

Risen Christ



Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

12 & 13 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.

Welcome to Palm Sunday, the start of Holy Week 2025

Dear friends in Christ, for five weeks of Lent we have been preparing, by works of charity and self-sacrifice, for the celebration of our Lord's paschal mystery. Today we come together to begin this solemn celebration in union with the whole Church throughout the world. Christ entered in triumph into his own city, to complete his work as our Messiah: to suffer, to die, and to rise again. Let us remember with devotion this entry which began his saving work and follow him with a lively faith. United with him in his suffering on the cross, may we share his resurrection and new life.

Holy Week Missal

GOSPEL: Luke 19:28-40

Then Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. Now when he was near Bethphage and Bethany, close by the Mount of Olives as it is called, he sent two of the disciples, telling them, "Go off to the village opposite, and as you enter you will find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you are to say this, 'The Master needs it.'" The messengers went off and found everything just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owner said, "Why are you untying that colt?" and they answered, "The Master needs it." So they took the colt to Jesus, and throwing their garments over its back they helped Jesus on to it. As he moved off, people spread their cloaks in the road, and now, as he was approaching the downward slope of the Mount of Olives, the whole group of disciples joyfully began to praise God at the top of their voices for all the miracles they had seen. They cried out: "Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!" Some Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Master, check your disciples," but he answered, "I tell you, if these keep silence the stones will cry out."

Easter Liturgy Timetable

Holy Thursday, 17th April

Mass of the Lord's Supper

7pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Good Friday, 18th April

The Way of the Cross

11am @ OLHC, Eltham

The Passion of Our Lord

3pm @ OLHC, Eltham

Holy Saturday, 19th April

Blessing of the Food

5pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Vigil of the Resurrection

6:30pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Easter Sunday, 20th April

Dawn Vigil of the Resurrection

6am @ OLHC, Eltham

Easter Mass

8:30am @ SFX, Montmorency

Easter Mass

10am @ OLHC, Eltham



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: 23 & 30 Mar 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$422.00	\$652.00
	Electronic	\$2,414.00	\$4,114.00
Presbytery	Cash	\$766.20	\$1,000.10
	Electronic	\$100.00	\$580.00

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 12

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 13 - Palm Sunday

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 15

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Gathering

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 16

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 17 - Holy Thursday

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

7:00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Montmorency

Friday 18 - Good Friday

11:00am The Way of the Cross

Eltham

3:00pm The Passion of Our Lord

Eltham

Saturday 19 - Holy Saturday

12:00pm Easter Vigil Rehearsal

Montmorency

5:00pm Blessing of the Food

Montmorency

6:30pm Vigil of the Resurrection (Mass)

Montmorency

Sunday 20 - Easter Sunday

6:00am Dawn Vigil of the Resurrection (Mass)

Eltham

8:30am Easter Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Easter Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 22

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 23

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 24

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

Friday 25

9:30am Mass

Eltham

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



*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:
*Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray),
Siobhan Lappin, Cindy & Ed Morrissey,
Skye Stojanov*

For the recently **deceased**:
Dolores Trasancos

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
*Jack Boyd, Maureen Briffa, James Michael
Caulfield, Don Edmond, Kath Feil, Tom Scalzo (1st
anniversary), Jack Wood*

Eltham

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

For the recently **deceased**:
*Pam Usher
(mother/in-law of Jayne & Michael Britton)*

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
Denis Morganti, Mary Wordsworth

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



NOTIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE AT DAWN MASS BREAKFAST

Would those who plan to attend the breakfast after the Dawn Mass on April 20 please put their names on the Sign-Up sheet in the Gathering Area at OLHC in order to assist with catering.

There is also a Sign-Up sheet for volunteers to bring food items for the breakfast.

Thank you, Kathleen Nolan.



First Eucharist 2025 - Eucharist Parent Faith Formation Evening

Dear SFX, HT, OLHC and Parish Families,

This year your Year 5 child is invited to experience the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. We invite parents to attend the **First Eucharist 2025 - Eucharist Parent Faith Formation Evening** which will be held on **Monday 28th April at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, 2 Henry Street, Eltham at 7pm**. Please note that this is an evening for parents only and children are not required to attend.

