

Risen Christ



Third Sunday of Lent

22 & 23 March 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 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'

He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it a manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

This gospel text falls clearly into two parts.

Part one refers to two calamities: first, a massacre by Pilate the Roman provincial governor, and second the collapse of a tower which killed eighteen people. Jesus uses these current events to call the people to repent. There is a strong rhetorical force in the repetition, *Do you suppose ... unless you repent ..* This is a restatement of a key Lenten theme and, by the way, offers us a way to interpret news events in our own day, a technique from which the homilist could well learn.

Part two recounts the parable of the fig tree without figs. It counters the rather threatening phrase in Jesus' call to repentance: *you will all perish...* It is a parable about God's endless patience and the constant offer of a second chance. Thus, it reinforces the message of the first reading and psalm: The ways of God are just; *God is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

Communal Rite of Forgiveness (Reconciliation)

- Monday 31st March, 7pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Eltham
- Tuesday 1st April, 7pm at St Francis Xavier Church, Montmorency

Dear Parishioners and Friends of
Risen Christ Parish,

As part of our Lenten Journey for 2025 - we are offering two opportunities for this Communal Rite of Forgiveness along with our grade 4 students and their families for a prayerful time of reconciliation together in preparation for Holy Week and our Easter celebrations.



**Dear Parishioners,
for the remaining
weekend & weekday Masses
in the month of March,
the Sacrament of Anointing
will be offered
to everyone
at the conclusion of our
Parish Celebrations
of the Eucharist.**

*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: 9 & 16 Mar 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$642.00	\$1,010.00
	Electronic	\$3,268.67	\$5,763.50
Presbytery	Cash	\$801.10	\$813.05
	Electronic		\$735.00

Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
December	\$9,129.67	\$10,865.50	\$19,995.17
January	\$6,878.43	\$8,984.50	\$15,862.93
February	\$8,426.67	\$8,121.50	\$16,548.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 22

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 23 - Third Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 24

2:00pm Mass

St Vincent's Care, Eltham

Tuesday 25

9:30am Mass & SFX Prep

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 29

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 30 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 31

7:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Communal Rite of Forgiveness)

Eltham

Tuesday 1 April

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 3

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Communal Rite of Forgiveness)

Montmorency

Wednesday 2

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 3

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

7:00pm Holy Thursday Music Rehearsal

Montmorency

Friday 4

9:30am Mass

Eltham

10:15am SFX School Easter Tableau

Montmorency

12:00pm OLHC School Holy Week Liturgy

Eltham

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



*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*

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
*Marianna Cantone, Martha Fernandes, Maria Muscat, Stella Skehill,
Maxwell Vanderwert, Michael Wellington*

Eltham

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

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

Thanksgiving - New Envelopes

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend you will find our new Thanksgiving Envelopes available in the foyer of each church after each Mass.

There is an alphabetical (by surname) list which will show you your new Thanksgiving number.

Please note, this set of envelopes begins on 6 April 2025 and will finish on 21 December 2025, as we will be having a Thanksgiving / Stewardship Program in November.

Please don't hesitate to contact Kate at the Parish Office (9435 4742) if you have any questions or concerns regarding Thanksgiving, or the ways in which you can financially support our Parish.

Following is a list of ways in which you can give:
(clockwise from right)

- 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.
- EFTPOS terminals
- cash/coins in the collection baskets at each church
- thanksgiving envelopes
- set up payments from credit/debit cards

Thank you for your generous support, Michael



Roster for week ending 23 Mar 2025

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	LoW-01 Thu
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
John, Audry	H10:00
John, Des	H10:00
Mallia, Anthony	C10:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Tue
Stone, Nan	CLNR
Taylor, Colin	H10:00
Taylor, Trish	H10:00
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Zavadil Family	PRSE
Zerjal, Frida	CLNR
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

