

Risen Christ



Second Sunday of Easter

26 & 27 April 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.



*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: 6 & 13 April 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash Electronic	\$307.00 \$1,630.67	\$888.00 \$5,217.00
Presbytery	Cash Electronic	\$481.15 \$50.00	\$1,209.10 \$100.00
Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering			
Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
January	\$6,878.43	\$8,984.50	\$15,862.93
February	\$8,426.67	\$8,121.50	\$16,548.17
March	\$8,083.67	\$15,977.50	\$24,061.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 26

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 27

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 28

7:00pm Eucharist Parent Faith Formation Evening Eltham

Tuesday 29

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

Wednesday 30

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 1 May

9:00am Eucharist Retreat Day
(HT, OLHC, SFX & RCP students) OLHC School

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 2

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 3

12:00pm Baptisms: Kobe, Macey, Miller,
Isla, Jude Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 4

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Jack, Pia, Tex, Astrid

Eltham

Monday 5

11:30am Liturgy with Yr 3 Holy Trinity

2:00pm Mass St Vincent's Aged Care

Tuesday 6

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 3 & 4 Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 7

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 8

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 9

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 10

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

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 11

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 13

9:30am Mass

Montmorency



*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

For the recently **deceased**:

Pope Francis

Montmorency

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:
*Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), Siobhan Lappin,
Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Skye Stojanov*

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

*Giuseppe Alberti, Terry Carrigg, Tania Insera,
Pauline (Moylan) Jones, Anthony Posar, Doug Risson, Brian Sheehan*

Eltham

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:
Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker, Bernard Murray

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

Bryan Gillard

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



A Special 'Thank You' to all those at OLHC who contributed to our Good Friday and Easter morning ceremonies and to the wonderful Dawn breakfast.

Kathleen

Thank you to everyone involved in the Easter celebrations at SFX on Holy Thursday, Saturday's Vigil Mass and Easter Sunday Mass. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. **Patsy**

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

Roster for week ending 27 Apr 2025

Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Cseh, Ferenc	H10:00
Cseh, Nika	H10:00
Cseh, Nika	R10:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	C10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Goodison, Pauline	CLNR
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Nolan, Kathleen	H10:00
Nolan, Michael	H10:00
Ryan Family	PRSE
Witten, Janine	LoW-01 Thu
Wood, Marie	CLNR
Wood, Marie	W8:30

Roster for week ending 4 May 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Ballenger, Nima	E10:00
Capuana, Marisa	CLNR
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Davidson, John	W8:30
Dunell, Linda	ASE
French, Jossie	W8:30
Gerritsen, Jenine	H10:00
Haines, Geoff	C10:00
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Lyons, Maria	H10:00
McKenna, John	CLNR
Scannell Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Taylor, Trish	R10:00
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Williams, Peter	PRYR
Wood, Marie	LoW-01 Thu

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

A HEART OPEN TO THE WORLD

The worldwide response to the death of Pope Francis on Easter Monday has been marked by an extraordinary display of sorrow and gratitude. It is as if the whole of humanity has lost a beloved friend. He was not noted for brilliant strokes of policy; he identified far more problems than he solved; but in his order of priorities, sheer humanity always came first - before rules, doctrines, barriers and prohibitions. He loved ordinary people, and ordinary people felt it and knew it, loving him in return. If they were in darkness, he offered them one small step towards the light. If they needed him, he was there for them. He had, to quote one chapter heading of his encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, “a heart open to the whole world”.

Francis was surely the first Pope in history to urge people, as an expression of church doctrine, to smile. “Yet every now and then,” he wrote, lamenting the abrasiveness of so much human contact, “miraculously, a kind person appears and is willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, so speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference.”

