

Risen



Christ

Fourth Sunday of Easter

10 & 11 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 10:27-30

Jesus said: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

The whole of John 10 develops the theme of Christ as the good shepherd. The Year A and B cycles in the Lectionary have longer excerpts. The idea of the sheep recognizing the shepherd's voice recurs throughout the chapter. Hearing the shepherd's voice and following him is a beautiful expression of trust.

Earlier in the chapter, Jesus has contrasted the protective and self-giving shepherd with the hired hand who abandons the sheep if danger strikes. This idea too recurs. Those who follow the shepherd will never be lost or stolen.

Finally, the chapter concludes with an affirmation of Christ's oneness with the Father. Jesus is the good shepherd because the Lord God is the shepherd (Psalm 22/23) who gives the flock safe repose in fresh, green pastures. We fear no evil even in the valley of the shadow of death because the shepherd guides us on the right path. Christ and the Father are one in their care for us.

You Are Invited - Save the Date 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

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Rudy Vail: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

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

Collections: 20 & 27 April 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$227.00	\$982.00
	Electronic	\$4,170.00	\$2,745.50
Presbytery	Cash	\$1,674.00	\$1,732.20
	Electronic	\$50.00	\$260.00

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 10

12:00pm Baptisms: Alora, Frankie, Elle, Will, Charlotte, Oliver Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 11

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Tuesday 13

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 14

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

7:30pm Rosary Eltham

Thursday 15

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 16

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 17

12:00pm Baptisms: Kobe, Leah, Maliyah Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 18

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Freddie, Zara, Bianca, Sofia Eltham

Tuesday 20

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr Prep 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



Archbishop Peter A Comensoli presides at the Solemn Pontifical Mass for Pope Francis at St Patrick's Cathedral.

‘Pray for me’: thousands mourn Pope Francis at St Patrick’s Cathedral

The bells of St Patrick’s Cathedral tolled on the afternoon of Monday 28 April as more than 2,500 people from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne gathered to mourn the passing of Pope Francis, in a Solemn Pontifical Mass for the repose of his soul.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli was principal celebrant for the Mass, joined by bishops and priests from across the Archdiocese, alongside members of religious congregations, the faithful and representatives of other religious traditions and of civic life, including the Deputy Prime Minister and the Victorian Governor, Premier and Leader of the Opposition.

A spirit of prayerful gratitude, sorrow and hope filled the Cathedral, reflecting the life of a pope remembered for his humility, joy and proclamation of God’s boundless mercy.

In his homily, Archbishop Comensoli reflected on Pope Francis’ example throughout his life and ministry, especially his steadfast commitment to proclaiming God’s mercy.

‘Mercy was perhaps his most frequently spoken word,’ Archbishop Comensoli observed of the late pontiff. ‘

Describing Pope Francis as a ‘joyful evangeliser, father of the poor, servant to the stranger, accompanier of the imprisoned, friend of the migrant and refugee, and pope

for peace,’ the Archbishop also noted Pope Francis’ constantly repeated request: ‘Pray for me.’

‘Pope Francis knew of the need he had for God’s grace in his life—as should we all—and he had the humility to ask for it, as he prayed for us,’ the Archbishop said, inviting all to continue praying for Pope Francis with trust and gratitude.

Speaking after the Mass, Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles said the Mass was a moment to reflect on the significance of Pope Francis’ life, describing the late pontiff as ‘one of the most consequential people of this century’.

‘The way in which he promoted a listening Church, the way in which he focused on the poor, on the rights of working people, on the intergenerational justice associated with the issue of climate change, represents a leadership which not only speaks to the millions of Catholics around the world, but actually speaks to a much broader population.’

Other mourners, many visibly moved, had nothing but praise for the late Pope Francis.

Patrick, who came to the Cathedral with his young son, said the Mass had helped him come to terms with the Pope’s death. ‘We know that he suffered a lot with illness, but I was quite hopeful when he was discharged from hospital. I thought he was going to pull through,’ he said.

Patrick thought it was significant the Pope was able to give a final blessing on Easter Sunday. ‘That was quite touching for me, and I think he was quite prepared for the passing and that was why he was able to give that last blessing.’

