

# Risen Christ



Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

15 & 16 February 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.

### Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases.

Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said:

‘How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God.

Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied.

Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh.

‘Happy are you when people hate you, drive you out, abuse you, denounce your name as criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets.

‘But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now.

Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry.

Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep.

‘Alas for you when the world speaks well of you! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.’



### Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

Happ are you ... Alas for you ...

The two sets of beatitudes and woes correspond exactly. They deal with the concrete realities of poverty, hunger, grief and rejection. But surprisingly they do not promote the opposites of riches, surfeit, laughter and status. Instead, Jesus’ teaching affirms that God stands with and blesses the marginalized. The implication being that if this is what God does, then so should we; and if we find ourselves in these situations, we can be reassured that God is by our side.

This taps into the great themes of Luke’s gospel. His picture of Jesus is one of enormous compassion and mercy for the poor and the lowly, the outsider and the disadvantaged. It is a gospel of universality and inclusion.

*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](mailto:Michael.Sierakowski@cam.org.au)

#### Parish Office

all correspondence to:  
86 Mayona Road,  
Montmorency Vic 3094  
9435 4742

[RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au](mailto:RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au)

Kate Kogler:

**Parish Secretary**  
Tue-Fri 9am-3pm

Peter Williams:

**Safeguarding Officer**  
[RisenChrist.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:RisenChrist.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

Kerry Mash:

**Volunteer**  
Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

#### New Website:

[www.melbcatholic.org/risenchristparish](http://www.melbcatholic.org/risenchristparish)

Facebook: [Risen Christ Parish](#)

Risen Christ Parish Bulletin items:

[RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au](mailto:RisenChrist.Parish@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: Rudy Vail: 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 half an hour before  
any weekday or weekend Parish Mass.

### Collections: 26 Jan & 2 Feb 2025

|              |            | OLHC       | SFX        |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Thanksgiving | Cash       | \$537.00   | \$597.00   |
|              | Electronic | \$1,544.00 | \$3,189.00 |
| Presbytery   | Cash       | \$682.80   | \$905.40   |
|              | Electronic | \$50.00    | \$230.00   |

### Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering

| Month    | OLHC       | SFX         | Total       |
|----------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| November | \$6,538.34 | \$8,768.75  | \$15,307.09 |
| December | \$9,129.67 | \$10,865.50 | \$19,995.17 |
| January  | \$6,878.43 | \$8,984.50  | \$15,862.93 |

## Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

### Saturday 15

12:00pm Baptisms: Lottie, Charlotte, Ollie Montmorency  
6:00pm Mass Montmorency

### Sunday 16

8:30am Mass Montmorency  
10:00am Mass Eltham

### Tuesday 18

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 1 Montmorency  
10:00am Rosary Montmorency  
10:00am Craft Group Montmorency  
11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham  
2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community Montmorency

### Wednesday 19

6:30am Meditation Montmorency  
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham  
1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community Montmorency

### Thursday 20

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency  
10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

### Friday 21

9:30am Mass Eltham

### Saturday 22

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

### Sunday 23

8:30am Mass Montmorency  
10:00am Mass Eltham

### Tuesday 25

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 5 Montmorency  
10:00am Rosary Montmorency  
7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community Montmorency

### Wednesday 26

6:30am Meditation Montmorency  
9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

### Thursday 27

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency  
10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community Montmorency  
10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

### Friday 28

9:30am Mass Eltham

### Saturday 1 March

12:00pm Baptisms: Ella, Molly Montmorency  
6:00pm Mass Montmorency

### Sunday 2

8:30am Mass Montmorency  
10:00am Mass Eltham  
12:00pm Baptisms: Nicholas, Charli Eltham

### Monday 3

2:00pm Mass St Vincent's Aged Care

### Tuesday 4

9:30am Mass Montmorency  
10:00am Rosary Montmorency  
10:00am Craft Group Montmorency  
11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham  
2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community Montmorency

### Wednesday 5 - Ash Wednesday

6:30am Meditation Montmorency



*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:  
*Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), Siobhan Lappin,  
Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Barney Steward, Skye Stojanov*

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:  
*Eileen Hart (40 year anniversary), Denis Hollyoak  
Sheila Lee, Aileen Moylan*

### Eltham

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:  
*Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker,  
Bernard Murray*  
(long time OLHC parishioner & member of Malawi support group)

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:  
*Elisabeth & Frank Bruitzman, Denis Hollyoak,  
Mary Betty Wall (1st anniversary)*

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office  
9435 4742 or [RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au](mailto:RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au).

