

Risen



Christ

Sixth Sunday of Easter

24 & 25 May 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 - John 14:23-29

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid. You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.'

A Thank You Message

Safeguarding the most vulnerable members of our community requires a shared response – everyone has a part to play. Our parish could not function without the tireless efforts of our volunteers. Whether they are welcoming people upon arrival at mass, creating opportunities for all parishioners, including children and young people, to participate in our parish, preparing a scrumptious morning tea, or supporting the parish priest as a member of many of our parish ministries and activities. Each and every role is extremely valuable.

This week we want to take the opportunity to say thank you, and let you know how much we value the precious time that you devote to our parish. Through your work, we continue to grow as enriching, welcoming and safe communities for all.

Together we will ensure a safe environment for all and foster a positive experience when engaging with our faith communities.



You Are Invited - Today, Sunday, 25th May, 2025

10:00am Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians; **11:00am** Morning Tea in the Gathering Area
12:00pm Blessing Ceremony & Official Opening
of the 4 new units of Parkview (Eltham) Retirement Village (managed by Villa Maria Catholic Homes)

*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

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: 4 & 11 May 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash Electronic	\$332.00 \$1,868.00	\$685.00 \$4,007.00
Presbytery	Cash Electronic	\$681.00 150.00	\$1,097.25 \$165.00
Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering			
Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
February	\$8,426.67	\$8,121.50	\$16,548.17
March	\$8,083.67	\$15,977.50	\$24,061.17
April	\$6,796.67	\$10,257.50	\$17,054.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 24

10:00am Safeguarding Meeting Eltham

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 25

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Opening Ceremony Units 6-9/4 Henry Street,
Parkview (Eltham) Retirement Village

Tuesday 27

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 28

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Thursday 29

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

Friday 30

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 31

12:00pm Baptisms: Prim, Matilda Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 1 June

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Xena, Isla, Evie Eltham

Tuesday 3

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 5/6 Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 21

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community Montmorency

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Thursday 22

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 23

9:30am Mass & OLHC School Eltham

Saturday 24

10:00am Safeguarding Meeting Eltham

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 25

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Opening Ceremony Parkview (Eltham)
Retirement Village

Tuesday 27

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community Montmorency



Craig Stoll
Director
Stoll Architecture



Daniel Liong
Associate
Stoll Architecture



Hikmat Daniel
Managing Director
H. Daniel Constructions



Joseph Bouzeid
Site Manager
H. Daniel Constructions

Old Presbytery, 4 Henry Street, Eltham



New Units, 6-9/4 Henry Street, Eltham



This Project has taken
all of 5 years,
from start to finish.

The build itself
only one and a half years,
starting in January 2024.

So many people
and agencies
who had their fingers
in this pie
delayed the final outcome
and frustrated
this project!

Yet the outcome is superb.

13 units
on our Eltham site
managed by VMCH.
Congratulations to all.
**Total cost to completion:
\$3.5million**



Dao Tran
Senior Parish Building Advisor
CAM Property & Infrastructure



Anthony Bortolotto
Project Management
Risen Christ Parish



Peter Rigg
Finance Committee
Risen Christ Parish



Michael F. Sierakowski
Moderator
Risen Christ Parish

Bridging Now to Next – NRW 2025

The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2025 theme, Bridging Now to Next, reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to **Next**

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2025 | RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



Bridging Now to Next urges us to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.

At a time when Australia faces uncertainty in its reconciliation journey, this theme calls on all Australians to step forward together.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia.

In the #NRW2025 theme artwork created by Kalkadoon woman Bree Buttenshaw, native plants – known for regenerating after fire and thriving through adversity – symbolise our collective strength and the possibilities of renewal. This is a time for growth, reflection, and commitment to walking together.

Australia's history of reconciliation is not a linear one but one that includes both great strides and disappointing setbacks.

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) started as the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation in 1993 (the International Year of the World's Indigenous Peoples) and was supported by Australia's major faith communities.

In 1996, the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation launched Australia's first National Reconciliation Week.

Twenty-five years ago, Corroboree 2000 brought together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous leaders in a historic call for reconciliation. We continue that work in 2025, inviting all Australians to join us in *Bridging Now to Next* – building a more united and respectful nation.

Corroboree 2000 and the Sydney Harbour Bridge walk were significant events in our long journey and our determination to continue that journey towards a reconciled Australia and justice for First Nations peoples is unstoppable.