Roster for week ending 30 Mar 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	R10:00
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Clark, Helen	H10:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Dhanasen Family	PRSE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Grande, Silvana	H10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Lucas, Maree	CLNR
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Stevens, Patricia	CLNR
Sullivan, Francis	W8:30
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Witten, Janine	LoW-01 Thu
Wood, Marie	W8:30

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

In the third of a Lenten series, a political biographer and educator is drawn to the Prodigal Son / by **Anthony Seldon**

While he was still far off

Henri Nouwen, the Dutch Catholic priest and theologian who died in 1996, has long interested me as an accessibly profound figure. But it was his book *The Return of the Prodigal Son* that really captured me, in part because I came across it at a moment in my life when I was listening and looking.

A friend, Tim Hastie-Smith, a fellow headmaster and now a priest in the Cotswolds, told me about the book over a dinner at an annual conference for public school head teachers. It was the exquisite artistry of Rembrandt's portrayal of the Prodigal Son story that I believe led us into the conversation. I'm no art historian, but I've always been curious about Rembrandt since someone told me long ago that you could see God in his portraits, because the artist reflected Him. Our conversation over dinner proceeded into a discussion of forgiveness and the spiritual journeys of our lives. A jerky journey in my case. Then about a week after my return to Wellington College, my school at the time, a copy of Nouwen's book arrived in the post from Tim. I devoured it, fascinated.

The book is Nouwen's take on one of Christ's most famous parables. I must have heard it read or discussed 100 times, but I can't ever remember it striking my heart. I needed someone to help me cut through the layers of familiarity, to rub away the successive coverings of grime, to get down to the treasure beneath.

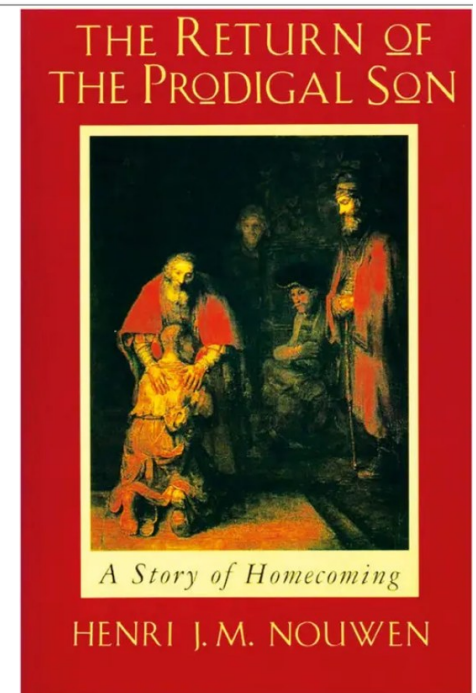
Nouwen was that person. I was struck by the story of how, when visiting a L'Arche community in France, he stumbled across a poster of Rembrandt's painting. Intrigued by it, he decided to travel, as he

recounts in the book, to Leningrad (no St Petersburg) to see the original at the Hermitage. That is some power that the painting exerted! Indeed, so mesmerised was he by it that he spent several days gazing in thrall. It changed his life for ever.

Nouwen was himself searching. Like an increasing number of believers (and indeed non-believers) today, he suffered from loneliness and periodic depression. Because he was not aloof and didn't claim to know all the answers, he could be open about his own struggles. He believed that communicating the truth of his struggle to walk with Christ would help others. The huge sales and impact of the book are proof that that is what he did. He wanted his understanding of the portrait and the parable to touch readers at the very deepest levels of their being.

It worked for me. Shortly before I was sent the book, my beloved wife of 30 years, Joanna, was diagnosed with terminal cancer. I was angry and I was confused. I had tried to pursue a spiritual path for many years but, in my hour of need, I felt God was far away.

Nouwen forces the reader to engage with the painting. It is on the front cover of my edition. But it's on and in every page too. He asks us questions. Are we the prodigal son? Are we the unforgiving son? Are we the father? Why did Rembrandt make the painting's focus the face and hands of the father, not the Prodigal Son, who's face we see only obliquely? Who are the other figures and where is the son who stayed at home? The questions are more important than the answers. Like the best teachers, like Christ himself, he doesn't always provide



the answers.