This evening will begin the preparation of the Sacrament of First Eucharist for your child. On the night, you will be introduced to the Sacramental team and the process of preparing our students for the Sacrament of First Eucharist will be explained. Emphasis will be placed on preparing our students in partnership as a **'Parent Initiated, School Supported and Parish Based Program'**.

Fr Michael will highlight the historical perspective of the First Eucharist and parents will be informed of the resource, *'Becoming Catholic Eucharist - A practical guide for families'* By Kathy Horan. The aim of this book is to assist parents in helping to prepare their child at home, as well as building their own faith formation, in a partnership with conversations that will also be taking place at school. The book also provides scripture and an opportunity for family activities and reflection.

On the night, the booking process for First Eucharist will be discussed and you will be provided with a link to book your child into a Eucharist Mass time.

Thank you for supporting your child in our Sacramental Program for 2025.

Best wishes,

Michael F. Sierakowski (Parish Moderator)

Kathy Toomey, Megan Bird and Rudy Vail (Education in Faith Leaders)

Holy Trinity: ktoomey@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Xavier: mbird@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians: rudy.vail@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

ECONOMIC INSANITY

TRADE, TARIFFS AND PRESIDENT TRUMP

Donald Trump has certainly set the cat among the pigeons - or penguins - by overturning all the assumptions on which three decades of trade globalisation were based. Among the places on the list the US President targeted for punitive tariffs were the Heard and McDonald Islands in the Indian Ocean, Australian territories inhabited solely by seals and penguins. Yet this was no less rational than all the other measures he announced, in what has been described as “a war against economic sanity”. Virtually every economist with an opinion has joined the chorus of derision, calling Trump’s measures “nonsensical”, “absurd” or even “gibberish”.

Yet Trump has a case, even if the mathematical formula he employed to calculate the particular level of US tariffs for each country deserved all those dismissive epithets. He is no free marketer, so part of the economic consensus he has broken with is the world of Adam Smith, David Ricardo, Milton Friedman and Friedrich Hayek. He is aware that many of his working-class supporters, the backbone of his Make America Great Again movement, have suffered from the results of these bold free-trade free-market theories, which have been treated as absolute laws of nature.

Trump is not interested in economic theory, but only in securing his electoral base and pleasing the Maga faction at the heart of Republican politics. Having an external enemy appeals to them, so countries which have operated under World Trade Organisation rules for three or more decades suddenly find themselves accused of “cheating”, “ripping off America” and “plundering its wealth”. None of this is true. His scattergun approach of making wild and whimsical allegations, for instance that the European Union was formed to rip off the United States, or that it was created to maximise German influence, is ridiculous.

Europe has not grown rich at America’s expense. The US has benefited enormously from globalisation. In fact Trump’s target should have been American capitalism and its low-regulation profit-seeking ethos, enshrined in Friedman’s famous adage “the business of business is business” - that is to say, it is not its business to combat the inequality or poverty which may result from what businesses do. Those corrections could be left to the “invisible hand” of providence, to use Adam Smith’s phrase, by which general benefit is supposed eventually to flow from everybody seeking their own interests.

The international version of that ideology is what was called the Washington Consensus, based on the free-market views shared by such bodies as the US Treasury Department, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organisation and so on. Trade liberalisation - “free trade” in nineteenth-century parlance - was at the heart of it. Among the principal beneficiaries was China, which took the opportunity to entice US companies such as Apple to locate the manufacture of its high-tech products there. Gradually the proportion of the American economy devoted to manufacturing declined, while that in China grew. The result was that millions of Chinese middle class emerged. Now China has the world’s second-largest economy and Trump regards it as his biggest enemy.

China was undoubtedly globalisation’s greatest success.

Any attempt to weigh the moral pros and cons of globalisation must take into account the millions of people who are no longer reliant on primitive subsistence farming for their precarious livelihood. The trade imbalance with the US and other western economies eventually produced a surplus of wealth, which allowed Chinese capital to be invested in western economies - to the benefit of both. Among those excluded from these benefits, however, were American workers in traditional heavy industries whose jobs had gone to China. It was former President Joe Biden’s insight that this imbalance of advantage needed correcting by government action, including state investment in the so-called Rust Belt areas. But Donald Trump is the last person to give him any credit. It is said that Biden’s approach was informed by Catholic Social Teaching, which had warned that globalisation could have harmful effects on those left behind.

