

Risen Christ



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9 & 10 August 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.



Dear Parishioners and Friends of Risen Christ Parish,
You are welcome to join me at the 10am Mass on Sunday
17 August at Our Lady Help of Christians to celebrate
my 40th Anniversary of Ordination and enjoy the
continuing hospitality with morning tea afterwards with
members of my family.
Michael



Gospel - Luke 12:32-48

Jesus said to his disciples: "There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.

'Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

'See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like men waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Peter said, 'Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone?' The Lord replied, 'What sort of steward, then, is faithful and wise enough for the master to place him over his household to give them their allowance of food at the proper time? Happy that servant if his master's arrival finds him at this employment. I tell you truly, he will place him over everything he owns. But as for the servant who says to himself, "My master is taking his time coming", and sets about beating the menservants and the maids, and eating and drinking and getting drunk, his master will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not know. The master will cut him off and send him to the same fate as the unfaithful.

'The servant who knows what his master wants, but has not even started to carry out those wishes, will receive very many strokes of the lash. The one who did not know, but deserves to be beaten for what he has done, will receive fewer strokes. When a man has had a great deal given him, a great deal will be demanded of him; when a man has had a great deal given him on trust, even more will be expected of him.'

*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

Volunteers

Marisa Capuana: Various

Kerry Mash: Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

Ripley Timmins: Fri 9am-3pm

www.melbatholic.org/risenchristparish

Facebook: [Risen Christ Parish](https://www.facebook.com/RisenChristParish)

Risen Christ Parish Bulletin items:

RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au

Schools

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

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 9

12:00pm Baptisms: Millie, Georgia, Iyla, Grace, Archie Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 10

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Oliver & James Eltham

Monday 11

11:30am Liturgy with Yr 6 Holy Trinity

7:00pm Confirmation Parent Faith Formation Evening Montmorency

Tuesday 12

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

11:00am Funeral: Bryan Mash Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 13

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Thursday 14

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

2:30pm Meditation Eltham

7:00pm Meditation Eltham

Friday 15

9:30am Mass & First Eucharist Eltham

Saturday 16

12:00pm Baptisms: Kobi, Max, Milla & Frederick Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 17

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Tommy Eltham

RECONCILIATION

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

Collections: 2 & 3 August 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$722.00	\$855.00
	Electronic	\$1,329.00	\$3,662.00
Presbytery	Cash	\$966.20	\$877.90
	Electronic	\$50.00	\$315.00

Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
May	\$6,846.67	\$7,868.50	\$14,715.17
June	\$7,561.67	\$10,092.50	\$17,654.17
July	\$5,586.47	\$8,151.50	\$13,737.97

Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,
Following is a list of ways in which you can give towards the running of our Parish (clockwise from top right):

- scan the QR code (<https://bit.ly/45ifhRp>) & you can donate to any Parish finance campaign including Thanksgiving, Presbytery Offerings, baptisms etc.
- cash/coins in the collection baskets at each church
- EFTPOS terminals
- thanksgiving envelopes
- set up payments from credit/debit cards

Thank you for your generous support,
Michael





*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:

*Pat Hosmer, Siobhan Lappin,
Frances McDonald, Jarrod Mizzi, Cindy & Ed Morrissey,
Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), Jeanne Vanderwert*

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

Felicisima Bacani, Brian Lappin, Francis Nelson

Eltham

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:

*Stephen Andrew, Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker, Mary Luttick,
Bernard Murray, Audrey Tunks*

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

*Elaine Bunton, Kathleen Joss, Joseph Scott,
Robert Wordsworth, Marie Zavadil*

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



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

Saturday 9th August, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Archie John Knight-U'Ren