### Roster for week ending 16 Feb 2025

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Bacani, Brian      | W6:00      |
| Capuana, Marisa    | W6:00      |
| Cseh, Nika         | R10:00     |
| Drljo, Frank       | CLNR       |
| Edwards, Elisabeth | C10:00     |
| French, Jossie     | W8:30      |
| Haines, Geoff      | E10:00     |
| Haines, Jan-Marie  | E10:00     |
| Love, Kathleen     | H10:00     |
| Love, Philip       | W8:30      |
| Mallia, Anthony    | E10:00     |
| Nolan, Mike        | PRYR       |
| Northrop, Greg     | E10:00     |
| Reardon, Kathy     | ASE        |
| Reardon, Kathy     | E10:00     |
| Rigg Family        | PRSE       |
| Said, Marie        | ASRC       |
| Said, Mike         | ASRC       |
| Skipper, Patsy     | CLNR       |
| Skipper, Patsy     | LoW-01 Thu |
| Volunteer please   | H10:00     |
| Volunteer please   | H10:00     |
| Volunteer please   | H10:00     |

### Roster for week ending 23 Feb 2025

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Boyd, Mary           | PRYR       |
| Capuana, Marisa      | LoW-01 Thu |
| Castellanos, Rodrigo | E10:00     |
| Cotter, Anne         | CLNR       |
| Donnellan, Denice    | E10:00     |
| Dunell, Linda        | E10:00     |
| Fitzgerald, Susan    | H10:00     |
| Furtado, Lorraine    | C10:00     |
| Haines, Geoff        | E10:00     |
| Hall, Vali           | ASE        |
| Kenny, Michael       | W6:00      |
| Kulkens, Mark        | W6:00      |
| McKinley, Michael    | W8:30      |
| Nolan, Kathleen      | H10:00     |
| Nolan, Mike          | H10:00     |
| Ramsdale, John       | W8:30      |
| Reardon, Peter       | E10:00     |
| Reischel, Marita     | H10:00     |
| Rough Family         | PRSE       |
| Williams, Peter      | R10:00     |
| Wood, Gerard         | 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



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

**Saturday, 15th February, 2025**

*St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm*

Ollie Ross Camilleri

Lottie Ida Dolinko

Charlotte Grace Green

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

## Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for your amazing ongoing support of our Parish.

This is a small reminder of the many ways you can give to  
support Risen Christ Parish:

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



Thank you for your generous support, Michael



In spite of confusion, resistance and obfuscation, a slow transformation in how Catholics are listening to each other and deciding together is making its way through the life of the local Churches / by Austen Ivereigh

# How to go synodal

The bishops of Cameroon are planning diocesan synods to implement the Final Document (FD) that crystallised the three-year Synod on Synodality. The pan-Asian bishops' body, FABC, is creating a new "office for synodal transformation" to create programmes for implementing synodality. In New Jersey, Cardinal Joseph Tobin of Newark has announced a multi-year "pastoral conversion" plan based on the FD, mandating pastoral and finance councils for all parishes, and training for parish leaders in "the synodal style of leadership with a missionary outlook". Across the world, in their dioceses, and at national and regional levels, bishops are "going synodal".

Pope Francis said on 25 November last year that the FD, which sets out processes and structures that will transform how the Church listens, discerns and decides, is now part of papal teaching, "and as such, I ask that it be accepted". The FD's proposals were "an authoritative orientation for the Church's life and mission", and local Churches must now put it into practice, using "processes of discernment and decision-making provided by law and by the document itself". While each local Church discerns and decides *how* to implement the FD given local circumstances, Pope Francis could not be clearer: bishops cannot choose *not* to.

