

Risen Christ



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 & 24 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.

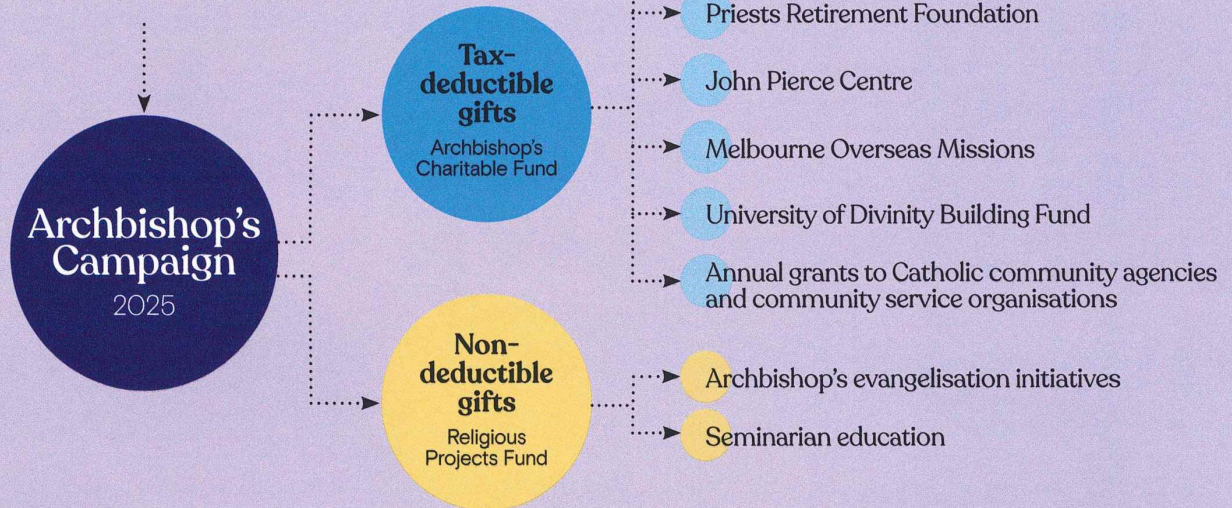
THE ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2025

This annual campaign, for the purposes of the Archdiocese, is a chance to support our retired clergy who have served God's people in the past and encourage those seminarians preparing to do so in the future.

Please give generously.



One major collection for the Archdiocese of Melbourne



Fr Brendan Lane: 'Our ministry is a gift from God'

This year, Fr Brendan Lane celebrates 52 years of priesthood. And while he's enjoying the quiet that retirement provides, he does miss being among the people of God. 'I love to soak in the Word of God and then try and share that with people. And, of course, the liturgy of the Eucharist. I love the presence of God with us there.'

These days Fr Brendan delights in visiting the parishes which are now being shepherded by the same men who were students during his time as rector at Corpus Christi Seminary. 'I love going around to different

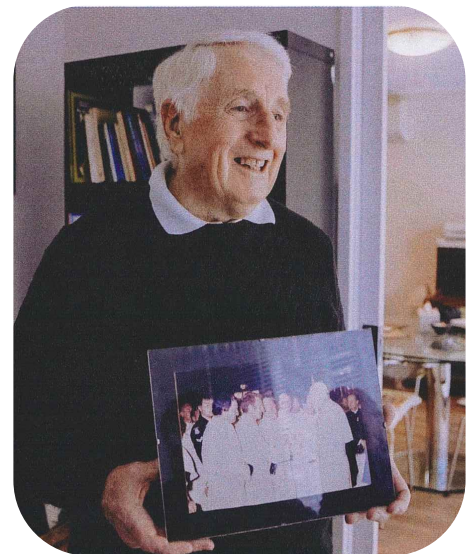
parishes, especially where the young priests are that I had in the seminary.

'I'm happy to see how they're going and to encourage them,' he says.

'I know what challenges they've got, because I know myself what I had to go through. But this, our ministry, is a gift from God.'

'It's a grace to be allowed into people's lives,' reflects Fr Brendan.

He's especially thankful for the chance to be present when families are preparing for a funeral, a wedding or a baptism. 'They are key moments in people's lives, and you're allowed into that. That's a blessing.'



