

Risen Christ



Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

17 & 18 October 2026

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: Matthew 22:15-21

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'



Reflection - Break Open the Word 2026

Palestine in the time of Jesus was under Roman occupation. In general, the Jewish community were not happy with this, but there were groups like the Herodians who had pro-Roman sympathies. The different groups got together to work out how to trap Jesus.

They begin with flattering before posing their question about paying tax to Rome. If Jesus says it is permitted, he risks a reaction from the people; if he says it is not, he risks a backlash from the Roman rulers. He neatly sidesteps this no-win situation by saying 'both-and'.

The incident raises for Christians the difficulty of finding a way to live in a secular society. We need to retain a missionary gospel voice in public debate but we are not in a position to impose gospel values on those who do not believe. Sometimes it is a fine line to tread, especially in regimes that are manifestly anti-Christian.

In proclaiming this text (*You hypocrites ...*), quiet menace will be more effective than loud anger. 'A man's rank' can be read as 'a person's rank'.

*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

Volunteers

Marisa Capuana: Various

Kerry Mash: Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

www.melbcatholic.org/risenchristparish

Facebook: [Risen Christ Parish](https://www.facebook.com/RisenChristParish)

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

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St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Jo Nolen: 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: 27 Sep & 4 Oct 2026

Thanksgiving	Cash	\$1,771.00
	Electronic	\$7,169.00
Presbytery	Cash	\$1,411.95
	Electronic	\$485.00

Thanksgiving Offering

Month	Total
July	\$19,824.17
August	\$21,312.57
September	\$19,589.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 17

12:00pm Baptisms: Kobe, Charlie,
Finn, Gianna

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 18

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Jordan, Alaska, Pia

Eltham

3:30pm Rosary: Andrew Pighin

Montmorency

Monday 19

10:30am Funeral: Andrew Pighin

Greensborough North

7:00pm RCIA Class

Eltham

Tuesday 20

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Marian Month of October Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 21

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:30pm Marian Month of October Rosary

Eltham

Thursday 22

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

10:30am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 23

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 24

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 25

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 26

7:00pm RCIA Class

Eltham

Tuesday 27

9:30am Mass & SFX Year 3 & 4

Montmorency

10:00am Marian Month of October Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 28

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,

Following is a list of ways in which you can give towards the running of our Parish (left to right):

A) EFTPOS terminals

B) scan the QR code (<https://bit.ly/45ifhRp>) & donate to any Parish finance campaign including Thanksgiving, Presbytery Offerings, baptisms etc

C) cash/coins in the collection baskets at each church

D) thanksgiving envelopes

E) set up payments from credit/debit cards/bank account

Thank you for your generous support,

Michael





*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:

*Baby Liam & Natalia Park, Baby Margot Brady,
Chiara Sansonetti (7 years old), Kiera Taylor (9 years old),
Peter, Stephen Andrew, Des Arneson, Bill Boyce, Penny Boyce, Maria Bredle,
Vincent Cipolletta, Nora Edmond, Monivic Fanlo, Michelle Hogan,
Pat Hosmer, Siobhan Lappin, Georgina Lynch, Mary Luttick,
Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Bernard Murray, , Beth Scott,
Audrey Tunks, Nicholas Turnbull, Jeanne Vanderwert, Noel Vincent*

For those who have **died** recently:

Andrew Pighin, Regina Roszczenko

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

*Sylvia Bergamo, Kevin Boyd, Peppino Costanzo,
Barrie Edwards, Joe McKinley*

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

Roster for week ending 18 Oct 2026

Beckford, Peter	C10:00
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Cricco, Melanie	H10:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Cseh, Nika	R10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Fitzgerald, Susan	H10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Leahy Family	PRSE
Love, Philip	W8:30
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Stone, Nan	W6:00
Sullivan, Frances	CLNR
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR

Roster for week ending 25 Oct 2026

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Dunell, Linda	H10:00
Dunell, Rick	H10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Nolan, Kathleen	R10:00
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Rigg Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	C10:00
Skipper, Patsy	CLNR
Smith, Neil	E10:00
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;

PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;

M = Music; W = Minister of the Word



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday, 17th October, 2026

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Charlie Joseph Beirne-Wyncoll

Finn Jason Beirne-Wyncoll

Gianna Hemphill

Kobe Fred Herz

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Sunday, 18th October, 2026

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 12:00pm

Pia Cascone

Alaska Grimble

Jordan Kade Passeri

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism



Your generous support today transforms lives.

By supporting Catholic Mission, you help provide essential aid such as food, water, education, and emergency relief through Church-run programs. Tax-deductible gifts fund vital community services, while non-tax-deductible gifts can also support faith-formation, training seminarians, and building schools and churches.