This was how he acted himself, yet even the greatest cynic could scarcely accuse him of “virtue signalling”. It was simply who he was, a perfect illustration of the advice attributed to his personal hero, St Francis of Assisi, after whom he had named himself on election to the papacy: “Preach the Gospel always, and where necessary, use words.” Sometimes just a smile was enough, or a warm touch of the hand. It was part of the same outlook that he could not stand malicious gossip, and he famously would regularly scold members of the Vatican Curia for allowing it to happen.

He was attracted to people in trouble, as an instinctive good shepherd who loved his sheep. This pattern emerges from his personal priorities as a pastor. He was a regular prison visitor, always insisting on the human dignity of those serving jail terms, whatever their crimes. He shocked the more straight-laced parts of the Catholic world when he washed the feet of prisoners, including a Muslim woman, on the first Maundy Thursday after his election; on the Maundy Thursday a few days before his death, he visited Rome’s Regina Coeli Prison. Too sick to celebrate the Liturgy of the Lord’s Supper and the washing of the feet, he greeted the inmates personally, and gave each of them a rosary and a pocket-sized gospel.

He kept a close eye on the work of the Santa Marta group, based in the Vatican and chaired by Cardinal Vincent Nichols of Westminster, which was set up to initiate and coordinate a worldwide campaign to oppose modern slavery in all its forms. His compassion overflowed into anger when he considered - and took the trouble to see at first hand - how desperate refugees and migrants were being treated, often ignored and neglected, after they reached the coast of southern Italy in small boats. He even housed a small group of them in the Vatican. And he incurred the anger of the present occupant of the White House when he did not disguise his disgust at the way

**POPE
FRANCIS**
1936–2025



thousands of undocumented migrants living in the United States were being rounded up and shipped out.

Not all his critics put these things to his credit. They felt he was too “liberal”, too “woke” (though there was no fiercer opponent of “gender theory”) and too ready to engage - as they saw it, on the wrong side - in secular politics. What worried them more, however, was what they saw as an absence of rigour in his moral teaching. Absolutist rigidity was to them a mark of the True Church. A Pope who replied “Who am I to judge?” when asked about homosexuality, or who let it be known he thought the refusal of Holy Communion to divorced and remarried Catholics was too harsh a rule to apply to all cases, seemed to them to be betraying something of the essence of the Catholic faith.

They missed the point. Pope Francis was more interested in opening doors than closing them, an approach with abundant support in the gospels. Unlike Pope John Paul II, he favoured a gradualist approach to those whose condition or lifestyle fell short of the ideal, so that even one small step in the right direction was to be commended and encouraged. And condoned? That is what his critics were afraid of. But Francis’ moral theology was far more subtle than theirs. “Accompaniment” was his watchword, not censure, which he applied to people doing their best in difficult circumstances. To quote one of his metaphors, the Church was a “field hospital” for those spiritually wounded on the battlefield of life. Patching them up seemed to him more Christian than driving them out.

It is of course possible to criticise the late Pope Francis for things not done, or not done well. He did not seem to understand the painful alienation towards the Catholic Church felt by many of its female members, by no means confined to the issue of the ordination of women to the priesthood, who experienced an almost unconscious habitual sexism verging on misogyny that is perhaps inevitable in any institution with an all-male leadership. Francis seemed to struggle to grasp the depth of the damage done to the very souls of the victims who had been sexually abused by priests. Though many survivors testify to his tenderness and concern in dealing with allegations of abuse by priests, there were occasions when he had been too ready to give abusers the benefit of the doubt. Censure is sometimes more appropriate than accompaniment.

Francis was a Pope who did not shy away from the big issues facing humankind, of which global warming was most urgent. His encyclical *Laudato si'*, a comprehensive theological treatment of environment issues, pointed towards a developing spirituality of a natural world, “our common home”, needing to be cherished, not just because its neglect threatened human interests but because God made it, loved it and saw that it was good.

The lingering impression Francis will leave behind is of a man who knew “the smell of the sheep”, who was a warm friend to humanity, its poorest members especially, for they understood something the rest did not. His was a world where the last came first, not out of condescension but out of truth. His death, at a time when global moral and spiritual leadership has rarely been more necessary in human history, is a grievous and untimely loss.