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

www.melbcatholic.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: Jo Nolen: 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: 10 & 17 August 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$392.00	\$857.00
	Electronic	\$3,220.67	\$3,653.50
Presbytery	Cash	\$1,055.20	\$912.15
	Electronic	\$50.00	\$130.00

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 23

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 24

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 25

7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting
all welcome to attend

Eltham

Tuesday 26

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 27

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 28

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

7:00pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 29

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 30

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist

Montmorency

Sunday 31

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 2 September

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 3

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,

On Thursday 21 August, emails were sent with a Thanksgiving/Stewardship thank you letter, as well as giving statements for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 financial years.

Thank you to those who have let me know that the 2023 data is missing! I will work into this over the next week or so, and send updated information.

Please note, if you are giving via the Tap & Go terminals, there is no record of your contributions. If you give via the parish website, please **untick** 'give anonymously', however this still doesn't necessarily guarantee the donation being recorded against your name. For the most reliable way to donate and have the amounts recorded accurately against your name, please call the office to have it set up for bank transfer or credit card payments.

Please feel free to email any questions or concerns, and I will work my way through them!

Thank you for your patience and kindness,
Kate

Thank you to the Risen Christ Parish from Michael

Dear Parishioners

Thank you for the wonderful support last weekend shown to me celebrating 40 years of ministry. I deeply appreciate the many cards, thoughts, prayers and gifts that accompanied this big weekend for me.

Warmest thanks and love, Michael

Gospel - Luke 13:22-30

Through towns and villages Jesus went teaching, making his way to Jerusalem. Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you, many will try to enter and will not succeed.'

'Once the master of the house has got up and locked the door, you may find yourself knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you come from." Then you will find yourself saying, "We once ate and drank in your company; you taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not know where you come from. Away from me, all you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves turned outside. And men from east and west, from north and south, will come to take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first, and those now first who will be last.'

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

This gospel text is a strong challenge to our complacency. Those who think they have got it made will find themselves turned outside. No more privileged access for them - people from every direction will come and take their places at the feast, while the complacent are left on the outside looking in. *Thus, the first will be last and the last will be first.*

So the first dimension of Jesus' teaching is that God's kingdom is inclusive of all. This is the teaching opened up for us by Isaiah and the psalm and which is expressed clearly in the gospel by the final image of the banquet of heaven.

But the second dimension of the teaching is that we can take nothing for granted. God's invitation requires a response. It will require some effort (the narrow door) and a ready and prompt response (lest we find ourselves knocking on a locked door).

Jesus' teaching here is profoundly unsettling. Often, we find his parables and teaching present a reversal of fortunes which is meant to spur us on to do better. The first sentence reminds us that Jesus is on the way to Jerusalem. We interpret these teachings in light of the cross of Christ.

The two instances of 'men' should be read as 'people'.



Welcoming *Jo Nolen*,

Principal of St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary, Montmorency

My name is Jo Nolen and I am really excited to be joining the St Francis Xavier community in my first appointment as principal.

A mum of 3 grown children, my husband and I felt very passionate about providing a catholic education for our children and appreciated the support and nurturing this had on them as a whole.

Having been in the catholic system for almost 30 years, I have moved most recently from St Thomas the Apostle where my role as the REL helped me forge great relationships with the parish. Working together in mission, creating links between school and parish.

I look forward to supporting and contributing to the Risen Christ Parish.

The next Parish Finance Committee meeting will be held at 7pm at Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham on Monday 25th August 2025. This will be an open meeting where all parishioners are welcome to attend.

Beanies, Socks and Scarves...

Here are ALL the colourful, beautifully hand crafted, new and pre loved items, you have donated to help keep the homeless people of Melbourne warm this winter! As was the case last year, your care, prayer and generosity is overwhelming. The compassionate Heart of Jesus, is vibrant in Risen Christ Parish.

THANK YOU ALL

Mary, Patsy (and Lorenda, St Vincent de Paul)







The Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Footscray relies on our generous support for donations of food and toiletries for asylum seekers seeking a pathway to citizenship.

Each week a generous group of parishioners deliver your donations. Please put an extra item in your next supermarket shopping and place it in the baskets in the church foyers. One item once a week in the baskets can make a real difference to our newest families seeking asylum. Donations can be food, eg rice, lentils, tinned veg or toiletries. We can make a difference. Thank You.

CLAIM YOUR LOST PROPERTY

All lost property left in SFX Church can be claimed from the Risen Christ Parish Office up until the end of August. Any remaining items will be donated to Vinnies. Thank you.



Risen Christ Parishioner Profiles - Introducing: Pauline Turnbull

Hello, my name is Pauline Turnbull. I joined the OLHC community back in 1984 when I accepted a job as a graduate teacher at Our Lady's Primary School.