Last year in our Parish Bulletin we brought to our communities attention a fundraiser to support Iyad S'Beyah's family to escape Gaza for Australia. Many of you have donated to this cause and ask how Iyad's family are fairing.

This is the latest update and it is not good news. Iyad has lost 33 members of his extended family thus far.



6 May 2025 by Iyad S'Bayeh, ORGANISER

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-my-family-escape-gaza-for-australia>

Hello Friends, and thank you for reading. As many of you know, Israel broke the ceasefire on 18 March and resumed their deadly daily attacks on Gaza. These attacks continue.

My brother and his family managed to go back home during the ceasefire period and they were fortunate to discover that their home was not fully destroyed. They are living in it now, albeit with no running water and electricity. Unfortunately my sister and her family's home is severely

damaged and they are currently living in a tent within the ruins of their former home.

Israel has blocked all aid including medical supplies to Gaza since resuming their attack. Talking to my brother Ashraf recently, he described the situation as follows:

1. Overall the situation is extremely dire with severe shortages of everything including clean drinking water.
2. The price of everything has gone up more than fifteen to twenty times since the beginning of this year. For example, a bottle of cooking oil was \$2 and is now \$20 - if you can secure one. There is no meat at all.
3. All bakeries closed four weeks ago due to there being no flour. If you were lucky enough to find flour, it is full of weevils, and \$100/sack.
4. Ashraf and my brother in-law spend most of their time looking for anything combustible to burn and create a fire for cooking and boiling water.

Added to the above is the stress of living not knowing if you and your family will be alive the next day. My sister is having heart issues from the stress.

Every time I speak with my brother, I can hear the continuous noise of the drones. The noise is like living with a bee circling constantly around inside your head.

None of this news is good news, except that they have each other, and people in the world like yourselves who care, speak up, donate, vote and act for a peaceful end to this genocide. Thank you for reading.



*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:
*Suzanne Agius, Siobhan Lappin, Ian Leach, Frances McDonald,
Jarrod Mizzi, Cindy & Ed Morrissey,
Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray)*

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
*Tom Barnsley (Snr), John Carmody (40 years),
Valentina Di Benedetto, Kathleen Lagerewskij,
Jack Moylan (30 years), Cath Ramsdale*

Eltham

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:
Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker, Bernard Murray, Audrey Tunks (13m old)

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
Sara-Theresa Concisom, Doris John

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

Roster for week ending 25 May 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Ballenger, Nima	E10:00
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Bucknell, Dom	R10:00
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Davidson, John	W8:30
Dhanasen Family	PRSE
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	H10:00
Dunell, Rick	H10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Lucas, Maree	CLNR
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Stevens, Patricia	CLNR
Turnbull, Mark	H10:00
Turnbull, Pauline	H10:00
Witten, Janine	LoW-01 Thu

Roster for week ending 1 Jun 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	R10:00
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	C10:00
Henry, Gayle	H10:00
Illiffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Leahy Family	PRSE
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Thu
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR
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



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

Saturday, 24th May, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Nate Edward Driscoll

Charlotte James Sanguinedo

First Eucharist

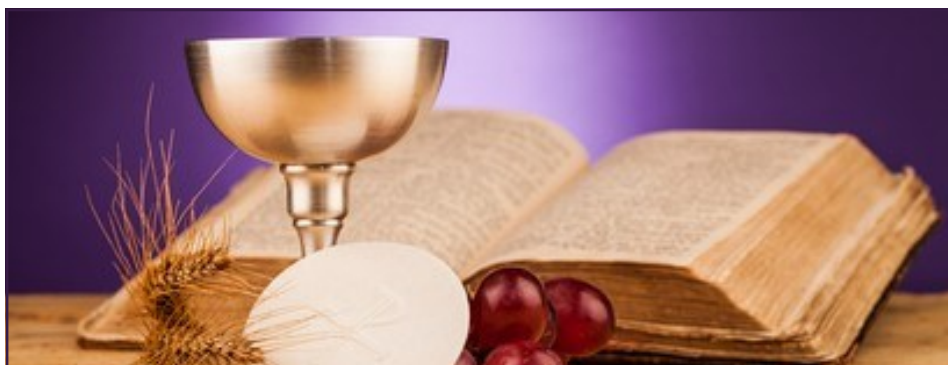
First Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word with Communion

At St Francis Xavier we have a small team who facilitate Liturgy of the Word with Communion each Thursday at 9.30am. This is a prayerful half hour where a small group reflect on the life of Jesus in the Scriptures and share the Bread. By our Baptism we are a Priestly People called to Ministry. Being part of our team is one of the ways we can serve the Community. Please think about the possibility of joining the team, you will find it very rewarding. Please contact Patsy on 0429 439 675, Marie Wood 0429 423 164, or Kate in the Parish House or Fr Michael. Thank you.

