

Risen



Christ

Fourth Sunday of Lent

29 & 30 March 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.



RCIA Candidates for Easter 2025: During Lent, please pray for them:



Graham Coupe

Boh Coupe

Melanie Cricco

Peyman Imani

Alba Ruiz Leon

Communal Rite of Forgiveness (Reconciliation)

- Monday 31st March, 7pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Eltham
- Tuesday 1st April, 7pm at St Francis Xavier Church, Montmorency

Dear Parishioners and Friends of
Risen Christ Parish,

As part of our Lenten Journey for 2025 - we are offering two opportunities for this Communal Rite of Forgiveness along with our grade 4 students and their families for a prayerful time of reconciliation together in preparation for Holy Week and our Easter celebrations.



*Dear Parishioners,
for the remaining
weekend & weekday Masses
in the month of March,
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

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: 9 & 16 Mar 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$642.00	\$1,010.00
	Electronic	\$3,268.67	\$5,763.50
Presbytery	Cash	\$801.10	\$813.05
	Electronic		\$735.00
Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering			
Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
December	\$9,129.67	\$10,865.50	\$19,995.17
January	\$6,878.43	\$8,984.50	\$15,862.93
February	\$8,426.67	\$8,121.50	\$16,548.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 29

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 30 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 31

11:00am Funeral: Melina LoGiusto

Montmorency

7:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Communal Rite of Forgiveness)

Eltham

Tuesday 1 April

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 3

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Communal Rite of Forgiveness)

Montmorency

Wednesday 2

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 3

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

12:00pm Funeral : Daniella Daffy

Montmorency

7:00pm Holy Thursday Music Rehearsal

Montmorency

Friday 4

9:30am Mass

Eltham

10:15am SFX School Easter Tableau

Montmorency

12:00pm OLHC School Holy Week Liturgy

Eltham

Saturday 5

12:00pm Baptism: Lucia, Lincoln, Leo & Sonny

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 6 - Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Aston, Zoe, Cooper & Hugo

Eltham

Tuesday 8

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 9

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 10

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:00pm Mass

Calvary Lower Plenty Garden Views

Friday 11

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 12

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 13 - Palm Sunday

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

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



*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**:
Daniella Daffy, Danielle Haslam, Melina LoGiusto, Kathleen O'Brien

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
Eugene Collins, John Hedigan, Teresa Pfeil

Eltham

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

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

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

Roster for week ending 30 Mar 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	R10:00
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Clark, Helen	H10:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Dhanasen Family	PRSE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Grande, Silvana	H10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Lucas, Maree	CLNR
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Stevens, Patricia	CLNR
Sullivan, Francis	W8:30
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Witten, Janine	LoW-01 Thu

Roster for week ending 5 & 6 Apr 2025

Adrian	H10:00
Ballenger, Nima	R10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	W8:30
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	C10:00
Ella	H10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Leahy Family	PRSE
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR
Wood, Marie	LoW-01 Tue

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

Pope Francis has signed off an ambitious three-year plan that makes clear no diocese or bishops' conference can opt out of the process to embed Synodality in the life of the Church / by Austen Ivereigh

Semper reformanda

“Pope Francis, showing plans to stay on, starts new Catholic reform process” was how Reuters last Saturday made sense of a surprise letter to the world’s bishops by Synod secretary-general Cardinal Mario Grech. To call it “new” is stretching it, because what Grech’s letter spelled out was “the accompaniment process of the implementation phase” of the Synod on Synodality, which concluded last October. But “reform process” is right: this is a three-year galvanising of the Church at every level across the globe, culminating in an unprecedented ecclesial assembly in Rome in 2028. And in the meantime, there will be no other synod assembly to distract from the task of embedding synodality in the life of the church.

In the letter itself, Grech explains that while in hospital, on 11 March, Francis approved this process of “accompaniment & implementation”, directing it to be sent to the local Churches. The process itself was designed by the Ordinary Council of the Synod secretariat, which is made up mostly of members elected by the Assembly last October. But it was Francis mandating a process shaping the long future of the Church from his bed on the tenth floor of the Gemelli hospital that caught the imagination of the news desks. Hence the Reuters and other headlines: that this was proof of the Pope’s determination to stay the course.

