

Risen Christ



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 & 3 August 2025 - Year C

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



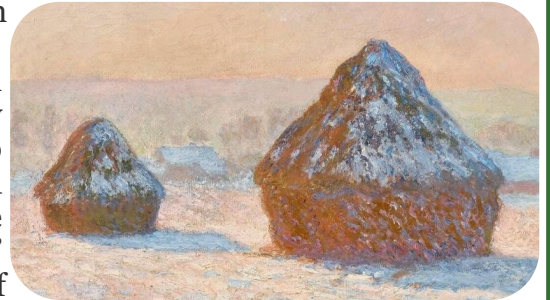
We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.



Gospel - Luke 12:13-21

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to, do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "this is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'



Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

'Avarice' is a strong word: it is one of the seven deadly sins. It refers to extreme greed or attachment to wealth and possessions. It is well illustrated by Jesus' parable of the rich man building bigger barns. Regrettably this vice is often seen in prosperous materialistic societies.

The ecological principles of *Laudato Si'* provide an ideal antidote to avarice. In this encyclical, Pope Francis calls on us to recognise the goods of this world as God's gift to be held in trust for the common good of all. Our stewardship of material things is not directed to selfish ends but to creating a more just and equitable society. This is how we become rich in the sight of God.

In reading the phrases 'a man's life' and 'a man stores up' it would be good to use 'someone's life' and 'someone stores up'.

Welcome Back, Fr Michael!

We're delighted to welcome back Fr Michael from his well-earned holiday. We hope you're feeling rested, refreshed, and ready for the year ahead. We look forward to a wonderful and productive year together!

Risen Christ Parish

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

RECONCILIATION

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

Collections: 13 & 20 July 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$387.00	\$554.00
	Electronic	\$3,463.67	\$2,300.50
Presbytery	Cash	\$770.05	\$1,000.00
	Electronic	\$200.00	\$110.00

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

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 2 August

12:00pm Baptisms: Ashton, Archibald & Charlotte Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 3

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Isla & Willow Eltham

Monday 4

11:30am Liturgy with Yr 4 Holy Trinity

2:00pm Mass St Vincent's Aged Care

Tuesday 5

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 6

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 7

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation Eltham

7:00pm Meditation Eltham

Friday 8

9:30am Mass Eltham

12:30pm Mass: Feast of Mary MacKillop & Farewell to Philip Cachia (SFX Whole School) Montmorency

Saturday 9

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

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 10

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

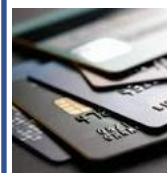
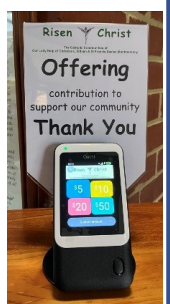
12:00pm Baptisms: Oliver Eltham

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 the recently **deceased**:

Bryan Mash

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

*Margaret & Kevin Brody, Bradley Said, Mary Thomasina Said,
Elvie Taylor (25 years), Andrew Watson, Jim Wellington*

Eltham

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

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

For the recently **deceased**:

Elaina Rizzi

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

Barbara Hermans

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 2nd August, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Ashton James Goodwill
Charlotte Grace Green
Archibald Matthew Wijnen

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Chase Anthony Celotti
Jack Lee Conlin
Caden Trevor Lamers-Janes
Kai Augustine Oliver
Rafael Albert Rizzi
Isabella Marianna Rushbrooke

First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist

Sunday 3rd August, 2025

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

Charlie John Edelston
Harrison Luke Justice

First Eucharist
First Eucharist

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

Isla Feeney
Willow Grace Feeney

Baptism
Baptism

Roster for week ending 3 August 2025

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Rigg Family	PRSE
Skipper, Patsy	CLNR
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Tue
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

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

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

Risen Christ Safeguarding Committee Member Profile

Introducing: Frances Sullivan

I have been a member of the SFX Montmorency Parish now Risen Christ Parish for 44 years. I am a retired Government school teacher and principal. My husband, Michael, and I are members of the Victoria/Tasmania Leadership Team of the Passionist Family Group Movement and I am the current editor of its National Newsletter. My roles in the Parish have included teaching in the Catechist program, the organisation of Dinner Dances and as a member of the Baptism Team. I am on the current Reading roster for Sunday Mass and I enjoy being a member of the SFX Bookclub. In April this year, Michael and I walked the Camino in Spain, a very rewarding experience. Together, we have eleven grandchildren from four young families.