**Together, we can bring hope and opportunity
to those who need it most.**

[https://www.catholicmission.org.au/see-our-work-in-action/malawi?
form=FUNADANCAXR](https://www.catholicmission.org.au/see-our-work-in-action/malawi?form=FUNADANCAXR)

In the first of a new series, a married father of three and maths teacher explains why he offered to train as a permanent deacon and how the role has changed his life / **By Eddie White**

‘We’re all in this together’

“Just Eddie”: these are the words that flash up on the screen of my wife’s phone when I call her. And “Oh, it’s just Eddie”, is what people tend to say when they see me around in Portobello, Edinburgh. I take it as a compliment: there are no barriers between us. I’ve been deeply embedded in the community here since I was ordained a deacon aged 42. Now I’m 49, a married man, a father of three, and a maths teacher.

My ministry fits around my family and my work. Everyone in the parish knows not to expect to reach me between nine and half-three in term time. It’s a good balance - there are quite a few deacons who are teachers or nurses: intensely at work a lot of the time, then free to help the rest of the time. I love being able to say, in the staffroom, “I married an ex-pupil this weekend.”

I grew up in Dundee - a fairly poor area of Dundee - in a council house, the fifth of six children. My father died when I was 13. He had fallen away from the Church after Vatican II, but my mother was very devout, so I grew up with church at the centre of my life. I also discovered, quite young, that I was good at maths, so after school I did a degree in pure maths. But if you’d told me then I would go on to do a theology degree, I’d have laughed.

When people ask me about my path to becoming a deacon, I always feel I disappoint them when I don’t come back with some otherworldly story about how God spoke to me one day and asked me to do this. But really it just wasn’t like that: it was very practical and logical - a mathematical route, if you like. I believe in one God, the Father Almighty. I believe in every part of the Creed. And I believe in the Church. I also believe that there’s a problem with providing clergy in the



Deacon Eddie White, left, with Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh Leo Cushley

Church, and when I was a father of small children I saw that this was something I might help, in a small way, to resolve. It seemed obvious to me that I couldn’t really complain that there weren’t enough priests and deacons in the Church if I sat back and did nothing about it.

There was a great priest here at the cathedral in Edinburgh, Mgr David Gemmell, who died a few years ago. He used to say that one of the things that really annoyed him was when, at the end of Mass, someone from the congregation would ask: “When are you going to paint that wall?” And he’d say, “Well, I’m never going to paint it. It’s your church: why are you not painting it?” And I think that’s the sort of mindset we need. The parish priest is maybe like the managing director of a business, but we’re all in this together.

I never had a feeling that I wanted to be a priest. Some of my slightly less theologically understanding colleagues said: “Why don’t you just become an Anglican now, because Anglican priests are well paid and allowed to be married?” But it wasn’t as simple as that: I never had a sense that, because I’m not allowed to be a priest, I’m going to be a deacon; rather that the Church needs more deacons, and that’s something I can do.

And I love it that my children are involved in my work. My 16-year-old is a huge support to the sacristan of the Church. My youngest, coming up 14, helps with a lady who will be 80 this year, and they go once a week for pizza and coffee, just the

two of them.

My wife was fundamentally supportive, but the training, I think, left a lot to be desired. For example, it was largely run by older men who wanted to have an afternoon nap between, say, two and half-four. And those two and a half hours would be added on to the evening - and that, for me, was when I had a two-year-old child, and I should have been helping with bedtime. If the Church wants younger deacons - and while retired men without the demands of a job, may be easier to work with in a way, younger deacons will go on longer - they need to develop more of an understanding of what a young family’s life is like.

My work can throw up real challenges. When Covid hit, and we were about to go into lockdown, I was told I’d be leading the live streaming for the church. I’m quite computer-literate, but I had no interest in audio-visuals - so I had to learn. And now supporting the work of the parish through the internet is something I love. I did a baptism recently where the family were American, so we were able to live-stream to them in America. The children were able to see their grandparents as if they were there with us. Breaking down those barriers is something I really love.

There are probably a few priests who absolutely hate deacons - but they’d keep themselves away from me. I like to be fully involved in parish life. I love taking baptisms and marriages: who wouldn’t? And the Eucharist is a very big part of my faith, and I love being able to share this: we have a monthly Benediction and Holy Hour which I run. And we annually hold our 40 hours of adoration: it was the last thing cancelled before lockdown, and the first thing we started when lockdown was lifted. I do believe that being silent in front of the Eucharist is one of the very best ways of praying.

