

Risen



Christ

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8 & 9 February 2025 - Year C

The Catholic Communities of Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham & St Francis Xavier, Montmorency



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Jesus was standing one day by the lake of Gennesaret, with the crowd pressing round him listening to the word of God, when he caught sight of two boats close to the bank. The fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats - it was Simon's - and asked him to put out a little from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, 'Put out into deep water and pay out your nets for a catch.' 'Master,' Simon replied 'we worked hard all night long and caught nothing, but if you say so, I will pay out the nets.' And when they had done this they netted such a huge number of fish that their nets began to tear, so they signalled to their companions in the other boat to come and help them; when these came, they filled two boats to sinking point. When Simon Peter saw this he fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me Lord; I am a sinful man.' For he and all his companions were completely overcome by the catch they had made; so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were Simon's partners. But Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on it is men you will catch.' Then, bringing their boats back to land, they left everything and followed him.

Reflection

This dramatic account of the conversion of the first disciples begins with a charming and picturesque scene. It is easy to imagine the crowd jostling him to the water's edge. His inspired solution was to hop in a boat and teach the people from there!

Then in the second dramatic scene, the reluctant fisherman Simon threw back the nets he was washing and scored a huge haul of fish, enough to fill two of the boats.



In the third scene, we see in Simon the same reaction that we saw with Isaiah. His encounter with something beyond the ordinary makes him conscious of his own unworthiness. And then the moment of conversion. Jesus says, do not be afraid; come with me. And that is just what Simon and his partners do.

A simple and honest telling of this story, with a touch of wonder and amazement, can lead the listeners to recognise their own moment of conversion. The disciples left everything to follow Christ. Why do we hold back?

Break Open the Word 2025:

*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: 26 Jan & 2 Feb 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash Electronic	\$537.00	\$597.00
Presbytery	Cash Electronic	\$682.80	\$905.40

Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
October	\$5,523.52	\$8,916.05	\$14,439.57
November	\$6,538.34	\$8,768.75	\$15,307.09
December	\$9,129.67	\$10,865.50	\$19,995.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 8

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 9

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 10

11:00am Funeral: Valerie Jones

Montmorency

7:00pm Reconciliation

Parent Faith Formation Evening

Montmorency

Tuesday 11

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

12:00pm Funeral: Leo Dark

Eltham

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 12

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 13

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

Friday 14

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 15

12:00pm Baptisms: Lottie, Charlotte, Ollie

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 16

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 18

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 19

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 20

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

Friday 21

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 22

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 23

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 25

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 26

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Risen Christ



The Catholic Communities of Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham & St Francis Xavier, Montmorency Sacramental Program 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2025 School year. We hope you enjoyed a joyful and relaxing break. As part of your commitment to a Catholic Education for your child, a sacramental program is implemented within our school curriculum and Parish. During Years 4, 5 and 6, students will be taught about, and have the option to participate in, receiving the Sacraments. Preparation for the Sacraments of Initiation is celebrated within a partnership of the family, schools and Risen Christ Parish, the Catholic Communities of Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham & St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, this includes student from our three schools (Holy Trinity, Eltham North, Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham and St Francis Xavier, Montmorency) and families from our wider Parish Community. Sacraments are *parent initiated, school supported* and *parish based*.

Holy Trinity, Our Lady Help of Christians & St Francis Xavier schools are very conscious of their responsibility to support parents in all areas of faith development, with a special program being taught during sacramental preparation time. The three schools will be working together in partnership and sharing the responsibility of the Sacramental program along with our Parish. Therefore, each community will take turns in hosting Parent Faith Formation Evenings for the Sacramental program in 2025 - one at Eltham and one at Montmorency Churches.

The celebration of the Sacraments is a faith highlight in anyone's life. Today the local Catholic community offers these celebrations and parents need to be aware that they are not compulsory. We believe your participation as parents is crucial for the development of your child's faith. Please note your participation and attendance is important at the Parent Faith Formation evenings and at the celebration of the Sacrament for your child.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Year 4

Reconciliation Parent Faith Formation Evening will be held at 7pm on Monday 10th February, at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church. **Year 4 students** are to attend with their parent/s and will partake in an activity with staff.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- Monday, 31st March, 7pm at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church - Communal Rite of Forgiveness
Holy Trinity students, Our Lady Help of Christians students & non-Catholic school students of Risen Christ Parish.
- Tuesday, 1st April, 7pm at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church - Communal Rite of Forgiveness
St Francis Xavier students & non-Catholic school students of Risen Christ Parish.