The message of homecoming and the unconditionality of forgiveness is powerful. The book led me to Nouwen's life. He opposed the Vietnam War and the Cold War in his search to spread peace. This theme chimed deeply. One of the ways I consoled myself after the death of Joanna was to throw myself into walking along the line of the First World War Western Front guided by a letter I discovered from a soldier that lay hidden for 100 years after his death in the trenches. I wrote up that story in *The Path of Peace*, and am now continuing the walk from Switzerland where the book ended to Auschwitz, again in search of what we share in common, not what divides us. I am searching for episodes of light, of human goodness in the war that ended 80 years ago this year.

I am still walking, still searching. Nouwen's belief in the universality of humankind in one God, and in forgiveness, inspires me and drives me on. "To pray, that is to listen to the voice of the One who calls us 'beloved', is to learn that that voice excludes no one." I may still be far from home, but this book has helped me edge closer to those waiting hands.

Anthony Seldon is a writer and educator. *The Return of the Prodigal Son* is published by Darton, Longman and Todd.



WELCOMING THE STRANGER

A Biblical Command

Father Richard Rohr invites us to consider how well we love others, especially the stranger, as Jesus teaches:

If our love of God doesn't directly influence, and even change, how we engage in the issues of our time, I wonder what good religion is. "God talk" becomes an opaque screen in which we see only reflections of ourselves, rather than any kind of true light. "Anyone who says they love God, and hates their brother or sister, is a liar" (1 John 4:20). None of us wants to be a liar, yet religion's high goals make failure almost inevitable for all of us (read Paul's attempts to describe this paradoxical phenomenon in Romans 7:7-25). Our daily question is this: "Have I even begun to love?"

Most Christians tend to echo the cultural prejudices and worldviews of the dominant group in their country, with only a minority revealing any real transformation of attitudes or consciousness. It has been true of slavery and racism, classism and consumerism, and issues of immigration and health care for the poor. From a religion based on a man who was always healing poor people and praising foreigners, it defies any logical analysis!

One would think that people who insist they believe in one God would understand that everyone on Earth is equally a child of that one God. Christians ought to be first in line to cross artificial boundaries created by nation states, class systems, cultures, and even religions. Often, we're the last! It makes one wonder if we believe what we say we believe. Religion too often becomes the way to defend the self instead of the way to "let go of the self" as Jesus forthrightly taught (see Luke 9:23).

Pope Francis reminds Christians of their duty to welcome the stranger:

Let us concentrate on these words of Jesus: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me" (Matthew 25:35-36). In our time, charitable action regarding foreigners is more relevant than ever. The economic crisis, armed conflicts, and climate change have forced many people to emigrate. However, migration is not a new phenomenon; it is part of the history of humanity. It is a lack of historical memory to think that this phenomenon has arisen only in recent years...

At times it seems that the silent work of so many men and women who, in various ways, do all they can to help and assist the refugees and migrants is obscured by the clamour of others who give voice to an instinctive selfishness. However, closure is not a solution, but instead ends up fostering criminal trafficking. The only path to a solution is through solidarity. Solidarity with the migrant, solidarity with the foreigner...

We all ... are called to welcome our brothers and sisters who are fleeing from war, from hunger, from violence and from inhuman living conditions. All together we are a great supportive force for those who have lost their homelands, families, work, and dignity.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/a-biblical-command/>



WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Choosing to Remain Together

Theologian Julia Lambert Fogg presents a biblical story of intergenerational immigration:

Ruth is the story of a mother and a daughter-in-law who cross borders, lose their husbands, immigrate and emigrate, and ultimately help each other survive even though they are not blood relatives.