But this is not about how long Francis will remain as Pope but about the Synod being given the chance to bear fruit - even on stony ground. Whatever his own future, Francis is adamant that the Synod’s Final Document - the fruit of the Spirit speaking to the whole Church - cannot stay on paper. It is a vision for a transformation that now has to be received. If the Pope’s medical condition is relevant to this at all, it is to make clear that the uncertainty generated by his illness cannot be used as an excuse to postpone or ignore the implementation of the Synod. The clear implication is that, were he to die or resign before 2028, the next pope would take it over, just



‘Surprise’ letter: Cardinal Mario Grech

as Paul VI took over the Second Vatican Council after John XXIII’s passing. Synodality isn’t the whim of a particular papacy, in other words, but intrinsic to the Church itself. “The Holy Father hopes that this phase ... receives particular attention,” Cardinal Grech tells the bishops, “so that synodality is increasingly understood and lived as an essential dimension of the ordinary life of local Churches and the entire Church.”

What the “journey” from here to October 2028 makes clear is that there is no opt-out, and that dioceses and bishops’ conferences which have been hoping synodality will go away will have to grasp that it won’t. “it is essential to move forward together as the whole Church, harmonising this reception across different ecclesial contexts,” Cardinal Grech writes, reminding the bishops that synodality “must be received” in ways adapted to local cultures and circumstances. The role of this process is not to issue “directives from above” but to facilitate that reception by an “exchange of gifts” across the Church, so deepening communion.

What about those bishops who so far have sat on the sidelines? “This process will also offer dioceses that have invested less in the synodal path an opportunity to recover the steps not yet taken and to form their own synodal teams,” writes Grech. A form is attached to his letter, on

which bishops must submit the names of the members of its synodal team.

The process will involve three main phases. The initial 18 months (June 2025-December 2026) will concentrate on the diocese, according to guidance to be sent out in May. The idea here is to begin synodality in parishes, deaneries, dioceses and so on, or to deepen what is already happening, using tools and practices that foster the conversion of mindset and culture that synodality calls for. During the following 18 months there will be “evaluation assemblies” - to assess what has been happening - initially in dioceses (first half of 2027), then in national bishops’ conferences (second half of 2027) and finally at the continental level (first half of 2028). The final six months - from June to October - will be the universal phase. Following the publication of a working document (*Instrumentum Laboris*) in October 2028 the Church will celebrate its first universal “Ecclesial Assembly”, to capture the fruits of the implementation and provide the Pope - whoever he is - with proposals.

Ecclesial assemblies are not synods of bishops, but assemblies of the People of God, made up of roughly equal numbers of bishops, clergy, Religious and laypeople. The first of its kind was held in Mexico City in November 2021, organised by the Latin-American episcopal council, Celam. This became the model for the seven regional assemblies held across the world during the Synod on Synodality’s so-called “continental stage”. The experience of the Mexico assembly inspired the “Ecclesial Conference” that now oversees the Church’s mission to Amazonia, and which its advocates see as the prototype of what will one day replace the bishops’ conference. The Synod on Synodality may be concluded. But its impact on the daily of the Church has barely begun.

Austen Ivereigh is fellow in contemporary church history at Campion Hall, Oxford, and a biographer of Pope Francis.



Centring, Silence and Stillness - A Simple Practice

Richard Rohr encourages regular contemplative practice.

To live in the present moment requires a change in our inner posture. Instead of expanding or shoring up our fortress of the small self - the ego - contemplation waits to discover who we truly are. Most people think they are their thinking; they don't have a clue who they are apart from their thoughts. In contemplation, we move beneath thoughts and sensations to the level of pure being and naked awareness.

