

Risen



Christ

First Sunday of Advent

29 & 30 Nov 2025 - Year A

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.

RISEN CHRIST PARISH RENEWAL PROGRAM, NOVEMBER 2025

THANK YOU for your positive response to our Parish Commitment Weekend – the final weekend of our Parish Renewal Program. A special THANK YOU to all the parishioners who have already returned their completed Thanksgiving pledge commitments and Ministry responses – either at Mass last week or by return to the Parish Office. Your support is very much appreciated!

If you have not yet done so, additional pledge cards will be available at all Masses this weekend. Please place your completed financial commitments and Ministry flyers in the special Privacy Envelope and return in the collection baskets at Mass or return to the Parish Office no later than next Wednesday 3 December.

Stephen Littleton, our Program Coordinator, will be following up by SMS, email, and phone to confirm intentions from parishioners who have not yet responded – so to minimise that follow-up please ensure you complete and return your commitments this weekend.

Your new pledges will take effect on Sunday 21 December. Confirmation letters, and where appropriate, new sets of envelopes, will be available at all Masses on the weekend of Sunday 14 December.

We thank you once again for your generous response.

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood, people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one is left.



'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Gospel Reflection

Noah and the flood. Workers in the field or mill. The house burglar. Jesus uses each of these examples to encourage the disciples to be alert, be prepared, be ready. Continuing the theme of the second reading, we are to wake up and stay awake. This is one of the great themes of Advent.

The second coming of Christ will inaugurate the reign of God where all creation will be restored in peace and harmony. We wait therefore not with fear and trepidation, but calmly with expectant hope.

In Australia, December is a busy time of year when it is all too easy to be distracted by arrangements and organisations. As the year ends and Christmas looms, most people will readily identify with the situation 'in Noah's day'. Today's gospel and the Advent season help us to keep a sense of perspective and to focus on Christ.

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

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 29

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 30 November - First Sunday of Advent

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday December 2

9:30am School Feast Day Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

12:00pm Funeral, Joan Billings

Montmorency

Wednesday December 3

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:00pm OLHC School Carols

Eltham

Thursday 4

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 5

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 6

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 7

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 9

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

Thursday 11

9:30am Liturgy of the Word

Montmorency

2:00pm Mass Calvary

Lower Plenty

Friday 12

9:30am OLHC End of Year Mass

Eltham

Saturday 13

10-11am Safeguard meeting for all volunteers

Eltham

Risen Christ Parish - Safeguarding Time

Dear Parishioners and Friends of RCP the Catholic Communities of St. Francis Xavier, Montmorency & Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham.

Advent - the weeks before Christmas - is a perfect time to review and renew our collective spirit towards Safeguarding. As we turn our attention to the Season of Christ's Birth and gaze upon the Child Jesus - we too should consider all children and vulnerable people in this season.

Thus we are able to offer everyone, and in particular all volunteers in our parish a session to update your qualifications with regard to renewal of your Safeguarding Standards, as required by law and renewed every 3 years. Doing this exercise / program together is often easier and more beneficial to our parish community than doing your online assessment as everyone is now required to do so! This special time together gives us a unique opportunity to share and discuss the challenges and updated information about Safeguarding in a friendly environment.

So, the invitation is set for Saturday December 13th. (10am - 11am) at the church in Eltham. Naturally everyone is invited to attend - but certainly any Volunteers who need to upgrade and maintain their certificates of compliance are required to attend - otherwise, please book in online with the Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding Standards.

Christmas Mass Timetable

Wednesday 24 December

- 6pm Christmas Eve (Outdoor) at Holy Trinity Primary School Oval
8pm Christmas Eve @ Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham
10pm Christmas Eve @ St Francis Xavier, Montmorency

Thursday 25 December - Christmas Day

- 8:30am Christmas Day @ St Francis Xavier, Montmorency
10am Christmas Day @ Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham



Gratitude, Grace, and Relationship

Theologian Christine D. Pohl describes how gratitude impacts our relationships with others:

When our lives are shaped by gratitude, we're more likely to notice the goodness and beauty in everyday things. We are content; we feel blessed and are eager to confer blessing. We are able to delight in the very existence of another human being. In a grateful community, individuals and their contributions are acknowledged and honored, and there is regular testimony to God's faithfulness, through which the community experiences the joys of its members. Expressions of gratitude help make the community alive to the Word, the Spirit, and God's work.

Such a community is "a beautiful land" whose culture is grace and whose inhabitants see life as a gift. In this land, we often find abundant forgiveness and frequent celebrations. While we might assume that individuals and communities grow toward holiness and goodness primarily through the hard work of discipline, correction, and challenge, we tend to underestimate the importance of grace. The emphasis on loving God and loving neighbor ... is most fruitful as it is rooted in a deep understanding of God's prior love for us.