After our marriage a few years later, my husband Mark and I settled in Research and became parishioners here as well. I taught for many years at Our Lady's until I took some time off to have our three sons. I then returned as a part time teacher and eventually took on the role of Religious Leader, which I thoroughly enjoyed. My time at Our Lady's school was very happy and memorable. I grew a lot and learnt a lot along the way. I loved watching the students develop into individuals with many and varied talents and skills. It is always a delight to hear how they are doing and to hear of their eventual pathways.

I joined the "Choir of Har Knocks" about thirty-five years ago with Chris B, Chris G, Mark and Bernie, who sadly passed away very unexpectedly a few years ago. My time in this group has also been a source of joy for me. We have a great time sharing our talents (or lack of!) with the community and my greatest joy is hearing the congregation sing along with great gusto. We have made many connections with others through our music. I feel proud of being part of this community for so long and look forward to hopefully continuing this for many years to come.



Prayers of the Faithful for 24 August 2025 - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: The word of God counsels us not to lose heart when we are discouraged. We come before our loving God to intercede for all who seek help in difficult times.

For our Church leaders: that they lead us to challenge unjust structures and to work for the liberation of the dispossessed, the downtrodden and asylum seekers.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For world leaders: that they seek not power over people, but power that enables fullness of life for all, especially those in the poorest and most volatile nations.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are forced to leave their home countries and those who choose to do so: that they find peace and acceptance in their new land as they strive to make new lives for themselves.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those whose lives have been devastated by natural or human-made disasters: that they be supported in rebuilding their lives and communities.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the grace to enter through the narrow door: that the Spirit will guide us to live lives of forgiveness, compassion, self-control and service, so that we will manifest the reign of God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the sick and those named in the bulletin: that God's healing love will restore them to fullness of life.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, especially xxx; and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Lorna Aicher, John Arundell, Bernie Kelly, Kevin Pritchard, Wayne Robinson and Noreen & Eric Wohlfart*: that they be welcomed forever in the house of God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray to you God, conscious of the need for your grace to be active in our world. May we be true disciples and bring your reign closer each day. We ask this in the name of Jesus your Son.

All: **Amen**



Tip 5: Recognise and report scams



DID YOU KNOW:

Cybercriminals are crafty and might use a familiar name and email address.

Be cautious if:

- you're asked to urgently pay a bill.
- you're asked to change your details or password.
- you're asked to click on a link or open an attachment.

The faster you report a scam, the quicker we can act.

If you believe that someone is attempting to use the internet to scam you, it's better to be proactive and cautious than risk being taken advantage of.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. While a message might say you've won a prize or that your computer contains a virus, that message is not unique to you.

It might be coming from a scammer and they want to take advantage of you.

Remember, scammers will often pretend to be a person or organisation you trust. Be suspicious if you receive a message that looks like it's from someone you trust but they're using a new phone number, email address or social media profile. Before you respond, verify that the person or organisation messaging you really is who they say they are by contacting them through a channel you can rely on. For example, if you receive a text message that looks like it's from one of your children, but it comes from a new number, don't respond. Send them a message on social media to check that they really have changed their phone number first.





*Let us pray for all those who have gone
before us marked with the sign of faith ...*

For the recently **deceased**:

Dr Irmgard Bauer (Townsville)

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

*Lorna Aicher, John Arundell, Bernie Kelly,
Kevin Pritchard, Noreen & Eric Wohlfahrt*

Eltham

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

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

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

Wayne Robinson

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

~ Maurice Brosnan ~

Maurice has been a long time parishioner, attending OLHC for many years, involved in many various roles within the Parish, and has been highly regarded by many Parishioners who have come to know him very well over the years.

We have recently been informed that Maurice has probably only 2 or 3 weeks to live. His family has asked for us to keep Maurice, and his family, in our prayers. Thank you.



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

Friday 22nd August, 2025

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 9:30am

Natalie Grace Bremner

First Eucharist

Saturday 23rd August, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Alexander Jacob Blaszkowski

First Eucharist

Jack Joseph Calabro

First Eucharist

Jarrold Oliver Palermo

First Eucharist

Marc Reginald Vukelic

First Eucharist

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Online Diaconate information meeting

Tuesday, 24 September 2025 beginning 19:00 – 20:00

Location: via **ZOOM**

Attendance will be by invitation.

Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison

Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.