Bishops, Francis explained, would be asked to report to Rome on the choices they have made, the difficulties arising the fruits that have come of them. The person they will be reporting to, Cardinal Mario Grech, head of the synod secretariat in Rome, told Czech bishops in Prague at a special study day on synodality they organised on 20

January, that "the bishops have the responsibility to ensure that the results of the synod process are accepted and implemented in the daily life of their local Churches".

In these islands, the Irish bishops have a team planning a series of local conversation in the spring reflecting on the FD, to name priorities to be taken forward in two national assemblies this year and next. In Scotland, a dedicated committee led by Bishop Brian McGee, Scotland's delegate in Rome last October, and made up of lay members of all Scottish dioceses, has been meeting to study the FD, in order to make recommendations to the bishops.

Nicholas Hudson, the Westminster auxiliary who was a papal nominee to the Synod, reflected on the experience after the meeting of the bishops' conference of England and Wales last November. But so far the conference has not produced a plan for implementation, nor indicated that it will. Southwark's archbishop, John Wilson - together with Marcus Stock of Leeds the bishops' conference's delegate to last October's concluding assembly in Rome - has just launched a diocesan renewal initiative in response to financial and priestly shortages. But "synod" and "synodality" nowhere feature in the "Called to Bear Fruit" booklet, nor is reference made to any of the documents and conclusions of the past three years. In a pastoral letter Archbishop Wilson says the programme is "in the spirit of synodality", a phrase that might remind some of those 1970s initiatives "in the spirit of Vatican II" which were wrapped in the Council's flag but had little to do with its content.

Plenty is happening in those dioceses where synodality has long been under

way. Liverpool's archdiocesan synodal council recently organised a series of public listening sessions to identify the main issues and challenges facing their next archbishop and the qualities he needed. Any of the faithful could turn up; more than 200 did. Its key findings? The top two were that the People of God in Liverpool want their next shepherd to be wholehearted in embedding synodality and to go big on formation. At Archbishop Malcolm McMahon's suggestion, a two-page summary of those findings is being sent direct to the dicastery in Rome that appoints bishops.

But as I've learned giving or attending talks since last November, most people have heard nothing and are a little bewildered. The turnout for synodality webinars and workshops, whether organised by *The Tablet* or by parishes and deaneries, is strong, reflecting an eagerness to become synodal that has been present since the diocesan consultation at the beginning of the process. "There is a felt desire in the reports that the synodal process now be embedded in dioceses and parishes, and that structures and formation be introduced at every level to enable this," reads number 76 of the synthesis for England and Wales submitted to Rome back in 2022. The synod took that desire, developed it through seven regional assemblies and two synods of bishops, and the result is the FD, which spells out how it can be done.

**So, where** to begin? Don't wait for directions. Synodality boiled down to its essence is as the FD describes it, "gathering together to dialogue, discern and decide". So "start with where you're at", urges Fr Matthew Nunes, one of the key movers of Liverpool's synod journey. "Whatever the issue in your parish community is, just start with that."

Begin spiritual conversation that start from experience, and learn to listen to that experience. Synodality is about learning a new (yet also ancient) way of doing things. It is not about *what* you believe but about being and behaving differently *because* of what you believe. "Christians are not primarily people



who 'talk about' God, but who resonate with the beauty of his love," Pope Francis said recently. "Theirs is a lived love that raises the question and calls for an answer: why do you live like this? Why are you like this?" The best school of conversation in the Spirit" method.

Conversation in the Spirit (CiS) is not a conversation about spiritual matters but a spiritual way of conversing. It can be varied in a number of ways: if time allows, it can be preceded by *lectio divina* and a chance to "check in" with each other; and it is good to follow it with an evaluation. But what is essential are the two or three phases, known as "rounds". The two-round model goes like this. After an opening prayer and silence, in the first round, a group - six to nine is ideal - answers a question or two that they have thought about and prayed over. Each person speaks (three to four minutes maximum) while the others listen deeply, trying to be aware of the resonances in their heart of what they are hearing; no one responds. (To remind people of this, some suggest that when it's someone's turn to speak, they hold a stone that is then passed to the next person.) After some silence, in the second round, each person shares (less time: two minutes) what has resonated in them from what they have heard. Again, everyone listens; no discussion. The conversation concludes by saying a prayer and giving thanks.

