

Risen



Christ

Fifth Sunday of Lent

5 & 6 April 2025 - Year C

The Catholic Communities of Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham & St Francis Xavier, Montmorency



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.



RCIA Candidates for Easter 2025:
During Lent, please pray for them:



Graham Coupe

Boh Coupe

Melanie Cricco

Peyman Imani

Alba Ruiz Leon

Easter Liturgy Timetable

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Thursday, 17th April

7pm @ SFX, Montmorency

The Way of the Cross
The Passion of Our Lord

Good Friday, 18th April

11am @ OLHC, Eltham
3pm @ OLHC, Eltham

Blessing of the Food
Vigil of the Resurrection

Holy Saturday, 19th April

5pm @ SFX, Montmorency
6:30pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Dawn Vigil of the Resurrection
Easter Mass
Easter Mass

Easter Sunday, 20th April

6am @ OLHC, Eltham
8:30am @ SFX, Montmorency
10am @ OLHC, Eltham



*This parish has a commitment to ensuring the safety of children and vulnerable people in our community.
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

all correspondence to:

86 Mayona Road,
Montmorency Vic 3094
9435 4742

RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au

Kate Kogler:

Parish Secretary

Tue-Fri 9am-3pm

Peter Williams:

Safeguarding Officer

RisenChrist.ChildSafety@cam.org.au

Kerry Mash:

Volunteer

Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

New Website:

www.melbcatholic.org/risenchristparish

Facebook:

[Risen Christ Parish](#)

Risen Christ Parish Bulletin items:

RisenChrist.Parish@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: Rudy Vail: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

available half an hour before
any weekday or weekend Parish Mass.

Collections: 23 & 30 Mar 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$422.00	\$652.00
	Electronic	\$2,414.00	\$4,114.00
Presbytery	Cash	\$766.20	\$1,000.10
	Electronic	\$100.00	\$580.00

Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
January	\$6,878.43	\$8,984.50	\$15,862.93
February	\$8,426.67	\$8,121.50	\$16,548.17
March	\$8,083.67	\$15,977.50	\$24,061.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 5

12:00pm Baptism: Lucia, Lincoln, Leo & Sonny Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 6 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Aston, Zoe, Cooper & Hugo Eltham

Tuesday 8

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community Montmorency

7:00pm Music Rehearsal: Easter Vigil Montmorency

Wednesday 9

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Thursday 10

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

2:00pm Mass Calvary Lower Plenty Garden Views

Friday 11

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 12

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 13 - Palm Sunday

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Tuesday 15

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Gathering Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 16

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 17 - Holy Thursday

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Montmorency

Friday 18 - Good Friday

11:00am The Way of the Cross Eltham

3:00pm The Passion of Our Lord Eltham

Saturday 19 - Holy Saturday

12:00pm Easter Vigil Rehearsal Montmorency

5:00pm Blessing of the Food Montmorency

6:30pm Vigil of the Resurrection (Mass) Montmorency

Sunday 20 - Easter Sunday

6:00am Dawn Vigil of the Resurrection (Mass) Eltham

8:30am Easter Mass Montmorency

10:00am Easter Mass Eltham

Tuesday 22

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community Montmorency



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

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:
Bishop Terry Curtin

Montmorency

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:
*Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), Siobhan Lappin,
Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Skye Stojanov*

Eltham

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:
*Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker, Carmel Lloyd,
Nyretta Malone, Bernard Murray*

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
Janet Taylor

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office
9435 4742 or RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au.

Roster for week ending 5 & 6 Apr 2025

Adrian	H10:00
Ballenger, Nima	R10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	W8:30
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	C10:00
Ella	H10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Leahy Family	PRSE
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR
Wood, Marie	LoW-01 Tue

Roster for week ending 12 & 13 Apr 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Armstrong, Miranda	H10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Donnellan, Denise	H10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	H10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	H10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Love, Philip	W8:30
Rigg Family	PRSE
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Skipper, Patsy	CLNR
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Tue
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Taylor, Trish	R10:00
Williams, Peter	R10:00
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham;

C = Commentator;

CLKR = Powerpoint Clicker @ SFX;

CLNR = Cleaner @ SFX; R = Reader;

E = Eucharistic Minister;

H = Hospitality;

LoW-01 = Liturgy of the Word with

Communion @ SFX;

PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;

M = Music; W = Minister of the Word



**Congratulations to all who celebrate
their sacraments this weekend:**

Saturday, 5th April, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Lucia Carletti-Brett
Lincoln Rocco Cortese
Leo Andrew Muscat
Sonny Christopher Patrick Swift

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism

Sunday, 6th April, 2025

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 12:00pm

Aston Oak Amadori
Zoe Charlotte Cooper
Cooper John Lenthall
Hugo Henry David Sheldon

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism

Easter Liturgies

If you are around over the
Easter period, we would like to
invite you to participate in our
Liturgical Celebrations.