Responding to that challenge, Pope Benedict XVI had written in his 2009 encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*: “Only in charity, illumined by the light of reason and faith, is it possible to pursue development goals that possess a more humane and humanising value. The sharing of goods and resources, from which authentic development proceeds, is not guaranteed by merely technical progress and relationships of utility, but by the potential of love that overcomes evil with good.” By “relationships of utility”, Benedict is clearly referring to the free-market doctrine that individuals may act solely out of rational self-interest without concern for the common good, which can be left to take care of itself. State intervention in economic matters, in favour of the common good, is frowned on by free-market economists. So Biden was never given the credit he deserved.

It is not necessarily the imposition of tariffs on every country that trades with America that has had the biggest impact in stock markets, but the uncertainty surrounding them. This has two aspects: the impression that Trump might change his mind in individual cases as he seeks “deals” - his favourite word after “tariffs”. More than 50 nations, including the United Kingdom, have sought special exemption from Trump’s new tariff regime. The European Union is offering a mutual zero tariff arrangement. China meanwhile is fighting back, opening a trade war.

The second reason for uncertainty is precisely the implausible and unscientific nature of the formula Trump has used to calculate individual tariffs. He divides the trade imbalance by the total value of that country’s exports to the US, an approach which has no basis in economic theory. It ignores the defining doctrine of free trade, Ricardo’s theory of “comparative advantage”, which is bound to produce surpluses and deficits. These are not evidence of “cheating”; they are how free trade works. So there are expectations that economic sanity must reassert itself sooner or later, though how and when is unpredictable - and unpredictability is what stock markets hate. At what point, investors want to know, will Trump’s war on the global economic system rebound on himself? How bad will the damage be when it does? A world recession is likely, and those least able to protect themselves from its impact are, as always, the poor.

A homily for Good Friday / by Timothy Radcliffe

The silence of the Cross

PHOTO: ALAMY, ALESSIA GIULIANI

Forty years ago, I took part in a student pilgrimage. We walked from one side of England to the other, arriving on Holy Island in time for Maundy Thursday. One of the pilgrims was a young woman who had lost her fiancé in a motorbike accident. The following day, at the Veneration of the Cross, she came up and left the keys of his motorbike at the foot of the cross. She left this symbol of her pain and loss here for Christ to share.

We cannot always physically make our way to the foot of the Cross to venerate it. But we can bring to it whatever weights us down. We bring our pain, our doubts, our failures, and leave them there for Christ to bear. We don't have to carry them alone any more. He bears them.

The Cross on Good Friday is a place of silence. It is good to bring all the painful and empty silence that we carry and leave it with the Lord. If you have lost someone whom you love, you may have no words for your grief. If you have been shut up with someone for a while, silences may grow between you. Silences of resentment, of anger. The silence of words of love and forgiveness withheld. We may have no words for what we are living through. Where is all this going? What will become of me? We can bring all of our silences to the Cross and leave them there.

He is the word made flesh, the Word of life. Throughout John's gospel we see Jesus in conversation with people, especially the marginal people. At the well he talks with the Samaritan woman. She is there alone because no one wanted to talk to her. He liberates her into speech. He talks to the man born blind. Everyone else talks about him. Jesus help him to speak for himself. He talks with prostitutes and lawyers, the good, the bad and the ugly. On the night before he died, he has this last long conversation with his disciples. Sharing the life of Jesus is being caught up into this life-giving, liberating conversation which is the very life of God.

The Passion of Jesus is the gradual collapse of all conversation. Jesus asks Judas of Iscariot, "Friend, why are you here?" No answer. When Peter is asked if he is a disciple of Jesus, there is silence, and then

denial. His enemies don't talk with Jesus. They shout, mock him and ridicule him. Pilate looks as if he might really talk with Jesus, but he gives up. "What is truth?" Jesus says less and less until, on the Cross, he says, "It is finished." The Word of God is silent.

