

Risen Christ



Pentecost Sunday

7 & 8 June 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 - John 14:15-16, 23-26

Jesus said to his disciples 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever.

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own; it is the word of the one who sent me. I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you.'

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

John alone speaks of the Spirit as Paraclete (or Advocate as the word is commonly translated). The term has the legal connotation of defence lawyer, but it can also mean counsellor or intercessor. In his farewell address to his disciples, Jesus uses the term for the Holy Spirit in a warmer way. Like Paul's account in the second reading, the Spirit, with the Father and Christ himself, will come to make their home in us. It is an intimate relationship of love.

Jesus then explains that the Spirit will be their teacher and guide for the ministry that lies ahead. With these farewell words of Jesus at the Last Supper, the paschal cycle of Jesus' death and resurrection is drawn to a close.



Risen Christ Parish Pastoral Plan

On this Pentecost weekend, it is with much gratitude and pleasure that I offer you the Parish Pastoral Plan.

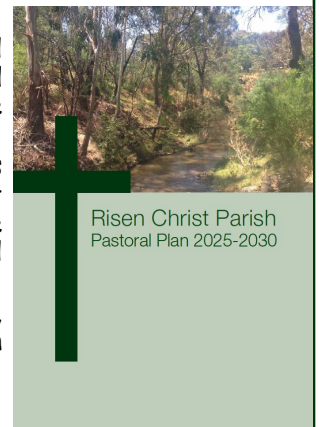
Since I arrived 6 years ago and have linked Montmorency and Eltham, the real work was to complete this Pastoral Plan and offer it to the Community as a way of beginning again as one Parish.

I'm deeply grateful to so many people who contributed to this document over the years. These are only words on pages but they are significant and for the first time they highlight for the Parish an opportunity to engage in ministries for the health and well-being of every Parishioner.

Today the Risen Christ Parish Pastoral Plan for the next 5 years, 2025-2030, is being launched with printed copies available in both churches to take home or scan the QR code for a digital copy, also searchable on our Parish Website.

The real work is just beginning.

Michael



*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

Holy Trinity Primary School

Principal: Vince Bumpstead: 9431 0888

principal@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

www.htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School

Principal: Rudy Vail: 9439 7824

school@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

RECONCILIATION

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

Collections: 18 & 25 May 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$1,032.00	\$736.00
	Electronic	\$3,608.67	\$2,470.50
Presbytery	Cash	\$776.70	\$878.70
	Electronic	\$200.00	\$160.00
Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering			
Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
March	\$8,083.67	\$15,977.50	\$24,061.17
April	\$6,796.67	\$10,257.50	\$17,054.17
May	\$6,846.67	\$7,868.50	\$14,715.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 7

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 8

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 10

10:00am Mass & Funeral : Ian Leach

Montmorency

11:30am HT Year 2 Prayer Liturgy

Holy Trinity

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 11

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 12

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 13

9:30am Mass & OLHC Yr 2 & 3

Eltham

Saturday 14

12:00pm Baptisms: Charlie, Harry, Leon,
Maci, Bowie, Sonny

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 15

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Stella, Kip, Joseph, Harper, Marlee

Eltham

Monday 16

11:30am Holy Trinity Feast Day
Whole School Mass

Holy Trinity

Tuesday 17

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 1/2

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 18

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 19

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 20

9:30am Mass

Holy Trinity

Saturday 21

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 22

8:30am Mass & First Eucharist

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist

Eltham

Tuesday 24

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency



*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:
*Suzanne Agius, Siobhan Lappin, Frances McDonald,
Jarrod Mizzi, Cindy & Ed Morrissey,
Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray)*

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
*Rose de Zilva, Frances Dooley, Charlie George (15 yr anniversary),
Maurice Kerwin, Edna Mary McCudden (25 yr anniversary),
Giuseppina Pace, Russell Rodrigo, John Stanhope*

Eltham

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

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



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

The People you help us assist say Thank You for all your support to our Winter Appeal

The SFX Statement of Identity (which is on the notice board outside the Church) says *"SFX is a welcoming, inclusive and generous; is outward looking and engaged in, and valuing, social justice initiatives"*. If you missed our appeal last week, you may still donate.

