

# Risen Christ



The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

8 & 9 November 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 2:13-22

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market'. Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up'. The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

### Parish Renewal Program

This weekend is the **launch** of our special **Parish Renewal Program** - the first in more than a decade - and we would love you to be involved! Over 3 weeks, the Program is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our role in parish life, and to 'review and renew' our commitment to each other and the mission of our parish. We must ensure we provide the human and financial resources for mission, vibrant liturgy, faith formation, and pastoral care and outreach. The Program will feature at Mass, and you can also follow through regular updates via our Parish website and the school newsletters. This weekend Parishioners will share their love of Parish at each Mass and copies of the special Program brochure will be distributed on arrival. The Parish is being assisted with the Program by Stephen Littleton from Parish First.

#### Thoughts for Reflection:

**Q: Why is celebrating our faith as a Parish Community important to you?**

"Celebrating as a faith community enables me to become one in heart and mind with others at Mass. We listen to the words of Scripture, celebrate Eucharist, and together renewed and revitalised, go out to live and share our faith."

"Showing my children how to follow Jesus is important to me - how to come together at Mass as part of our faith community on a regular basis."

**Pope Leo:** "Together we must look for ways to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges and encourages dialogue, a Church ever open to welcoming with open arms."

The members of the **Passionist Family Group Movement in Montmorency** will celebrate their 30th Anniversary today, Sunday, 9 November at the 8:30am Mass followed by hospitality in the Parish House afterwards to which all are welcome.



Dear Parishioners,  
for all November  
Masses,  
weekday & weekend,  
the Sacrament of  
Anointing  
will be offered to  
everyone  
at the conclusion of our  
Parish Celebrations  
of the Eucharist.



*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](mailto:Michael.Sierakowski@cam.org.au)

#### Parish Office

all correspondence to:  
86 Mayona Road,  
Montmorency Vic 3094  
9435 4742

[RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au](mailto:RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au)

Kate Kogler:

**Parish Secretary**  
Tue-Fri 9am-3pm

Peter Williams:

**Safeguarding Officer**  
[RisenChrist.ChildSafety@cam.org.au](mailto:RisenChrist.ChildSafety@cam.org.au)

#### **Volunteers**

Marisa Capuana: Various

Kerry Mash: Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

[www.melbcatholic.org/risenchristparish](http://www.melbcatholic.org/risenchristparish)

Facebook: [Risen Christ Parish](https://www.facebook.com/RisenChristParish)

Risen Christ Parish Bulletin items:

[RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au](mailto:RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au)

#### Schools

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

[principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

[www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au](http://www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au)

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Rudy Vail: 9439 7824

[school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](mailto:school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

[www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au](http://www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au)

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Jo Nolen: 9435 8474

[principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

[www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au](http://www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au)

## RECONCILIATION

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

### Collections: 19 & 26 October 2025

|              |            | OLHC       | SFX        |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Thanksgiving | Cash       | \$502.00   | \$642.00   |
|              | Electronic | \$3,599.00 | \$2,980.50 |
| Presbytery   | Cash       | \$515.80   | \$1,099.75 |
|              | Electronic | \$100.00   | \$160.00   |

### Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering

| Month     | OLHC       | SFX         | Total       |
|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|
| July      | \$5,586.47 | \$8,151.50  | \$13,737.97 |
| August    | \$6,513.67 | \$9,149.50  | \$15,663.17 |
| September | \$6,600.67 | \$11,649.50 | \$18,250.17 |

## Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

### Saturday 8

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### Sunday 9

8:30am Mass & 30th Anniversary of Passionist Family  
Group Movement in Montmorency Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

### Monday 10

7:30pm RCIA Class

Eltham

### Tuesday 11

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

### Wednesday 12

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

### Thursday 13

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

### Friday 14

9:30am Mass

Eltham

### Saturday 15

12:00pm Baptisms: Jackson, Zoe,  
Aria, William

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

### Sunday 16

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

9:30am Small Church Community  
Facilitators Meeting

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Luca, Leo, Xavier, Skylah, Leo

Eltham

### Monday 17

7:30pm RCIA Class

Eltham

### Tuesday 18

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr Prep, 1 & 2

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

## Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,  
Following is a list of ways in which you can  
give towards the running of our Parish  
(clockwise from top right):

A) scan the QR code (<https://bit.ly/45ifhRp>) & you can donate to any  
Parish finance campaign including  
Thanksgiving, Presbytery Offerings,  
baptisms etc.