But what sort of silence is it? Is it the silence that comes when one has nothing more to say? Is it an empty silence? No, it is the very opposite. Jesus' final words are, "It is finished." They can be translated as, "It is perfected." He has loved us to perfection. The final silence is of a love beyond all our words. "Greater love has no one than this, to lay down his life for his friends." It is the silence of love beyond our comprehension.

So, today, we bring to the Cross all our painful and oppressive silences. We bring the unhappy silence of those who don't know what to say. The silence of grief or of anger. The silence of shame at some failure. The silence of those who can no longer make sense of what we are living through. We entrust them to the

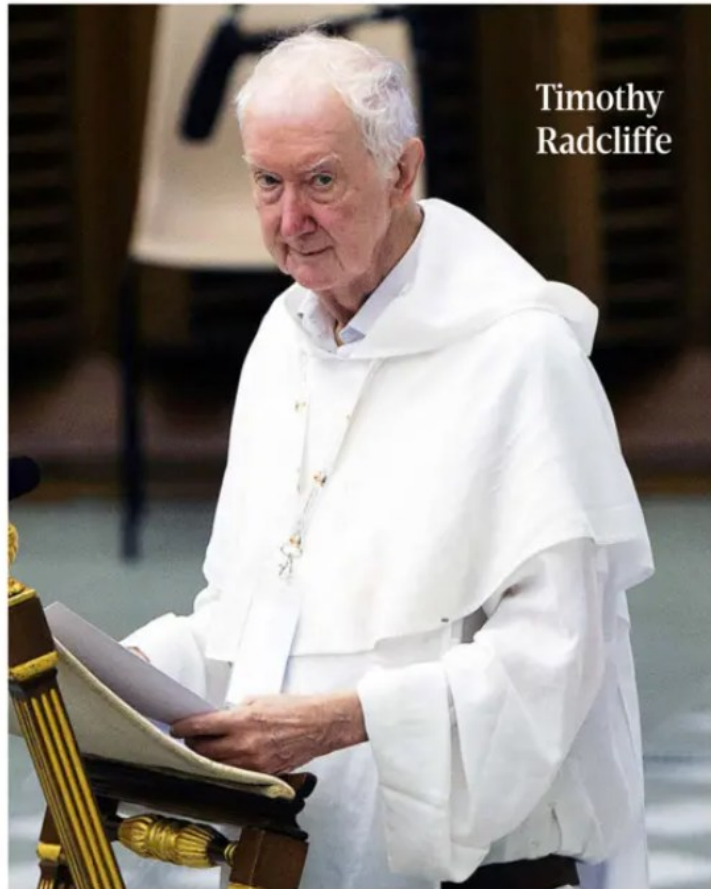
Word of life on the Cross. He embraces them in his silence which is filled with a love beyond all words.

On Easter Day he will speak again. He will greet Mary Magdalen in the garden. "Mary." "Rabboni." He will give back words to Peter who betrayed him. "Lord, you know that I love you."

We pray that he will give us, too, words that break our silences. Healing words, words of forgiveness offered and accepted. Words of love. May he even give us that most wonderful gift of all, the silence of the Cross. It is the overflowing silence of a love beyond all words.

The homily was given at Blackfriars, Oxford on Good Friday, 2020, during the Covid pandemic.

Timothy Radcliffe OP is a Dominican priest. His books include *Questioning God* (2021, with Lukasz Popko). He is an adviser to Pope Francis, who elevated him to a cardinal in 2024 but, at Radcliffe's request, he does not wear the traditional red but rather his plain Dominican habit.



Timothy Radcliffe

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team - Member Profile

Introducing: Peter Reardon

Sentence about yourself, family and which Mass you attend:

Kathy and I settled in Eltham in 1985 and our three daughters were schooled at OLHC and CLC. All are now parents and live agreeably close, and our youngest grandchild will be baptised on 4 May, at our regular weekly mass, 10am at OLHC.

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

After being recruited by Barr Caldwell and Maria George to the Liturgy Group and the Parish Advisory Group several years ago, I experienced the value that laity could bring to parish life when their contributions were sought and valued. It is my hope that we can discern and nurture laity-led ministries that will build energy and life in Risen Christ Parish.

What do you do with yourself?

While now retired, I have a voluntary role supporting the adults who deliver the Army Cadet program in several Melbourne schools, as well as attending their camps. After many years of commuting, I now enjoy regular walks around Eltham and local gym sessions, although the real exercise comes from time with our five grandchildren.