In the six months since it was reborn from the ashes, more than six million visitors have been captivated and moved by the images inside Paris' masterpiece of Gothic architecture / **By Margaret Hebblethwaite**

The resurrection of Notre-Dame

I was in Paraguay when I heard on the night of 15 April 2019 that Notre-Dame was burning. I felt horror and grief, but it was difficult to explain to my Paraguayan friends why I cared so much about this French cathedral of "Our Lady" that they had never heard of, and that, incidentally, I had only been inside once, and that around 50 years earlier. But when I heard in the coming days of the millions that had poured in for the rebuilding, I felt a glow of relief and joy. It was not just the joy that we were going to have Notre-Dame back; it was the joy that there were people in the world who cared so much about it as to make that miracle of economics and artistry happen. And it was a joy compounded, of course, when the pledge was first made, and then fulfilled, that the rebuilding would be completed in a mere five years. The original project had lasted over 170 years from the laying of its foundation stone in 1163, but there were to be no corners cut now in the medieval techniques nor changes in the design.

In the six months since the reopening of the cathedral on 7 December 2024, more than six million people have gone through its doors. I live only 10 minutes' walk from the Eurostar terminal at St Pancras so I decided to do it as a day trip; I scanned the Eurostar prices and found that if I booked in advance I would be able to get there for only £39 each way. I chose an early morning train leaving at 6.01, and a return leaving parish shortly after 7pm. I managed to doze off on the journey out and was surprised to be told by my phone that I was now in France, as I had had no awareness of passing through the tunnel.

As the Gare Du Nord I lost time as I could not get the machine to take payment from my bank card for a Navigo Easy Pass, so I arrived at Notre-Dame with just five minutes to spare before my reserved entry slot of 10.45. The tickets, which are



free, are released only two days beforehand, and bypass the enormous queues at the doors. Although over 10,000 are issued for each day, they are snapped up like hot cakes.

I spent nearly three hours in the cathedral, going round the clockwise circuit three times to search out and revisit images that had interested me. I admired the simple, imposing lines of the new bronze font at the bottom of the centre aisle, and of the new bronze altar at the top of the aisle that echoes it, both like huge cups or boats, designed for the renovated cathedral by Guillaume Bardet. But this is after all Notre-Dame - "Our Lady" - and it is the images of Jesus' mother Mariam that most captured my attention. There are paintings, statues and

Jean Jouvenet's Visitation (1716), returned from the Louvre to the cathedral in 1947

stained glass covering a wide range of Marian themes, including the child Mariam with her mother Anna, Our Lady of Seven Sorrows and Pentecost.

The two best-known images are the famous "Notre-Dame de Paris" statue that stands to the right of the Choir - which miraculously was undamaged as the fire dropped burning wood and collapsed masonry all around her, so that she needed nothing more than to be decontaminated of the lead particles that had polluted the air - and the dramatic eighteenth-century *Pietà* in white marble behind the east-end altar - part of a commission to celebrate Louis XIII's dedication of

France to the Virgin in 1638. Notre-Dame also now has chapels dedicated to the Mexican Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, to the Polish Virgin of Czestochowa, and a *Mother and Child* by a Chinese artist.

But none of these was among my personal favourites: I have four, all of them unusual images. First, there is the fourteenth-century painted bas-relief *Visitation* on the south choir screen, where a proud and happy Mariam, already swelling with child,

exchanges a knowing look with her older relative Elizabeth, whose hand reaches out to touch her breast rather than her tummy. The two share their secret before the world knows of it. Then I was intrigued by the large painting of the *Visitation*, a late work by Jean Jouvenet who suffered partial paralysis in the last years of his life - an unusual interpretation of the significant Magnificat prophecy, infrequently captured in art. Mariam stands on a flight of stone steps and lifts her arms high in exaltation, as three angels gather in the clouds above her, Elizabeth bows before her, and an assorted bunch of people, from a young girl to the elderly and infirm, congregate around her. It is signed and dated "J. Jouvenet dextra paralyticus sinistra fecit 1716" ("J. Jouvenet paralysed in the right hand, made it with the left hand 1716").