Sacrament of Eucharist - Year 5

Eucharist Parent Faith Formation Evening (students are not required to attend) will be held at 7pm on Monday 28th April, at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church. Please note: there will also be a First Eucharist Student Retreat Day on Thursday, 1st May, more information to follow.

Sacrament of Eucharist:

- Holy Trinity students, Our Lady Help of Christians students, St Francis Xavier students and non-Catholic school students of Risen Christ Parish can celebrate the Sacrament of First Eucharist by booking into any of the 3 Masses offered each weekend from Saturday 10th May until Sunday 12th October.
- Mass times are as follows:**
6pm Saturday at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Montmorency
8:30am Sunday at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Montmorency
10:00am Sunday at Our Lady Help of Christians Catholic Church, Eltham.

Sacrament of Confirmation - Year 6

Confirmation Parent Faith Formation Evening (students are not required to attend) will be held at 7pm on Monday 11th August, at St Francis Xavier Catholic Church.

Sacrament of Confirmation:

- Confirmation rehearsal at St Patrick's Cathedral on Tuesday, 14th October.
- Confirmation Mass will be at 2:30pm on Sunday, 19th October at St Patrick's Cathedral (1 Cathedral Place, East Melbourne). Confirmation is open to Holy Trinity students, Our Lady Help of Christians students, St Francis Xavier students and non-Catholic school students of Risen Christ Parish.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this process, please contact Fr Michael at the Parish office on 9435 4742, otherwise questions will be answered at the Faith Formation Evenings.

We look forward to working with and supporting you as you lead your child more fully into their faith journey in our parish community.

Warm regards,

The Educational Faith Leadership Team:

Michael F. Sierakowski (Moderator), Kathy Toomey (HT Faith Leader),
Rudy Vail (OLHC Principal/Faith Leader) & Megan Bird (SFX Faith Leader)

After Donald Trump's meeting this week with Benjamin Netanyahu, there are fears that the long-term human tragedy for Palestinians and Israelis looks set to continue unless the issues at the root of the conflict are addressed / by Tom Phillips

Who won the Gaza war?

The regional conflict triggered by the savage 7 October attack by Hamas has certainly resulted in some major regional strategic gains for Israel - but how long-term these will prove to be is not yet clear.

Hezbollah has been substantially weakened, as has its poisonous grip on Lebanese politics. Iran's vulnerabilities have been exposed, including its inability to protect a key regional ally - Bashar al-Assad - when Turkey, sensing the moment of opportunity and in pursuit of its own anti-Kurd agenda, backed the Hayat Tahrir al-Sham in its move on Damascus. The Abraham Accord countries - the Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco - although severely embarrassed by the extent of the destruction wrought by the Israel Defence Forces in Gaza, have not walked away from their new relationship with Israel. The display of Israeli intelligence and military capabilities - in particular the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Operation Grim Beeper in Lebanon and Syria followed by the IDF airstrike that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah - went at least some of the way to restore Israel's deterrence credentials (damaged as they had been by the 7/10 attack), and will no doubt have impressed those in the Gulf who are interested in a link to Israel in their struggle to combat Iranian attempts to extend Tehran's influence in the region. Few would currently suggest that Israel should give up the Golan, whatever the status of those Heights in international law, given the uncertainties about who will be calling the shots in Damascus in the decades ahead.

But it is also arguable that, at a more local level, it is Hamas that has emerged as the strategic victor from the latest round of Gaza fighting and the current uneasy ceasefire deal. Just by surviving this long - despite the loss of figures such as Haniyeh and Yahya Sinwar - Hamas has shown that it can successfully challenge the Israeli state's military might. It has demonstrated that it cannot be

"eliminated", however much the Israeli government might have wished otherwise. It has further sidelined Fatah and the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority, and gained important support in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and elsewhere, particularly - and dangerously - in Jordan; it has reignited support on the Arab street for the Palestinian cause; and it has succeeded in kicking a possible Israeli-Saudi normalisation deal into touch, at least for the moment. By securing the release of several hundred Palestinian prisoners which the ineffective Mahmoud Abbas could never have dreamed of negotiating by peaceful means, Hamas has shown that violence works.