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

As the CO of the Scotch College Cadet Unity, I was required to wear a kilt on ceremonial occasions - usually 5-6 times per year - much to the amusement of my family and friends.

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

I would like to sell my kilt so I never have to wear it again!



Prayers of the Faithful for 12 & 13 April 2025 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Leader: Lord, as we quietly reflect on the events of Jesus' passion and death, we bring our prayers before you today. "Morning after morning he opens my ear that I may hear." We pray for the grace to view each day as a gift from God - a chance to listen, accept and respond to Jesus.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who struggle to hope, whose lives and homes are broken by conflict or war, those living with illness and pain: may the Lord cherish them and hold them close.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For generous, open and inclusive hearts: may we cherish the gifts of table, which Jesus enshrined at the Last Supper - the sacredness of sharing, hospitality and welcome. We pray for those joining our parish table for the first time this Easter: Boh, Graham, Melanie, Peyman, Alba and her children: may they feel the warmth and welcome of our community.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the gift of service: we give thanks for all those who work to serve others, parents, carers, teachers, health professionals, and leaders of government. We pray that we may all learn from the honesty and trust of young children and live our lives generously, and in service of each other.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Peter the symbol of our humanity: willing, but flawed, understood and forgiven. May Peter's example give us the courage always to turn to Jesus for forgiveness and the strength to begin again.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, especially Dolores Trasancos & Pam Usher; and those whose anniversaries occur around this time, including Jack Boyd, Maureen Briffa, James Michael Caulfield, Don Edmond, Kath Feil, Denis Morganti, Tom Scalzo, Jack Wood & Mary Wordsworth. May they rest gently in the peace and love of the Lord.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: May we live and learn from Jesus, who remained compassionate and forgiving even on the Cross. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Palm Sunday

12-13th of April 2025

This Lent, we shared the powerful stories of three remarkable individuals who have overcome immense challenges. Thanks to the kindness of supporters like you, their lives - and the lives of those around them - have been transformed.

In Samoa, **Toefuata'iga's** life was changed with access to clean water through Caritas Australia's partnership with Caritas Samoa. Her school now has a water tank, improving health and allowing the school to focus on education.

Lam, from rural Vietnam, overcame the challenges of living with a disability by joining the I-SHINE program. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business and inspires others to pursue their dreams.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, **Irene**, found hope through Caritas Australia's partnership with Caritas Kongolo. By learning sewing and farming skills, she now provides for her extended family and mentors other women in her community.

Thanks to the support of your parish community, your generosity will create waves of change around the world. *But the work isn't done yet.* There is still time to donate! Together, we can *Unite Against Poverty* and help transform lives this Lent.



UNITE  AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

Lent & Easter

No sooner than one season ends and another nears.

The Montmorency conference of SVDP has some booklets that maybe of interest to parishioners that may assist them in their preparations for Lent and Easter season. Pamphlets are in the front foyer near the entrance doors. Some of the pamphlets include:



- What is the Triduum,
- Mini Mediations for the EASTER SEASON,
- These Fifty Days of Easter,
- Easter and Pentecost Prayers for

Seniors.

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.

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



**Invitation to attend
free online series:**

"Jesus and the Jubilee"

***May 9, 16, 23, 30 on
Zoom 7-8.30pm***

Discover how the Year of Jubilee remains perennially relevant to the Catholic faith and the Catholic life.

"Jesus and the Jubilee" offers a transformative exploration of the biblical theology surrounding the Jubilee Year, emphasizing its deep roots in salvation history and its relevance for modern Catholics.

Presented by Dr. John Bergsma, the world's leading Jubilee scholar from the Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Bookings via TryBooking

<https://www.trybooking.com/DAUWQ> or

QR Code

Enquiries: Emilia 0418 120 902



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.