Another large painting packed with spectators is the *Adoration of the Shepherds* by Jérôme Francken, 1585, in the north transept. Over a dozen shepherds, a mother and three children gather around, and all eyes are on the mother and child. Marian is not in blue but in grey and magenta, and she gently lifts the edges of a cloth to reveal her naked baby, who stretches out his hand to her as if to say "Hi Mum". The ox's muzzle is so close to his head that he must be warming Jesus with his breath. It is refreshingly unpredictable, delicately tender.

My final choice is a stone carved mother and child flanked by two candle-bearing angels high up on the exterior façade. Few people will notice it, and it is so distant that it is hard to capture in a photo. But what struck me was the black staining down it, making it the only image I saw that still appears to bear the marks of the fire. I hope it is left that way, because it reminds us that



before resurrection comes crucifixion - that indeed resurrection would have no meaning, no joy, if death did not precede it.

There were two moments in my visit that brought me close to tears. One was when I came to the display thanking those who had saved and resurrected Notre-Dame. There is a bedraggled, screaming cock (or "rooster" as they prefer to translate), with the finger-like feathers of its wings sticking out like contorted flames. I had assumed it had been created to represent the agony of the destruction, but now I realise it had been the actual symbol on the top of the destroyed spire, now with its feathers drooped. The tradition of putting cocks on church towers dates back to the Middle Ages and represents Christians vigilantly awaiting the Resurrection, and is particularly significant here because the Latin *gallus* means "cock" and *Gallia* the land of "Gaul". The accompanying text (in English as well as French) reads:

"Notre-Dame de Paris has been reborn from the ashes and is even more beautiful. We owe it to the heroism of the firefighters. Risking their lives, they defeated the flames, and saved the monument from total destruction. We owe it to the 340,000 donors from France and all over the world who, even as the fire blazed during the night, demonstrated their attachment to the cathedral through an incredible display of generosity. In just a few hours, €840 million were raised. Finally, we owe it to the more than 2,000 builders who, from 2019 through 2024, pooled their efforts, talents and determination to resurrect the damaged cathedral."

Detail of the west façade rose window; and (inset) Visitation on the choir screen

The other powerfully poignant moment was at the beginning of the midday Mass, when the procession went straight to the statue of "Notre-Dame de Paris" to sing - it still being the Easter season when I was there - the *Regina Caeli*. Though I was shaky in my memory of the French words of the liturgy, I had no hesitation about belting out the Latin words of this change of joy: "Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia, for he who you were worthy to bear, alleluia, has risen as he said, alleluia. Pray for us to God, alleluia."

As my eyes took in the huge height of the clean, cream-coloured cathedral around me, speckled with splashes of richly coloured glass, I thought that Mariam must indeed rejoice in Heaven, just as we on earth rejoice, to see this holy place, which bears her name, resurrected from the ashes. It shows that the Body of Christ is alive - not just the body which bore the nails, nor just the body that is given to us in the Eucharist as the food of eternal life, but also the Body of Christ which is the Church, and which by incredible heroism, mind-blowing generosity and inspirational work has made our hope live again. Notre-Dame has been the site of some spectacular conversions in the past, including that of Paul Claudel in 1886, who suddenly and simply received the gift of faith here, during the Magnificat of the second vespers of Christmas. Now it calls the people of the world in their millions to come and worship.

Margaret Hebblethwaite is writing a book about the women in the gospels.

ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS NEED A LAND TO CALL THEIR OWN

Britain is one of the sponsors of a major diplomatic effort to revive the two-state solution to the Middle Eastern conflict between Arabs and Jews. It is about time. The policy of the Israeli government towards Palestinians in Gaza, which has resulted in disease, hunger, malnutrition and even children dying of starvation, is now recognised to be catastrophic and outside all norms of civilised behaviour. It could not be allowed to continue. Even Donald Trump seems to have realised this, as one of his key constituencies, the conservative evangelicals who are at the core of his MAGA movement, has begun to turn against Israel. The images of emaciated babies on television are not easily forgotten. President Trump has at last grasped that he was being lied to by Benjamin Netanyahu as the Israeli prime minister repeatedly denied what was becoming obvious: children were dying of hunger, and his policies were to blame.