In contemplative prayer, we calmly observe our own stream of consciousness and see its compulsive patterns. We wait in silence with an open heart and attuned body. It doesn't take long for our usual patters to assault us. Our habits of control, addiction, negativity, tension, anger, and fear assert themselves. When Jesus is "driven" by the Spirit into the wilderness, the first things that show up are "wild beasts" (Mark 1:13). Contemplative prayer is not consoling, at least not at first, which is why so many give up. Yes, truth will set us free, but generally, it first makes us miserable.

Inspired by Father Thomas Keating (1923-2018), the founder of Contemplative Outreach, Richard developed this exercise:

Imagine you are sitting on a riverbank. Boats and ships - thoughts, feelings, and sensations - are sailing past. While the stream flows by your inner eye, name each of these vessels. For example, one of the boats could be called "my anxiety about tomorrow". Or along comes the ship "objections to my husband" or the boat "I don't do that well". Every judgment that you let pass is one of those boats; take time to name each one and then allow them move down the river.

This can be a difficult exercise because you're used to jumping aboard the boats - your thoughts - immediately. As soon as you own a boat and identify with it, it picks up energy. This is a practice in un-possessing, detaching, letting go. With every idea, with every image that comes into your head, say, "No, I'm not that; I don't need that; that's not me".

Sometimes, a boat turns around and heads back upstream to demand your attention again. It's hard not to get hooked by habitual thoughts. Sometimes you'll be tempted to torpedo your boats. But don't attack them. Don't hate them or condemn them. Contemplation is also an exercise in nonviolence. The point is to recognise your thoughts, *which are not you*, and to say, "That's not something I need". But do it very amiably. As you learn to handle your own soul tenderly and lovingly, you'll be able to carry this same loving wisdom out into the world.

Many teachers insist on at least twenty minutes for a full contemplative "sit", because we have found that the first half (or more) of any contemplative prayer time is just letting go of those thoughts, judgments, fears, negations, and emotions that want to impose themselves. We become watchers and witnesses, stepping back and observing without judgment. Gradually we come to realise those thoughts and feelings are not actually "me".

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/a-simple-practice/>

Prayers of the Faithful for 29 & 30 March 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Leader: With confidence in our faith, let us ask God to listen to our prayers.

Let us pray for the bishops and priests, our ministers of reconciliation: may they practice mercy and compassion in their work among our communities. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for families experiencing turmoil or division: may love ease their pain and bring them peace. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for our world fractured by war, prejudice and injustice: may our leaders foster a world that is more just and humane. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for Boh, Graham, Melanie, Peyman and Alba and the children in our parish, who are preparing, through the sacraments, to enter into our living faith: may they participate in the joy of the Risen Christ. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those in our parish communities who are ill: may they receive the help they need and gain comfort from those who care for them. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have died recently, especially *Daniella Daffy, Danielle Haslam, Melina LoGiusto & Kathleen O'Brien* and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Eugene Collins, Peter Donnellan, John Hedigan & Teresa Pfeil*: may they rest in peace. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God our Father, you reveal the true joy of love, hear these prayers of your children, which we ask through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen**

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team - Member Profile

Introducing: Kathleen Cantwell

Sentence about yourself, family and which Mass you attend:

My name is Kathleen Cantwell, I attend the 8:30am Mass at St Francis Xavier with my husband Peter. I have been a parishioner in Monty for 30+ years. We have four children, Lachlan, Felicity, Marcus and Thomas.

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

After 30+ years in the parish and witnessing so many changes I wanted to be more involved in what is hopefully going to be growth, change and re energising in our Risen Christ Parish.

What do you do with yourself?

I work 3 days a week in Early Education. Outside of work, I enjoy lots of things: cooking family dinners for our children, baking, I am an avid reader, regular theatre, museum and movie goer and love doing word games and crosswords.

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

I read two newspapers a day.

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

With 3 of our children getting married this year, I am hoping to be a Nanny in the not to distant future.