We have sign up sheets in the
SFX Church Porch where you
may place your name and
phone number and we will be
in touch with you.

There are many ways to be
involved so do not hesitate to
place your name on the lists, all
are welcome.

May our Lenten journey
continue to be reflective and
prayerful.

For any queries contact Patsy,
0429 439 675.

Eltham Vinnies

Our shelves are becoming
empty once again.
We would appreciate
your help with:

Breakfast cereal

Milk (long life, full cream only)

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Many thanks



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

Petition, gratitude, wonder

In the fourth of our Lenten series, the director of the think tank Theos boils down prayer to three words / **By Chine McDonald**

I was raised in the Evangelical Church in the UK. It was there that I first learned to appreciate the art of oratory. I marvelled at preachers who were able to keep me hanging on every word with sermons (no less than 30 minutes each, of course) that felt like masterclasses in the art of storytelling. They wove together the present and the past, made the Bible relevant to the issues I was facing. They quoted great preachers from the Evangelical past, bringing their words and prayers to a hungry audience, searching for God.

The art of oratory continued into prayer time, when we would gather in groups to pray for each other: pray for healing, pray for jobs, pray for break-throughs, pray for protection, pray for victory. Our prayers would be wordy: fervent prayers reciting the scriptures upon which we had been raised. I would find myself lengthening my prayers, adding words and undulating sentences, telling God things I knew He already knew. I would keep going if I felt my prayers had not been long enough; repeating myself and being especially proud when others I was praying with audibly agreed with my words. An amen here, an hallelujah there.

But in my late twenties, I read Anne Lamott's *Help, Thanks, wow: The Three Essential Prayers*. "I do not know much about God and prayer," she writes, "but I have come to believe, over the last 25 years, that there's something to be said for keeping prayer simple. Help. Thanks. Wow."

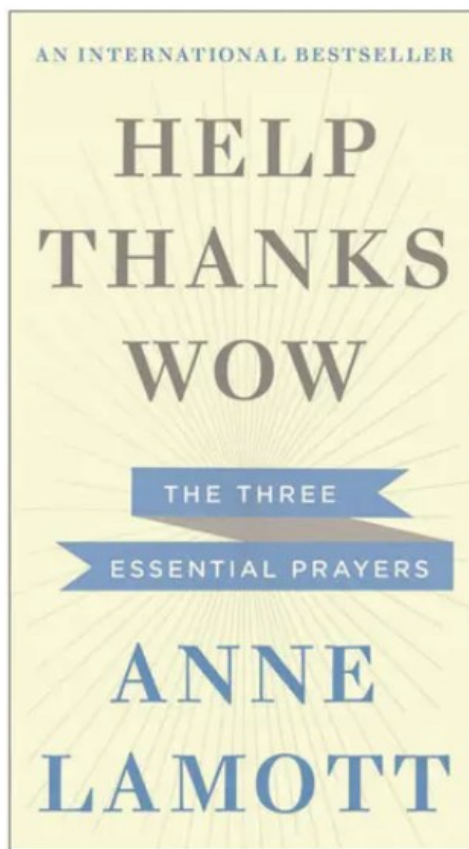
According to Lamott, these are all the words you ever really need with communicating with the divine. "Help" represents the petitionary prayer, and "thanks" gratitude for what God had done. "Wow" symbolises wonder and marvel, the transcendence of God. As Lamott writes: "Poetry is the official palace language of wow."

This had all been a revelation to me. I read it at a time of disillusionment, and found liberation in its simplicity. This small book was like a slow exhale.