Grace May Knight-U'Ren

Iyla Rose Knight-U'Ren

Georgia Rose Meade

Millie Isla Scotta

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Sophie Harper Carey

Olivia Charlotte Charles

Tahli Belle Douglas

Audrey Graciella Mary Lavery

Summer Paige Moravski

Lexie May Raynes

First Eucharist

First Eucharist

First Eucharist

First Eucharist

First Eucharist

First Eucharist

Sunday 10th August, 2025

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

Maeve Luella Hatty

First Eucharist

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

Oliver Daniel Miocevic

James Oliver Noonan

Baptism

Baptism

Friday 15th August, 2025

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 9:30am

Natalie Grace Bremner

First Eucharist

Roster for week ending 10 August 2025

Bucknell, Dom	R10:00
Cotter, Anne	CLNR
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Davidson, John	W8:30
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Fitzgerald, Susan	H10:00
Haines, Geoff	C10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Nolan, Kathleen	H10:00
Nolan, Mike	H10:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Reischel, Marita	H10:00
Rough Family	PRSE
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Wood, Gerard	CLNR
Wood, Marie	LoW-01 Thu

Roster for week ending 17 August 2025

Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Capuana, Marisa	LoW-01 Thu
Cseh, Nika	R10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Edwards, Elisabeth	C10:00
Goodison, Pauline	CLNR
Grande, Silvana	H10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Illiffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Maloney, Jo	W6:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Roy, Yvonne	CLNR
Ryan Family	PRSE
Rygala, Ella	H10:00
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Wood, Marie	CLNR

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

National Vocations Awareness Week

Please pray for our priests today in thanksgiving for their ministry and presence in our community. Please pray for the religious who do so much in pastoral care, education, health care and many other ministries. Pray also that the saints may inspire many vocations to consecrated life and priesthood, especially from our community.



Catholic Vocations

Cardinal Knox Centre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne VIC 3002 Australia

PO Box 146, East Melbourne VIC 8002 Australia

Telephone: (03) 9926 5733 Email: vocations@cam.org.au

www.vocations.melbourne.catholic.org

The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults.

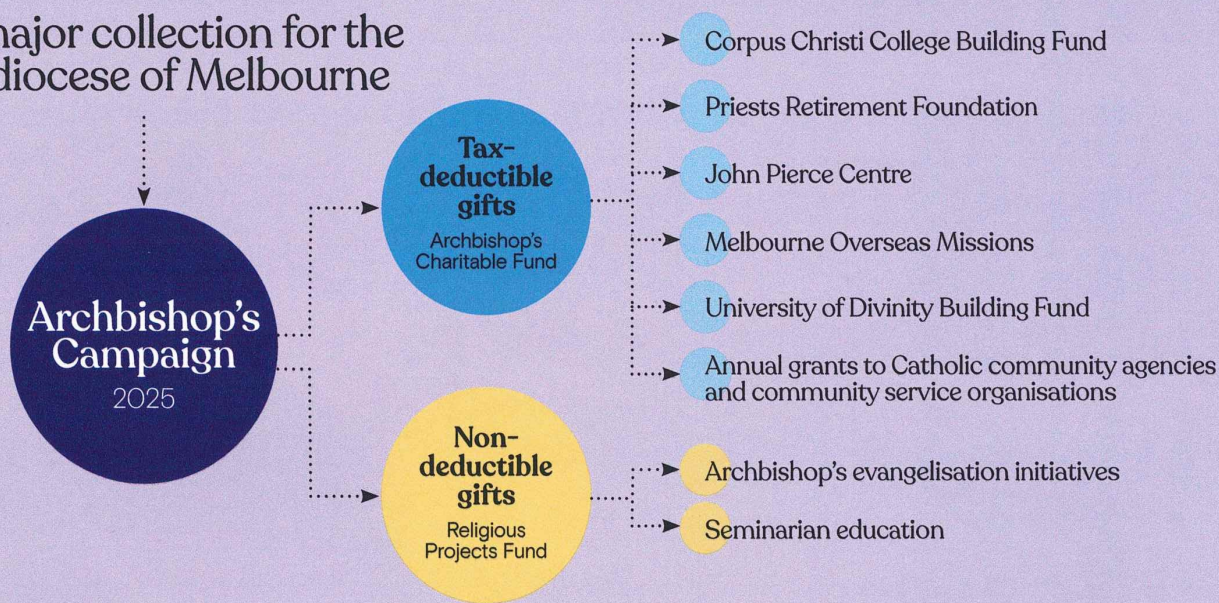
THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2025

This annual campaign, for the purposes of the Archdiocese, is a chance to support our retired clergy who have served God's people in the past and encourage those seminarians preparing to do so in the future.