Easter Music As Easter draws near we begin to look at how we may deepen our awareness of the power & presence of the Spirit during the Triduum. We have chosen two dates for rehearsals which will be in the SFX Church. Music for Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper) will be Wednesday 3rd April at 7pm in SFX Church. Rehearsals for Easter Vigil Mass at SFX will be Tuesday 8th April at 7pm in SFX Church. All are welcome to join rehearsals with either voice or instrument or both! We look forward to making beautiful music with all who are able to come along. Contact Elisha (0438 021 517) or Patsy (0429 439 675)

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. "This man" they said "welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he spoke this parable to them:

"A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

"When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

"While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

"Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening."

"The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

Christ welcomes sinners and eats with them. Thus he manifests God's unfailing and unconditional love and forgiveness for all. This is the thrust of the parable.

The father is unbelievable. He must have known his younger son would come unstuck, yet he divides his estate for him.

When the boy comes to his senses and returns to confess, the father runs out to meet him and embraces him without setting any conditions. He has been waiting and watching for his return. The parable speaks of it as a resurrection. The return is cause not for recrimination but for celebration.

Finally, when the elder son is angry and offended, the father goes out to plead with him, begging him to let go of his resentment. The father assures him too of his unconditional love.

Like all good stories, the outcome is open-ended. This gives the hearer the opportunity to engage with its message. It is sometimes hard to get our head and heart around the idea that God is not watching to catch us out, but is waiting for the slightest chance to forgive us and embrace us in love. It is beyond what we deserve or even imagine.

Enjoy the familiarity in telling this story.

Fourth Sunday of Lent 29th and 30th of March 2025

Irene lives in a remote village in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Life hasn't been easy for Irene. After losing her father in a war, Irene and her family were forced to flee their home. Life became even more challenging when her husband left, leaving Irene to raise her 2 children alone. Without finishing her education and with few job opportunities in her village, she struggled to provide even the basics for her family.

Things began to change when Irene joined the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program (YCSP), run by Caritas Kongolo with the support of Caritas Australia. Through the program, Irene learned sewing skills and was provided with a sewing machine and fabric. Irene also gained farming skills. Now, she grows enough food to feed her family and even shares her sewing knowledge by mentoring other women in her community.

"Before, women depended on men's income, but now, with our sewing skills, we can take care of ourselves," Irene said.

Your support of Project Compassion helps women like Irene to create brighter futures for themselves and their families.



Photo credit: Arlette Bashizi/Caritas Australia
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

Thank you for standing with us, as we
Unite Against Poverty this Lent.



**CATHOLIC
THEOLOGICAL
COLLEGE**



Catholic Theological College

Invites you to our

**Engaging Your Faith
online presentations**

From \$25 per session.

For more information
and to register:

ctc.edu.au/engaging-your-faith/

Thanksgiving New Envelopes

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend you will find our new Thanksgiving Envelopes available in the foyer of each church after each Mass.

There is an alphabetical (by surname) list which will show you your new Thanksgiving number.

Please note, this set of envelopes begins on 6 April 2025 and will finish on 21 December 2025, as we will be having a Thanksgiving / Stewardship Program in November.

Please don't hesitate to contact Kate at the Parish Office (9435 4742) if you have any questions or concerns regarding Thanksgiving, or the ways in which you can financially support our Parish.

Following is a list of ways in which you can give:

- 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.
- EFTPOS terminals
- cash/coins in the collection baskets at each church
- thanksgiving envelopes
- set up payments from credit/debit cards

Thank you for your generous support,
Michael



CHALMERS HANDS DOWN BUDGET WITH ELECTION IN MIND



More than 12 million workers will receive surprise tax cuts in a brazen pitch for votes at the election due in May, as Treasurer Jim

Chalmers vows to deliver a "soft landing" for the economy. Source: *The Age*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/26/chalmers-hands-down-budget-with-election-in-mind/>

BUDGET GETS MIXED REVIEWS FROM CATHOLIC



ORGANISATIONS Catholic organisations have responded to the Albanese Government's Budget, acknowledging commitments to health care and foreign aid, but recognising more must be done to address the root causes of poverty and inequality in Australia.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/26/budget-gets-mixed-reviews-from-catholic-organisations/>