Of course, I had known that it wasn't God who needed my long prayers, but my brothers and sisters in Christ. Perhaps I felt - rightly or wrongly - a pressure to pass the test, to show my Christian credentials; as if the power of my prayers was in some way reflective of my level of piety. But perhaps I felt like a fraud as I prayed my lofty prayers,

because I knew that I was a sinner, really, and that no amount of performative prayer could save me from my sins. No words could possibly make me good enough.

There was a familiar message here, found in scripture itself - in Jesus' critique of religious leaders whose prayers might have betrayed their arrogance, or their hypocrisy.



In Luke 18:10-14, Jesus tells a parable. Two men - a religious leader and a tax collector - go up to the temple to pray. The religious leader stands by himself and prays, thanking God that he is not like other people - robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or tax collectors. He reminds God that he fasts twice a week and offers a tithe of all he has. Jesus describes the tax collector standing a little way away. He is unable to look up to heaven, but beats his breast and cries out to God to forgive him, a sinner. Jesus says it is this man, the tax collector, rather than the religious leader who gets it right. "For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Luke 18:14). Here, it is not praying aloud that Jesus is criticising, but what is being said,

and what that expresses of the heart of the prayer.

Reading *Help, Thanks, Wow* reminded me of the profound beauty of prayer - communicating with divine love, with the creator of all things, the one who knows me better than I know myself. By stripping away all the unnecessary words, I felt better able to see the God to whom I was addressing my prayers. Lamott writes: "When we are stunned to the place beyond words, we're finally starting to get somewhere ... when an aspect of life takes us away from being able to chip away at something until it's down to a manageable size and then to file it nicely away, when all we can say in response is 'Wow', that's a prayer."

I find these principles helpful in my own prayer life, but also in teaching my children to pray. Bedtime prayers with children aren't about words. In fact, in my experience, the fewer words at bedtime, the better. It is time to go to sleep, after all. My eldest child is now seven years old and when we pray at the end of the day, we say what we're thankful for, we name those friends and family members whom we love, and we say what we're hoping for.

We're told to approach the kingdom of God like children, rather than adults who know everything there is to know, and attempts to display this knowledge through clever words and oratory. If I'm honest, sometimes I am thankful for those who can pray long, hard and fervent prayers on behalf of the rest of us. I have at times been in situations of collective prayer for someone we love who is desperately in need of healing, or praying with others after terrible disasters we have heard about in the world. Sometimes you need those who can express the feelings that for others feel beyond our grasp. But sometimes the silences, and the one-word bullet prayers, are what might be needed instead.

I do not find praying easy, I never have. But at times when I find it particularly hard to articulate my deepest hopes and longings - or even those that aren't so deep - I remember those three little words: help, thanks, and wow. And then at least, I can make a start.

Chine McDonald is the author of *Unmaking Mary: Shattering the Myth of Perfect Motherhood* (Hodder & Stoughton). *Help, Thanks, Wow* is published by Hodder & Stoughton.

A Netflix drama has exposed the corrosive impact of social media and misogynistic influencers on teenage boys / by **Shelagh Fogarty**

Our boys are broken

“Do you like me?”



Jamie Miller, the central character in the peerless Netflix drama *Adolescence*, turns this commonplace question into a desperate cry from the guts of a child born in the pitiless age of social media. The four-part series tells the story of a 13-year-old boy accused of stabling one of his schoolmates to death in a car park. His alleged victim, Katie, was fighting her own popularity battle at school and online, and indulged in some nasty commentary about Jamie's Instagram posts. She had childishly used a slew of coded emojis to crush his already fragmented confidence. She was to pay for her immaturity with her life.

Linger on that for a second. One child stumbling towards adulthood is dead because another child doing the same loses his footing in the most tragic and appalling way. Why? What combination of factors had turned time-honoured and entirely manageable teenage angst and bullying into violent and misogyny and a brutal murder? Can the answer really just be the smartphone every teenager now expects to be given for Christmas?

We all want to be liked, loved even, by an individual or by a group we can call friends or family. The problem for Jamie and countless teenagers is that the world is no longer their oyster but their judge and jury. The competition is fierce, global and played out in public. I know with bone-deep certainty that I would not have coped with such a world in my own teenage years.

The “influencers” around me went something like this: parents, siblings, friends, best friend's parents, aunts

and uncles, a fantastic Salesian school, a handful of pop stars and TV characters, and a couple of pretty tame teen magazines. No social media accelerant gave total strangers, or even classmates, 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-a-week access to my psyche. The desire to fit in, if I had it, was navigable. There was no dark web subculture of bitter boys and men radicalised into loathing me for ignoring or rejecting them.