The latest round of fighting has exposed the depth of the tensions and contradictions in Israeli society as well, while spotlighting the limits to the support for Israel in western countries (and even, to a degree, in the US). It also highlights the persistence of dark antisemitic shadows in those societies, although the basic problem Israel faces is that a growing proportion of western opinion does not accept its claim to be the frontline of democratic values as long as it remains an occupying power, however complex the background to that occupation and however much Israelis may argue that it is the Palestinian side which has said "No" every time a deal has been on the table.

And if Hamas - whatever some of its spokesmen may say and the ambiguous wording of its 2017 charter - does have a long-term agenda to destroy Israel, then it has made a step in this direction by putting a further nail in the coffin of a two-state solution. The peace camp in Israel has been effectively marginalised, with many on the left in Israeli society now asking themselves if a Palestinian state is such a good idea: after all, what if such a state in the West Bank (and even East Jerusalem) were to elect a Hamas government?

Of course, much depends now on what happens next, not just in terms of

whether the fragile ceasefire agreement will hold but on what the predictably unpredictable President Trump will want to do in the longer term and on whether Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will hold out for a meaningful Israeli-Palestinian political process as the price for any movement towards normalisation.

What is intriguingly clear is that it was pressure from the new Trump team - albeit working closely with their outgoing Biden administration counterparts - that persuaded Netanyahu to accept what looks basically the same deal as has long been on offer. Why? Is Trump promising Bibi that the quid pro quo will be Washington turning a blind eye to settler violence (he has, after all, now lifted US sanctions on extremist Israeli settlers) or even to an Israeli annexation of the West Bank? Or that the US will now use its best efforts to secure Israeli-Saudi normalisation (which would have to be separate from the Abraham Accords, given that the Saudis would not join a grouping with such a strong Emirati label)? Or firm US action to destroy Iran's nuclear programme, or at least ensure it never results in a successful bomb?

Or the undertaking to press Egypt and Jordan, and other Arab states, to take in Palestinians now living in what Trump has described as a "demolition site"? Floating such a proposal has re-aroused Palestinian fears that the Israeli - and perhaps now the US - agenda remains a repeat of the 1948 *Nakba* ("catastrophe") when many Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes in the war that followed the birth of the State of Israel, adding to the trauma caused by the scale of the IDF offensive on and in Gaza. At the same time, the atrocities of 7 October reawakened traumatic memories of the Shoah among Israeli Jews and Jews worldwide, stoking deep-rooted fears that Palestinians and the Arab world generally still harbour hopes of expunging the Jewish presence between the river (Jordan) and the sea



Aid lorries lined up in Egypt, waiting to cross into Gaza, after a ceasefire was agreed in January

(the Mediterranean). Both sides are locked in victimhood narratives which have their roots in both deep and more recent history.

But the proposal to relocate a large number of Gazans to Egypt and Jordan is strategically incomprehensible. It would risk destabilising the two countries with the longest history of relations with Israel: the Egyptians have quite enough problems with the Muslim brotherhood (of which Hamas was an outgrowth), even if they would like a large slice of Gaza reconstruction contracts as life support for their ailing economy; and Jordan's government has long worried that the Israelis see their country as the future Palestinian state, believing too that neither the Israelis nor the West generally have given the Jordanians the credit they deserve for their security cooperation with Israel and their long-time stabilising role in the region.

This week Netanyahu became the first foreign leader to be received in the White House by Trump in his second term. Whatever the significance of this meeting, I remain worried that the long-term human tragedy looks set to continue, although I hope that if the agreed pause holds (I find it difficult to imagine we shall get beyond a patchy phase one) an intelligent effort will now be made to address the core issues rather than simply to stick plasters on the problem until the next round of fighting, even if the ceasefire deal says nothing on this front.

If there is to be any significant effort

to resolve the long-running Israeli-Palestinian issue, I believe the Saudis hold the key, on the basis of what would have to be an updated version of the 2003 Saudi-born Arab Peace Initiative underpinned by intelligent and coherent international support. But it would need huge pressure from the US to persuade the Israelis down such a track, and it is almost unimaginable without a change of Israeli government. There is, as previously noted, very little appetite in Israel to contemplate a Palestinian state, and many will argue that there is no need to do so given that for the moment at least the existential threat from Hezbollah and Iran is significantly diminished. Why try to tackle the more subtle existential threat represented by the Palestinian issue, with the risk that doing so might tear Israeli society apart? Many Israelis have concluded that all they can hope to do is to continue to live day by day, without thinking too far ahead. It's an approach that has served them well enough since the start of the Zionist project. "First we live and then we see," the Jewish saying goes.