Britain has to accept some of the responsibility for this appalling mess: the war between the Israel Defence Forces and Hamas in Gaza has its origins in British diplomatic duplicity in the early twentieth century. It made irreconcilable promises to both Jews and Arabs, to the former via the 1917 Balfour Declaration, and the latter through efforts by T.E. Lawrence ("of Arabia") to bring nomadic tribes into the war against Turkey. The Declaration has many origins, among them the millenarian theology of evangelical Anglican leaders like Lord Shaftesbury. The return of the Jews to the Holy Land was regarded as a precondition for the second coming of Christ, as predicted, for instance, in Matthew 24:14-15: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whoso readeth, let him understand)" (King James Version). The advance of General Allenby's army towards Jerusalem after defeating an Ottoman army at the Third Battle of Gaza in 1917 gave the promises of the Balfour Declaration more than theoretical significance. These millenarian beliefs are still widespread in Evangelical circles in the United States - they are shared, for instance, by Mike Huckabee, Baptist minister and US ambassador to Israel - and the hold they have over the Republican imagination influences Trump's Middle Eastern policy.

After the Second World War, having set in place conditions likely to lead to a perennial conflict over living space between Arabs and Jews, Britain walked away, handing the problem over to the United Nations. And the UN's answer? A "two-state" solution: a Jewish Israel and an Arab Palestine side by side, each with its own sovereign territory. This was a revival of a plan developed by a British government commission, the so-called Peel Report, in 1937. But the Arab side never accepted it - until the present day, when it has become the obvious answer to an otherwise irreconcilable conflict. Obvious except to Iran's Shia extremist theocracy, and to the Sunni extremism of the Muslim Brotherhood, of which Hamas is an offshoot. Both of them, through an inflexible reading of Islamic doctrine, still deny Israel's right to exist.

There is a parallel on the other side. Right-wing Jewish fundamentalists inside and outside Netanyahu's coalition government, on which he depends for survival, equally reject Palestine's right to exist. They are influenced by sources in Hebrew Scripture which describe how God gave the early Israelites a "promised land", a geographical area between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean which was already occupied by pagan Canaanite tribes. So a Palestinian state is anathema to them. Any viable two-state solution would have to take seriously this religious dimension to the dispute, which modern secular politicians and secular mass media find difficult to understand.

Both Judaism and Islam contain antidotes to these conflict-prone tendencies, for both these Abrahamic faiths speak of the dignity of human beings made in the image of God, and the respect and tolerance due to those of different faiths. Historically, Christianity has often been a worse offender against the rights of others than either Islam or Judaism, though under recent popes the Church has made giant strides to overcome this moral deficit through its post-Vatican II commitment to freedom of conscience and religion. There is a potential leadership role that Pope Leo could exercise here by following the example of Pope Francis in emphasising the common ground share by different faith traditions.

The logic of demography lies entirely in favour of a two-state solution, and renders a wholly Jewish state between the Jordan river and the sea just as inconceivable as a wholly Islamic state covering the same area. The single-state solution, which by encouraging Jewish settlements in the West Bank and pressing for the displacement of Arabs from Gaza the present Israeli government is moving towards, founders on a simple calculation. It literally does not add up. Israel's population is just over 10 million, with 7.7 million Jews and 2.1 million Arabs. There are 5.6 million Arabs living across Palestine, including 2.1 million in Gaza. So there are as many Arabs as Jews in the area in question, roughly eight million of each.

In a notional single state it is possible to imagine some sort of power sharing on the Northern Ireland model, with two communities with distinct "identities" living side by side. But that would have to be a secular state, neutral about confessional differences, and could not begin to qualify as a "Jewish homeland" or a "Jewish state". To achieve that result, eight million Jews would have to forcibly expel eight million Arabs, or a major portion of them. Attempts to force a sizeable proportion of the population of Gaza to leave, by starving them out, have already led to such international outrage that Netanyahu has been forced to change course. If he had not done so, he would have risked a major breach with his US ally.