Please give generously.



One major collection for the Archdiocese of Melbourne



Fr Brendan Lane: 'Our ministry is a gift from God'

This year, Fr Brendan Lane celebrates 52 years of priesthood. And while he's enjoying the quiet that retirement provides, he does miss being among the people of God. 'I love to soak in the Word of God and then try and share that with people. And, of course, the liturgy of the Eucharist. I love the presence of God with us there.'

These days Fr Brendan delights in visiting the parishes which are now being shepherded by the same men who were students during his time as Rector at Corpus Christi Seminary. 'I love going around to different parishes, especially where the young priests are that I had in the seminary.'

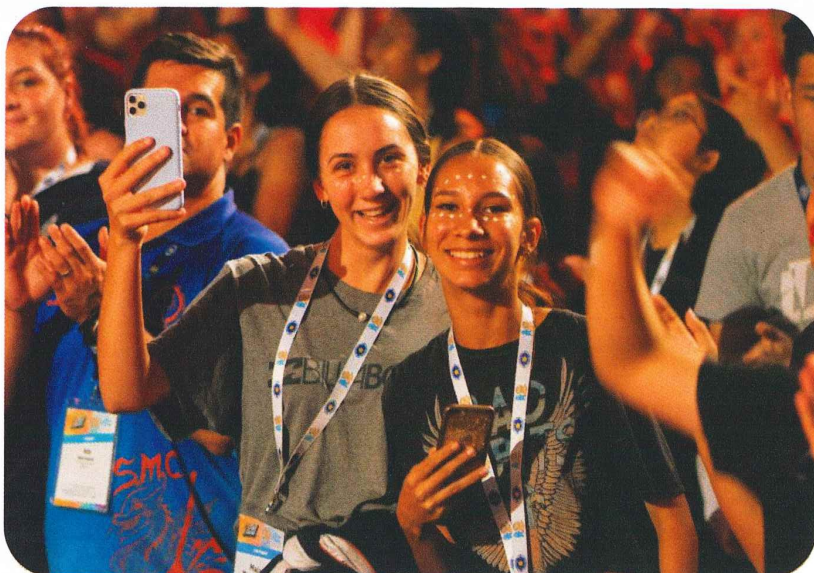
'I'm happy to see how they're going and to encourage them,' he says.



'I know what challenges they've got, because I know myself what I had to go through. But this, our ministry, is a gift from God.'

'It's a grace to be allowed into people's lives,' reflects Fr Brendan.

He's especially thankful for the chance to be present when families are preparing for a funeral, a wedding or a baptism. 'They are key moments in people's lives, and you're allowed into that. That's a blessing.'



ACYF: A chance for young people to encounter Jesus and each other

This year the Archdiocese of Melbourne will host the fifth Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF). ACYF brings together young people from Year 9 through to 25 years of age and is about entering into a space where young people can encounter Jesus, says Festival Director Teresa Rhynehart. 'And it is a space for young people to encounter each other. Being able to gather together in community is a really powerful

experience—to see that they are not alone.'

Taking place from 30 November to 2 December 2025, this year's festival will open with a special pilgrimage walk from St Patrick's Cathedral through Melbourne's CBD and along the banks of the Yarra River en route to the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The festival will offer an experience of the sacred through liturgy, prayer and worship, music, workshops, keynote addresses and an expo/justice space that will feature the various ways that the life and mission of the Church is at work in the world.



The joy of pursuing a priestly vocation

Rohan Prince is now in his second year of formation at Corpus Christi College, the diocesan seminary for Victoria and Tasmania, and is one of a growing number of young men responding to God's call.

At the heart of Rohan's formation is a desire to proclaim the Good News—not just in word, but also in action. He hopes, he says, to live out what he proclaims, so that the Gospel 'is not only something that you just hear, but also something that you do.' Recalling Pope Francis' view that priests should have 'the smell of the sheep', he believes it will be his role as a priest to 'be there among the people, feel the sufferings that they're going through and do my best to allow God to help them in that suffering.'

