

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.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled:

Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan, Galilee of the nations! The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light; on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death a light has dawned.

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him.

Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Reflection:

On the hinge feast joining Christmas to Ordinary Time - the Baptism of the Lord - we heard Matthew's account of the event. Last Sunday we heard the story again, as told indirectly by John. The next episode in all three synoptic gospels is Jesus' testing in the desert, but the lectionary omits it here in favour of the 1st Sunday of Lent. So today we are plunged into the heady first stage of Jesus' public ministry.

The longer option for the gospel falls into three parts: the inauguration of the mission, the call of the first disciples, and a summary conclusion. In keeping with his keen interest in fulfilment, Matthew cites the prophet Isaiah. Here he uses Isaiah's oracle of light to dispel the shadow cast by the Baptist's arrest (we have to wait another ten chapters to find out the reason for this arrest). It also identifies Galilee, and specifically Capernaum, as the initial locus of Jesus' ministry. Matthew alone underscores the continuity between John and Jesus by putting the same message on their lips: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand" (3:2; 4:17).

The next part of the gospel juxtaposes two stories, each recounting the call of two disciples (Matthew being fond of pairs). The third and final section comprises the first verses of an expansive description of Jesus' ministry, here summed up as teaching, preaching and healing.

Apart from the opening mention of the Baptist's arrest, this is an appealing and sunny account of the launch of Jesus' ministry. It's a blessing to hear it in these early weeks of the year.

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.





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

Montmorency

For the recently deceased:

Thomas Fitzgerald, Pat Wilson

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Alma Crimmins, John Skehill, Joan Stanhope

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, Aquatha Spina, Melina Tenaglia

Eltham

For the recently deceased:

*Kira Hennessy,
Caroline O'Connor
(daughter of Des & Mary O'Connor)*

For those whose anniversaries are at this time:

Charles Burda


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.

Passing of Pat Wilson

Pat and John were members of SFX Parish for 52 years before retiring to Bacchus Marsh. Pat taught at SFX Primary School for 30 years.

Pat's funeral will be held on 
Tuesday 24th January at
St Bernard's Catholic Church (61 Lerderderg St),
Bacchus Marsh at 11am.
Her burial will take place at Maddingly Cemetery.

Music, mindfulness and mental health

Develop strategies to reduce stress and develop a deeper sense of wellbeing. Cost: \$50.

Tuesday 31 Jan – 28 Feb, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
and/or

Tuesday 7 Mar – 4 Apr, 7:00pm – 9:00pm

www.livinglearningnillumbik.vic.gov.au/HealthFitness 

Roster for THIS WEEKEND: 21/22 Jan 2023

Beckford, Peter	R10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	W8:30
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
McAleer, Peter	ASRC
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Nolan, Michael	PRYR
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Scully, Helen	ASE
Stewart Family	PRSE
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00

Roster for NEXT WEEKEND: 28/29 Jan 2023

Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
Nolan, Kathleen	R10:00
Ramsdale, Sue & John	ASRC
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Scully, Greg	H10:00
Scully, Helen	E10:00
Scully, Helen	H10:00
Williams, Peter	W6:00
Zavdil Family	PRSE

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

Prayers of the Faithful for 22 January 2023 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: God our Father, being mindful of the many aspects of Christ's love, let us pray for all the people on earth.

God of Light, we pray that you will sustain the mission of the Church so that she will proclaim your word of life to all humankind and that she will be open to dialogue with all people.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of Unity, confer your Spirit of reconciliation on all leaders of the world. May they be more concerned with those who are excluded and those who are most vulnerable.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of Peace, help us to be people of peace, to work to promote harmony in all our dealings with each other.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of Hope, fashion each of us in your love so that we will make our parish communities places of welcome, of solidarity, where all will have a voice.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

God of Love, inspire your people to become labourers in your vineyard, to answer the call to the many ministries within your church.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died recently, especially *Thomas Fitzgerald, Kira Hennessy, Caroline O'Connor & Pat Wilson*; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Charles Burda, Alma Crimmins, John Skehill & Joan Stanhope*. May they enjoy forever the peace and love of our Lord.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, who knows all things, you see our anxieties and understand our needs, listen to our prayers, offered through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All: Amen