B) cash/coins in the collection baskets at  
each church

C) EFTPOS terminals

D) thanksgiving envelopes

E) 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:

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

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

*Andrew John Azzopardi, Peter Baker, Desmond Deehan,  
Julian Keogh, Melinda Layne, Leo Maynes, Ian McCabe,  
Joseph McCudden, Russell Mee, Maria Morabito*

### Eltham

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

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

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

*Matthew Bibby*

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office  
9435 4742 or [RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au](mailto:RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au).

## November Remembrances...

Adrian Aloï; Andrew John Azzopardi; Peter Baker;  
Natalia & Boleslav Baryla; Matthew Bibby;  
Antonion Chincarini (jnr); Ryszard, Teresa & Zbigniew Cichacki;  
Anthony & Elizabeth Corera; Desmond Deehan;  
Bernard Edmond; Bill Gayfer; Philip Ferrarotto;  
Rudolf Jakubik; Julian Keogh; Ryszard Klepacz;  
Jim Kollaris; Melinda Layne; Betty Lord;  
Peggy Marmion; Leo Maynes; Ian McCabe;  
Joseph McCudden; Russell Mee;  
Maria Morabito; Fr Barry Moran;  
Fr Peter O'Rourke; Frank Paoli;  
Valeria Perosin; Maria, Janina & Wladyslaw Rygala



**Wishing Barbara Bibby a  
very happy birthday**

## Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

The traders and the animals were in the Temple to facilitate the offering of sacrifice to God. In this incident Jesus seems to be redefining the meaning of true worship. In the three Synoptics, the incident occurs late in the gospel and explains the mounting conflict with the Jewish leaders. In John's gospel, it occurs quite early and has a different purpose. It introduces the idea of Jesus as the new Temple.

Destroy the Temple and Jesus will raise it up in three days - he is speaking of his body and the resurrection. Once again, there is a helpful shift from bricks and mortar to the person of Christ. In time, his risen body came to be understood as the Church, the Body of Christ, the community of the baptised. Here Christians recognise the successor to the Temple.

The double tradition of old and new was often illustrated in medieval paintings showing two women personifying 'synagoga' and 'ecclesia'. The former was depicted blindfolded or eyes cast down and often accompanied by an animal of sacrifice; the second was portrayed as a youthful figure looking forward and bearing the chalice of the blood of Christ.

In the gospel, God's presence is no longer confined to a building, no matter how holy. God is present everywhere through the Spirit of the risen Lord and especially in the community of the Church.

## Roster for week ending 9 Nov 2025

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Armstrong, Miranda | E10:00     |
| Bucknell, Dom      | R10:00     |
| Dhanasen Family    | PRSE       |
| Dopheide, Marlis   | E10:00     |
| Dunell, Linda      | ASE        |
| Dunell, Linda      | E10:00     |
| Grande, Silvana    | H10:00     |
| Haines, Jan-Marie  | E10:00     |
| Hannon, Genni      | ASRC       |
| Hannon, Kevin      | ASRC       |
| Heyhoe, Margaret   | C10:00     |
| Kulkens, Mark      | W6:00      |
| Lodi, Liduina      | H10:00     |
| Maloney, Jo        | W6:00      |
| Nolan, Kathleen    | H10:00     |
| Nolan, Kathleen    | PRYR       |
| Nolan, Mike        | H10:00     |
| Scully, Greg       | E10:00     |
| Sullivan, Frances  | W8:30      |
| Watson, Denis      | CLNR       |
| Wood, Marie        | LoW-01 Thu |
| Wood, Marie        | W8:30      |

## Roster for week ending 16 Nov 2025

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Castellanos, Rodrigo | E10:00     |
| Donnellan, Denice    | E10:00     |
| Drljo, Frank         | CLNR       |
| Edwards, Elisabeth   | E10:00     |
| French, Jossie       | W8:30      |
| Haines, Geoff        | C10:00     |
| Iliffe, Yvonne       | E10:00     |
| Leahy Family         | PRSE       |
| Love, Philip         | W8:30      |
| Maloney, Nigel       | W6:00      |
| Nolan, Mike          | PRYR       |
| Reardon, Kathy       | ASE        |
| Rigg, Peter          | H10:00     |
| Rygala, Ella         | H10:00     |
| Said, Marie          | ASRC       |
| Said, Mike           | ASRC       |
| Skipper, Patsy       | CLNR       |
| Skipper, Patsy       | LoW-01 Thu |
| Smith, Neil          | E10:00     |
| Stone, Nan           | W6:00      |
| Taylor, Trish        | R10:00     |

**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



ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

# SERVICE *of* LAMENT

## PRAYER RESOURCE

## INTRODUCTION

The Year of Jubilee is a time of mercy, renewal, and reconciliation — a call to set right what has been broken in our relationships with God and one another. Through lament and repentance, we open ourselves to the transforming grace of God, trusting that even from the deepest wounds, new life and hope can emerge. Shaped by this ancient call of the Year of Jubilee, and in response to the profound suffering endured by survivors of abuse within the Church, an inaugural **Service of Lament** will be acknowledged in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

A prayer of lament expresses deep suffering, frustration, or grief from a painful situation, an honest expression to God. Lament is a refusal of silence before God, gathering powerful emotions, and a dialogue that leads to petition and a prayer of faith and hope, not despair. It is a trust that our God is with us always, even in times of darkness, as our strength and hope.

Archbishop Peter A Comensoli and Archdiocesan leaders, clergy and lay, members of the wider Catholic community, and some survivors and their families, will come together for a Service of Lament to acknowledge the past and lament the impacts on children, their families and communities. For this inaugural offering, and as a gesture of understanding, **the Service of Lament will be held on National Survivors Day (12 November 2025) at St Patrick's Cathedral** to acknowledge, remember and mark the fragile emergence of hope.

The Prayer Service of Lament at the Cathedral will primarily be held for survivors and their families to hear this Prayer of Lament from the Church. Parishes have the option to send 1-2 representatives for the service to show their support and acknowledgement of the day.

## A PRAYER OF LAMENT IN PARISHES

Parishes may wish to acknowledge this day locally.

**Parishes and communities of the Archdiocese of Melbourne are invited to enter an intentional time of prayer from Wednesday 5 November to Wednesday 12 November 2025.**

This resource includes prayers of intercession for incorporation into Masses or other prayer gatherings on some or all of the days of the week. They could also be incorporated into an individual's daily prayer in their own time and space.

## INTERCESSIONS FOR DAILY PRAYER

As a candle flickers with a glimmer of hope, we acknowledge the deep shadows of pain and the immeasurable loss of childhood that can never be restored. The Psalms of lament — *“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?”* (Psalm 13) — echo through our hearts as we name the wounds of betrayal, grief, and loss. Even in the silence of *“darkness, my only companion”* (Psalm 88), we dare to trust that God hears the cries of His people and holds them in their suffering.

For those whose lives are impacted by the enduring and painful memory of abuse and violence perpetrated in the Church: May their families, friends and supporters renew their trust and security in loving relationships.

***Let us pray to the Lord.***

For justice and healing for the victims of child sexual abuse by clergy, religious and lay workers. May all members of the Church strive to be instruments of healing.

***Let us pray to the Lord.***

For wisdom and compassion in our leaders and those who have care for the at risk in our faith community: that they will do all in their power to protect children from any form of abuse. May we all work together to make our churches, schools and families havens of safety and respect for the young and at risk.

***Let us pray to the Lord.***

For repentance by those who have perpetrated the sins and crimes of abuse in the Church, and for justice and truth to shed light where there is darkness.

***Let us pray to the Lord.***

For the grace of renewal for all those people whose Christian faith and hope have been bruised by the painful legacy of those who minister in your name which has caused such hurt to the innocent.

***Let us pray to the Lord.***

For the safety of all young people entrusted to the care of parents, carers, teachers and pastoral workers, and for healing and consolation of all affected by abuse of children and adults.

***Let us pray to the Lord.***

## PRAYERS OF LAMENT AND HEALING

Loving Father, as members of your Church, we are deeply sorry and heartbroken by the depth of trauma inflicted on victims of crimes of emotional, physical, spiritual and sexual abuse in our communities by representatives of our Catholic faith. Lord open our hearts, minds, eyes and ears to the meaning of the ‘Body of Christ’ so that we hear the pain of those who were abused. Teach us to know how to act in genuine solidarity with all victims of abuse, their families and advocates as they strive for justice and healing.

God of endless love,  
ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the trust  
placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize  
over the harm done to our  
brothers and sisters.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,  
soothe restless hearts with hope,  
steady shaken spirits with faith:  
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,  
enlightened by truth and enfolded  
in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people’s wounds  
and transform our brokenness.  
Grant us courage and wisdom,  
humility and grace,  
so that we may act with justice  
and find peace in you.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

PRAYER: UNITED STATES BISHOPS CONFERENCE

## SYMBOLIC RITUAL OF LAMENT – THE TYING OF RIBBONS

As part of the Service of Lament, a ritual action of will take place through the tying of ribbons. Each ribbon represents a prayer – a voice, a story, a loss, a hope – offered before God and held within the hearts of those gathered acknowledging the pain and enduring strength of survivors of abuse. Their colours and movement speak to both grief and resilience: what has been torn and frayed may yet become part of something tender and beautiful in time.

This symbolic ritual is inspired by the beautiful imagery utilised on the [National Survivors Day website](#) with the ribbons floating in the wind.

At the end of the Archdiocesan Service of Lament, the ritual will be initiated by Archbishop Peter A Comensoli with his tying a ribbon onto the central prayer focus (a cluster of decorative branches) – a visible act of repentance and solidarity on behalf of the Church. Following this, survivors and other attendees will be invited to tie their ribbons as they depart from the Service.

The ribbons will remain in temporary placement on the decorative branches during the prayer service and at the conclusion the whole display will be moved into the Cathedral and placed at the foot of the Sanctuary. A week later, all of the ribbons will be carefully gathered and preserved for inclusion in a future artwork of remembrance and hope. Ribbons that have been collected from other Catholic parish church sites, and the Cathedral fences, may be included in this display too.

If your parish or you would like to contribute to this ritual, then please consider providing ribbons to your parish representatives attending the service, or visiting the Cathedral sometime in the week after the service to tie them onto the branches.

No words of apology – while always needed – will ever be enough to right the evil done to those who have been abused, and those who were not listened to and believed. Efforts to repair the harm done – while entirely necessary – cannot overcome the evil perpetrated upon innocent children and vulnerable adults, and the harm experienced by families and communities.

Therefore, and looking ahead, it falls to me, as your Archbishop, to ensure that our local Church in Melbourne is unequivocally committed to attending to the harm done, prioritising the dignity and care of all who are young and vulnerable, rebuilding trust among our people, and creating safe environments in our communities, agencies and organisations. This is the way of Jesus Christ. It must be my way. And I invite you to join with me in making it our common Gospel way.

ARCHBISHOP PETER A COMENSOLI

## IN FUTURE

This Service of Lament has been developed not as a single event, but as the beginning of an evolving initiative. A reflective and prayerful day that will continue to grow and be shaped over the years ahead and following the feedback of survivors may look to develop further or shift to another means of acknowledgement. We remain open to continuing to hear from and engage with survivors on the way forward following this inaugural service.

Through lament, we seek not closure but truth; not resolution but remembrance and reverence – so that what was suffered will not be forgotten. Together, we open our hearts to the slow work of healing and the ongoing conversion of the Church and trusting, with the psalmist, that *“the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit”* (Psalm 34:18).

## Prayers of the Faithful for 9th November 2025 The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

**Leader:** We are the living stones of the sanctuary of God.

We pray for our sisters and brothers who thirst for justice and peace, desirous of a better life for all.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Leo XIV, Bishop of Rome and pastor of the Church of Rome, for priests, deacons and all those baptised in Christ: that they continue to be faithful to Christ's teaching.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in public office: that they always seek to serve the common good and to respect the dignity of all, especially the most vulnerable.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all participants at COP30 in Brazil: that they show wisdom and discernment in their deliberations.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the teenagers of our Parish and others, including adults, who are completing their VCE exams: that their results will lead them to future success in their chosen fields.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are dealing with illness or anxiety, both in our parish communities and elsewhere: that they find comfort and assistance from family, friends or carers.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

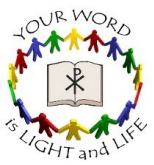
We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Andrew John Azzopardi, Peter Baker, Matthew Bibby, Desmond Deehan, Julian Keogh, Melinda Layne, Leo Maynes, Ian McCabe, Joseph McCudden, Russell Mee and Maria Morabito*: that they are safe in the loving arms of Jesus their Saviour.

*Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** God the most high, you who are our loving Father, listen to the prayers of your people. In your mercy, deign to answer them. Through the Risen Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen



### Small Church Community

With Advent fast approaching it is timely for us to gather again.

There will be a meeting of Facilitators of Small Church in the Parish House, 86 Mayona Rd

on 16th Nov, after the 8:30am Mass.

All are welcome.

We will share stories of where we find ourselves at the present moment. We will pray the Spirit of wisdom be with us as we discern ways of moving forward in solidarity, promoting involvement and the sharing of talents as we journey towards being a synodal Parish and Church.

Enquiries, Patsy 0429 439 675



St Vincent de Paul Society  
*good works*

### Advent and Christmas

There's no time to rest after the Spring Racing Carnival and all the events at our major entertainment centres these past few days. The shopping centres are already promoting Santa coming to their centres. Advent is just a few weeks away as we start our preparation for Christmas. The Montmorency conference of SVdP has some booklets that may be of interest to parishioners at this time. Pamphlets are in the front foyer near the entrance doors. Some of the pamphlets include:

- Expecting Jesus - A Daily Advent Devotional;
- Advent Pondering of the Heart - Discovering Angels in our Midst;
- Advent and Me;
- One Minute Reflection for Advent;
- The Symbols and Traditions of Advent;
- Praying with Scripture During Advent; and
- Prayers Around the Advent Wreath.

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

**Thank you all for the support you give to our local St Vincent de Paul Conference.**

**If you need assistance call 1800 305 330 Monday to Friday between 10am and 3pm.**



## ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE ON OUR MALAYSIAN ASYLUM SEEKERS

Marlis and I are currently hosting Nor (34 weeks pregnant) and her 2.7 yr daughter. When we moved houses a bit over a year ago, to downsize and slow down, we had NO intention of having a refugee/asylum seekers/homeless living with us again. But God had a different plan.

Nor comes from Malaysia, which is a safe, secure country that does not have an immigration agreement with Australia. But Nor has arrived on our soil fleeing the trauma of “a black magic curse”. Do Marlis and I believe in black magic? Emphatically NO. But do we believe it can psychologically cripple a person who DOES believe in it? Well, YES. We totally believe that Nor BELIEVES she is marked and damaged. And for that reason, we have reached out to help her.

The belief in black magic is well entrenched in many parts of Malaysia (and other areas of Asia). So Nor was raised to believe that these curses could cripple her life. Her mother fueled this belief. But there is a deeper complexity to Nor’s story. When she was 10 yrs old, her mother took her to a “Brain Doctor” because she did not think Nor was learning properly; her thought processing seemed different. The doctor did not do any tests and gave no diagnosis. But her mother talked to Nor constantly about how her brain seemed not to work properly.

When Nor’s first child (Khayla) was born in Victoria, the family were homeless. They were admitted to the Parenting Assessment and Skill Development Service program at QEC, and the observation summaries of BOTH parents’ abilities to care for Khayla, are damning. It was clear Nor did NOT retain learning one day to the next and was unable to problem-solve to keep Khayla safe. Marlis and I have observed the same symptoms. We work DAILY to try to teach Nor new parenting skills, and more importantly, to retain them. It is a long hard road.

We have engaged a lawyer to assist with a PROPER visa application for Nor, Khayla and the unborn baby. We are also arranging a Neuropsychological assessment of Nor (when we can locate a suitable professional), and then she may also need a Mental Health assessment and an IQ test. Certainly, with the intellectual capacity she displays she is highly susceptible to “brainwashing”.

If Nor returns to Malaysia with her child/ren, she returns to a safe country. BUT, she has NO family or friend support and neither does her husband Ridz. Marlis and I are committed to finding out if Nor has an intellectual challenge, because if she does, we believe more than ever she needs to remain in Australia (where Khayla and the yet to be born child have both been born).

Because the family are without visas, they have no Medicare or Centrelink access. Therefore Marlis and I (with the support of donations) are housing, feeding, paying legal fees, providing GP appointments, paying for all Mercy Hospital blood tests & ultrasounds, covering neuropsychological assessments, and paying for occasional play group sessions for Khayla.

We recognise that the “black magic” issue may make people VERY uncomfortable – and we can relate to that. But we are appealing for you to see beyond that, and to pray for healing for Nor, and the well being of Khayla and the unborn baby.

### DONATION INFORMATION:

BSB: 633000 Acc#: 210647517

Acc Name: Miranda Armstrong (or Miranda B Armstrong)

Blessings, Miranda