Ruth is the daughter-in-law. She is a Moabite woman who leaves her father's house to marry a recently arrived immigrant to her town. Her betrothed is a Jewish man, the son of Naomi. Although they are of different ethnic backgrounds, Ruth joins the immigrant Jewish man's household. She moves in with a Moabite sister-in-law, a Jewish brother-in-law, and a Jewish mother-in-law and father-in-law. The six adults live as what we today might call a mixed family: four immigrants and two locals who are bound together by marriage.

But before the young couples have children, tragedy strikes. The male breadwinners fall ill and die, one after the other. This is quite a blow to the family - Ruth's husband, brother-in-law, and father-in-law are all gone. Left without a head of the household, the three women must decide what they will do. Will they stay together in Moab? Will they split up so the two young women can start new families? Who will care for the mother-in-law, Naomi, an immigrant with no relatives in Moab and no social network to speak of, and who is too old to marry or to bear children?

Each woman makes her own choice. Ruth's sister-in-law returns to her father's house, to "her people and her gods" in Moab (Ruth 1:15). She will likely marry again and start a new family. Ruth's mother-in-law, Naomi, decides to return to her Jewish kin in Judah, where she at least has a social network, if not financial resources. These two women make similar choices to simply return home to their own people to start over. They will be reabsorbed into their respective families and cultures of birth. Ruth, however, makes a different choice. She opts to migrate - to leave her home in Moab and travel to Judah with Naomi. For this journey, Ruth binds herself to her mother-in-law, saying,

So not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die - there will I be buried. (Ruth 1:16-17)

Through her love for Naomi, Ruth becomes a revered part of Jesus' lineage:

Ruth's words capture the resolute determination of so many migrants across history. She leaves her parents, her sister-in-law, and her people behind. Ruth will help Naomi reestablish Naomi's family line in Judah among the Jews. We remember Ruth for her covenant commitment to her mother-in-law and for her courage to migrate, to trust Naomi's God, and to start a new life among a new people. We also remember this courageous migrant for her descendants, including King David and Jesus of Nazareth.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/choosing-to-remain-together/>

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team - Member Profile

Introducing: Nima Ballenger

Sentence about yourself, family and which Mass you attend:

I'm Nina! I moved to Eltham in 2021 and began attending OLHC. I live close by with my husband and our little boy, Christian who we call 'Kit' (who is getting baptised at Sunday Mass on 4 May prior to his 1st birthday!).

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

I have always felt called to making positive change in Church communities. I hope that my passion for faith development can inspire especially young people and families to feel a real sense of welcome and belonging in our local parish.

What do you do with yourself?

I am the Director of Religious Education and Identity at Mercy College, Coburg - a Catholic girls school in the Mercy tradition. I have been a leader of faith, Catholic identity and religious education for a number of years across various Catholic secondary schools. I am one of many in our team who is a teacher and loving it!

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

People are often surprised to hear that I was born and raised in Brisbane, Qld and left that beautiful weather to come to Victoria.

We have another little boy on the way - due in July of this year which we are very excited about. Kit and this little one have a swag of half-brothers making our new addition my husband's sixth boy!





Small Church Communities

There will be a meeting
of Facilitators of the
Small Church Communities
this Sunday 23rd March
in Risen Christ Parish Office
at 9.30am after the 8.30am Mass.

It will be wonderful to see you all at our first Meeting for the
year. We will look at possibilities for the year ahead.

Enquiries: **Patsy** 0429 439 675

Every Blessing

Easter Music

As Easter draws near we begin to look at how we may
deepen our awareness of the power and presence of the
Spirit during the Triduum.

As we know music enriches our gathering so much. With
this in mind we have chosen two dates for rehearsals
which will be in the SFX Church.

Music for Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper) will
be Wednesday 3rd April at 7pm in SFX Church.

Rehearsals for Easter Vigil Mass at SFX will be Tuesday
8th April at 7pm in SFX Church.

All are welcome to join rehearsals with either voice or
instrument or both! We look forward to making
beautiful music with all who are able to come along.