Pohl shares how a small Christian inter-racial community in Mississippi was able to find grace and gratitude for one another in the midst of conflict:

During a time of crisis in their community, a friend from the outside explained to them, "The way you grow into God's love isn't by making demands of each other.... You do it by giving each other grace." Grace expressed as love "when it didn't seem fair, or reasonable," and "when others were being complete jerks."

Their wise advisor continued,

The truth is, we can't stand the idea of not fixing each other. But insofar as we can fix people at all, we can do it only by forgiving them, and giving them grace, and leaving them to our loving Father. Grace assumes sin. When we ask you to accept each other, we aren't asking you to ignore hurts between you. People of grace speak the truth. But in an atmosphere of grace, truth seems less offensive and more important....

[A church leader] describes the community's delight when it was introduced to the recipe for a "new culture of grace." The ingredients for life in community were surprisingly simple: "It is enough to get the love of God into your bones and to live as if you are forgiven. It is enough to care for each other, to forgive each other, and to wash the dishes."

When we more fully understand the grace we've received, we are able to turn outward in gratitude and generosity. Gratitude becomes "our home in the presence of God," or, in Henri Nouwen's words, an "intimate participation in the Divine Life itself" that "reaches out far beyond our own self to God, to all of creation, to the people who gave us life, love, and care."

Prayers of the Faithful - Nov 30

Leader: To God our Father, who has given us the grace to wait in graceful hope for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us offer our prayers.

For Pope Leo and all leaders of the Christian community: that they may be both effective leaders and wise shepherds of God's people. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church: that we may grow in our awareness of how God is fulfilling the deepest desires of our hearts, expectantly await God's continuing work, and learn to recognize God's presence in our lives. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For Australia: that we be a country of peace and justice where the rights of the vulnerable are upheld, where just wages are paid, and people of minority groups and religions are safe.

Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the gift of peace: that God will teach the hearts of all the human family so that swords may be turned into ploughshares and the resources for war into resources for healing and development.

We pray for the people of the West Bank and Gaza, Ukraine, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Nigeria.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the homeless and the homebound: that they may experience love and acceptance through our concern and outreach. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who are ill, particularly those who are awaiting surgery: that God's healing love will sustain and comfort them.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have died recently, especially *Joan Billings* and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May their life of faith and trust in Jesus bring them eternal life.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord God, your loving kindness enables us to find your Son wherever he comes to us: in his Word, in this meal, and in our brothers and sisters. Let our prayers at this Eucharist prepare us to welcome him at the end of time, when he will be revealed as the Lord of Glory, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Roster for week ending 30 Nov 2025

Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Castellanos, Sandra	H10:00
Clark, Helen	H10:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Davidson, John	PRYR
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Goodison, Pauline	CLNR
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Rough Family	PRSE
Roy, Yvonne	CLNR
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Scully, Greg	C10:00
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Tue
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Wood, Marie	CLNR
Wood, Marie	LoW-01 Thu
Wood, Marie	W8:30
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

Roster for week ending 7 Dec 2025

Miranda Armstrong	R
Peter Beckford	PRYR
Nika Cseh	C
Silvana Grande	H10:00
Geoff Haines	E10:00
Anthony Mallia	E10:00
Greg Northrop	E10:00
Kathy Reardon	E10:00

Roster Incomplete

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



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Montmorency Conference would greatly appreciate donations towards their Christmas Hampers which are distributed to the needy in our local area.

Items that are needed include



- Small gifts for children (0-14 years old)
- Toiletries for teenagers and adults
- Any non-perishable food items, general groceries and or Christmas goodies.

Collection box will be in the SFX Church until 14 December.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Any questions please call the Parish Office (9435 4742)

Again, we will be selling Christmas cards outside the Church each weekend. We hope that you enjoy the selection. Please feel free to browse all the pamphlets. A gold coin donation in the poor boxes located at the front and side entrances will help defray costs.

Thank you all for the support you give to our local

St Vincent de Paul Conference.

If you need assistance call 1800 305 330

Monday to Friday between 10am and 3pm.



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:

*Nora Edmond, Pat Hosmer, Siobhan Lappin, Frances McDonald,
 Jarrod Mizzi, Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Michael O'Meara,
 Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), Jeanne Vanderwert,
 Br Doug Walsh*

For the recently **deceased**:

Joan Billings

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

*Walter Castelino, Joan Harris, Sybil Masson,
 Eileen & Albert Nioa*

Eltham

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

*Stephen Andrew, Des Arneson, Bill Boyce,
 Penny Boyce,
 Ruth Decker, Nora Gorman, Mary Luttick,
 Bernard Murray, Audrey Tunks*

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

Ildiko Kruth

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