Patrick’s friend Emanuel said, ‘Pope Francis is someone that I respect a lot; very simple, humble. I feel the world just lost a father.’ ■



Priests gather for Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral.

A healing and forgiving mission: more than 200 priests gather for Chrism Mass

At this year's Chrism Mass, on Tuesday 15 April, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reflected on the way Jesus invited not only the assured, but also the outsider—the poor, the wounded, the overlooked—into God's kingdom and into a royal priesthood.

This invitation 'is found in his own anointing as the *Faithful Witness* to God's rule of love and healing,' the Archbishop said. 'His was an anointing in blood, on the cross. He was crushed, and poured out, for us. To borrow from Isaiah's image, Jesus lived and acted as a priest, a mediating witness; his ministry was to 'bind up hearts that are broken', to be God's healer.'

'This is made visible for us in the blessing of the oils today: they are ointments for curing and for consecrating, for restoring and for commissioning. They point to the work of binding up wounds, and anointing ministers. They are signs that point to the servant who witnesses to Christ's sacrificial love.'

During the Mass, more than 200 assembled priests—a record number—renewed their vows, and the holy oils were blessed and consecrated: sacred signs of healing, restoration and commissioning. These will go to parishes and communities across the Archdiocese, to anoint the sick, prepare the baptised, confirm the faithful and ordain new ministers. ■

Death is 'a new beginning', Pope Francis wrote in unpublished reflection on old age

Written by Junno Arocho Esteves (CNS)

Growing old isn't something to be feared but rather something to embrace as a time of grace in one's life, Pope Francis wrote in a preface for a book that was not released before he died.

'We should not be afraid to embrace growing old, because life is life, and sugarcoating reality means betraying the truth of things,' the Pope wrote in early February, in the preface for *Waiting for a New Beginning: Reflections on Old Age*, by Cardinal Angelo Scola, retired Archbishop of Milan.

Death is 'not the end of everything, but the beginning of something new,' the Pope wrote. 'It is a new beginning, as the title wisely suggests, because eternal life—which those who love already begin to experience here on earth, in the midst of their daily occupations—is the start of something that will never end. And it is "new" precisely because we will live something we have never experienced fully before: eternity,' he wrote.

'To say "old" does not mean "worthless", as a throwaway culture would sometimes have us believe. Saying "old" instead means saying experience, wisdom, understanding, discernment, prudence, attentiveness, slowness—all values we desperately need!'

Pope Francis said the real issue is not that one grows old but rather 'how we grow old' and if it is lived 'as a grace, and not with resentment'. ■



Pope Francis greets 100-year-old Lucilla Macelli before celebrating Mass in St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on 23 July 2023. (Photo: CNS/Vatican Media.)

By his wounds, we are healed: Archbishop's Easter message

When Jesus stood among his disciples after the resurrection, he showed them his wounds, the marks of his crucifixion.

Those marks were not just proof of what he had suffered; they were proof of what he had done. Jesus wanted his disciples to see, with their own eyes, that he had taken their wounded lives into his own body.

St Peter, who was there that day, never forgot this. Later he would write, 'By his wounds, you have been healed' (1 Peter 2:24).

In his crucifixion, Christ carried the full weight of our failures, our hurts, the injuries done to us, and the damage we have done to ourselves and others. He did so knowing we could not heal them alone.

In his resurrection, he stood before his friends with a body bearing our wounds, yet gloriously alive. The resurrection of Christ was a declaration: nothing we carry is beyond his power to redeem. No injury too deep. No past too broken. No heart too far gone.

The wounds we bear can feel like the end of our story. They threaten to define us, to trap us. They try to tell us there is no way ahead.