These “incels” (involuntary celibates) now stalk the media consumed by today's teenagers and there's plenty of evidence that boys in particular are being poisoned by it. Don't forget the disembodied algorithms primed to pull them down into a pit of their choosing. Popular among the horrors on offer are endless benign-looking videos about improving your appearance. Pushed often enough in your direction the only message that remains is “You're ugly”. And “I'm ugly” is Jamie's resigned description of himself. He was in fact a beautiful boy.

The four episodes, each shot in one continuous take, focus in turn on Jamie's arrest and interrogation by the police, the school he and Katie went to, his session with a child psychologist, and, finally the devastating impact the crime has on his mother, father and sister. The murdered girl and her family get very little attention. Perhaps this is a deliberate device to mark what sudden violent death does. It ends all the potential of her future days. The psychologist, played brilliantly by Erin Doherty, must establish that Jamie understands this. He says he does even before saying out loud that he is the one who ended them.

Adolescence recalled for me some of the questions raised by the murder 32 years ago of the toddler James Bulger at the hands of two 10-year-old boys. While very different factors were at play, what's left is the same. A future life ended and questions as to how children end up with murder on their list of coping strategies. I covered the trial of the boys who killed James and have never forgotten the hours and hours of police interviews with them.

The taped interviews were played in open court in the presence of the boys. Excruciating is too mild a word

for it. The police questioning was skilful and kindly, just as Erin Doherty's is in *Adolescence*. I've watched the episode three times and, like the trial of James Bulger's killers, it led me back to the only question. How best to love and build a child? Influences and influencers will change. Our need to give children a map for both does not.

I spoke on the phone last week with Jean, a former teacher from my Salesian school in Croxteth, Liverpool, St John Bosco. Her cousin is Christine Tremarco, the actor who plays Jamie's mother. Jean, a Salesian to her bones, reflected on the scenes shot in the school. I had watched them in horror. The classrooms, simmering with tension and aggression, were filled with flailing staff and broken children.

My experience of school was of feeling welcomed and liked every day. Jean reminded me of the Salesian charism as set out by Don Bosco, the nineteenth-century Italian priest who dedicated his life to the education of street children. Unsurprisingly, the Eucharist is at its heart and I can tell you the sacrificial love which that celebrates was front and centre of my seven years there. How did I know? Because it was lived - not merely talked about.

The school motto on our blazer badge was in English not Latin: “Serve the Lord with gladness”. Jean, along with legendary teachers like Sister Margaret Power and Sister Helen Murphy, smiled when they saw us, brought us into line from time to time, and told us truthfully as we left after sixth form that they would remain there for us. And they meant it. It was a promise I availed myself a decade later when I was going through a difficult time.

Just as many parents were becoming over-protective of children in the outside world, we gave them a device that brings the entire world into their bedrooms and into their minds. Folly on folly. Changes to the law and greater awareness of the dangers of smartphones might improve things. In the meantime, let children know you like them, love them and welcome them. Serve them with gladness.

Shelagh Fogarty is a writer and broadcaster.

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team - Member Profile

Introducing: Kath Spencer

Sentence about yourself, family and which Mass you attend:

My name is Kath Spencer and you'll usually find me at the 8:30am Sunday Mass at SFX. I've got two children who attend the school in grades 3 and 5. Although I've only been part of the parish for around 10 years, I did visit with the St Greg's Antioch group (Doncaster) to visit our good friends who used to be here at SFX!

Why did you join the Parish Leadership Team and what do you hope to achieve?

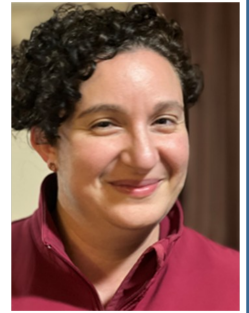
Like many people, sometimes I need a little encouragement and Fr Michael was the conduit! Having previously been on the State Council for SVdP and worked in Youth Ministry, I felt it was time (and I had the time!) to re-engage more fully in Parish-life.

What do you do with yourself?

I work 5 days a week as a Communications Advisor at a Community Health Organisation as well as ferrying my kids to lots of sport and activities and playing basketball with friends once a week myself.