Roster for week ending 24 August 2025

Capuana, Marisa	CLNR
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Davidson, John	PRYR
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	H10:00
Dunell, Rick	H10:00
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
McKenna, John	CLNR
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Scannell Family	PRSE
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Thu
Stone, Nan	W6:00
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Turnbull, Mark	H10:00
Turnbull, Pauline	H10:00
Williams, Peter	R10:00

Roster for week ending 31 August 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	R10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	C10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Hall, Vali	ASE
Illiffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Stewart Family	PRSE
Volunteers please	H10:00
Volunteers please	H10:00
Volunteers please	H10:00
Volunteers please	H10:00
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

POPE ASKS CATHOLICS TO OBSERVE A DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE



Pope Leo XIV has asked Catholics to observe tomorrow (22 Aug) as a day of prayer and fasting for peace and justice, particularly in Ukraine and in

the Holy Land. Source: CNS.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/21/pope-asks-catholics-to-observe-a-day-of-prayer-for-peace/>

CENTACARE TO END NDIS-FUNDED DISABILITY SERVICES



Brisbane Church leaders yesterday announced Centacare will withdraw from National Disability Insurance Scheme-funded disability services by

the end of 2025. Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/21/centacare-to-end-ndis-funded-disability-services/>

GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW AI RULE GAPS



Treasurer Jim Chalmers has pledged to conduct another review of gaps in artificial intelligence regulation, stalling a push for a stand-alone law to govern the nascent technology.

Source: *The Australian*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/21/government-to-review-ai-rule-gaps/>

BROOME'S DAY OF PILGRIMAGE, MASS AND MEMORIES



Broome Diocese hosted a day of pilgrimage, Mass and gathering on Sunday to honour the story of Bungarun, the Darby Leprosarium that once cared

for leprosy patients.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/21/broomes-day-of-pilgrimage-mass-and-memories/>

ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL TO HOST MASS FOR SYDNEY MARATHON RUNNERS



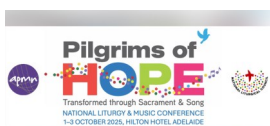
St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney will host its first Mass to include a blessing of runners taking part in the Sydney Marathon, before they take

their marks on Sunday, August 31.

Source: *The Catholic Weekly*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/21/st-marys-cathedral-to-host-mass-for-sydney-marathon-runners/>

MUSIC CONFERENCE STRIKES ECONOMICAL NOTE WITH TICKET OFFER



The National Liturgical Council and the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network are making the upcoming National Liturgy and Music Conference more

accessible through their "Late Bird" ticket offer.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/08/21/music-conference-strikes-economical-note-with-ticket-offer/>

Transforming lives

All of us, every day, are given opportunities to transform lives, giving of our time, talents and resources to serve God's kingdom, bless others and 'proclaim the Good News to all creation' (Mark 16:15).



The Archbishop's Campaign for 2025 presents us with just such an opportunity. Melbourne Overseas Missions (MOM) and

the John Pierce Centre (JPC) are two of the inspiring Catholic organisations the campaign supports.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign>



We hear from JPC executive director Sophie Duncan

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/we-dont-want-anyone-to-fall-through-the-gaps-supporting-the-deaf-community>

and from MOM director and former CEO Peter Moore about their important work, and some of the ways our donations can bring light and hope where they are most needed.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/melbourne-overseas-missions-connecting-communities-through-faith-and-generosity>



Yesterday (last Monday), friends, family members and colleagues gathered with the local faith community at St Patrick's Cathedral for a Requiem Mass to farewell the late Bishop Peter John Elliott and to give thanks for a man who gave generously of his talents to serve the Church, helping us to better 'know, worship and love' the God to whom he devoted his life.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/to-know-worship-and-love-requiem-mass-held-to-farewell-bishop-peter-elliott>



And at the latest Melbourne Catholic Professionals luncheon, one of Australia's leading strategy advisors, Dr Byron Pirola, spoke about his Catholic faith and the profound role it's played in shaping his professional life, lay marriage ministry, and vocation as husband and father. In everything he does, he said, he tries to 'consider it in the context of what is the *right* good', not just what will be good for him.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/an-amazing-ride-dr-bryon-pirola-shares-insights-on-family-faith-and-professional-life>

SIGNS OF HOPE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE STATEMENT

The experience of people living with the challenges of homelessness and mental ill-health has been highlighted in the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's 2025 Social Justice Statement, *Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving People Living in Homelessness and Mental Ill-Health*.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/signs-of-hope-in-social-justice-statement>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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