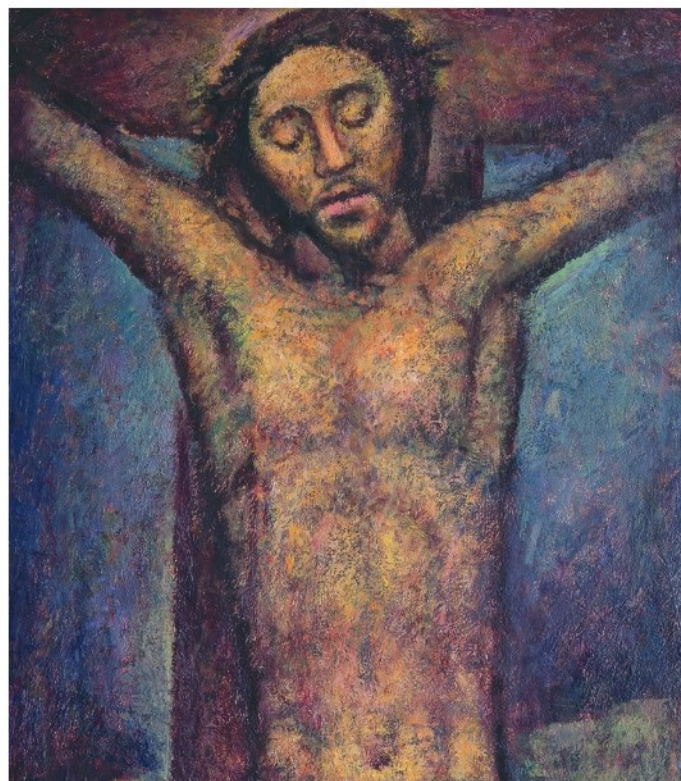
**Easter tells us that our wounds
are not where the story ends.**

ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI

But Easter speaks another word: a healing word, a forgiving word. Easter tells us that our wounds are not where the story ends. Easter shows us there is a path to healing, and a vista onto a new dawn.

The risen Christ, bearing his crucifying marks, is the sign of hope we need. He entered fully into the depths of our brokenness, so that we might emerge with him, healed.

This is the promise of Easter: that in him, our wounds do not have the final word. Life does. For we are healed in the crucified and risen Christ. ■



Painting by Australian artist Eric Smith.

Sacraments of Initiation celebrated across the Archdiocese

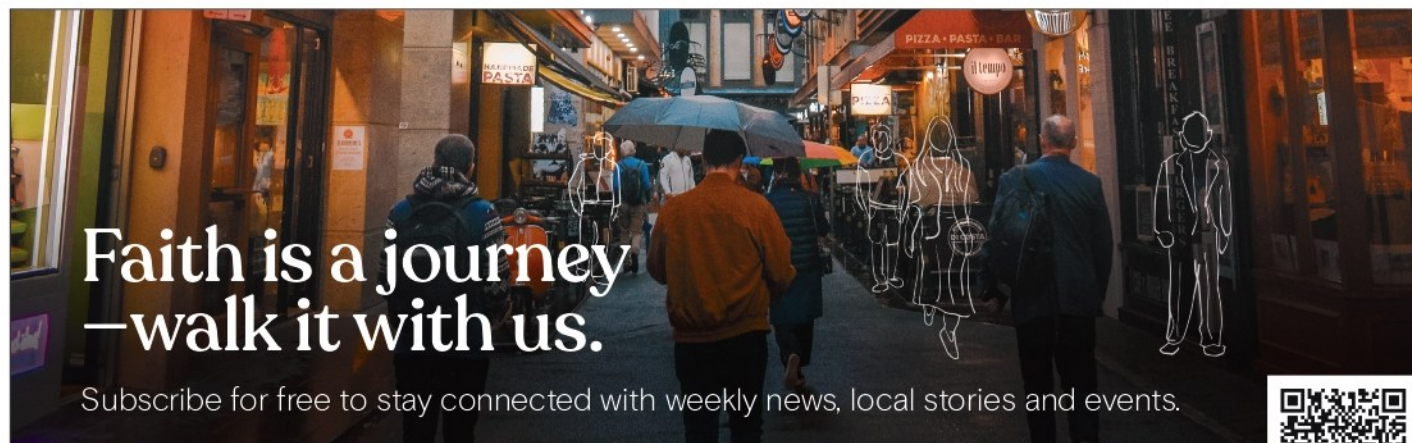
A sense of joy and hope pervaded the celebration of Easter Vigil at St Patrick's Cathedral and parishes across the Archdiocese, with hundreds receiving the sacraments of initiation. At St Patrick's Cathedral, Archbishop Comensoli baptised and confirmed dozens of catechumens and candidates, a reflection of the growing numbers of people finding their way to the Catholic faith. Their witness, and the celebration of Easter across the Archdiocese highlighted the transformative power of Christ's love and the enduring hope to be found in his resurrection.