Moreover, a growing number of commentators are reaching the view I have long and reluctantly held - that while it might once have met the needs of two valid nationalist movements, the window for the two-state solution closed some time ago, given inter alia the political trends and fault-lines in both societies and the scale of the settlement enterprise in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, with the weight

the settler community now has in the Israeli political landscape. So unless there is some radical fresh thinking, the most likely scenario is that we shall continue to see the gradual consolidation of a "one state space" (not "solution") between the Mediterranean and the Jordan, where the issue will indeed become the apartheid one, and with no guarantee that it will be either stable or sustainable.

The long list of questions about the way ahead includes what will now happen on the Palestinian political front. The continuing grip by Hamas on Gaza looks firm even if there were reports during the fighting of at least some Gazans protesting at Hamas' failure to foresee how Israel would react to the 7 October attack. But I doubt - if the ceasefire deal holds - we will see any significant body of opinion emerge in Gaza critical of Hamas for bringing such destruction down on the heads of the occupants of the Strip, although it will be interesting to see whether Hamas might be ready to allow a more internationally acceptable figure, such as UAE-backed Mohammed Dahlan, to play some kind of frontman role in Gaza. Some in Israel may think that in "out-crazing" Hamas by the massive scale of IDF action, Israel has at least ensured that Hamas will think twice before launching a similar offensive.

Should the UK and the EU now line up to pour money into the reconstruction of Gaza? An international conference looking for such pledges is inevitable, if the ceasefire holds. It would surely be madness to put any taxpayers' money into Gaza reconstruction unless there were some kind of cast-iron link to a wider political process - and what on earth could that be? I note too that the ceasefire deal says nothing about the deployment of any kind of international force to oversee it. Were that possibility to be on the table, the government should hesitate before offering to deploy any British troops on such a mission. Bitter experience suggests that even when such forces are welcome on day one, by day two they are everybody's target ...

Sir Tom Phillips is a former British diplomat who served as ambassador to Israel from 2006-10 and as ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from 2010-12. He was Commandant of the UK's Royal College of Defence Studies from 2014-18.

Prayers of the Faithful for 8 & 9 Feb 2025 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: So as the Lord chooses to climb into our boat, He wants to proclaim the Gospel from there. It is precisely that empty boat, the symbol of our incapacity, that becomes Jesus' pulpit from which he proclaims the Word. Let us pray.

For the Church: that we may be always attentive to God's invitations and allow Jesus to draw our attention away from our fear and limits so that we can respond to all that God asks.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For a greater recognition of our poverty: that the Spirit of God will help us acknowledge how much we need God, freeing us to ask for God's help, and opening us to receive God's wisdom and insight.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all catechumens and candidates: that they may receive the Gospel message as a word of life and grow in their knowledge and love of God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the grace to listen deeply: that we may follow Christ away from the noise and demands of daily life and enter the silent depths of our hearts where we can hear God's words of life and love.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For peace: that God will inspire those working to reduce tension in Eastern Europe, bring forth new understanding of one another's concerns, and open new paths for justice and respect.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord embrace and support all who are experiencing illness, 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 *Peter McBean & Anna Owen*, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Arthur Bacani, Tony Belfiore, Mariano Dalla Riva, Marika Deylen, Eileen Frawley, Verna Maloney, Grace Vincent and Richard, Eileen & Eva Zann*. May they be cradled in our Lord's loving embrace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, just as you did with Paul, immerse us in your grace. Please overcome the chasm that lies between who we are and whomever you might call us to be. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen

ROME / St Peter's Holy Door rite starts year devoted to 'opening the doors of our hearts'

Francis urges Catholics to embrace hope 'with haste'

Patrick Hudson

Pope Francis opened the Holy Door in St Peter's on Christmas Eve to begin the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope. The Pope passed through the door - sealed since the 2016 Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy - followed by a procession of clergy and Catholics from around the world in national dress, representing the People of God, as well as representatives of other Churches.

The rite to open the door included the gospel verse: "I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture" (John 10:9). The liturgy continued with the Jubilee hymn "Pilgrims of Hope" and the Christmas Eve Mass.

"If God can visit us, even when our hearts seem like a



Pope Francis launches the Jubilee Year of Hope on Christmas Eve

lowly manger, we can truly say: hope is not dead," said Francis in his homily, urging Catholics to embrace the Jubilee "with haste".