How to donate to the SVDP Winter appeal

Envelopes: SVDP envelopes are available at SFX in church pews or at the tables at the entrance doors or at the Presbytery/Church office. You are welcome to leave your donations and/or envelopes in the SVDP Donation boxes on the tables near the entrances to the church, at the Parish Office or to an SVDP member. Tax receipts can be issued by simply completing name and address on the envelope.

Direct Credit: BSB: 063 003 Account: 1008 1787 with Montmorency 916 in the reference box. In this way monies will be credited to the Montmorency Conference account and stay within our community.

Credit Card: by filling in your details in the envelopes in the church.

On Line: www.vinnies.org.au

By Phone: 13 18 12 and state your donation is for the **Montmorency or Eltham Conference**.

In terms of directing funds back to the Montmorency or Eltham Conferences, we request that you state Montmorency or Eltham in the "Comments/Conference Name box" which is just after the postal address box.

Assistance is always promptly available to the community from your local conference by contacting the St Vincent de Paul Call Centre on 1800 305 330 between 10am and 3pm weekdays.

Small Church Community Facilitators Meeting



There will be a meeting in the Parish House Montmorency of Facilitators of Small Church Communities on **Sunday 15th June, after the 8:30am Mass**. It will be good to see you all there to finalise our thoughts and approach to our annual Awareness Weekend which will be on 21st/22nd June. We will be celebrating 30 years of the presence of Small Church in St Francis Xavier Community! We will be inviting anyone to join an existing Community or beginning new groups if there is any interest in Risen Christ Parish.
Contact: Patsy 0429 439 675.

Roster for week ending 8 Jun 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	H10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Cseh, Nika	R10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	C10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Rigg Family	PRSE
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Skipper, Patsy	CLNR
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Taylor, Colin	H10:00
Taylor, Trish	H10:00
Wood, Marie	LoW-01 Thu

Roster for week ending 15 Jun 2025

Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Cotter, Anne	CLNR
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Davidson, John	W8:30
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	R10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Rough Family	PRSE
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scully, Greg	C10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Volunteer Please	H10:00
Volunteer Please	H10:00
Volunteer Please	H10:00
Volunteer Please	H10:00
Wood, Gerard	CLNR
Wood, Marie	LoW-01 Thu

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham;

C = Commentator;

CLKR = PowerPoint Clicker @ SFX;

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

E = Eucharistic Minister;

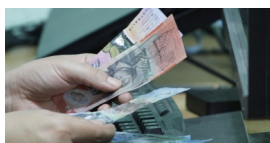
H = Hospitality;

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

PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;

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

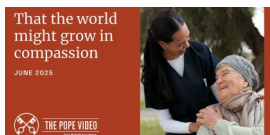
MILLIONS OF LOW-PAID WORKERS TO GET ABOVE-INFLATION PAY RISE



Millions of Australian workers will get a 3.5 per cent pay rise from July 1, following the Fair Work Commission's annual review of the minimum wage and award agreements. Source: *ABC News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/06/04/millions-of-low-paid-workers-to-get-above-inflation-pay-rise/>

POPE LEO MAKES HIS FIRST CONTRIBUTION TO 'THE POPE VIDEO'



Pope Leo XIV's prayer intention for June, a month devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is "that the world might grow in compassion".

Source: *OSV News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/06/04/pope-leo-makes-his-first-contribution-to-the-pope-video/>

SYDNEY'S NEWEST PRIEST 'GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR EVERYTHING'



Fr Tai Pham is the first priest to be ordained for the Sydney Archdiocese this year, in a richly symbolic ordination ceremony that also celebrated his faith, family and cultural heritage.

Source: *The Catholic Weekly*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/06/04/sydneys-newest-priest-grateful-to-god-for-everything/>

BROKEN BAY'S DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICIALLY OPENED



An innovative development project in the Broken Bay Diocese that includes a new primary school, parish centre, aged care and retirement living was officially opened and blessed by Bishop Anthony Randazzo this week.

Source: *Broken Bay News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/06/04/broken-bays-development-project-officially-opened/>

LITURGICAL CONFERENCE TO BRING TOGETHER 'THE THREE RS'



Rita, Ricky and Richard - It wasn't intentional, but the Pilgrims of Hope: Transformed through Sacrament and Song conference will bring together three keynote speakers who will likely resonate with their rigorous revelations about rites, ritual and rhythm. Source: *The Record*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/06/04/liturgical-conference-to-bring-together-the-three-rs/>

BRISBANE PARISH LAUNCHES 'UNASHAMEDLY CHRISTIAN' ART PRIZE



A Brisbane parish has created a new national Christian art prize, including Australia's largest student art prize.

Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/06/04/brisbane-parish-launches-unashamedly-christian-art-prize/>

The gift of family



Last weekend, the Church around the world observed the Jubilee of Families, Children, Grandparents and the Elderly, an opportunity to give thanks and pray for the gift of our families. To mark the occasion here in Melbourne, hundreds of married

couples came together at St Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate special anniversaries, <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/love-and-faith-celebrated-at-annual-marriage-anniversaries-mass>



among them 'best friends' Wilma and Francis, who have chalked up a remarkable 70 years of married life.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-labour-of-love-everyone-wants-to-adopt-my-parents>



And at a special Jubilee Mass in Rome, Pope Leo XIV spoke movingly of the love we find within and for our families as a powerful sign of peace for the world.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-familys-love-grounded-in-christ-is-sign-of-peace-for-world-pope-says>



With the ski season opening this weekend, we pay a visit to our northernmost Pilgrim Place, St Francis Xavier's, Mansfield, in Victoria's glorious High Country, where parish priest Fr George Felicieux has been welcoming pilgrims from across the

Archdiocese and around the world. <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pilgrims-celebrate-jubilee-2025-in-victorias-high-country>

And as the Australian bishops echo Pope Leo's recent and urgent calls for peace, a project sponsored by Caritas Australia is providing life-changing assistance to the growing number of amputees in Gaza.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/church-responds-to-gaza-crisis-with-calls-for-peace-and-practical-support-for-amputees>

Beginning something beautiful, artist Aalayah puts prison behind her.

Artist Kelly Flanagan, also known as Aalayah, was recently released from prison, where she had taken a new direction - towards art. She says learning to paint saved her life, and now gives her an income. Her work *Beginning of Something Beautiful* sold on the opening night of Confined 16, an exhibition by Indigenous artists affected by incarceration that's underway at the Glen Eira City Council Gallery.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/beginning-something-beautiful-artist-aalayah-puts-prison-behind-her>

In God's image: ACU conference calls Church to rethink disability and human dignity. At the *Idol Talk? In the Image of the Disabled God* conference, held at the Melbourne campus of Australian Catholic University (ACU) on 22-23 May, a broad range of voices came together from Church, academia and community to reconsider how the Catholic Church engages with people living with disability. A recurring insight of the conference was that the presence of people with disability is not a problem to be solved or a group to be accommodated but a gift to the Church.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/in-gods-image-acu-conference-calls-church-to-rethink-disability-and-human-dignity>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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



JESUS' INCLUSIVE TABLE A Bigger Table

Father Richard understands Jesus' eating habits as a model for the kind of inclusive and open hospitality Christians might practice.

God's major problem in liberating humanity has become apparent to me as I consider the undying recurrence of *hatred of the other*, century after century, in culture after culture and religion after religion.

Can you think of an era or nation or culture that did not oppose *otherness*? I doubt there has ever been such a sustained group. There have been enlightened individuals, thank God, but seldom established groups - not even in churches, I'm sorry to say. The Christian Eucharist was supposed to model *equality and inclusivity*, but we turned the holy meal into an exclusionary game, a religiously sanctioned declaration and division into groups of the worthy and the unworthy - as if any of us were worthy!

Before Christianity developed the relatively safe ritual meal we call the Eucharist, Jesus' most consistent social action was eating in new ways and with new people, encountering those who were oppressed or excluded from the system. It seems Jesus didn't please anybody by breaking rules to make a bigger table. Notice how his contemporaries accused Jesus: one side criticised him for eating with tax collectors and sinners (see Matthew 9:10-11). The other side judged him for eating too much (Luke 7:34) or dining with the Pharisees and lawyers (Luke 7:36-50, 11:37-54, 14:1). Jesus ate with all sides. He ate with lepers (Mark 14:3), he received a woman with a poor reputation at a men's dinner (Luke 7:36-39), and he even invited himself to a "sinner's" house (Luke 19:1-10). How do we not see that?

It seems we ordinary humans must have our "other"! It appears we don't know who we are except by opposition and exclusion. "Where can my negative energy go?" is the enduring human question; it must be exported somewhere. Sadly, it never occurs to us that *we* are the negative energy, which then sees and contributes to that negative energy in others. The ego refuses to see this in itself. Recognising this takes foundational conversion from the egoic self, and most have not undergone that transformation. We can only give away the goodness (or the sadness) that we ourselves have experienced and become.