What's one thing you think would surprise people about yourself?

I once lost Bishop Vincent Long while leading a World Youth Day pilgrimage in Rio de Janeiro but luckily he was with Bishop Christopher Prowse! Phew!



Gospel: John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

In a story filled with drama, a woman stands publicly humiliated, the man nowhere to be seen, while the authorities are baying for her blood. In the end, self-righteous anger, prejudice and judgement are all undone by mercy, wisdom and compassion.

Jesus does not fall into the trap and does not buy into the question of the law. (In fact, in the case of adultery, the law required both parties to be put to death - Lev 20:10, Deut 22:22 - so the accusers' use of the law is partial at best.)

Jesus' response instead recalls his saying in Matthew's gospel: *Judge not lest you yourselves be judged* (Matt 7:1). Jesus neither excuses nor blames her. He simply refuses to condemn her. When her accusers slink away, Jesus dismisses her with a call to conversion.

Our engagement with Christ's mercy and compassion in this story might lead us to uncover our own judgemental prejudices and bring us to conversion of heart. As Lent draws to a close, we might then seek reconciliation and God's forgiveness.

Prayers of the Faithful for 5 & 6 April 2025 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

Leader: Christ does not condemn men or women in our times. He wishes us life. In the hope of Christ, let us pray for the Church and our world.

In the spirit of synodality let us pray for all members of the Church, clerics and lay people, all baptized, that we have the heart to witness in good times, in bad times, the mercy of the Lord. May Christ be our strength.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all leaders, political, social, economic, that they denounce all forms of discrimination and that they come to the aid of the most fragile members of our community. May Christ assist us.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those rejected by our society, excluded and shamed. May they discover, through Christ, ways of hope and liberation. May Christ be the road to life.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for Boh, Graham, Melanie, Peyman, Alba and her children who are to be received into the Church community this Easter. May Christ fill us all with the joy of His Resurrection.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our community gathered here today. May each of us be able to reach out to those who are ill, alone or burdened. May Christ open our hearts.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Janet Taylor*.

May Christ give them eternal rest.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: O Christ, God of mercy, you are in our midst and you hear the longings of our hearts. Hear and grant our prayers, you who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Fifth Sunday of Lent 5th and 6th of April 2025

The transformative work of Caritas Australia is only possible thanks to supporters like you and the dedication, passion, and resilience of our local partners, who tirelessly work to empower communities and create brighter futures.

In Vietnam, Caritas Australia's partner programs, like I-SHINE, helped Lam, a young man with a disability, gain graphic design skills and start a successful freelance business, inspiring others to pursue their dreams.

In Samoa, Caritas Australia works with Caritas Samoa to improve access to clean water and sanitation through initiatives like water tank installations, transforming health and well-being for families like Toefuata'iga's.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Kongolo on the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program. This initiative equipped Irene, a single mother, with sewing and farming skills, enabling her to support her family and empower others in her community.

Through partnerships like these, Caritas Australia creates lasting change in communities across the globe.



**UNITE 
AGAINST
POVERTY**

this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us,
as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

Launch of new website

www.CathEvents.org.au



Looking to grow in your faith and become closer to God?

More than one hundred opportunities to participate in prayer gatherings, formation days, parish renewal training, caminos, retreats and more are now available on Australia's Catholic events hub, [CathEvents](https://www.cathevents.org.au) (<https://www.cathevents.org.au>).

Find online and in-person events to help connect with God and your fellow Catholics!



CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY
OF DIVINITY

Catholic Theological College

Invites you to our

**Engaging Your Faith
online presentations**

From \$25 per session.

For more information
and to register:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/



Save with CDF Community Fund – it's in **everyone's best interest**.

By opening a savings account or Term Investment, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, but your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities. With competitive interest rates available across a range of savings accounts, including **5.10% p.a.* on a 6-month Term Investment**, it's a way to save while doing good.

To find out more, visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer, scan the QR code, or speak to us on 1800 134 135.

*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CALL FOR 'IDEOLOGICAL' NATIONAL CURRICULUM TO BE SCRAPPED



Catholic Schools NSW has called for the "ideological" national curriculum to be abolished, as new research reveals more boys are slipping behind girls in their academic performance.