I’ve been a deacon long enough now that I’m starting to get repeat business from some families. So I feel I must be doing a good job. And they come to me because I’m just Eddie.

As told to Maggie Fergusson.

What does a Deacon Do?

"At Mass," Deacon Simon Tierney told me, "I might look a bit like a glorified altar server." But the fact is that, since the permanent diaconate was restored at the Second Vatican Council, they have come to serve a far more important role than many of us might imagine. There are now more than 800 of them in England and Wales (compared with slightly more than 4,000 priests). Unlike the deacons who are on their way to becoming priests, permanent deacons are ordained members of the clergy who do not wish to be priests. They can baptize, witness marriages, and preside at funerals. They can preach at Mass, and they are generally fully involved in the day-to-day running of parishes, serving the poor, the sick and the homeless - the word "deacon" comes from the Greek

word *diákonos*, meaning servant - and working in schools and prisons. As they are unpaid, most permanent deacons have secular jobs. Most, but not all, are married, though an unmarried man may not get married after being ordained, and a permanent deacon may not marry again if his wife dies. More and more younger men are coming forward for the diaconate. Over the next few weeks, some of them will speak to *The Tablet* about their vocations and their work: what led them to the permanent diaconate? Did they start by wanting to be priests? What effect do their lives as deacons have on their lives as husbands and fathers? Do they believe the diaconate should be open to women? We will meet five men passionate about their work - and very much more than "glorified altar boys". *M.F.*

A barbaric proposal

The Catholic Church in the United States has rightly condemned as "barbaric" the announcement by Pete Hegseth, Secretary of Defense, that the execution by firing squad of an American soldier convicted of mass murder would be "live-streamed": that is to say, viewable by the general public via social media. While Donald Trump has enthusiastically endorsed the proposal, his vice president, J.D. Vance, has said he will not watch it. Vance is a Catholic. Clearly, even in the Republican Party, there are some misgivings. Yet the history of the Catholic Church's own opposition to the death penalty is slightly problematic, as it only became official doctrine recorded in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* in 2018, on the orders of Pope Francis.

Critics say the idea reduces the violent death of a human being to something akin to entertainment; and that the public "martyrdom" of Nidal Hasan, a major in the US army at the time, would boost the cause of Islamist fanaticism. He shot dead 13 fellow soldiers while shouting "*Allahu Akbar*", at Fort Hood, Texas, in 2009. He was shot during the attack and now uses a wheelchair. The Church teaches that the death penalty is incompatible with human dignity, which is possessed by even the most heinous criminal. Opposing the death penalty is seen as part of a "seamless robe" of pro-life teaching, from opposition to abortion and euthanasia to campaigning for better healthcare and action to eradicate hunger and poverty.

The United States is one of the very few western countries that allows the death penalty, though it has not been carried out in public since 1936, and death by firing squad is rare in peacetime. So both the crime and the sentence are extraordinary. It is yet to be determined whether

it falls under the prohibition of "cruel and unusual punishments" in the US Bill of Rights - a phrase copied word for word from the English Bill of Rights of 1689. It is undoubtedly meant to humiliate the prisoner in public and express extreme detestation of both and his crime. But there is no evidence that such detestation is weak or dwindling in the US, so a public demonstration to toughen public opinion is hardly necessary. More likely it forms part of one of the Trump administration's favourite manoeuvres - offending the perceived sensibilities of so-called woke liberals - including, presumably, the Pope. In fact the Catholic Church's opposition to the death penalty marks a rather belated joining of an existing consensus among the great majority of nations. According to Amnesty International, more than 140 countries have done so, at least in practice. Britain abolished it for murder in 1969, and for treason in 1998.

The position of the Church Fathers on capital punishment ranged from absolute prohibition to acceptance under tightly circumscribed conditions. By the end of the Middle Ages, the Church had come to accept the civil power's right to put criminals to death when it was deemed necessary to protect the common good. In *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope John Paul II taught that such cases had become "very rare if not practically non-existent". The new clause in the *Catechism* says "the Church teaches, in light of the Gospel, that the death penalty is inadmissible as it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person", a position that would have been familiar to the first Christians. If this is true of the death penalty now, then it always was, including in the long period when the Church supported it.

Pope Leo XIV's surgery reveals lung cancer

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-leo-xivs-surgery-reveals-lung-cancer>

Pope Leo XIV has been diagnosed with lung cancer following a 90-minute surgery on 13 October during which surgeons removed the lower lobe of the Pope's right lung.

Dr Stefano Margaritora, chief thoracic surgeon at Rome's Gemelli Hospital, led a medical team in the video-assisted technique operation. In a joint statement with Dr Luigi Carbone released at just before 10pm Rome time, the doctors said that the 'examination confirmed the diagnosis of lung adenocarcinoma, as suspected by the preoperative tests.'