In his homily, Archbishop Comensoli said, 'In his crucifixion, Christ carried the full weight of our failures, our hurts, the injuries done to us, and the damage we have done to ourselves and others. In his resurrection, he stood before the world with a body bearing those wounds—our wounds—now gloriously healed.' ■

**Faith is a journey
—walk it with us.**

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Light into the City: Archbishop welcomes \$60m government pledge for Cathedral precinct

On 30 April 2025, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli wrote to the clergy, religious and laity of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, describing St Patrick's Cathedral as 'a light into the city'.

Noting the responsibility to keep this light shining brightly, 'not only for ourselves but for all who seek hope, beauty and a spiritual home here', the Archbishop welcomed Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's pre-election pledge of 'a \$60 million commitment to begin the restoration and revitalisation of St Patrick's Cathedral and its precinct', as well as the federal Opposition's matching pledge.

These commitments, he wrote, were 'a bold and generous investment in the future, a sign of confidence that this place of faith, history and community will continue to shine at the heart of Melbourne for many years to come.'

For many years the Archbishop has described the Cathedral 'as a place that must always be a source of light for the wider community—a beacon along the path of communion, formation, and mission, that brings the Gospel to life in all its fullness'.

The letter noted that more than 10,000 people walk through the doors of the Cathedral each week, and that more than 3,000 might gather there at any one time for special celebrations, 'with many thousands more joining through liturgical broadcasts'.

[St Patrick's Cathedral is] a place that must always be a source of light for the wider community

ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI



St Patrick's Cathedral.

However, it was no secret, he said, that 'after more than a century, St Patrick's now requires significant restoration and renewal', a task that is not just about 'repairing stonework or mending tiles', but 'about ensuring that this living Church—this light in the heart of our city—remains strong, vibrant, and ready to serve future generations'.

The letter outlined the scope of work to be completed on the Cathedral in coming years, including essential remedial and restoration work, as well as improvements to public amenities and parish and community gathering spaces, and the development of 'dedicated locations for outreach, healing, and faith formation'.

'St Patrick's was, and remains, a work of love and hope,' he concluded, an investment 'in the life and heart of our people, and their place in the story of this city. This is a life-giving project that will involve us all' ■

Broadcast and livestream of Masses at St Patrick's Cathedral

MONDAYS–FRIDAYS • 1PM*

SATURDAYS • 8AM*

SUNDAYS • 11AM**

*Livestreamed on
youtube.com/archmelb

**Broadcast on community channel C31/digital television channel 44 and livestreamed on
youtube.com/archmelb



Upcoming events at St Patrick's Cathedral

SUNDAY 11 MAY • 3PM

Mother's Day Concert, with Michael Petruccelli (Tenor) and Coady Green (Piano). Book tickets at trybooking.com/BRYBS or buy at the door.

SUNDAY 1 JUNE • 11AM

Marriage Anniversary Mass. Married couples celebrating a significant anniversary (5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th or 40 years+) are invited to register: trybooking.com/DAKBR

SUNDAY 22 JUNE • 11AM

Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession. Beginning with 11am Mass. All are welcome.



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

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
Warren Beaton, Betty Frape, Rita Fraser, Cath Molin, Pat O'Connor

Eltham

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

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

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

Roster for week ending 11 May 2025

Andreatta, Brenda	CLNR
Armstrong, Miranda	C10:00
Capuana, Marisa	LoW-01 Thu
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	H10:00
Reardon, Peter	H10:00
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scully, Greg	H10:00
Scully, Helen	H10:00
Stewart Family	PRSE
Williams, Peter	R10:00

Roster for week ending 18 May 2025

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Bucknell Family	H10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Scully, Greg	R10:00
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Thu
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Stone, Nan	CLNR
Wood, Marie	W8:30
Zavadil Family	PRSE
Zerjal, Frida	CLNR

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, 10th May, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Alora Belle Mastrolorito
Elle Rose McMahon
Will Brent McMahon
Frankie Allira Moore
Charlotte Elena Mulhall
Oliver Francis Wood

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Amelia Grace Hunt
Matthew Joseph Little
Chloe Maree Warren

First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Mother's Day

A very happy Mother's Day to all mothers within our parish and school communities. We very much value all the support you give to our conference in helping families for whom everyday life can be a struggle.