Ministers of the Word

The Community of St Francis Xavier, in particular, would be interested to hear from you if you would like to join those who proclaim the Word at our Masses. Some of our Ministers of the Word have moved away or have become unavailable, which leaves fewer to fill the vacancies at some Masses. You would be included on the roster and required every few weeks, to read at the Mass you usually attend on the weekend. We invite you to consider joining those involved in this special Ministry. Please be in touch with Kate in the Parish Office ph 9435 4742. Thank you



Parish Pastoral Leadership Team - Member Profile

Introducing: Peter Williams

Sentence about yourself, family and which Mass you attend:

My wife Anne and I grew up in Montmorency. I arrived in Monty at the age of 5, from Sydney. We have 3 adult children: Sarah, Emily and Jarrod and 6 wonderful grandchildren, ranging in ages from 18 to 4 years old. You will see us at either 6:00pm or 10:00am Mass each weekend.

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

As the Parish Safeguarding Officer, I am an ex-officio member of the Team, representing Safeguarding. However, as a member of the team I hope to add my voice and parish experiences to discussions. The hope is to assist in the ongoing development of our lives in this parish community.

What do you do with yourself?

I have been retired for some years now but took on the role of Parish Safeguarding Office about 7 years ago, which takes up a lot of my time. Like most grandparents, a bit of my time is devoted to grandchildren duties, which I love (but it can be exhausting). The rest of my time is devoted to travelling, socialising with friends, gardening and supporting the Richmond Football Club.

What is the one thing you think that would surprise people about yourself?

I was baptised in the Catholic Church as a child but did not practice any faith growing up. I started attending the Presbyterian church as a teenager. Then in my very late teens I met this amazing woman, who was a practicing Catholic. So, I started to attend Mass at St Francis Xavier Church, as I desired further personal spiritual growth and the need to connect more fully with a vibrant faith community. Having found what I was looking for and needed, I converted to Catholicism not long after Anne and I married. This has led me to becoming an active member of the St Francis Xavier community and now Risen Christ parish over the past 50 years.



Prayers of the Faithful for 25 May 2025 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Leader: The peace of the Risen Christ is a challenge to the world. May we be mindful of those men and women who are deprived of their liberty and of the children who do not know peace in their lives.

The Church needs the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News of our Creator and to bring peace to all humankind: may God send His Spirit of light and truth. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Apostles needed the Holy Spirit to inspire, sustain and guide them on their mission to proclaim the Good News: may our political leaders likewise be inspired to work for the common good of all.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The doors of the New Jerusalem are open for all humanity: may those who feel excluded share in the promise of God's glory.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ said: 'If you love me, you will know joy': may your Spirit, Father, sustain us in our hope and make us workers for peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ said: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid': may those experiencing illness or anxiety be reassured that the Spirit is always present in their lives to give them strength and hope.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ promises us his peace: may those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Tom Barnsley (Snr), John Carmody, Sara-Theresa Concisom, Valentina Di Benedetto, Doris John, Kathleen Lagerewskij, Jack Moylan & Cath Ramsdale*, rest in God's eternal peace and love.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We give you thanks, God our Father, for your grace and your peace. May our prayers for all your people be heard. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen



CARING FOR CHILDREN TODAY...

www.kadasigaid.com.au

BUILDING HOPES FOR TOMORROW

enquiries@kadasigaid.com.au



Scarves, Socks and Beanies.

As winter cold is biting deep and we rug up to keep those chills out, let us remember our sisters & brothers who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Please leave any warm new items or washed pre-loved items in one of the baskets at either St Francis Xavier Church porch or Gathering space at OLHC.

Your donations will be given to the homeless, by those St Vincent de Paul volunteers working on the Soup Vans.

We can not warm all those out in the cold, but we can make a difference to some, lets do that!

If you have any queries please contact Mary O'Connor or Patsy on Ph: 0429 439 675. Thank You.

Let us love and care for one another, especially the most vulnerable... just as Jesus did.