Eucharist is meant to identify us in a positive, inclusionary way, but we are not yet well-practiced at this. We honestly don't know how to do unity. Many today want to make the holy meal into a "prize for the perfect", as Pope Francis observed. Most Christians still do not know how to receive a positive identity from God - that we belong and are loved by our very nature! The Eucharistic meal is meant to be a microcosmic event, summarising at one table what is true in the whole macrocosm: we are one, we are equal in dignity, we all eat of the same divine food, and Jesus still and always "eats with sinners", just as he did when on Earth.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/a-bigger-table/>



JESUS' INCLUSIVE TABLE Meal-Based Social Action

Jesus didn't please anybody, it seems. He was always breaking the rules and spreading out the table. - Richard Rohr

Father Richard considers how Jesus' eating habits challenged the religious and cultural norms of his time - and our own:

Jesus didn't want his community to have a social ethic; he wanted it to *be* a social ethic. Their very way of relating was to be an affront to the system of dominance and power; it was to name reality in a new way. They were to live in a new symbolic universe. This radical idea is given in a simple clue found throughout the Christian Scriptures - one that biblical scholars overlooked until only recently: Jesus' presence with others at table. That theme is so constant in the Christian Scriptures that scholars today see it as central to Jesus' message. Jesus never appears to be pushing what we call social programs. He is much more radical. He calls us to a new social order in which we literally share table differently!

The mystery of sharing food and a common table takes place on different levels. First, there's the unifying idea of sharing the same food. Then, there is the whole symbolism of the table itself: where we sit at the table and how the table is arranged. Together, the food and table become a symbol of how our social world is arranged. Once we rearrange life around the table we begin to change our notions of social life.

That, I believe, was Jesus' most consistent social action: eating in new ways! In the midst of that eating, he announced the reign of God and talked in new ways. Usually, on his way in or out of a house, he encountered those who were oppressed and eliminated from the system. A great number of Jesus' healings and exorcisms take place while he's either entering a house to have a meal with someone or leaving a house just after having had a meal with someone. He redefines where power is on many different levels at the same time. Religious power is, for one thing, mostly exercised outside the Temple and synagogue.

It's necessary to calculate very carefully what was lost and what was gained as Christianity developed. The church moved from Jesus' real meal with open table fellowship to its continuance in the relatively safe ritual meal that became the Christian Eucharist. Unfortunately, the meal itself came to redefine social reality in a negative way, in terms of worthiness and unworthiness.

That is almost exactly the opposite of Jesus' intention. To this day, we use Eucharist to define membership in terms of worthy and unworthy. Even if we deny that is our intention, it's clearly the practical message people hear. Isn't it strange that the sins of marriage and sexuality are the primary ones we use to exclude people from the table, when other sins like greed and hatefulness that cause more public damage are never considered?

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/meal-based-social-action/>

Ten years ago, Pope Francis issued an encyclical that dramatically moved concern for the environment to the mainstream of Catholic belief and practice / **By Margaret Atkins**

Green roots of faith

On the night of Jorge Mario Bergoglio's election as Francis, I rang an Argentinian friend who had known him in Buenos Aires. "Benedict was a man of words," he said. "Francis will be a man of gestures."

I suppose I am a "woman of words". I loved Benedict's words, especially in his great encyclicals on love and hope, and in his quiet insistence on the profound importance of caring for the planet. But I soon saw my friend's point: Francis' very choice of name; his change of accommodation and his keeping of his black shoes; his embrace of a leper and his washing the feet of a female Muslim prisoner. These gestures captured the imaginations of millions, Catholic and non-Catholic, most of whom had never heard of a papal encyclical or read a Vatican document.

Yet, perhaps surprisingly, it was Francis' words that changed my life and were to dramatically shift the debate about our common home. *Laudato si'* caught the imagination - by its timing, by its language, both trenchant and poetic, by the very symbolism of an encyclical letter devoted to our ecological crisis. Suddenly, it was no longer just the Pope and a few eccentrics like me who cared about ecology as Catholics. Bishops' conferences across the world came on board; parishes engaged; Christians of other Churches read the letter. It became easy, rather than

awkward, to explain that you were *both* a Catholic *and* a "Green". My own work changed, as invitations to talk and write on these issues multiplied. In my own community too, there was now lots I could do, with willing agreement, from energy-saving to planting wildflowers.