MOM: Reaching out to the world

Founded in 1968 by Cardinal James Knox, Melbourne Overseas Missions (MOM) is a humanitarian organisation of the Archdiocese of Melbourne that provides funding, material goods and volunteer personnel to partner Catholic dioceses and parishes in developing countries.

For many years, MOM has been supporting the Community of Notre Dame de Sion in the Old City in Jerusalem in their mission to educate local children from



disadvantaged communities. Sr Trudy is part of the community and recently wrote to MOM to thank the organisation for its continued prayers and support.

After more than 18 months of war, Sr Trudy said, some locals have

become desperate. 'While the war continues no pilgrims are coming, and therefore most are unemployed.' They continue to 'hope and pray that a ceasefire will lead to a lasting peace in Gaza and the West Bank.'

'Thank you very much for this very generous donation, for which we are extremely grateful,' said Sr Trudy. 'Holidays have just started but by August the students all have to be registered and fees to be paid soon after that, so this is just a wonderful help. 'Again, one million thanks to you and all that MOM [does].'

Risen Christ

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

Dear HT, OLHC, SFX and Parish Families,

Just a reminder for the parents/caregivers of students in Year 6, the **2025 Confirmation Parent Faith Formation Evening** will be held on **Monday 11th August at St Francis Xavier Church, Mayona Road Montmorency at 7pm.**

This evening will begin the preparation of the Sacrament of Confirmation for your child, which is scheduled to be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne, on Sunday, 19th October, commencing at 2:30 pm (please arrive by 2:10 pm).

At the information evening, you will be introduced to the Sacramental team and the process of preparing our students for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Emphasis will be placed on preparing our students in partnership as a **'Parent Initiated, School Supported and Parish Based Program'**.

Fr Michael will highlight the historical perspective of Confirmation, and parents will be informed of the resource, *'Becoming Catholic Confirmation - A Practical Guide for Families'* By Kathy Horan. This book aims to assist parents in helping to prepare their child at home, as well as building their faith formation, in partnership with conversations that will also be taking place at school. The idea is this text will be the catalyst to open up spiritual conversations at home with reference to scripture and opportunities for family activities and reflection... 'What is the Sacrament Confirmation?' We will discuss how the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated within Risen Christ Parish, Eltham & Montmorency.

Early in Term 3, parents will be provided with a link to a Google Form to enrol their child for Confirmation. You will be required to record the following information: full given names of the child, date of birth, baptism date and place, full given names of parents (including maiden names), address and contact phone number for both parents, and your child will need to know their confirmation name and sponsor's name.

Thank you for supporting your child in our Sacramental Program for 2025.

Best wishes,

Michael F. Sierakowski

Moderator

risenchrist.parish@cam.org.au

Kathy Toomey

Holy Trinity Faith Leader

kttoomey@htelthamnth.catholic.ed.au

Rudy Vail

Our Lady Help of Christians Principal & Faith Leader

rudy.vail@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

Megan Bird

St Francis Xavier Faith Leader

mbird@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au



Prayers of the Faithful for 10 August 2025 - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for" says Paul. Filled with confidence, therefore, we turn towards God our Father in prayer.

Through his faith, Abraham obeyed the call of God. We pray for all Christians who try, in their daily lives, to respond to God's call.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Because of his faith, Abraham left his homeland to migrate to the Promised Land. We pray for all men and women forced to leave their countries for a better future.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

From one man came descendants as numerous as the stars. We pray for expectant couples and those who find it difficult to conceive.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Scripture is full of the faithful witness of our biblical ancestors. We pray for each of us assembled here today, and we are invited to test our courage and our audacity in witnessing to our faith.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who are ill, or those coping with anxiety or stress, may they be comforted by those around them who are prepared to help them in their need.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died recently; and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Felicisima Bacani, Elaine Bunton, Kathleen Joss, Brian Lappin, Francis Nelson, Joseph Scott, Robert Wordsworth and Marie Zavadil*; may they rest forever in the loving arms of Jesus.
Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God our Father, you who watch over those who have faith in you, deign to grant our prayers, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Montmorency Conference of St Vincent de Paul (SVdP)