Parish Pastoral Leadership Team - Member Profile

Introducing: Philip Love

Sentence about yourself, family and which Mass you attend:

My name is Philip Love and my family and I have lived in Briar Hill for twenty four years but I have lived in this area for close to fifty. I am the proud father of two grown daughters who attended SFX and CLC. You will usually find me attending 8:30 Mass at SFX.

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

When approached to join the Leadership team I was happy to accept the opportunity. Participation in Parish life over the years has helped me and my family so much that I wanted to give something back. I am a firm believer that we are here to make a difference and that can only happen if we are actively involved.

What do you do with yourself?

I currently teach at Marcellin College in Bulleen where I teach Science (Biology) and Religious Education. I have been there for the last fifteen years and before that twenty years at Parade College. So I have had a lot of experience in Boy's Education which is challenging but at the same time fulfilling.

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

My wife, Cara, and I enjoy the opportunity to travel but my most memorable experience of this was when I celebrated my 26th birthday in 1990 watching a family of wild Mountain Gorillas in the highlands of Rwanda. Seeing the young gorillas running around and annoying their elders reminded me so much of Year 8 Students!



Prayers of the Faithful for 27 April 2025 - Second Sunday of Easter

Leader: God of everlasting mercy, hear our prayers offered to you today.

For the Church: that as the worldwide church mourns the passing of Pope Francis, the Holy Spirit will guide and support her in the next steps in our great journey.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our parish community: we give thanks for the love and strength of our parish communities. May we go on growing together in the promise of the steadfast and enduring love of the Lord.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the world: with confidence in God's redeeming love we pray for peace and wisdom as we face the continuing challenges of a fallen world. We pray especially for the people of the Holy Land as we reflect on the inspiring action and faith of the first Apostles.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the faithful: Lord, we hope in your mercy to be faithful and true as our lives write your unwritten stories. For we know that you are alive with us forever, our rock and our salvation, our beginning and our end.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving Jesus, we pray for all those who are sick, named in our bulletin. Give them your grace to endure their distress with hope and open hearts. We remember also carers, family and friends whose hands do the work of the Lord.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We keep in our hearts those who have died recently, especially *Pope Francis*, and those whose anniversaries we recall at this time, including *Giuseppe Alberti, Terry Carrigg, Bryan Gillard, Tania Inserra, Pauline (Moyle) Jones, Anthony Posar, Doug Risson and Brian Sheehan*. Lord, let your perpetual light shine upon them.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Father, you whose love is boundless, grant these prayers offered to you in faith and hope today.

All: Amen



Save with CDF Community Fund – it's in **everyone's best interest.**

By opening a savings account or Term Investment, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, but your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities. With competitive interest rates available across a range of savings accounts, including **5.10% p.a.* on a 6-month Term Investment**, it's a way to save while doing good.

To find out more, visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer, scan the QR code, or speak to us on 1800 134 135.

*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.

**REMEMBER TO VOTE
@ SFX MONTY!**

Saturday 3 May
Polls 8am-6pm
Stalls 8am until sold out!

Vote, feast, fun and community!

St Francis Xavier Primary School
90 Mayona Rd Montmorency

90 Mayona Rd Montmorency

Tell your friends and family, meet at SFX on Election Day!
Support our school community at the heart of Monty

Written and authorised by St Vincent de Paul Society

Checklist:

- ☐ Egg & bacon muffins (breakfast only)
- ☐ Democracy sausages
- ☐ Old-fashioned cake stall
- ☐ Free dog parking and treats!
- ☐ Onsite parking, no queues
- ☐ Pop-up shops
- ☐ Fundraising for SFX sports courts upgrade!

The Top Shelf...

A generous, anonymous parishioner has donated two books to the library, catalogued and on the top shelf.

