Adamo  
Lucas Craig Hammon  
Sebastian Mifsud  
Zeke Wyatt Rankin  
Bobby Anne Veal

Baptism  
Baptism  
Baptism  
Baptism  
Baptism

**Sunday 4 September**

*Our Lady Help of Christians, 10:00am*

Jonah Wil Franklin Brennan  
Campbell Francis McCarthy

First Eucharist  
First Eucharist

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](http://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

**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

**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 [papel-imports@bigpond.com](mailto:papel-imports@bigpond.com)

OLHC Eltham Library - if you have books at home, please return them to the OLHC library - we are especially looking for "The Univeersal 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

## Jobs Summit must ensure ‘nobody is left behind’

Published: 01 September 2022

*Ahead of today’s landmark Jobs and Skills Summit, Jesuit Social Services says a coordinated approach to supporting marginalised people into work is critical in creating a fairer Australia.*

“We welcome Prime Minister [Anthony] Albanese’s facilitation of the Jobs and Skills Summit and the bringing together of employers, unions, government and the education and social services sectors to discuss issues such as workforce participation, growing productivity, sustainable wage growth and equal pay for women,” says Jesuit Social Services’ acting chief executive Sally Parnell.



“Alongside these important issues, we need a fundamental understanding of the powerful role education, training and employment plays in addressing many of the overlapping issues facing disengaged and highly vulnerable people in our community. We need real and sustainable pathways to equip marginalised people with the skills and training they need to attain meaningful employment, and to support people who experience barriers to employment into work.”

In its pre-Federal Election platform, Jesuit Social Services called for the JobActive system to be replaced by a new model that provides flexible and individualised training and support for people seeking work, an investment in pre-accredited training programs to support people to enter or re-enter education and training as a pathway to employment and the base rate of JobSeeker and related payments to be raised to at least \$69 per day.

“We hope to see some of these important reforms on the agenda at this week’s Summit and to become reality moving forward – to ensure that nobody is left behind.”

<https://cathnews.com/cathnews/45165-jobs-summit-must-ensure-nobody-is-left-behind>

## Australia provides \$2m in humanitarian aid to Pakistan

Published: 31 August 2022

*The Albanese Government has announced it will provide \$2 million in humanitarian aid to help those affected by the floods that have devastated Pakistan. Source: SBS News.*



A man wades through floodwaters trying to salvage his belongings following heavy rains during the monsoon season in Charsadda, Pakistan, on Sunday (CNS/Fayaz Aziz, Reuters)

More than 33 million people have been affected by the floods, which have submerged one-third of the country. More than 1000 people have died.

Roads, bridges, villages and livestock have been washed away as the country with a population of 220 million reels from the destruction caused by the disaster.

It’s estimated around 200,000 people are now displaced, with almost one million homes damaged, according to Pakistan’s planning minister.

Pakistan’s climate change minister has described the flooding, caused by an intense monsoon season, as a

“climate-induced humanitarian disaster of epic proportions”.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong yesterday said Australia will provide \$2 million in support through the World Food Program to assist with “immediate humanitarian needs, particularly those disproportionately affected by the floods, including women, children and the vulnerable.”

“I extend Australia’s deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and communities that have lost loved ones, and those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected,” Senator Wong said in a statement.

Preliminary estimates have indicated it will cost the Pakistan government \$14 billion to recover from the disaster.

<https://cathnews.com/cathnews/45157-australia-provides-2m-in-humanitarian-aid-to-pakistan>

## Inquiry hears of homelessness among people with disability

Published: 31 August 2022

*The disability royal commission has heard thousands of people living with disability have experienced homelessness, with 99 per cent of rentals out of reach for Australians on a disability pension. Source: ABC News.*

The royal commission heard that 116,000 people experienced homelessness in Australia on the 2016 Census night. Data showed that 10,200 people living with severe or profound disability experienced some form of homelessness during that year.

The hearing was told people with disability had a greater need for affordable and accessible housing, as they were often excluded from employment and relied on the disability support pension (DSP).

Research conducted for the inquiry found less than one per cent of rental properties in Australia were affordable to people on the DSP, and people with a disability were waiting years for accessible social housing.

The royal commission heard from "Colin", who said his life had been in limbo since he was dramatically rescued from the Lismore floods in February. Colin, who lives with muscular dystrophy and uses a wheelchair, gave evidence about what he described as "constantly moving from one temporary accommodation form to another".