It is in this context that the international debate about a two-state solution and recognition of the state of Palestine ought to be conducted. Gaza's Palestinians in their misery do not need empty gestures. They need a future. They need to be allowed to separate themselves from the maniacal acts of genocide committed by Hamas on 7 October 2023. They need a land they can call their own where they can live in peace. As do the Israelis.

Prayers of the Faithful for 3 August 2025 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Christ is not indifferent to our prayers. With confidence the, we turn to Him to pray for our church and the world.

"To be rich in the sight of the Lord." O Christ, we pray to you for the monks, and all who consecrate themselves and have chosen to give themselves entirely to you and the service of others. May their life of prayer and sharing be a light for the world.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

"May our hearts be wise." O Christ, we pray that those in positions of authority, in government, in industry, in commerce, reject the temptation to act only for themselves and not the community. May they be open to sharing and taking care of the most vulnerable.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

"Lord, in every age you have been our refuge." O Christ, we pray for those women and men who are broken by hardship and for those searching for employment. Comfort them and help them in their efforts to succeed.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

"May we pass our days in joy and song." O Christ, we pray for all our youth, especially those who have been in Rome for the Jubilee. Strengthen their faith, hope and joy and guide them along your path to wisdom.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

"Lord, in the morning, fill us with your love." We pray for all those who are ill in body, mind or spirit. Ay they be comforted by the loving presence of Christ in their lives.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

"Christ is your life." We pray for those who have died recently, especially *Bryan Mash and Elaina Rizzi*; and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Margaret & Kevin Brody, Barbara Hermans, Bradley Said, Mary Thomasina Said, Elvie Taylor and Jim Wellington*. May they rest in the revealed glory of God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you who invite us to turn to you, listen to our prayers and answer them. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

Would you like to increase your knowledge of the issues surrounding dying over a cup of tea at Eltham Library?



Banksia Palliative Care and the Nillumbik Council Ageing Well team are hosting a discussion, 9.30-11.30, on Friday August 8. It's open to the community as part of Dying To Know Day.

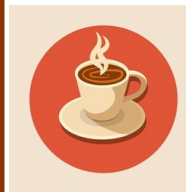
You can enquire and book a place at :

Email : agedcare@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

Phone : 9433 3138

<https://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/Explore/Events-and-festivals/Events-calendar/Death-Cafe-Dying-To-Know-Day-2025>

A very big thank you to all those who have committed to the Hospitality Roster at OLHC for the period August to March next year.



Sign-up sheets will be in the Gathering Area for the next couple of Sundays for other people to help fill in the gaps in the roster.

We really hope to be able to provide our lovely after-Mass nibbles every Sunday, so please consider helping us to achieve this.

Kathleen Nolan.



Reach out. Give life.

Catholic Mission sincerely thanks the parish community of Risen Christ for your generous and compassionate support of this year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal. Your contribution has been gratefully received and will help provide vital care for mothers in Zambia, and empower local Church workers across more than 1,000 mission dioceses around the world.

Through your partnership, countless families will find not only practical help, but also spiritual accompaniment, hope, and dignity. Your gift is more than charity - it is a concrete act of solidarity, and a sign of God's love reaching out to those on the margins.

Thank you for being a living witness of Christ's mission to the world.

National Vocations Awareness Week

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.



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.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2025

acyf.org.au

Encounter ACYF edition

Saturday 9 August, 7 - 9.30pm

Cathedral Hall ACU

22 Brunswick St Fitzroy



Join Fr Rob Galea and hundreds of young pilgrims for a powerful night of prayer, talks and live music in the lead-up to ACYF.

Bring a friend and experience a glimpse of what the Festival will offer!