For all that, the idea that the encyclical was "about climate change" was a misunderstanding. Indeed, an open-minded climate sceptic could agree with almost all of it. Loosely based on Francis' favoured "See, Discern, Act" methodology, it begins by observing the state of the world and the resources of our faith. It then explores the causes of the climate crisis more deeply than any secular text. In the key chapter, "The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis", Francis follows Benedict (and their shared master Romano Guardini) in an analysis of the technological mindset that leads us to put ourselves in the place of God. The next chapter, on integral ecology, reminds us that everything is interconnected: God and Creation, biological and human ecologies, the cry of the poor and the cry of the Earth.

People sometimes say to me, "Do they learn *anything* about *Laudato si'* at seminary?", often followed by, "Aren't seminarians these days all conservative?" The respective answers might be, "Yes, and I am one of the people who teach them, and, "Many are, although in a distinctive

and interesting way. And don't conservationists also want to *conserve* things?" In fact, *Laudato si'* offers rich resources to build bridges with the younger generation. Its insistence on the theological significance of Creation, on integrating faith with action, prayer with practice, care for animals with care for people and simplicity of life with joy and praise - all these strike a chord.

Thoughtful young "conservatives" grasp the dangerous power of technology. They appreciate the clarity of Francis' "We are not God" (*LS* 67). They are open to recognising the continuity of his teaching with the deepest roots of our faith.

In a visual age, we need both the words and gestures. Most of all, we need both words and gestures that come from the heart, that are part of a life lived with consistency and integrity. Ten years on, to the delight of all of us Augustinians, the cardinals have elected one of our brothers as Francis' successor. Pope Leo, thanks be to God, is already signalling his determination to further embed *Laudato si'* at the heart of Catholic teaching. Francis' words, gestures and example remain a wake-up call to us all.

Sr Margaret Atkins OSA is a member of the community of Augustinian canonesses at Boarbank Hall in Cumbria.

Pastoral Visitation Volunteers

Finally, after a few too many hiccoughs, we are pleased to inform you we have the go ahead to visit Calvary Lower Plenty Garden Views Aged Care Facility and St Vincent's Care Services. Many of you placed your names on a list for visitation to these Homes at the end of last year. We are now happy to invite you to attend a **meeting in the Gathering Space at Our Lady Help of Christians at 10:30am Thursday 19th June.**

We have invited Josette De Souza who is responsible for Pastoral Care at St Vincent's and John Kmaid who does the same at Calvary LPGV to join our gathering. They are delighted to come to meet and welcome you, happy to answer any of your questions. Our Safeguarding Officer Peter Williams has also kindly offered to join us to help with any uncertainties that may arise.

It may be your circumstances have changed and you are no longer able to offer your time, since you signed up last year, or it may be you know have time and would like to be part of this Ministry, all are very welcome. Tricia Stephens and myself look forward to hearing from you regarding your availability for the 19th June, to have an idea of numbers.

Contact: Patsy 0429 439 675 or Tricia Stephens 0416212544.

Thank you, Patsy

Scarves, Socks & Beanies

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

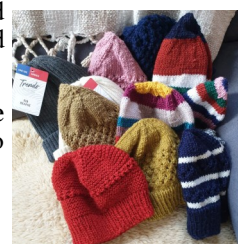


To all those generous folk, who knit and crochet beautiful warm woollen beanies and scarves, and those who buy new and warm garments, they help to keep warm our sisters and brothers and children, sleeping in doorways and under bridges in this extremely cold weather.

Your heart and love is the heart and love of Christ made present to all and especially to those in most need.

Let us not forget, **we are all One Family in Christ.** Thank you so much.

Enquiries: Mary (OLHC) and Patsy (SFX) 0429 439 675



THE SAD SAGA OF THE ALI FAMILY – please help

In 2022 I introduced you to the Ali family – Hazara (Afghan) parents and 6 children. We had been asked to assist their relatives, who have lived in Australia for over 20 years, as they navigated their way through the visa application process. At that time the father (Ali) was 54, his wife (Robaba) 45, son (Ahmad Zia) 23, daughter (Shakiba) 21, son (Ahmad Sharif) 17, son (Ahmad Nesar) 14, son (Ahmad Fahim) 12 and son (Ali) 8.