This two-round CiS is helpful, above all, for learning to listen at a deep level to each other, and for relating to each other in a new way. As the two synods of bishops proved, its main fruit is communion. When a group does it regularly, for example at the start of every parish council meeting, the effect over time is powerful. CiS "trains us to make space for others instead of being dominated by our own dearly cherished thoughts," say Jos Moons SJ and Kristin Colberg in a terrific new book out this week, *The Future of Synodality*. "The point is not that *I* discern but that *we* discern." A good place for a parish to begin to move from the "I" to the "we" is with these two-round conversations. The question can be as simple as: what is it like in our parish community? Where are we, as a parish? What are the joys and challenges of our parish life?

For discernment and decision-making, a third round, when the moderator gently chivvies the group to recognise any convergences that are emerging, and what next steps might be implied, is key. The deep listening remains, but the exchanges are freer, and more spontaneous. If

there is no convergence, all might agree that the next step is to meet again after further study. The grace here has been to reveal that much more needs to be done before clarity emerges about the path ahead.

Bishop Hudson believes FD yields up its richness when discussed week by week in small groups. "Take sections, read them at home, and then bring to the CiS what touched you most deeply," he suggested in a recent webinar for the School for Synodality, co-founded by Avril Baigent and Chris Knowles and run out of the diocese of Northampton. Conveniently for Lent, the FD splits neatly into six sections: the Introduction and the Pope's accompanying note could be the first week, followed by Parts I to V, asking each week: what brought me joy? What challenged me? Then, on or after Easter week, you could meet again to ponder the Conclusion, to ask: what now are we being called to?

**Many people** are intimidated by the very notion of synodality: it can seem either too big or too slippery to grasp. In *The Future of Synodality* Moons and Colberg - both youngish theologians - explain in an accessible way both what we need to *understand* but also what we now need to *do*. They guide us gently through the big ideas of synodality and show how they take shape in the local Church. Both bring to it the practical wisdom of the religious orders, who have conserved synodality over the centuries as burning embers from which the diocesan Church can now catch fire. Moons, a Belgian Jesuit, is a researcher and expert in synodality, who has just taken up a post at Boston College; Colberg is an ecumenist close to the Benedictines who has been involved at various stages of the Synod on Synodality.

They give a superb summary of the theology and history of synodality: how it emerged first at the Council of Jerusalem, as a response to crises and change, and how it gives concrete expression to the People of God's understanding of the Church recovered at Vatican II. Rather than give a history of how synodality waned in the post-medieval Church, Moons and Colberg focus on how and why it has revived in response to the Church's contemporary crisis, marked by sex abuse and clericalism, and the failure of authoritarianism and centralism. They also explain how crucial to this revival have been Pope Francis and the experience of the Latin-American Church, as well as the growing centrality in the decades since the Council of what Francis calls the "protagonism of the

Holy Spirit".

In the second part of the book, they describe in practical, down-to-earth terms what becoming synodal will involve, and explore how common discernment and participatory decision-making can be brought into pastoral councils in dioceses and parishes, which are "natural spaces for spiritual conversation and mutual listening". Synodality, they write, "is a new way of proceeding and therefore requires new attitudes (such as openness), new behaviour (such as active listening) and new practices (such as common discernment) that do not come easy".

The School for Synodality is fast taking off as a go-to place for parishes and groups seeking to "go synodal". The free resources on its website include guides and handouts to using CiS, a three-minute video which brilliantly sums up synodality, and "reimagining Pastoral Councils", which Avril Baigent developed with help from the British Jesuits. For Baigent, who served as a facilitator at the final assembly in Rome, the power of synodality is in bringing spiritual renewal and structural reform together. "That's when it gets really exciting," she tells me. Beginning parish council meetings with *lectio divina*, or using CiS for discerning how to grow the parish mission, is a culture shift, "a conversion of who we are as communities", she says. "That process of re-humanising each other, recognising the Holy Spirit in one another as we sit and listen, allowing our hearts to be a bit broken by other people's stories - it's so powerful."