JUST FOUR OF THE 19 CLOSING THE GAP TARGETS ON TRACK TO BE MET



Without changing the approach to Closing the Gap, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will continue to “pay the price”, Indigenous

organisations say. Source: *Canberra Times*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/07/31/just-four-of-the-19-closing-the-gap-targets-on-track-to-be-met/>

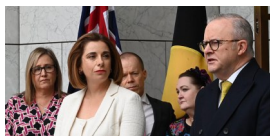
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS WELCOME NT ANTI-DISCRIMINATION BILL



Northern Territory Attorney-General Marie-Claire Boothby yesterday introduced the Anti-Discrimination Amendment Bill to Parliament, reinstating an exception for religious schools to hire on the basis of faith and removing the word “offence” from vilification protections. Source: *NT News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/07/31/christian-schools-welcome-nt-anti-discrimination-bill/>

ALBANESE TO PUSH FOR CHILD SOCIAL MEDIA BAN AT



UN Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will promote Australia’s world-first social media ban for children at the United Nations General

Assembly in September, where he will urge other countries to pursue similar measure to limit teenagers’ exposure to harmful online content. Source: *The Australian*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/07/31/albanese-to-push-for-child-social-media-ban-at-un/>

NAPLAN PARTICIPATION RATES IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BEAT NATIONAL AVERAGE



This year’s NAPLAN results show that participation rates for Catholic schools have exceeded both state and national averages,

demonstrating Catholic education’s strong commitment to assessment and ongoing support for students, Catholic Schools NSW says.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/07/31/naplan-participation-rates-in-catholic-schools-beat-national-average/>

‘JUDGES ARE HUMAN TOO’



Leading legal figures gathered at Australian Catholic University in Brisbane to mark the first International Day for Judicial Wellbeing, a landmark

global initiative backed by the UN General Assembly. Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/07/31/judges-are-human-too/>

NEW COUNCIL PUTS STUDENT VOICE ‘AT HEART OF DECISION-MAKING’



Catholic Education WA is placing the student voice at the heart of decision-making with the establishment of a new Student Advisory Council at the

system level.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/07/31/new-council-puts-student-voice-at-heart-of-decision-making/>

Dreams and visions

‘I shall pour out my spirit on all humanity,’ we hear in the Book of Joel. ‘Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old people shall dream dreams and your young people see vision.’ God’s inspiring message of hope is one that encompasses every stage of life.



Having just celebrated the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly on Sunday, we hear about an exciting new initiative designed to help close the generation gap. The Generations of Value program is giving Catholic school children a new appreciation of the contributions of older generations, while inspiring a new sense of connection and purpose in older people.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/new-school-program-helps-bridge-generation-gap-and-strengthen-communities>



As he embarks on a new stage of his journey with God, Fr John Vespa - ordained just a month ago by Pope Leo XIV in Rome - was surrounded by about 800 well-wishers from across Melbourne at a thanksgiving Mass at St Mary’s Parish, Greensborough, a

community that has loved and supported him since childhood. <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/granted-to-god-community-gathers-at-thanksgiving-mass-for-fr-john-vespa>



And as the special Jubilee of Digital Missionaries and Catholic Influencers concludes today in Rome as part of the Jubilee of Young People taking place this week,

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/dont-keep-it-just-for-yourself-more-than-half-a-million-young-people-gather-for-the-jubilee-of-youth>



we hear how 21st-century friar and Catholic influencer Fr Casey Cole OFM is using TikTok, YouTube and Instagram to reach more than half a million people (and counting) with a powerful message of hope.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/digital-missionary-and-catholic-influencer-fr-casey-cole-ofm>

Hyper-Catholic: praying with ADHD

Having been diagnosed with ADHD in her forties, Kate Moriarty reflects on what it means to be an ADHD Catholic. ‘I’m running a different operating system from Standard Brain 1.0, with some features outperforming others,’ she writes. And while a long homily sends her into paroxysms of restlessness, and abandoned planner notebooks litter her home, she is learning to embrace her ‘authentic, oddball, exuberant self.’

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/hyper-catholic>

God’s feast: a eucharistic spin on an ancient story

As we celebrate the feast day of Sts Mary, Martha and Lazarus, Christian Bergmann reflects on the important place of feasting and hospitality in Hebrew culture - going back to the story in Genesis where Sarah and Abraham entertain three mysterious strangers - and on how, in his unexpected response to Mary and Martha, Jesus puts a eucharistic spin on an ancient tradition.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/gods-feast-a-eucharistic-spin-on-an-ancient-story>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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