Journey of the Universe
by Brian Swimme and Mary Ellen Tucker

And

The Human in the Universe
by Niamh Brennan.

I'm sure there are parishioners who will find them very interesting. I did. Trish

Thanksgiving

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

- scan the QR code which will take you to our website giving page (<https://bit.ly/45ifhRp>) where you can donate to any Parish finance campaign including Thanksgiving, Presbytery Offerings, baptisms etc.
- cash/coins in the collection baskets at each church
- EFTPOS terminals
- thanksgiving envelopes
- set up payments from credit/debit cards

Thank you for your generous support, Michael








St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

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) 0421703523
or John Ramsdale (Montmorency) 041028821

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.



FUNERAL TO BE CELEBRATED ON SATURDAY



The funeral Mass of Pope Francis will be celebrated on Saturday, April 26, in St Peter's Square, the Vatican has announced. Source: CNS.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/23/funeral-to-be-celebrated-on-saturday/>

POPE MADE GESTURE OF FAREWELL BEFORE FALLING INTO COMA



Among the final words of the late Pope Francis was a "thank you" to his personal healthcare assistant for encouraging him to take one last ride in the

popemobile on Sunday. Source: *Vatican News*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/23/pope-made-gesture-of-farewell-before-falling-into-coma/>

LEADERS PAUSE CAMPAIGNS AS MARK OF RESPECT



Australia's political leaders paused politicking and trading barbs yesterday as a papal-sized shadow was cast over the election campaign.

Source: *Canberra Times*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/23/leaders-pause-campaigns-as-mark-of-respect/>

PAPAL NUNCIO'S EMOTIONAL HOMILY AT CANBERRA MASS



A memorial Mass concelebrated by the Holy See's ambassador to Australia was held at St Christopher's Cathedral in Canberra last night to honour

the life of Pope Francis. Source: *Catholic Voice*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/23/papal-nuncios-emotional-homily-at-canberra-mass/>

'A MAN OF DEEP FAITH AND LOVE FOR ALL GOD'S CREATION'



Catholic Religious Australia, the peak representative body for almost 4500 sisters, brothers and priests who belong to religious orders,

expressed deep sorrow on the death of Pope Francis.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/23/a-man-of-deep-faith-and-love-for-all-gods-creation/>

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC ORGANISATIONS PAY TRIBUTE TO POPE FRANCIS



Pope Francis' legacy in the areas of social justice, mission and lay governance have been recognised by Australian Catholic organisations.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/23/australian-catholic-organisations-pay-tribute-to-pope-francis/>

A life of mercy, hope and joy



Today we share in the sorrow of billions of people around the world as we mourn the death of Pope Francis. The Holy Father died last night, on Easter Monday, only hours after blessing the crowds who had gathered in St Peter's Square on Easter Day.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-witness-of-joy-and-hope-pope-francis-dies-on-easter-monday-aged-88>



It is especially poignant that we are giving thanks for the life of Pope Francis at Easter, a fitting time to remember a man whose inspiring life and papacy were so marked by hope, joy and mercy.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/do-not-post-pope-francis-osv-images>



Tributes have flowed from both Church and secular leaders - including Archbishop of Melbourne Peter A Comensoli and Australian Catholic Bishops Conference President Archbishop Timothy Costelloe -

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/australian-catholics-mourn-pope-francis>



as Catholics from across Melbourne also remember and give thanks for a pope who for more than 12 years shepherded us with such joyful and humble dedication.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/melburnians-remember-pope-francis>



The joy, hope and spirit of renewal that are Pope Francis' legacy were powerfully on display over the weekend as we celebrated the culmination of Holy Week at St Patrick's Cathedral on Holy Thursday and Good Friday, and at the Easter

Vigil. We share some images and highlights.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/st-patricks-cathedral-celebrates-easter-2025>

May the peace of the risen Christ be with us all as we remember and pray for Pope Francis in the coming days and weeks.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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