And if your parish priest isn't interested or supportive? "Start with that and talk to him," Fr Nunes advises. "Don't beat him over the head and say you should be doing this. Be curious about what the resistance is. Be really committed to listening." He has seen over and over again people's attitude change by being listened to, "the generosity that engenders in someone who might be suspicious". Synodality, he reiterates, involves conversion, and conversion takes time and encounters resistance, especially from those used to exercising authority alone. The resistance is how you know it's for real.

*The School for Synodality is at [www.schoolforsynodality.org.au](http://www.schoolforsynodality.org.au).*

*Jos Moons and Kristin Colberg's *The Future of Synodality* is published by Liturgical Press.*

**Austen Ivereigh** was an expert at the Synod. His *First Belong to God: On retreat with Pope Francis* is published by Messenger Publications.

## Prayers of the Faithful for 15 & 16 Feb 2025 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Leader:** "Happy are you who cry now." Trusting in the Christ who comes to console all humankind, let us turn towards Him with confidence and pray for the world.

Blessed are you Lord Jesus, for the witness of the Beatitudes shown in all four corners of our globe. We remember those Christians who are misused and rejected because of your name. And we pray for peace desperately needed throughout the world.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you Lord Jesus, for those working for a more equitable sharing of the wealth of our world. Take pity on those who defend the marginalised.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you Lord Jesus, for the associations who take care of the poor and the victims of abuse. Take pity on those broken by misfortune and injustice.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you Lord Jesus, for the members of our Parish communities who accompany those who grieve. Bring comfort to those families who have lost someone dear to them.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you Lord Jesus, for the comfort and help that family and friends bring to those in our Parish who are ill. Envelop the sick with your healing love.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you Lord Jesus, for the promise of eternal salvation to those who have died recently, and to those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Elisabeth & Frank Bruitzman, Eileen Hart, Denis Hollyoak, Sheila Lee, Aileen Moylan and Mary Betty Wall.*

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you who promise us everlasting life, welcome our prayers and deign to grant them, you who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All: Amen**



### An Afternoon with David Tacey and Michael Sierakowski

**Date:** Sunday, 23rd February, 2025

**Time:** 2:00pm to 4:00pm

**Place:** Gathering Area, Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham

**Programme:**

2:00pm-2:45pm 'Spirituality and Secularity in Australia'. (David)

3:40pm-4:00pm 'Questions and Discussion'. (Michael & David)



### Diako Update

On Tuesday 11 Feb we visited Diako in his home in Pennington, a suburb of Adelaide near Semaphore Beach, South Australia. His small but comfortable one-bedroom unit sits behind a typical Adelaide stone cottage in a pleasant neighbourhood, but he pays a ridiculous weekly rent. His back and neck continue to be evaluated by a neurologist and hopefully soon he will qualify for a disability pension. Until then, he works 15 hours a week in a coffee shop in Tee Tree Gully, 30 minutes drive from his home. He looks fit and well and was SO happy to see us.

Sadly his son has split from his partner and the wife has taken those two children to Queensland. This was a blow for the whole family. His daughter is training as a Real Estate Manager because she feels this will give her greater flexibility with child-raising and more communication with others than being a dentist! The son-in-law owns his own truck and transport company. But the couple are currently looking to move back to Melbourne because they feel there are more opportunities for the children in Victoria.

And so the roller coaster begins again. If the grandchildren come to Melbourne, Diako will also return because he is heavily involved with the children and does not want to be alone again. Recently he turned 60 and the phot shows the closeness he shares with his grandies.

He sends his love and says, if he returns, he will come back to Eltham for his church family.

We will continue to pray for a good outcome for the whole restless family.

*Marlis & Miranda*





**A Charismatic Mass**  
with **Sacrament of Anointing**  
will be celebrated on  
**Thursday 20th February**  
at St Thomas the Apostle Church,  
251 Diamond Creek Road,  
North Greensborough.

The evening will commence at 7.30pm,  
with Praise & Worship, followed by Mass at 8pm.

Supper provided.

All welcome.

For further details, please contact  
Rose 0411 650 339 or Emilia 0418 120 902.

## Love is a many splendid thing

Greetings

Friday is Saint Valentine's Day. A time for romantics, dreamers and optimists to woo a prospective partner or strengthen an existing relationship.