Ali had worked for the United Nations as a Civic Educator during 2003 - 2005 elections, a fact the Taliban brutally held against him and his family. On 26 August 2021 Ali (with help from his relatives residing in Australia) lodged a valid application for a Refugee and Humanitarian (XB) Visa Application to Australia. Over the following year the family sustained harassment, threats, physical and sexual abuse. As a result, the eldest son escaped illegally to Pakistan and several months later was joined by Ali. Pakistan is safer than Afghanistan, but far from 'a safe place'.

In Australia, my friend (Mary Clarke) and I began a relentless campaign contacting politicians and the United Nations, pleading for the visas to be issued. In 2023, life in Afghanistan became so dangerous, we encouraged the remaining family to join Ali in Pakistan. This was a highly risky undertaking since the family did not hold Pakistan visas and had to cross the border illegally. The three youngest children became separated from their mother and were not able to reunite for several weeks.

In Australia, the relatives urged us to help them lodge a Community Support Program application, with AMES as the Approved Processing Organisation. The application process required 165 pages of documentation and would cost the families between \$60,000 - \$120,000. As part of the process both AMES and Home Affairs receive significant financial payments for "processing the paperwork". In the end, the application was rejected because it was discovered Ali was older than first thought, and there is an age cut-off.

Since 2023, the family has languished in a single room in Pakistan. Each time we update information with Home Affairs, a UN representative in Quetta visits them to get documents signed and relays them back to us. Australia wants detailed "evidence" rather than generalised information, and recalling these details is painful/torturous. The last time I contacted the UN about Ali, asking for details of the abuse incidents, my contact reported that the family is now too deeply depressed, and have lost all hope, and no longer feel they can provide any further information. They have given up.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. As advocates, we burn out. We need new eyes to find other ways to raise the awareness about this family. Politicians tell us that in the Casey Precinct (where Ali will reside) there are 140,000 families who have lodged valid visa applications. All these families have similar stories. **We need someone to join our team and think of new ways to get this family out of their hell-hole** – Maybe a petition? A media campaign? In the Catholic Year of HOPE, we need to find a way to reinstate hope into the hearts of these people. **Please join our team.**

Miranda Armstrong (thomasinemiranda52@gmail.com) and Mary Clarke



Prayers of the Faithful for 8 June 2025 - Pentecost Sunday

Leader: "Come Holy Spirit and send from high heaven a ray of your light."

With one heart we pray for all who are baptised, called to witness without fear, the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. May they be strengthened by the Spirit in their resolve to follow Christ's teaching.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

With one heart we pray for peace and the relief of suffering in the Middle East, in Ukraine and in all other areas of conflict throughout the world. May those who are working to restore peace be given, by the Spirit, the strength and guidance needed.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

With one heart we pray for all who are victims of drought and floods and other natural disasters. May they receive the help they need to rebuild their lives.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

With one heart we pray for the future of our Risen Christ Parish. We pray that, with the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Pastoral Plan released today will be received and acted upon in good faith and with enthusiasm.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

With one heart we pray for those who are sick in body or mind, for those who are isolated or feel rejected. With the strength of the Spirit may we be inspired to reach out to them.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

With one heart we pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Rose de Zilva, Frances Dooley, Charlie George, Maurice Kerwin, Edna Mary McCudden, Giuseppina Pace, Russell Rodrigo & John Stanhope*. May they enjoy eternal rest through the mercy of God. May those who are grieving the loss of family or friends receive the comfort of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Holy Spirit, as we celebrate today your breath of Pentecost, we pray that you respond to our prayers. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen



Pentecost Prayer SEQUENCE

Holy Spirit, Lord of light
From the clear celestial height
Thy pure beaming radiance give.

Come, thou Father of the poor,
Come with treasures which endure;
Come, thou light of all that live!

Thou, of all consolers best,
Thou, the soul's delightful guest,
Dost refreshing peace bestow;

Thou in toil art comfort sweet;
Pleasant coolness in the heat'
Solace in the midst of woe.

Light immortal, light divine,
Visit thou these hearts of thine,
And our inmost being fill:

If thou take thy grace away,
Nothing pure in man will stay;
All his good is turned to ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour thy dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away;

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

Thou, on us who evermore
Thee confess and thee adore,
With thy sevenfold gifts descend;

Give us comfort when we die;
Give us life with thee on high;
Give us joys that never end.