

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

The start of a new year 2023 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Welcome to this weekend and the start of a new year!

With Cricket & Tennis and time to read a few summer books, we welcome in 2023.

A huge thank you for your prayers and participation throughout the Advent and busy Christmas days - to those many people who ministered and helped in simple and practical ways, each liturgy was very different and special because of your generosity and support! Thank you again.

Hot summer days are now with us, and during these holidays we especially need to be on our guard to help anyone in need - and of course, where possible, take this season/time to rest up a bit for the coming adventures that life brings us all in 2023.

On so many levels, we enter into this New Year with many uncertainties and our world in a fragile state. Talk about not quite being sure just what the future holds or has in store for us - we journey forward together as a Christian pilgrim-people trusting in God's presence and hoping for plenty of signs of love in our daily life!

In our large Catholic family world wide, we have been asked by Pope Francis to remember in our prayers Emeritus Pope Benedict, who is gravely ill at this time.

Who knows what 2023 will bring to us all this year, but I do know that we will support each other on this new adventure and journey. Rest up... for its going to be a great year of opportunities!

January 1st is traditionally given over to the dedication of Mary, blessing us all on our journey.

Michael



Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

Reflection:

Every five, six or eleven years, January 1st falls on a Sunday. When that happens a rich banquet of secular and religious fare is set before us. For much of the world it's the first day of the calendar year and an opportunity to embrace the promise that a New Year offers, even if fresh beginnings are put on hold while summer holidays are enjoyed.

Just over fifty years ago, the liturgical reforms of Vatican II changed the day's feast of the Circumcision of Jesus into that of the Mother of God. It remains a feast of Christ insofar as Mary's title is grounded in the undivided personhood of Jesus Christ, fully human, fully divine. It is also, courtesy of Pope Paul VI, a World Day of Peace.

The Hebrew word for Peace, *shalom*, means far more than the absence of war, though that's a key component. It encompasses well-being, contentment, right relationship and justice - all things to treasure and ponder in our hearts after the example of Mary.

Break Open the Word 2023

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.



Prayers of the Faithful for 1 January 2023 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Leader: As we honour Mary as Mother of God, we also respond to Pope Francis' invitation to observe this World Day of Prayer for Peace.

For peace throughout the world, that the whole Church, under the leadership of Pope Francis will be committed to working for and sustaining peace. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church, that we faithfully carry the good news of salvation, love and peace to the world. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the silencing of all guns and bombs, and for the calming of every anxious heart that peace will come to Ukraine, the Holy Land, Syria, South Sudan, Iran and the Congo. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For respect for family life, the foundation of peace in this world, that parents and children, single people and other couples will receive respect and flourish in goodness. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For our Commonwealth of Australia, proclaimed on this day in 1901, that the Voice to Parliament, fruit of the Uluru Statement and supported by the Australian Catholic Plenary Council, will be realized in 2023. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those in great need in Australia and around the world, caused by natural disasters, that they will receive the help they need, and that all will care responsibly for our planet, our common home. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick, especially those mentioned in the bulletin, and those we know that they will experience the healing grace of God. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who have died, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time. May they now experience the promised eternal life. Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, bless and keep us, let your face shine upon us and bring us your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Saviour, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen



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

Montmorency

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Arturo Bacani, Tony Belfiore, Rita Bevanda,
Kim Brisbane, Debbie Edgley (nee Vanderwert),
Alana Foulds Bob Fraser, Melanie Lam, Lita Lee,
Frances McDonald, Cindy Morrissey,
Andrew Pighin, Aguatha Spina, Melina Tenaglia*

Eltham

For those in need of healing, remembering especially:

*Violetta, 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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Always is a good time to give thanks! But at this time particularly, we would like to say thanks to Fr Michael for the mighty effort and fine job he has done over the Christmas period. We have been led through prayerful and meaningful Liturgical Celebrations befitting the great Feast and miracle of the birth of our Saviour Jesus. It has been a beautiful time for us all. In saying this, we include thanks also for the energy, enthusiasm, hospitality and love Fr Michael has generously shared over these past couple of difficult covid years, whilst at the same time endeavouring in facilitating our two communities of Montmorency and Eltham to a new story of amalgamation and oneness. A challenging path at any time, thank you Michael.

While on the topic of 'thank you' we could not pass by without recognizing and giving much thanks and appreciation to our lovely hard-working & helpful Kate in the Office. Nothing is too difficult or too much trouble for her. Kate faithfully puts together a great weekly Bulletin, is such a support for Fr Michael and warmly welcomes all those who ring or visit the Parish House, thank you Kate.

We are blessed to have you and sincerely thank you both.

Patsy and the Team.

Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 31 Dec/1 Jan 2023

Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Davidson, John	PRYR
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Goss, Marion	E10:00
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John & Sue	ASRC
Rough Family	PRSE
Saltalamacchia, Carmel	ASE
Taylor, Trish	C10:00
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 7/8 Jan 2023

Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Emslie, Maureen	W6:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Jones, Marion	W6:00
McEwen, Christopher	R10:00
Milwain, Gianna	ASE
Nolan, Kathleen	C10:00
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Ryan Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham; C = Commentator; E = Euch. Minister;
H = Hospitality; PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;
W = Minister of the Word; R = Reader