I know a lot of people get into the swing of things and enjoy the mystery, the anticipation and the excitement. A box of chocolates or a bunch of flowers arriving at your workplace or home accompanied by some thoughtful words.

Who wouldn't be swept off their feet!

But while February 14 to me is just another day, I can see why it creates excitement. Saint Valentine has long been associated with 'courtly love', but there's much more to this third century saint. He was a clergyman, either a priest or a bishop, in the Roman Empire who tended to persecuted Christians. He was eventually martyred on the Via Flaminia in AD 269 for his beliefs.

As well as his association with love, Saint Valentine is also a patron saint of epilepsy and beekeepers.

In an era when dating apps and the internet are all the rage for people searching for love, especially the young, there's something to be said about finding love the old-fashioned way. Meeting someone through mutual friends or joining a local community group. For example, a book or dance club.

Then again, I may just be 'old hat'. All things considered, St Valentine's Day is very much a commercial enterprise but, if nothing else, the day is about *love* and that can only be a good thing. So, happy St Valentine's Day!

*'The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire; that is why I have chosen as the motto of the Jubilee, Pilgrims of Hope.'* (Pope Francis)

## Jubilee 25 - Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2025 a Jubilee (Holy Year).

The origins of the Jubilee can be found in the Bible where a year of Jubilee was to be undertaken every 50 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). It was intended to be a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

In 1300 the Church took up this tradition of a Jubilee (Holy Year) every fifty years, which in time became every 25 years. Holy Years have also been held at other times to mark special moments in the story of Christianity and special themes.

As Pope Francis has noted: 'The Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church ... God's holy and faithful people has experienced this celebration as a special gift of grace, characterised by the forgiveness of sins and in particular by the indulgence, which is a full expression of the mercy of God. The faithful, frequently at the conclusion of a lengthy pilgrimage, draw from the spiritual treasury of the Church by passing through the Holy Door and venerating the relics of the Apostles Peter and Paul preserved in Roman basilicas.'

Besides events in Rome during the Jubilee Year, dioceses throughout the world will conduct liturgies and events to enable all the faithful to celebrate the Jubilee with deep faith, lively hope and active charity.



The Jubilee 2025 logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace each other to indicate the solidarity and fraternity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is not only the sign of the faith which this lead figure embraces, but also of hope, which can never be abandoned, because we are always in need of hope, especially in our moments of greatest need.

There are rough waves under the figures, symbolising the fact that life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. That's why we should pay special attention to the lower part of the cross which has been elongated and turned into the shape of an anchor which is let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope and stability in life's storms.

The image illustrates the pilgrim's journey not as an individual undertaking, but rather as something communal, marked by an increasing dynamism leading one ever closer to the cross. The cross in the logo is dynamic. It bends down towards humanity, not leaving human beings alone, but stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and security of hope. At the bottom of the logo is the motto of the 2025 Jubilee Year - Pilgrims of Hope - represented in green, the colour of hope.



## Week of Prayer

2025

Prison Fellowship is God's ministry. Join us as we commit 2025 to God in prayer. We will pray for those we serve: inmates, ex-inmates, victims of crime, prison staff, and their families.

**Monday March 9**  
Pray for reconciliation between inmates, their families and their communities.

**Tuesday March 10**  
Pray for peace and healing for everyone impacted by crime.

**Wednesday March 11**  
Pray that restorative justice practices and principles will be embraced in Australia.

**Thursday March 12**  
Pray for those re-entering the wider community, that they would receive the support they need to thrive.

**Friday March 13**  
Pray for compassion and protection for prison staff and their families.

**Saturday March 14**  
Pray for strong connections between inmates and their families on the outside.

**Sunday March 15**  
Praise God for all Prison Fellowship volunteers. Pray for energy and favour as they serve those behind bars.

**Monday March 16**  
Pray for transformation for all inmates, ex-inmates, victims of crime, and their families. Pray that they would come to see Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.



Scan the QR code to learn more about Prison Fellowship and Week of Prayer

## POPE APPOINTS NEW SYDNEY AUXILIARY BISHOP



Pope Francis last night appointed Canberra-Goulburn priest Fr Tony Percy as a new auxiliary bishop for the Sydney Archdiocese.