The Montmorency conference of SVDP has some booklets that may be of interest to parishioners in celebrating this day. Pamphlets are in the front foyer near the entrance doors. Some of the pamphlets include:

- Celebrate MOTHERS – Prayers and Reflections on Motherhood,
- Prayers for a New Mother,
- Prayers for Expectant Mothers – Blessing the Child Within,
- Celebrate Grandparents,
- Praying for Grandparents.

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.

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer with St Vincent de Paul through our conference? If so, please contact John on 0410 128 821 or the Parish Office.

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team - Member Profile

Introducing: Mark O'Dowd

Sentence about yourself, family and which Mass you attend:

I have been teaching in Catholic Secondary for 20 years. I genuinely love it. Something about the gift of educating people still spurs me on two decades later. I am also a Cub Scout leader at Eltham North. Elisha and I have three boys, growing up very quickly. Edan has finished school and is studying at ACT. Dom and Lachie are Year 9 and 11 respectively. We often go to Saturday night Mass but live busy lives and you will see us reasonably regularly at 10am Mass.



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

I joined the PLT because I see the value of living and thriving in community for all people of all ages and want to be a part of sustaining Risen Christ Parish. I see value in what it does for myself and others, like many of us I would like to give back to a group of people I have grown to love as family.

What do you do with yourself?

As I said earlier, I am a secondary teacher, but also a husband and father. All these roles shape the person I am.

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

I am the youngest of 6, only one left in Melbourne. Oh, and Lego is awesome!

What is one thing on your bucket list that people might be surprised to learn?

I would love to travel to Ireland and visit the O'Dowd Clan sites. It would be like a pilgrimage almost. I also would love to get the Rivendell Lego set. It is a piece of art!

Prayers of the Faithful for 11 May 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Leader: The Father and I - we are one, says Jesus. It is why we pray to the Father, through the intercession of the Risen Christ and in the Spirit who completes the Trinity.

For the Church: that the new Pope will faithfully fulfil his role as St Peter's successor, as the Shepherd of his flock, and that he will be mindful of the needs of the Church throughout the world; that all clergy and religious will remain true to their vocation in a world which so desperately needs their guidance and example.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the people of Australia: that we will be governed by leaders who value the dignity of all people, regardless of age, ethnicity or religion.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our two communities of Risen Christ Parish: that we will continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of all in our community and that we will follow our Shepherd and live according to His mission to preach the Good News and uphold the values and traditions of our Catholic faith.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those newly received into the Church and those children preparing for the sacraments: that they will be given the grace and strength to follow the Good Shepherd throughout their lives.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are suffering ill health, especially those named in the bulletin: that they will have faith in the Good Shepherd that he will always be present in their lives to offer comfort and encouragement.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Warren Beaton, Bernard Cosgriff, Betty Frape, Rita Fraser, Cath Molin & Pat O'Connor*: may they enjoy the eternal life promised to those who have faithfully followed the Good Shepherd.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bountiful God, you who give us the Shepherd who leads all humanity to the source of all life, deign to grant our prayers today, through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

YOU'RE INVITED! The St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria delivers crucial assistance with care and compassion to vulnerable individuals. Our Eltham and Montmorency Conferences are privileged to support families and individuals in our local area in their time of need. Assistance covers a range of essential support including food, education needs, utility bills, rent and beyond. We are looking for new volunteers to join us, and invite you to attend an information session to learn more about our work and how you could participate.

COME AND SEE Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 10.00am St Martin of Tours Parish 5 Silk Street Rosanna.

Any further enquiries please contact: Peter Rigg (Eltham) 0421 703 523 or John Ramsdale (Montmorency) 0410 128 821

To Pray as Jesus prayed; and as He taught his Apostles

A talk (13min) on tape presented Father Gerry Pierse discussion of the Highlights of the Talk presented by Barry Caldwell

Place: Gathering Area, Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Eltham

Date: Sunday, 18th of May

Time: 2.00 pm