At the time of the floods, Colin, 58, was living with his sister, who also has muscular dystrophy. He described the six weeks after the flood as a blur. He was moved between temporary accommodation in Tweed Heads, Ballina, Evans Head and is now living at Lennox Head.

Colin said living on the DSP meant there was "absolutely nowhere" on the private rental market he could afford.

The inquiry heard there was no "medium- or long-term accommodation on the horizon". While he was on the waiting list for an emergency pod, Colin was told there were no facilities for people with "special needs".

<https://cathnews.com/cathnews/45155-inquiry-hears-of-homelessness-among-people-with-disability>

## Pope's meeting with world's cardinals concludes

Published: 31 August 2022

*The final session of the two-day meeting of members of the College of Cardinals at the Vatican yesterday was dedicated to discussing various aspects of the 2025 Jubilee of Hope. Source: Vatican News.*

Some 190 cardinals from across the globe participated in the meeting, which dissolved last night after the celebration of Holy Mass in St Peter's Basilica presided over by Pope Francis.

The Pope summoned the cardinals, the Patriarchs of the Eastern Churches and top officials of the Secretariat of State, asking them to gather in the Vatican on 29-30 August to reflect, "in a fraternal atmosphere", on the recently published Apostolic Constitution, *Praedicate Evangelium*, on reforming the Roman Curia.



Pope Francis met with cardinals at the Vatican this week (Vatican Media)

In a statement, the Holy See Press Office said, "The work in language groups, and the discussions in the Synod Hall provided the opportunity for participants to freely discuss many aspects of the document and of the life of the Church".

The meeting has seen almost the entire College of Cardinals gathered in the Vatican with Pope Francis for the first time since the start of his pontificate almost 10 years ago.

The prelates discussed challenges faced by the Curia and by the Universal Church, focusing on important themes such as the role of lay persons, financial transparency, synodality, a new administrative organisation, the call to mission and the proclamation of the Gospel in today's world.

<https://cathnews.com/cathnews/45156-pope-s-meeting-with-world-s-cardinals-concludes>

### Roster for THIS 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
Iilfe, 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

### Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 10/11 Sep 2022

Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Bylsma, Zvonka & John	Hospitality
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	Altar Society
Furtado, Lorraine	Commentator
Goss, Marion	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	Reader
Kotz, Sharron	E10:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Rough Family	Pilgrim Rosary Statue
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	Altar Society
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30

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

### 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 16<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>](#).



Palms Australia

### 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.

**PRIESTS RETIREMENT FOUNDATION**



Caring for those who cared

### DAIKIN AIR PURIFIER MC55YPVM



APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASTHMA COUNCIL AUSTRALIA - Daikin's new range of Air Purifiers with Streamer Technology are designed to capture, suppress and break down pollutants such as mould, pollen, allergens, odours, traffic pollution and dust.

Perfect for allergy sufferers!

Importantly with New electrostatic HEPA filters and PM2.5 sensors that are approved by government and advised for all indoor settings to help with Covid-19 safety.

So, this week we have installed 4 Daikin Air Purifiers in each of our churches for your comfort and health concerns. This new system works in well with our Daikin Heaters & Air-conditioning and will have regular service & maintenance through 'Air Fusion' - our provider. Naturally, over the next few years we believe that this important introduction of Air Purifiers into our church settings, will help us all move forward with confidence in parish celebrations.



### Streamer Technology Effectiveness

Independently tested & verified to remove:

CORONAVIRUS (HCOV-229E)	MORE THAN 99.99% <sup>1</sup> IN 30 MINUTES	INFLUENZA A (H1N1)	MORE THAN 99.99% <sup>1</sup> IN 30 MINUTES
ALLERGENS	MORE THAN 99.61% <sup>2</sup> IN 24 HOURS	POLLEN	MORE THAN 99.6% <sup>2</sup> IN 2 HOURS
MOULD	MORE THAN 99.9% <sup>3</sup> IN 24 HOURS	BACTERIA	
FORMALDEHYDE		ODOURS	

## Prayers of the Faithful for 4 September 2022 Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Leader:** Let us turn towards Christ and pray for the needs of the world.