Diamond Anniversary - 23 September 2025 The Changing face of the Conference

This is the second article leading up to our Diamond jubilee in September this year. In the first 10 years of our existence, conference members were all male. Sadly 17 of these members have passed, one is still a parishioner of SFX and the other 2 have moved to other parishes. In 1975 two brave women joined the Conference, Edna Collins and Mary Mc Namara. Since that time 19 have joined the conference with Megan Feain (nee O'Callaghan) being first female president for a period of time.

Since the founding of SVdP 171 years ago by Blessed Frederick Ozanam, women have been integral in the work of SVdP. Sr Rosalie Rendu provided guidance to Blessed Frederick Ozanam in his work whilst also helping thousands of people in Paris in severe poverty. Her most famous expression still quoted today is **"if you wish to be loved, you must love, and if you have nothing to give, give yourself"**.

Another key source of inspiration to SVdP is St Louise de Marillac, who established a new community of women with St Vincent de Paul focusing on aiding women experiencing neglect and the most extreme forms of poverty. Louise is quoted as saying **"Start by doing what is necessary, then do what's possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible"**.

The men and women of our conference are trying to live the spirit of our founder Blessed Frederic Ozanam, his mentors in St Vincent de Paul & Louise de Marillac and his very supportive confrere Louise. We wish to also acknowledge parishioners who are involved in other works of SVdP at the Vinnies Shops, winter beanies/scarves and education programs. We are most grateful of the financial support we receive from parishioners and food from our primary schools and CLC. As the song which we often sing at SFX "All are Welcome" - Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live.

Library News:

Anyone who still has **Tomas Halik's** book on their shelves, please return ASAP. Check for any books that need to be returned. A long-time missing item is a book of 11 CDs by **Richard Rohr: In the Footsteps of Paul**.
Thank you Trish



Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL) - Safeguarding Audit

We have been advised that Risen Christ Parish has been selected to participate in the upcoming Safeguarding Audit conducted by the ACSL.

This ACSL audit will be carried out in accordance with the *National Catholic Safeguarding Standards* and the safeguarding requirements for Catholic Archdiocesan parishes. The audit process will include:

- A desktop review of the Parish's self-assessment documentation
- An on-site visit to our parish, which will involve interviews with Fr Michael, Peter Williams and other Ministry Leaders.

The parish visit is expected to take place some time in October. We will provide further details once the schedule is confirmed.

Thank you for your continued commitment to creating a safe and welcoming environment within our parish community.

Key Audit Dates for Parishes

- 29 Jul General Information Session conducted
- 4 Aug Selected parishes and ministries advised by ACSL
- 28 Aug Information session with ACSL via Zoom for selected parishes
- 29 Aug Parish Safeguarding Self-Assessment Tools for those parishes selected for audit, to be submitted to Safeguarding Unit
- 1 Sep Archdiocesan Business Units Self-Assessments to be submitted to the Safeguarding Unit
- 16 Sep ACSL commences desktop audit of Self-Assessments submitted
- 2 Oct ACSL meeting with Archbishop Comensoli and leadership team
- 6 Oct Fieldwork (visits of selected parishes and Archdiocesan Offices) commences for 2 weeks
- 7 Nov ACSL meeting with Archbishop to discuss audit findings
- 20 Nov Final audit report publicly released

BISHOP'S LOVE FOR CHRIST AND CHURCH 'SHAPED EVERY ASPECT OF HIS MINISTRY'



Melbourne Bishop Emeritus Peter Elliott died peacefully yesterday [6 Aug 2025], aged 81, the Melbourne Archdiocese announced.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/07/bishops-love-for-christ-and-church-shaped-every-aspect-of-his-ministry/>

MAKE SPACE IN YOUR LIFE TO RECEIVE JESUS: POPE



Pope Leo yesterday reminded Christians that they need to make space in their lives to receive Jesus Christ.