"It is a summons not to tarry, to be kept back by our old habits, or to wallow in mediocrity or laziness," he said.

Francis returned to the Jubilee theme in his *Urbi et*

Orbi address on Christmas Day. "Let us open to him the doors of our hearts, as he opened to us the doors of his heart," the Pope said, praying for all countries suffering from war and political unrest, particularly in the Middle East.

"May the doors of dialogue and peace be flung open throughout the region

devastated by conflict," he said.

The next day, Francis opened the second Holy Door of the Jubilee in Rome's Rebibbia New Complex Prison, the first time this has been done in a prison. He described it as "a beautiful gesture of opening" offering prisoners "the opportunity to fling open the doors to their hearts".

Further Holy Doors opened at the papal basilicas of St John Lateran and St Mary Major on 29 December and 1 January, with a fifth to open at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls on 5 January, the Feast of the Epiphany.

Pope Francis announced the 2025 Jubilee with the Bull of Indiction *Spes Non Confundit* in May 2024. It will end on the Feast of the Epiphany in 2026.

PHOTO: YOUTUBE



*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:
Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), *Siobhan Lappin*,
Barney Steward, *Skye Stojanov*

For the recently **deceased**:

Peter McBean

(husband to Marleen, father of Jason, Samantha & Travis,
and Pop to Ben, Georgia, Joseph, William, Maya & Angelina (dec))

Anna Owen

(Funeral: 10:30am, Wed 12 Feb, St Mary's, Greensborough)

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

Arthur Bacani, Mariano Dalla Riva, Marika Deylen,
Eileen Frawley, Verna Maloney, Grace Vincent,
Richard, Eileen & Eva Zann

Eltham

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

Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker,
Bernard Murray

(long time OLHC parishioner & member of Malawi support group)

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

Tony Belfiore

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

Roster for week ending 9 Feb 2025

Ballenger, Nima	C10:00
Bucknell, Jed	R10:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Davidson, John	W8:30
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Leahy Family	PRSE
Reardon, Kathy	H10:00
Reardon, Peter	H10:00
Scully, Greg	H10:00
Scully, Helen	H10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Wallace, Kathryn	W6:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR
Wood, Marie	LoW-01 Thu

Roster for week ending 16 Feb 2025

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Cseh, Nika	R10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Edwards, Elisabeth	C10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Love, Kathleen	H10:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Rigg Family	PRSE
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Skipper, Patsy	CLNR
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Thu
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham;

C = Commentator;

CLKR = Powerpoint Clicker @ SFX;

CLNR = Cleaner @ SFX; **R** = Reader;

E = Eucharistic Minister;

H = Hospitality;

LoW-01 = Liturgy of the Word with
Communion @ SFX;

PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;

M = Music; **W** = Minister of the Word



Safer Internet Day 11 February 2025

Each year in February across the globe Safer Internet Day is a day of action dedicated to raising awareness of online safety. The eSafety Commissioner has established a Safer Internet Day Hub where you can find everything you need to make online safety visible in our schools, home, parish or community.

The eSafety Commissioner leads the day in Australia and they are calling on all Australians to **help make the internet a safer, and more positive place**.

Visit their website to learn why Safer Internet Day is so important and to access resources including their [Safer Internet Day Hub](https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/sid) (www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/sid).

The online environment can be a great tool to help engage and communicate with the community beyond the normal boundaries of our schools, home, parish or community.

However, due to the innately private nature of the online environment, managing and maintaining oversight can be quite difficult, and may easily be overlooked. In the first quarter of 2024 alone, the eSafety Commissioner received 874 reports of cyberbullying. This was an increase of 40% from the same time in 2023 with the majority of victims being girls and young women.

As highlighted in Victorian Child Safe Standard 9, by providing children and families with information about online safety we can attempt to minimise the risks of abuse by increasing their own awareness and knowledge on this topic.

With 81% of parents with preschoolers reporting that their children use the internet, it is even more important that we all ensure that our children and grandchildren are only engaging with the online environment safely.