Greetings all!

I am reaching out to you as we are in need of sponsors to enable our children to have an education through Kadasig Aid & Development in Cebu, Philippines. We currently have eleven (11) children waiting so your assistance/sponsorship would make such a difference for a child & their family.

The cost is \$280/year which can be paid annually or 6 monthly; \$20 if you wish to be a member of Kadasig (optional) & \$40 for your child to go to camp each year during their school holidays.

If you would like to discuss this or have queries please contact: Glenys Gayfer: papel-imports@bigond.com; 0411 196 395

EVERY VOCATION SPRINGS FROM GOD'S LOVE: POPE LEO



God's love, mercy and goodness lie at the foundation of every vocation, including that of the pope, Pope Leo XIV said yesterday. Source: CNS.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/21/every-vocation-springs-from-gods-love-pope-leo/>

WONG BACKS STATEMENT DEMANDING ISRAEL RESUME AID TO GAZA



Foreign Minister Penny Wong has joined 22 international counterparts to demand Israel allow the full resumption of aid in Gaza, warning that

Palestinians there are starving, exhausted and being deprived of essential supplies.

Source: *The Australian*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/21/wong-backs-statement-demanding-israel-resume-aid-to-gaza/>

NT OPPOSITION PLANS TO FORCE GOVERNMENT'S HAND ON VAD



The Northern Territory Opposition has started the process of developing a private member's bill on euthanasia, in an attempt to force action from the CLP Government, which remains mute on the topic amid another inquiry. Source: *NT News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/21/nt-opposition-plans-to-force-governments-hand-on-vad/>

NEW NATIONAL NETWORK TO SUPPORT AND CONNECT FORMATORS



A professional membership network for people shaping and leading formation for mission, has launched today, creating space for connection,

collaboration, and renewal.

Source: *Catholic Mission*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/21/new-national-network-to-support-and-connect-formators/>

FAITHFUL HONOUR MARY AT ANNUAL PROCESSION



About 1800 Catholics took part in a public display of their faith and devotion to Mary as the 76th annual Marian Procession was held in Adelaide's CBD on

Sunday. Source: *The Southern Cross*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/21/faithful-honour-mary-at-annual-procession/>

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY PROGRAM HELPS SUSTAIN RESPITE CENTRE



The sun is shining on Xavier Place in Brisbane where a new sustainable energy program will help secure the future of its care for children and young

people with complex physical disability and related health needs. Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/21/sustainable-energy-program-helps-sustain-respite-centre/>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Uniting a divided world



With the eyes of the world upon him, Pope Leo officially embarked on his new pontificate on Sunday, inviting the Church and the world to come together in unity and peace -

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/at-inauguration-mass-pope-leo-calls-for-united-church-in-a-wounded-world>



themes picked up again yesterday in his private audience with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who officially invited him to Australia in 2028.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pm-meets-with-pope-leo-invites-him-to-australia-for-eucharistic-congress>



This week we explore the rich and evolving legacy of Catholic Social Teaching in light of the Pope's choice of a name that evokes Pope Leo XIII and his encyclical *Rerum novarum*,

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/whats-in-a-name-two-leos-and-the-evolving-legacy-of-rerum-novarum>



and we hear how Pope Leo's words at the recent Jubilee of Eastern Churches provided a spark of hope and renewed sense of purpose for Christian communities whose experience is often marked by persecution and conflict.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/eastern-churches-find-new-hope-in-meeting-with-pope-leo-xiv>



On the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, we delve into the history of this significant turning point for the Church and look at the ways the Nicene Creed continues to bring Christians together across denominational divides.

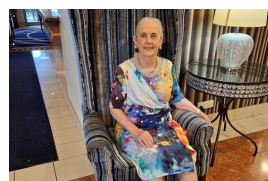
<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/an-icon-in-words-christians-celebrate-1700th-anniversary-of-the-ecumenical-council-of-nicea>



And as part of our 'Better Together' series, we hear from seminarian Patrick Harris and Fr Michael Gallacher about a friendship that began at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Perth and that has become stronger through their shared passion for faith

and footy, helping Patrick to discern his vocation along the way.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/better-together-patrick-harris-and-fr-michael-gallacher>



'Full of beautiful experiences': 90-year-old Rosemary's six decades of volunteering.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/full-of-beautiful-experiences-90-year-old-rosemarys-six-decades-of-volunteering>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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



Leo P.P. XIV