Source: *Crux*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/07/make-space-in-your-life-to-receive-jesus-pope/>

'ROBODEBT 2.0': MORE THAN 900 JOBSSEEKER PAYMENTS UNLAWFULLY CANCELLED



Repeated errors that resulted in the unlawful cancellation of more than 900 JobSeeker payments are being called "Robodebt 2.0".

Source: *News.com.au*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/07/robodebt-2-0-more-than-900-jobseeker-payments-unlawfully-cancelled/>

DOMUS AUSTRALIA SEES SIGNS OF HOPE



Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP flung open the shutters of his window to welcome more than 250 English-speaking Jubilee of Youth

pilgrims from across the world to Domus Australia pilgrim guest house in Rome.

Source: *The Catholic Weekly*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/07/domus-australia-sees-signs-of-hope/>

EXPLORING BIOETHICAL ISSUES OF AI IN HEALTHCARE



Australian Catholic University's Plunkett Centre for Ethics will host a webinar next week to introduce healthcare professionals, ethicists and the

public to bioethical issues in artificial intelligence.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/07/exploring-bioethical-issues-of-ai-in-healthcare/>

EXHIBITION A REMINDER OF IMPACT OF WWII ATOMIC BOMBS



A new exhibition is highlighting the long-lasting impacts of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/07/exhibition-a-reminder-of-impact-of-wwii-atomic-bombs/>

MEL GIBSON'S NEW FILM ON JESUS SET FOR 2027 RELEASE



Mel Gibson's highly anticipated film *The Resurrection of the Christ* will be released in two parts, with the first part screening in Holy Week in

2027. Source: *CAN*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/07/mel-gibsons-new-film-on-jesus-set-for-2027-release/>

The adventure begins

When we gaze at the stars, or feel the exhilaration of gathering at Mass with pilgrims from all corners of the earth, or look back with gratitude on a long life well lived, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the power of God's love for us. But it's when we surrender to this love that the adventure really begins.



A group of young Melburnians recently set out on their own adventure, joining a million pilgrims who converged on Rome for the Jubilee of Youth, where Pope Leo XIV encouraged them to be 'the light of the world' and a message of hope and

peace.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/youre-a-pilgrim-not-a-tourist-pilgrims-reflect-on-the-week-that-was>



Br Guy Consolmagno SJ, director of the Vatican Observatory, has spent a lifetime looking up at the stars, contemplating the wonder of creation and 'having a blast' along the way. Speaking recently in Melbourne, he

had his audience hanging on every word as he shared some of the surprising adventure of discovery God has taken him on.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/seeing-god-at-play-a-jesuit-looks-at-the-stars>



As the Archbishop's Campaign launches for another year, and as we observe National Vocations Awareness Week (3-10 August), we hear from retired priest Fr Brendan Lane about the many joys of his 52-year vocation - a calling he initially resisted. Now, looking back on a rich and fulfilling life of service, he is more convinced than ever that God's love is 'the most powerful force in the world'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-power-of-gods-love-fr-brendan-lane-reflects-on-a-life-of-service>

Carrying their story: Melbourne priest heartbroken over persecution of Syria's Christians

Fr Zaher Mhanna has been in Australia for a decade since fleeing Syria, but much of his heart remains in his homeland. Increasing acts of persecution against the Christian minority are tearing him apart inside, and he urges the world to take note. Syria is the cradle of Christianity, he reminds us, and it is in danger of being lost if the violence and marginalization continues.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/melbourne-priest-heartbroken-over-persecution-of-syrias-christians>

Community connections unlock learning at Mannix College's StudyFest

When Mannix College, the only residential college affiliated with Monash University, launched StudyFest in 2024, the goal was simple but ambitious: to reimagine academic support in a way that would both lift results and strengthen the college's sense of community. A year later, the program - which bases its approach in a strong sense of community, connection and fun - is not only improving academic performance but also earning national recognition.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/community-is-key-to-unlocking-academic-potential-at-mannix-colleges-studyfest>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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