For the Church in the World: that the Church will endure in closeness to its people in the face of persecution, indifference and ignorance. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our parish community: that the wisdom of God will fill our minds and hearts with an endlessly renewed and refreshed spirit of community. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all our faith communities: that freedom of religion and conscience will be valued, protected, cherished and preserved throughout the world. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the grace of hope: that being faithful in small things, we shall come to share in the richness of the Kingdom of God. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are being baptized or are celebrating the great sacrament of First Eucharist this weekend: that they will join a journey of humility, gentleness, and service to the Lord, and will grow in his favour and love.

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

We pray for all those who are sick and for those whose names are in our bulletin. Let them experience the healing power of Christ. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have died recently, *Greg Harris and Brian Toomey*, and for *Ada Beech, Antonia Capuana, Urszula Doss, John Elliott, Don Horne & Nereo Zini* whose anniversaries we mark at this time. May the light of Christ perpetually shine upon them. May they rest in the love of our Lord. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** God our Father hear these prayers offered to you in hope. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** Amen



### Melbourne Catholic News:

Love calls to us throughout our lives, leading us sometimes in directions we might never have expected. This Sunday is *Father's Day*, an opportunity to reflect on the ways the love we experience from our earliest days — the love shared within our families — can continue to enrich and shape our lives. These [human experiences of love point us to an even greater love](#), though — to the One who is Love.

This week we share some stories about what it might look like to follow this call of Love — to put our gifts and passions, our life experiences, our family histories and cherished dreams all at the service of a God whose very being is Love.

[Sr Deirdre Browne](#) is perhaps best known for writing the much-loved song 'Come as you are'. As she has followed the call of Love in her life, she has been led on a remarkable journey, in which faith and music, community and service have all combined in rich and unexpected ways.

Coming to his vocation much later in life, [Fr Ignatius Tan was recently ordained](#) at St Patrick's Cathedral. He tells us about how he too followed God's call, nurtured by an ever-deepening love of Scripture, a commitment to the poor, and the support and encouragement of the vibrant Christian communities who have embraced him, both in Singapore and in Melbourne.

Last Sunday, as we marked *Social Justice Sunday*, we were reminded of what Catholic Social Teaching refers to as the 'preferential option for the poor' — the idea that the call of God's love is perhaps most insistent in the face of human suffering. This year [the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has called us to focus especially on the tragedy of domestic abuse](#), and to work towards a world in which all homes are places of peace and safety, and the life and dignity of each person is honoured and valued. We look at a few of the ways the Church in Melbourne responds to the cries of those whose lives have been torn apart by abuse, and seeks to nurture families and relationships that reflect the Good News of Christ.

We also hear from the Archdiocese of Melbourne's Professional Standards Unit about the [launch of its Safeguarding Essentials online training module](#) for all clergy and volunteers. [www.melbournecatholic.org/news](http://www.melbournecatholic.org/news)



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

## Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

### Reflection:

Today's reading begins with a reminder that Jesus is "on his way" to Jerusalem. It seems that the "great crowds" that accompanied Jesus did not understand what this entailed, so he proceeds to disillusion them. Keeping company with Jesus did not equate to discipleship, as he had already made clear (13:26-27).

Jesus pulls no punches. Being a disciple must take priority over even the most powerful and intimate of human relationships. It means following Jesus on the way of the cross, as both Matthew and Mark also insisted. It demanded clear-eyed realism about what aspiring disciples would be letting themselves in for. Unlike the builder and the king in the parable (peculiar to Luke), they needed the clarity and determination to see things through. In keeping with his particular concern about the danger of being held captive by possessions, Luke makes giving them up a pre-requisite for everybody, not just those who would be perfect.

All the qualities that Jesus is calling for - a commitment to God's reign above all else, a willingness to shoulder the cross, the capacity to foresee the cost, and freedom from possessiveness - are those that he himself exemplifies. Taken in isolation, this teaching is confronting, but when put in the context of life in God's realm it becomes good news.

**Break Open the Word 2022**



**Child Protection Week (4--10 September)  
and  
Safeguarding Sunday (11 September)**

Child Protection Week is a national campaign held each year to raise awareness of child-abuse prevention in our communities.

In 2022, the overarching message of '**Every child, in every community needs a fair go**' will be embraced for Child Protection Week. A particular focus this year will also be on the right of children and young people to grow up in environments that support them according to their needs.

As we know, when children and young people grow up safe, connected and supported in their families, communities and culture, they thrive.

This weekend, Safeguarding Sunday, we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place where people feel safe and supported.

You can find out more about the Church's work in this area at:

<https://www.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-sunday>