Source: *ACBC Media Blog*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/12/pope-appoints-new-sydney-auxiliary-bishop/>

## WARNING THAT TOUGH NEW HATE CRIME LAWS COULD 'BACKFIRE'



Australia's tough new hate crime laws have received mixed reactions, with one expert from the Australian Catholic University warning it might

have the opposite than intended effect.

Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/12/warning-that-tough-new-hate-crime-laws-could-backfire/>

## JESUIT SOCIAL SERVICES CALLS FOR A MINISTER FOR CHILDREN



Jesuit Social Services has called on the Albanese Government to appoint a minister for children and invest in evidence-based

intervention to reduce family violence, child sexual abuse, and address failing youth justice systems.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/12/jesuit-social-services-calls-for-a-minister-for-children/>

## HEADLINE SPEAKERS FOR EDUCATION CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED



The National Catholic Education Commission and the Cairns Diocese have announced some of the headline speakers for the 2025 Australian

Catholic Education Conference.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/12/headline-speakers-for-education-conference-announced/>

## NT GOVERNMENT SCRAPS PLAN FOR TREATY WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE



After seven years, millions of dollars and thousands of kilometres of travel, the Northern Territory Government has officially ended the process

of forging a treaty in the NT. Source: *ABC News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/12/nt-government-scraps-plans-for-treaty-with-aboriginal-people/>

## NEW SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENS AFTER A TWO-WEEK RAIN DELAY



Despite challenging weather conditions causing a two-week delay, Townsville's first co-educational Catholic secondary college officially opened

yesterday. Source: *Townsville Catholic Education*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/12/new-school-officially-opens-after-a-two-week-rain-delay/>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

## Learning to hope the hard way

Sometimes it's the hardships and challenges we face that shape and strengthen us the most. In the most difficult times, we learn what it truly means to put our trust and our hope in God alone.



This week, as part of our 'Pilgrims of Hope' series, we hear Fr Stephen Battal's remarkable story of hope and faith in the face of extraordinary danger and suffering, and of his eventful, grace-filled journey from South Sudan to Melbourne.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/fr-stephen-battal-holding-firm-to-faith-and-hope-amidst-hardship-and-suffering>



Modern slavery survivor Moe Turaga is another person who knows about the struggle remain hopeful through difficult times. In our new 'Hope does not disappoint' series, he shares his story of finding freedom through the kindness of an attentive stranger, and

urges Catholics not to turn a blind eye if they suspect someone is being exploited.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/moe-turaga-shining-a-light-on-modern-slavery>



And today, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick - a day when Pope Francis encourages us to be 'angels of hope and messengers of God for one another' -

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/angels-of-hope-world-day-of-the-sick-2025>

- we hear about the recent Lourdes Day Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, which each year brings the healing waters of Lourdes to those who are unable to travel there themselves.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/flowing-peace-waters-of-lourdes-reach-st-patricks-at-annual-lourdes-day-mass>

## 'Let your lives glow': Syro-Malabar youth conference Unite 2025 inspires a new generation...



The Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne, recently hosted Unite 2025, a landmark youth conference that brought together more than 600 young Catholics from Australia,

Oceania and beyond. Held from 6 to 9 February 2025 at the Belgrave Heights Convention Centre, the event provided a unique opportunity for young Syro-Malabar Catholics to deepen their faith, embrace their cultural heritage and build lasting connections.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/let-your-lives-glow-syro-malabar-youth-conference-unite-2025-inspires-a-new-generation>

## From horseback priests to livestream Masses: St Brigid's turns 150



A pretty church in the countryside on Melbourne's outskirts is marking its sesquicentenary this year. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli celebrated the anniversary Mass on 9 February, reminding the hundreds of people who gathered for the occasion

that 'Here, in this location, and among the people of this region, God has been present and continues to call.'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/150th-anniversary-celebrations-for-one-of-the-states-oldest-churches>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

For more information: [www.melbournecatholic.org](http://www.melbournecatholic.org) or [www.facebook.com/CatholicArchdioceseofMelbourne](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicArchdioceseofMelbourne)