

Risen Christ



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

20 & 21 September 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.



R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



An open invitation is extended to people who are not Catholic, or as Adults have not received the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation and would like to fully participate in the Mass with the reception of the Eucharist. Please contact us and let's begin our enquiry time together.

Risen Christ Parish, Eltham & Montmorency welcome your participation.

What is RCIA? The RCIA, which stands for **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, is a process through which non-baptised men and women enter the Catholic Church. It includes several stages marked by study, prayer and rites at Mass. Participants in the RCIA are known as catechumens, and it's a wonderful adult journey of Christian discovery and personal renewal.

If you know of anyone in your family or friendship groups or neighbourhood that might like to begin this "enquiry" time, with no obligation to continue in the process to Easter 2026, then please feel free to ask them.

Please let Kate (in the parish office) know by phone (9435 4742) or email (RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au).

Gospel - Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to welcome me into their homes."

'Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat," was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

'The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things will be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

*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

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 20

12:00pm Baptisms: Coby, Iris, Esme,
Finn and Beau

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist

Montmorency

Sunday 21

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Daisy, Florence
and Penelope

Eltham

Tuesday 23

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 24

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 25

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 26

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 27

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 28

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 30

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

Wednesday 1 October

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

RECONCILIATION

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

Collections: 7 & 14 September 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$252.00	\$691.00
	Electronic	\$1,735.67	\$4,730.00
Presbytery	Cash	\$500.85	\$957.95
	Electronic	\$50.00	\$180.00

Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
June	\$7,561.67	\$10,092.50	\$17,654.17
July	\$5,586.47	\$8,151.50	\$13,737.97
August	\$6,513.67	\$9,149.50	\$15,663.17

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





A nun holds a picture of Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati in St Peter's Square. (Photo: OSV News/Matteo Minnella, Reuters.)

New young saints encourage faithful to live life to the full, Pope says

By Carol Gatz (CNS)

The greatest risk in life is to waste it by not seeking to follow God's plan, Pope Leo XIV said at the canonisation Mass for the Catholic Church's newest saints. 'Sts Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upward and make them masterpieces,' the Pope said on Sunday 7 September.

More than 80,000 faithful gathered in St Peter's Square and millions online to participate in the liturgy.

'The simple but winning formula of their holiness,' he said, is accessible to everyone at any time. 'They encourage us with their words: "Not I, but God," as Carlo used to say. And Pier Giorgio: "If you have God at the centre of all your actions, then you will reach the end". All of you, all of us, are also called to be saints.'

In his homily, the Pope underlined Jesus' call in the day's Gospel reading 'to abandon ourselves without hesitation to the adventure that he offers us, with the intelligence and strength that comes from his Spirit, that we can

receive to the extent that we empty ourselves of the things and ideas to which we are attached, in order to listen to his word.' That is what the two new saints did and what every disciple of Christ is called to do, he said.

Many people, especially when they are young, he said, face a kind of 'crossroads' when they reflect on what to do with their life. The saints of the church are often portrayed as 'great figures, forgetting that for them it all began when, while still young, they said "yes" to God and gave themselves to him completely, keeping nothing for themselves,' the Pope said.

All of you, all of us, are also called to be saints.

POPE LEO XIV

'Today we look to St Pier Giorgio Frassati and St Carlo Acutis: a young man from the early 20th century and a teenager from our own day, both in love with Jesus and ready to give everything for him,' he said. The pope said the new saints 'cultivated their love for God and for their brothers and sisters through simple acts, available to everyone: daily Mass, prayer and especially Eucharistic adoration.'

He added: 'Even when illness struck and cut short their young lives, not even this stopped them nor prevented them from loving, offering themselves to God, blessing him and praying to him for themselves and for everyone.' ■

Coats, coke and an eye-opening dose of reality

By Melbourne Catholic

The homelessness crisis is growing in Melbourne, as is the need for help. Social welfare volunteers go onto the streets every night to assist in some way, but they only scratch the surface.

Late last month, two Knights of Malta and students from the University of Melbourne's Newman College headed out for one of their weekly runs around the inner city to offer conversation, care packs and warm coats to those sleeping rough. The aim is not to solve the issue of homelessness but to offer recognition and dignity.

The outreach is part of the Coats for the Homeless program, an initiative started years ago by the Knights of Malta—the ancient Catholic lay organisation dedicated to serving the poor and sick. They distribute specially made black coats that are shower-proof, quilted and warm, with secret internal pockets for items of value.

The volunteers loosely follow a St Vincent de Paul (Vinnies) soup van, stopping where it does. They also drive through the streets, looking for people sheltering outside shops who may need something. They approach respectfully, offering bottled water, a can of coke or a care pack containing essentials like socks and toothpaste. Most importantly, they offer their time.

Knight of Malta Joe explains: 'We actually look for homeless people mainly in the city. They're under verandas, in doorways, and we just approach them. That's been very good, probably more what we're about, what we should be about.' He finds people are very receptive. 'It's about connecting with them. That's where I get my satisfaction from, connecting with them, because they're really great.'

They gave the students—two young women named Jazz and Sophia—vests to wear bearing the order's distinctive eight-pointed Maltese cross and explained that many of



From left: Jazz, Richard, Joe and Sophia near Flinders Street station.

the people they would encounter are aware of what the Knights carry and may ask for what they want. Joe, recalling a recent encounter, says some might want privacy, but others are hungry for human contact. 'This lady in the city, she said, "Oh, thank you for stopping," because most people, when they see them, you know, they walk on.'

For the students accompanying the Knights, the experience often provides an eye-opening dose of reality. Danusia Kaska, Newman College's director of faith and service, says that many students find it life-changing. Having run the College's outreach program for several years, Danusia says she often tells the students, 'Treat everyone like he's Jesus.'

Volunteer work is a cornerstone of the Jesuit-administered college's commitment to community service.

'These experiences stay with our students long after they leave,' she says. 'They learn that service is not only about what we offer, but also about what we receive: lessons in humility, gratitude and shared humanity.' ■

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference recently released their 2025 Social Justice Statement, *Signs of Hope on the Edge: Serving People Living in Homelessness and Mental Ill-Health*, encouraging Australians to offer loving friendship to those in need. Read the statement here: bit.ly/2025socialjusticestatement



Dear Holy Father ...

When 11-year-old Melburnian Davide visited Italy last year, he told his parents that he wanted to meet the Pope. When that fell through, his parents encouraged him to write to the Holy Father instead. Neither his parents nor Davide thought that the Holy Father might just write back! In his response, the late Pope Francis sent his warmest greetings and encouragement:

'Dear Davide ... In a kind letter received here, accompanied by some of your photographs, you addressed expressions of great affection to Pope Francis, asking for a sign of spiritual closeness. Thank you for the sentiments you expressed to him. The Holy Father assures you of his prayers so that you may continue your journey with confidence. He urges you to cultivate a friendship with Jesus, as it also becomes an opportunity to open yourself to others ...' ■



From left: Fr Pat Harvey; nurses Deslee, Therese and Fiona from the Clergy Life and Ministry Team; Fr Kevin McIntosh.

A community of care: supporting Melbourne's retired priests

By Melbourne Catholic

The Archdiocese of Melbourne has around a hundred retired priests, most of whom live in one of two retirement communities: George Maher House in Clifton Hill and Justin Villa in Balwyn. Funded by the Priests Retirement Foundation, a major beneficiary of the annual Archbishop's Campaign fundraiser, these facilities and the team running them ensure that those who have dedicated their lives to God's service are supported in their later years.

Among the residents of George Maher House is Fr Kevin McIntosh, who moved in after a long and varied career. His ministry has involved parish life (from Mansfield to Sunbury) and the Marriage Tribunal. Fr Kevin says he is in semi-retirement now, although he has little time to put his feet up. As a supply priest, he goes wherever he is asked to go, including once a month to a men's prison. 'I thought I'd be sitting around reading books, but I'm not,' he laughs. 'A couple of weeks ago, I did four Masses over five days at four different places.'

Another George Maher House resident, Fr Patrick Harvey, spent 18 years in Papua New Guinea with Melbourne Overseas Missions before serving in parishes like Fitzroy and West Brunswick. Fr Pat indicates that it was tough

leaving PNG, and settling back into Australia, after so many years. But he says coming to multicultural Fitzroy 'was like being in another country'. His parish incorporated high-rise housing commission flats. 'When I came, the South Americans were moving out to get their own places, and the Vietnamese were coming in. When I was finishing up there, the Sudanese were coming in, so it's always been like that in Fitzroy.'

The physical and mental wellbeing of all retired priests is overseen by the Clergy Life and Ministry Team, including a group of three registered nurses funded by the foundation. Therese Rush has been part of the team for 11 years and says she finds it deeply meaningful. 'I still very much enjoy coming to work,' she says. The nurses provide immeasurable support to the retired priests, helping with everything from medical appointments and medication management to arranging home care and retirement accommodation.

'I feel very supported here,' Fr Kevin says. 'As we get older, you know, there becomes greater need for more care. These guys have been in parishes up till their late 70s and 80s, have done a tremendous amount of work, and now they need caring for.'

Through the Archbishop's Campaign and the work of the Priests Retirement Foundation, these men, who have given their lives in service, are afforded that care. And for those who do the caring, there is a lot of love. 'I hate to say it without sounding corny,' Therese says, 'but it's such a privilege.' ■



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Events at St Patrick's Cathedral

SIX30 HOLY HOUR • EVERY THURSDAY, 6.30PM

Young Catholics are invited to a time of prayer, music, confession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

CONCERT • FRIDAY 19 SEPTEMBER, 7.30-8.30PM

Polyphonic Voices Presents 'Path of Miracles'

ORDINATIONS • SATURDAY 20 SEPTEMBER • 10AM

Deacons Joshua McDermid, Tuong Nguyen and Ian Vergel will be ordained to the priesthood. The Mass will be broadcast to Channel 44 on TV and online via www.youtube.com/archmelb.



Sr Nathalie Becquart in Melbourne.

Walking together: a reflection on synodality with Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ

By Melbourne Catholic

Sr Nathalie Becquart XMCJ likens the Church's focus on synodality to a pilgrimage, a spiritual and practical journey, with highs, lows and the need for perseverance. The Undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops was recently in Australia to share the Church's vision for a future of listening and mutual cooperation between laity, clergy and bishops.

'Working at the Vatican—and this process—is already a pilgrimage; it's an adventure,' Sr Nathalie told a gathering of Archdiocesan and parish representatives. 'And as you know, when you go on pilgrimage, there are beautiful days ... and sometimes you are tired, sometimes it's difficult. The synodal process is like this.'

This image of pilgrimage sets the tone for how she sees the Church: on the move, listening and learning as it goes. 'More and more, I realise, first of all, we are all deeply connected, and what we have in common is more important than our differences.'

Central to the synodal vision is what Sr Nathalie calls 'mutual interiority': where each part of the Church learns from the other, while maintaining its own identity.

Importantly, it continues the moving away from a top-down approach—a movement that started with the Second Vatican Council and gathered pace in the Pope Francis era. Sr Nathalie points to Pope Leo XIV as a longtime participant in the Church's journey towards synodality, taking part in the process when he was still a bishop in Peru. She says she can testify that he understands the need to engage with the world. 'When you meet him, you can really feel that he's a very deep listener, very rooted in spirituality.'

She says Pope Leo has prioritised the mission of peace, which she says is inextricably linked to the synodality of the Church. 'To serve peace, we need to foster unity and communion in the Church. And that's why he expressed we want to be a synodal church, because that's the way ... we can serve peace and foster peace-building.'

This link between peace-building and synodality has shown itself in concrete ways, Sr Nathalie says, sharing an example from the synodal process: 'At one moment, we had on the same table the bishop of Moscow, Russia, and one of the bishops of Ukraine. And they were able to experience together this mutual listening and dialogue.'

As the first woman undersecretary of the General Secretariat for the Synod of Bishops, Sr Nathalie knows firsthand how difficult it is to navigate a new path within the Church. But she says she doesn't feel she is doing it alone. 'We have different charisms, vocations, gifts, ... ministries, but we can only carry on the mission of the Church together.' ■

We have different charisms, vocations, gifts ... ministries, but we can only carry on the mission of the Church together.'

SR NATHALIE BECQUART XMCJ



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

Montmorency

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

Pat Hosmer, Siobhan Lappin, Frances McDonald,

Jarrold Mizzi, Cindy & Ed Morrissey,

Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), Jeanne Vanderwert

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

Paul Collins, Ruth Elliott, Catherine Griffiths

Eltham

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

Stephen Andrew, Bill Boyce, Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker,

Mary Luttick, Bernard Murray, Audrey Tunks

For the recently **deceased**:

Sally Kolotylo

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

Rosa & Salvatore Ficarra, George Gunton, Onofrio Saltalamacchia

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office

9435 4742 or RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au.



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

Saturday, 20th September, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Iris Louise Brothie

Esme Lillian Brothie

Beau Auryn Dungo Lyddy

Finn Basil Seacombe

Coby Parker Veszpremi

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Sam Jack-Wayne Maloney

First Eucharist

Sunday, 21st September, 2025

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

Audrey Eve Mangan

First Eucharist

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

Daisy Hayley Munn

Baptism

Florence June Munn

Baptism

Penelope Rose Munn

Baptism

Season of Creation

Week Three

Canticle

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water, which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire, through whom you light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.

Reading

Prior to the cauterising of the veins between Francis' eyes and ears, he spoke thus to the fire: 'My brother fire, that surpasses all other things in beauty, the Most High created you strong, beautiful, and useful. Be kind to me in this hour, be courteous. For I have loved you in the past in the Lord. I beseech the great Lord who made you that he temper your heat now so that I may bear it when you burn me gently.' When his prayer was ended, he made the sign of the cross over the fire and then remained fearless. (Adapted from Celano, Second Life of St Francis)

Contemplation

"As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God." (Psalm 42:2)

Prayer of the Week

All-powerful God, Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



**SEASON OF
CREATION**

Roster for week ending 21 Sep 2025

Bucknell, Dom	R10:00
Capuana, Marisa	LoW-01 Thu
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Grande, Silvana	H10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Leahy Family	PRSE
Maloney, Jo	W6:00
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Rygala, Ella	H10:00
Volunteer Please	H10:00
Volunteer Please	H10:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Williams, Peter	PRYR

Roster for week ending 28 Sep 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	R10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	H10:00
Reardon, Peter	H10:00
Rigg Family	PRSE
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Skipper, Patsy	CLNR
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Taylor, Colin	H10:00
Taylor, Trish	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

Prayers of the Faithful for 21 September 2025 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: As children of the light let us be good stewards of the gifts that God has given us. May we never be possessed by our possessions. We offer our needs and the needs of the world as we pray.

For the leaders of our Church: may they take inspiration from the Gospel today and be images of the mercy of God in our world, in all that they say and do, particularly as we work towards a more synodal Church.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all political and economic leaders of the world: may they open themselves to the wisdom of God which shows that mercy is more important than power or wealth and that the world we live in must be cared for with compassion.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all living in the midst of violence and war: that God will open opportunities for peaceful resolution to these conflicts. Open our hearts to their suffering and protect each person from harm.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our parish communities: that we may pay greater attention to the small things in life; that God will find us diligent and faithful, with all our ordinary responsibilities, so that we may share in God's greater gifts.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For refugees and those who have fled violence, particularly children: that God will open the hearts of many to recognise them as sisters and brothers, that we will help them find places of safety, and that they continue to be welcomed into our parish community.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord embrace and support all who are experiencing illness and those who care for them, especially those in our parish communities. We ask that you bring them your healing, comfort and peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, especially *Sally Kolotylo* and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Paul Collins, Ruth Elliott, Rosa & Salvatore Ficarra, Catherine Griffiths, George Gunton and Onofrio Saltalamacchia*: may they be cradled in our Lord's loving embrace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God hear our prayers and help us to find delight in serving you and one another, in a world seduced by wealth. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**



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Fundraising Dinner

Sat 11 Oct at 6pm

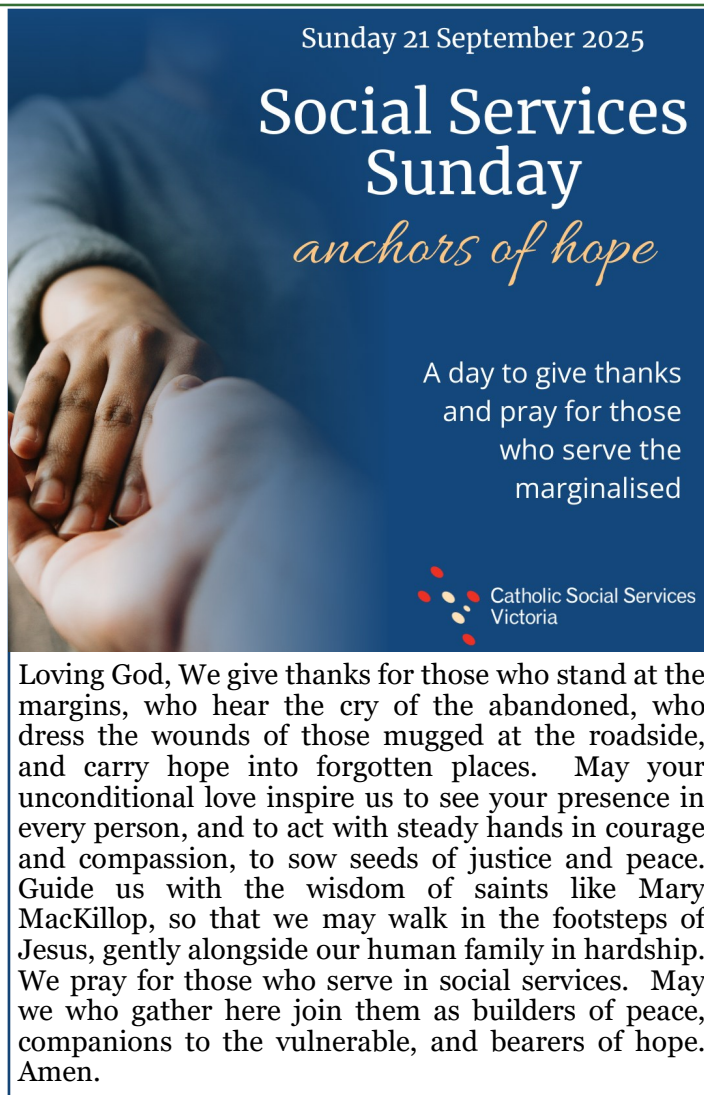
Maney's Dumplings
7/12-16 McLeans Road, Bundoora

\$40 adults, \$20 under 12 years

Please advise dietary requirements
BYO wine, drinks available to purchase
Prepare for our usual wonderful raffle along with the \$1 and \$2 boards
Funds raised will go towards supporting Annie our volunteer nurse in Cebu

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Sunday 21 September 2025

Social Services Sunday

anchors of hope

A day to give thanks and pray for those who serve the marginalised

Catholic Social Services Victoria

Loving God, We give thanks for those who stand at the margins, who hear the cry of the abandoned, who dress the wounds of those mugged at the roadside, and carry hope into forgotten places. May your unconditional love inspire us to see your presence in every person, and to act with steady hands in courage and compassion, to sow seeds of justice and peace. Guide us with the wisdom of saints like Mary MacKillop, so that we may walk in the footsteps of Jesus, gently alongside our human family in hardship. We pray for those who serve in social services. May we who gather here join them as builders of peace, companions to the vulnerable, and bearers of hope. Amen.