Source: *The Australian*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/03/catholic-schools-call-for-ideological-national-curriculum-to-be-scrapped/>

VICTORIAN PARLIAMENT PASSES CONTROVERSIAL HATE SPEECH LAWS



New hate speech laws have passed Victoria's Parliament after Labor struck a last-minute deal with the Greens, while the opposition has warned the changes will have a "chilling effect on freedom of speech".

Source: *Herald Sun*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/03/victorian-parliament-passes-controversial-hate-speech-laws/>

DUTTON STOPS SHORT OF BACKING MINIMUM WAGE RISE ABOVE INFLATION



Peter Dutton says he supports higher wages for 2.9 million low-paid workers but has stopped short of backing a pay bump higher than inflation, as

Labor asks the Fair Work Commission to increase the minimum wage.

Source: *The Guardian*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/03/dutton-stops-short-of-backing-minimum-wage-rise-above-inflation/>

FORMATION OF COUNCIL CREATES NEW VOICE FOR CHURCH IN KIMBERLEY



History was made in the Broome Diocese on the weekend as the new Kimberley Aboriginal Catholic Pastoral Council was formed.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/03/formation-of-council-creates-new-voice-for-church-in-kimberley/>

JESUIT CARDINAL TO LECTURE IN AUSTRALIA



One of the most senior leaders of the Catholic Church in Asia will visit Australia next month to deliver public lectures in Sydney and Melbourne on the topic of "bridge building".

Source: *Catholic Outlook*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/03/jesuit-cardinal-to-lecture-in-australia/>

FORMER LAPSED CATHOLIC AWARDED ACU LITURGICAL STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP



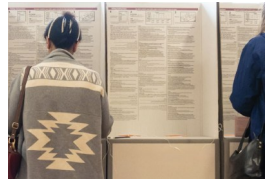
Wollongong mum and former teacher Lisa de Paiva will use a liturgical studies scholarship to empower the next generation of Catholics in her parish and beyond.

Source: *ACU*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/03/former-lapsed-catholic-awarded-acu-liturgical-studies-scholarship/>

Hope in action

Hope is much more than just a private feeling. It is something that gives us momentum and direction, informing every part of our lives and drawing us together with others in prayer and service.



This week, with the announcement that we will be heading to the polls in a federal election on 3 May, the Australian Catholic bishops have released an election statement that links the Jubilee call to be 'pilgrims of hope' with our responsibility to help

shape the nations' future by voting with compassion and conscience.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/australian-bishops-call-catholics-to-vote-with-conscience-and-compassion-in-jubilee-year>



As part of our 'Hope does not disappoint' series, Mary Nolan AM - farmer, music lover and pioneering advocate for young people with brain injuries - shares her remarkable story of hope, faith and resilience, and her insights on the importance of being a

good listener.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/faith-resilience-and-the-fine-art-of-listening>



And we look back at the Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) national conference, which happened in Sydney last month - a valuable opportunity for social service leaders, advocates and supporters from across the nation to explore the theme 'Hope

in Action' and the ways that Catholic Social Teaching can guide a more just and compassionate society.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/hope-in-action-cssa-conference-calls-for-just-and-compassionate-future>

A resounding 'yes': Fiat 2025 unites Archdiocese in prayer for renewal

Last weekend, the Archdiocese of Melbourne once again hosted its annual Fiat: A Weekend of Prayer, uniting parishes, communities and individuals in reflection, prayer and devotion. The event, inspired by Mary's wholehearted 'yes' to God's mission at the Annunciation, provided a precious opportunity for Catholics across the Archdiocese to come together in communal prayer.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-resounding-yes-fiat-2025-unites-archdiocese-in-prayer-for-renewal>

Holy Trinity Church Queenscliff welcomes pilgrims to reflect on rich history and heritage

Queenscliff, the picturesque seaside location of Holy Trinity Church, the Archdiocese's newest Pilgrim Place this Jubilee Year, has witnessed some extraordinary moments in Australia's history, including the first shot fired in World War I. Pilgrims can immerse themselves in this fascinating history when they visit Holy Trinity to Church to pray, reflect and get their Jubilee passports stamped.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/holy-trinity-church-welcomes-pilgrims-to-reflect-on-history-and-heritage>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

For more information: www.melbournecatholic.org or www.facebook.com/CatholicArchdioceseofMelbourne