Contact Elisha (0438 021 517) or Patsy (0429 439 675)

Prayers of the Faithful for 22 & 23 March 2025 - Third Sunday of Lent

Leader: God of mercy and compassion, hear our prayers offered humbly to you this day.

For all Christian communities: Lord, open our hearts to your word and deepen our faith in unity and love.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For peace in the world: Lord, dispel the darkness of violence and give courage to those who strive to bring about peace and reconciliation between nations.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Risen Christ Parish communities: that we will not be like the barren fig tree, rather that we will always strive to bear fruit through our faith and charitable works.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who are to be received into the Church this Easter, especially Boh, Graham, Melanie and Peyman: Lord, may their decision remind all of us of our call to follow you and to rise with you to the light of Easter.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those experiencing ill health, especially those named in our bulletin: Lord, in your mercy bring healing and comfort to them, and strength to those who care for them.

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 *Marianna Cantone, Martha Fernandes, Maria Muscat, Stella Skehill, Maxwell Vanderwert & Michael Wellington*: Lord, may they rest forever in the glorious light of your face.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: O God our Father, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Hear and answer these prayers offered to you through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

All: **Amen**

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Year 9 –
25 years
plus leaders

MELBOURNE, VICTORIA • 30 NOV – 2 DEC 2025

ACYF.ORG.AU
@f/ACYF25



beyond the vows

Saturday 12th April • 9:45am to 5pm
St Catherine of Siena Parish, Caroline Springs

\$50 per couple

A one day Catholic marriage retreat designed to help couples navigate life and draw closer together.

To register, scan the QR code or visit **beyondthevows.site**



Deepen in Intimacy

Connect with God

Be Renewed



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

Third Sunday of Lent
22nd and 23rd of March 2025

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Growing up, Lam often felt isolated due to limited job opportunities and difficulty moving around his community. While his friends started jobs after high school, Lam stayed home with his parents, unsure if he could ever achieve his dream of becoming a graphic designer.

Everything changed when Lam joined the I-SHINE program, supported by Caritas Australia. Through this initiative Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. Along the way, he built confidence, made friends and gained a sense of connection.

Today, Lam runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income. Lam hopes his story will encourage other young people with disabilities to overcome obstacles and pursue their dreams.

Lam's journey shows how your support of Project Compassion empowers individuals to break barriers and transform their lives.

Will you walk alongside people like Lam this Lent?



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

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.*

Magi Pilgrimages would like to invite you for the Jubilee Pilgrimages led by Fr. Sebastian, Streams of Mercy tour (20th May - 4th June 2025) and the Marian Shrines tour (4th June - 18 June 2025).

Few more seats are available. The tour includes Return Economy Airfares + Local Transfers in Deluxe coaches + Stay in Premium Hotels + All Breakfasts & Dinners + English speaking professional guides.

For itineraries & bookings, call 03 8839 6615 or 1300 721 561 or email us

pilgrimage@magiholidays.com.au



CONFERENCE WELCOMES NEW BISHOP OF BUNBURY



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has welcomed the ordination and installation of Bishop George Kolodziej SDS as the fifth

Bishop of Bunbury. Source: *ACBC Media Blog*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/20/conference-welcomes-new-bishop-of-bunbury/>

DOCTORS REPORT POPE'S CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT BUT NO DATE FOR HIS RELEASE



Pope Francis no longer needs the "non-invasive mechanical ventilation" he has used most nights since experiencing a breathing "crisis" on February

28, his doctors reported overnight. Source: *CNS*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/20/doctors-report-popes-continued-improvement-but-no-date-for-his-release/>

BISHOPS APPOINT HEAD OF NEW EDUCATION PEAK BODY



Queensland's bishops have appointed Madeline Brennan as the inaugural chair of Catholic Education Queensland, which will succeed

the Queensland Catholic Education Commission next January. Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/20/bishops-appoint-head-of-new-education-peak-body/>