POPE WAS SO ILL DOCTORS CONSIDERED LETTING HIM



'DIE IN PEACE' Pope Francis came so close to death at one point during his 38-day fight in hospital against pneumonia that his doctors considered

ending treatment so he could die in peace, the head of his medical team said. Source: *ABC News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/26/pope-was-so-ill-doctors-considered-letting-him-die-in-peace/>

PROJECT COMPASSION HELPS IRENE SECURE A



BRIGHTER FUTURE Caritas Australia's Project Compassion campaign is helping people like Irene from the Democratic Republic of Congo to secure a brighter future for herself and her family.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/26/project-compassion-helps-irene-secure-a-brighter-future/>

PERTH ARCHDIOCESE LAUNCHES CATHOLIC YOUTH



ASSEMBLY Perth Archdiocese has launched its Catholic Youth Assembly, a move aimed at boosting youth involvement in the Church.

Source: *The Record*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/26/perth-archdiocese-launches-catholic-youth-assembly/>

GLOBAL ROLE FOR AUSTRALIAN DEACON



Parramatta Deacon Tony Hoban has been elected to the board of the International Diaconate Centre.

Source: *Catholic Outlook*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/26/global-role-for-australian-deacon/>

DICASTERY SAYS PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT NEEDS NEW



APPROACH The Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life has published a pastoral framework to help dioceses begin a synodal process for strengthening and

promoting the pastoral care of human life.

Source: *CNS*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/26/dicastery-says-pro-life-movement-needs-new-approach/>

Finding purpose in faith

Last week our Cathedral gained a beautiful new icon of St Patrick, a man whose experiences as a teenager formed and strengthened the faith that would sustain him through a tumultuous and remarkable life. His unshakable trust in God gave Patrick direction and purpose, bringing light and hope to countless others, and highlighting the important role of faith in forming and educating young people.



As part of our Better Together series, we speak with *Along Australia* series 2 winner Krzysztof Wojtkowski and Fr Wieslaw (Tony) Slowik SJ, his longtime friend and mentor, about how Krzysztof's formative teenage

experiences of the Catholic faith and Polish Catholic community helped to sustain him through his time in the wilderness, and about how their new initiative, POLOZ, is helping to connect with new generations of the Polish community in Melbourne.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/krzysztof-wojtkowski-and-fr-wieslaw-tony-slowik-sj>



Catholic Education Week encouraged young people from across our Archdiocese's schools to 'arise and shine' with the light and glory of God last week as they celebrated the gift of a Catholic education. A jam-packed week of events included an inspiring creative arts exhibition, a joyful concert in the park and the annual Mass of St Patrick for Schools, where the new icon of St Patrick was unveiled and blessed.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/catholic-education-week>



And with the recent release of a study showing that Catholic school education provides lasting benefits in employment, health and life satisfaction, two Melburnians share how their Catholic educations helped to shape their different but enriching

career paths.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/study-reveals-lifelong-benefits-of-catholic-education>

Faith to grace: after 150 years, Mother Gonzaga's legacy lives on in Loreto schools

In May 1875, ten intrepid women set off from Dublin, Ireland, for a two-month voyage to Victoria. By late September that same year, they had established the first of what is now a network of schools in four states operated by the Loreto Sisters Australia and South East Asia. This year, Loreto schools are acknowledging the 150th anniversary of their founders' arrival through a travelling art exhibition and a play that beautifully connects past to present.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/faithful-to-grace-mother-gonzagas-legacy-lives-on-in-loreto-schools>

Shining lamps: a graduating student's valedictory message

On Friday 21 March, 281 students - including almost 100 students from Catholic Theological College - graduated from the University of Divinity at a graduation ceremony held at St Patrick's Cathedral. We share the valedictory address of Sr Emma Llewellyn RSM (MedTheol, GCDiv, GCRM 2025), who encouraged her fellow graduates to be a light and a 'source of hope, especially in times of darkness' and spoke, as a teacher, of the 'great privilege' of ministering in Catholic education.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/shining-lamps-a-graduating-students-valedictory-message>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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