FORGET LONG LUNCHES AND RAISE JOBSSEEKER RATE: COMMUNITY LEADERS



Politicians need to stop discussing tax breaks for long lunches and start prioritising an increase to the JobSeeker payment, community leaders say. Source: *Canberra Times*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/06/forget-long-lunches-and-raise-jobseeker-rate-community-leaders/>

TOWNSVILLE BISHOP DESCRIBES DIRE SITUATION IN INGHAM - WITH MORE RAIN ON THE WAY



Townsville Bishop Tim Harris says he will visit North Queensland's Ingham region as soon as possible after the area experience the worst flooding since 1967. Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/06/townsville-bishop-describes-dire-situation-in-ingham-with-more-rain-on-the-way/>

SISTER WHO LIVED IN GAZA FOR 13 YEARS CONDEMNS TRUMP PLAN

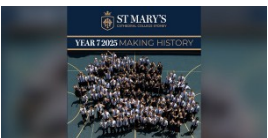


A religious sister who lived in Gaza for 13 years says it is "unimaginable to think that the inhabitants of Gaza could leave their land, their country" after

US President Donald Trump floated the idea of removing Palestinians. Source: *Asia News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/06/catholic-religious-sister-who-lived-in-gaza-for-13-years-condemns-trump-plan/>

ST MARY'S WELCOMES FIRST FEMALE PUPILS AS



SYDNEY SCHOOL GOES CO-ED One of Sydney's oldest Catholic schools has welcomed the return of female students for the first time in almost 60

years. Source: *News.com.au*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/06/st-marys-welcomes-first-female-pupils-as-sydney-school-goes-co-ed/>

EXPERTS VOICE CONCERN OVER 'GENDER-AFFIRMATION' TREATMENTS



Women's Forum Australia, backed by 100 doctors, politicians, and legal and ethical experts, has intensified its call for a national pause on youth "gender-affirmation" treatments pending the outcome of an independent inquiry.

Source: *The Catholic Weekly*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/06/experts-voice-concern-over-gender-affirmation-treatments/>

HOTEL'S DONATION HELPS TURN HOUSE FOR HOMELESS INTO A HOME



A Tasmanian hotel business has donated approximately \$500,000 worth of furniture to assist the fit out of a new transitional housing facility for women at risk of homelessness in Hobart.

Source: *ABC News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/02/06/hotels-donation-helps-turns-house-for-homeless-into-a->



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Signs of renewal

As we embark on a new year - not just any new year, but a Jubilee Year - we are reminded that God makes all things new. The Jubilee calls us to set out as 'pilgrims of hope', alert to the signs of renewal all around us. This week, there have been plenty!



On Saturday 1 February, in one of the biggest Archdiocesan events of recent times, thousands converged on St Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate the Episcopal Consecration [of] our two newest bishops, Bishop Thinh Nguyen and Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ - a joyful and hopeful moment for the People of God in Melbourne.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/joy-overflows-at-consecration-of-melbournes-newest-bishops>



We are pleased to announce the launch of a brand new '2025 Jubilee - Pilgrims of Hope' webpage on the *Melbourne Catholic* website, where local pilgrims can find everything they need to participate in this once-in-a-generation opportunity for renewal and reconciliation.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/jubilee-2025-website-launch>



And we celebrate the life and faith of the Hon Kevin Andrews AM, who was recently and posthumously honoured in this year's Australia Day honours.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/vale-kevin-andrews-man-of-faith-family-and-service>

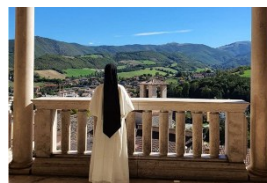
Welcome to a new year of *Melbourne Catholic*! We look forward to sharing the journey of hope and renewal with you.



Words of life: the transformative power of the Bible On Sunday 2 February, Word of God Sunday was celebrated in Australia, an opportunity for the Church to celebrate, study and share the word of God with others. In that spirit, we speak to three

Melbourne Catholics - Mary Ann Payne, Dr Rosemary Canavan and Deacon Joshua McDermid - about the powerful and transformative role that reading, studying and sharing the Bible has played in their lives.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/words-of-life-the-transformative-power-of-the-bible>



'Come and see': God's grace made visible in consecrated life Sr Mary Helen OP is a religious sister with the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia. Reflecting on the significance of the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, which we celebrated last Sunday,

she writes, 'I am always moved when someone sidles up to whisper that question, "How did you know God was calling you?" It's always a moment of grace as I am drawn back to remember that moment in Year 7 religion class when, seemingly out of nowhere, I was seized by the love of God and became convinced that my life was for loving him in return and bringing others to love him.'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/come-and-see-gods-grace-made-visible-in-consecrated-life>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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