KING CHARLES AND QUEEN CAMILLA MEET WITH POPE



King Charles and Queen Camille met privately with the Pope yesterday, having earlier postponed their official state visit to the Vatican because of

the pontiff's health, the Vatican press office said. Source: *OSV News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/10/king-charles-and-queen-camilla-meet-with-pope/>

DOCTORS STAGE WALKOUT OVER STRETCHED HOSPITALS



Saving lives has become harder amid a mass walkout of doctors who have been driven to breaking point as public hospitals struggle with millions of patients. Source: *AAP*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/10/doctors-stage-walkout-over-stretched-hospitals/>

TRUMP TEMPERERS TOUGH TALK ON TARIFFS



United States President Donald Trump's decision to suspend higher tariffs for 90 days and lower reciprocal tariffs to 10 per cent has been welcome, but it is unlikely to have a major impact on Australia.

Source: *News.com.au*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/10/trump-temperers-tough-talk-on-tariffs/>

MULTI-FAITH CEMETERY HAILED AS IMPORTANT STEP



Faith and civic leaders gathered in south-west Sydney on Monday to celebrate the opening of first crown cemetery in New South Wales in more

than 80 years. Source: *The Catholic Weekly*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/10/multi-faith-cemetery-hailed-as-important-step/>

NEW KIT ENABLES SEA CHANGE IN CLIMATE EDUCATION



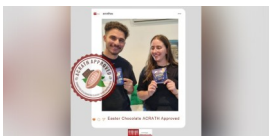
The Josephite Laudato Si' Action Plan team has released its third "conversation package" in the five-part Urgent Hope series, designed to initiate

discussion on climate change and Pope Francis' *Laudate Deum* encyclical.

Source: *Sisters of Saint Joseph*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/03/jesuit-cardinal-to-lecture-in-australia/>

GROUP EGGS ON CHOC CONSUMERS TO BUY ETHICALLY



Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans is calling on Australians to examine their shopping baskets more closely this Easter with

the "ACRATH Approved" Easter campaign.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/03/former-lapsed-catholic-awarded-acu-liturgical-studies-scholarship/>

JESUS' LOVE IS FREELY GIVEN: POPE'S CATECHESIS ON MARK



Pope Francis has called on the faithful to let go of all that is getting in the way of welcoming God's incredible love for them. Source: *Vatican News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/04/10/jesus-love-is-freely-given-popes-catechesis-on-mark/>

Called to bring light and hope

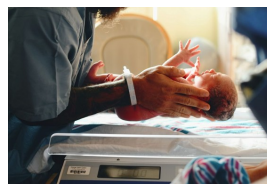
There are as many ways to serve God and our neighbours as there are people on earth. God calls each one of us to use our unique gifts and circumstances - even our struggles and setbacks - to bring light and hope to a world that sorely needs it.



This week, we hear the story of Geraldine Vytilingam, a young Melbourne woman whose journey of faith and service began in her home and school, and was nurtured by the generosity of the Missionary Sisters of Service, taking her in some unexpected

directions and showing her what it means to hope.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/geraldine-vytilingam-a-journey-of-faith-service-and-hope>



Over the weekend, the Church celebrated the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers, an opportunity to reflect - as Cathy Jenkins does this week in *Melbourne Catholic*,

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/moments-of-hope-and-transformation-reflecting-on-the-jubilee-of-the-sick-and-health-care-workers>



and as Pope Francis did on Sunday in a surprise appearance in St Peter's Square - on what hope looks like for the sick and for those who care for them.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/ailing-pope-surprises-pilgrims-during-jubilee-of-the-sick>



And during his recent trip back to Melbourne, we caught up with Br Merric, the only Australian member of France's Taizé community, who shared the story of how he found a home and sense of purpose in this special place 'where people can come together,

share their stories and grow in their understanding of God and each other'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-contemplative-life-of-a-taizé-brother>

Minimum wage rise needed to keep Australians out of poverty

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is calling for a \$41.50 per week increase in the national minimum wage. It has lodged a submission to the Fair Work Commission arguing a rise will provide workers a dignified standard of living.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/minimum-wage-rise-needed-to-keep-australians-out-of-poverty>

Vulnerable Australians become the shock absorbers of a failing system according to new report

Financial pressures on not-for-profit social services have become untenable, with Australia's most vulnerable people bearing the brunt of chronic underfunding, according to a groundbreaking new report commissioned by Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA).

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/vulnerable-australians-become-the-shock-absorbers-of-a-failing-system-according-to-new-report>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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