AFTER 57 YEARS, SISTERS 'LETTING GO' OF COMMUNITY HOUSE



The Sisters of Saint Joseph have farewelled their large community house in New Town, Tasmania, after 57 years.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/20/after-57-years-sisters-letting-go-of-community-house/>

VICTORIAN TRIAL AIMS TO KEEP VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 'SAFE AT HOME'



Safe at Home - a Victorian-first trial response to family violence that aims to keep women and children safe at home while preventing homelessness - was

launched last week. Source: *McAuley*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/20/victorian-trial-aims-to-keep-victims-of-domestic-violence-safe-at-home/>

AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS FIRST TO WALK VIRTUALLY IN THE STEPS OF ST PETER



Students from Catholic Schools Broken Bay have been among the first in the world to explore an innovative immersive digital experience of St Peter's Basilica

in Rome, the spiritual heart of the Catholic Church.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/20/australian-students-first-to-walk-virtually-in-the-steps-of-st-peter/>

ZELENSKY AGREE TO PARTIAL CEASEFIRE IN PHONE CALL WITH TRUMP



Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has agreed to a "partial ceasefire against energy" and said "lasting peace" was

possible under Donald Trump's leadership, after the two leaders had a one-hour phone conversation overnight. Source: *The Australian*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/20/zelenskyy-agrees-to-partial-ceasefire-in-phone-call-with-trump/>

Nurturing seeds of faith

This week we celebrated all things St Patrick, our Archdiocese's very own patron saint. In times of uncertainty - and even in the face of great hostility - Patrick turned his face to the light, putting his trust in God's goodness and nurturing the seeds of faith wherever he found them.



Last night, in his sixth annual Patrick Oration, Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, in the spirit of St Patrick, calls us also to turn to the light of Christ, so that we might notice and nurture the many seeds of faith and hope that are slowly but surely germinating in our local Church.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/patrick-oration-2025>
<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/turning-to-the-light-archbishop-comensoli-delivers-2025-patrick-oration>



This Friday, at the Schools Mass of St Patrick marking the end of Catholic Education Week, a stunning new icon of St Patrick will be unveiled and blessed at St Patrick's Cathedral. We speak with iconographer Sue Orchison, who created it, about how beauty - and icons in particular - can be a 'door to the eternal'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-doorway-to-eternity-st-patricks-cathedral-gets-a-new-icon>

As part of our Pilgrim Places series - and in honour of St



Patrick - we take a look at our beloved 'Mother Church', St Patrick's Cathedral. Dean of the Cathedral Mgr Stuart Hall is excited to welcome pilgrims this Jubilee Year, reminding us that the Cathedral is

nothing 'without people, without the congregation. It's the people that breathe life into it'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/st-patricks-cathedral-a-pilgrimage-to-melbournes-mother-church>

Further up and further in: pilgrimage as a path to hope ...



In recent years, Fr Jerome Santamaria has been blessed to travel with two different groups of young people on two different types of pilgrimage: with a group of emerging leaders for World Youth Day in

2023, and last year with a group of senior secondary students on a study trip to Italy and the United Kingdom. He reflects on some of the common threads in these experiences, writing that at the end of these journeys, the young pilgrims 'knew that they had tasted infinity and now hungered for it ... The experience of pilgrimage opened up a vision of life that one could take home, and take home to share'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/further-up-and-further-in-pilgrimage-as-a-path-to-hope>

The Archdiocese's western-most parish celebrates its 150th anniversary...



In the far west of the Archdiocese of Melbourne sits Meredith Parish, a vibrant mixture of young families, old farmers, migrants and tree-changers. At its heart is Fr Joseph Panackal, a young and energetic priest who is busy keeping five churches running while organising the parish's year-long 150th anniversary celebrations. The sesquicentenary officially launched on Sunday 16 March with a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-archdiocese-of-melbournes-western-most-parish-celebrates-its-150th-anniversary>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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