'The Holy Father was in the operating room for about 3 hours; the surgery itself lasted approximately 90 minutes,' the statement said. 'After the surgery, the Pope woke up as expected and, following a brief period of observation, returned to his room on the 10th floor.'

The Pope underwent the surgery in the last afternoon after being admitted to Rome's Gemelli Hospital at 1pm.

'The surgery was successful, completed on schedule and as planned, and the Holy Father has returned to his room,' the Holy See Press Office said in a statement issued shortly before 8pm.

Pope Leo was expected to remain for one week of recovery in Rome's Gemelli Hospital, located atop Monte Mario, the highest hill in Rome. The Vatican has cancelled all of the Pope's scheduled audiences through to 20 October.

The hospital's chapel was overflowing people on Tuesday evening as Cardinal Baldassare Reina, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Rome, led a Rosary for the Pope's healing as people anxiously awaited the results of the Pope's operation.

Among those who came to pray was Sr Alphonsa Manikkathan from India's state of Kerala and her fellow sisters from the Daughters of Divine Providence, whose residence is located near the hospital.

'We pray for the Pope every day, not only today,' Sr Alphonsa told OSV News. 'Jesus said wherever two or more are gathered and pray for something, he will give. So for his fast recovery, we are praying.'

Fr Miguel Silvestre Bengoa from Spain also joined in the Rosary at the hospital. 'If the Pope is suffering, we also suffer with him,' he said. 'But we want also to see him again in the Vatican.'

'It was so nice to be close to the Pope in this same hospital,' the priest said. 'We entrust the health of the Pope to the hands of Our Lady.'

Pope Leo's operation took place just days after he first revealed to the world that he needed surgery at the end of his Angelus address in St Peter's Square on 11 October.

Speaking from the window of the Apostolic Palace, the Pope announced that doctors had discovered a nodule in his lung during a medical examination, adding that the growth was detected 'at a very early stage' and it was 'well contained'.

'The doctors believe intervention is advisable, so, following their advice, I have decided to undergo surgery to have it removed,' Pope Leo said.

Since the Pope's announcement, prayers and messages of support have poured in from around the globe from prime ministers, presidents, religious leaders and Catholic bishops, including president of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB, who was in Rome for a meeting on marriage and the family marking the 10th anniversary of *Amoris Laetitia*.

Archbishop Costelloe said the Pope's announcement was 'both a surprise and a matter of deep concern, not just for Catholics but for all those who see in him a powerful advocate for peace, compassion and stability in an increasingly volatile and fractured world.' He noted that 'the knowledge that not just Catholics but all people of faith and goodwill will be praying for Pope Leo will be a source of comfort for him.'

This was the second hospitalization in the 71-year-old Pope's life, according to a recently published biography. Shortly after his election, Pope Leo said that he had only been hospitalized once in his life before becoming pope, when he caught typhoid fever after recently arriving as an Augustinian missionary in Peru in 1985.

'It's the only time in my life I've been hospitalized,' Pope Leo is quoted as saying in the book, *Pope Leo XIV* by Elise Ann Allen, calling it 'a very significant' moment in his life that helped him more sharply focus on his new ministry.

Pope Leo's surgery occurred less than one month before he was scheduled to depart for South America for what would be the longest international trip of his pontificate from 6 to 17 November, with stops in Uruguay, Argentina and Peru. The Vatican has not yet announced any changes to the trip.



If you know someone who would like a regular visitor to bring the Eucharist and/or friendship, or if you would like to volunteer for this ministry, please send a request to the Hospitality Group via the Parish Office.

Thank you.

risenchrist.parish@cam.org.au

9435 4742

Eltham Vinnies
now have in
stock
2027
Columban
Calendars



The Marian Month of October

Pray the Rosary

During the month of October,
the Rosary will be said at
Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham
every **Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.**

Prayer for peace is what Our Lady requested
and I think it is sorely needed in our world today!



The Month of October is the Rosary
Month,

and in Honouring our Mother,
the Rosary will be said at
St Francis Xavier, Montmorency
on **Tuesday** after Mass
at approximately **10:10am.**

R.C.I.A.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



Just a reminder that RCIA has started up
and we have a lovely group. You are most
welcome to join if you are considering
becoming Catholic or participating in the
sacraments fully.

(RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au).

Prayers of the Faithful for 18th Oct 2026 Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Confidently and acknowledging God's
grace for us, we present our prayers to
you God, our Father.

Lord, remember the faithfulness of your Church.
May we be truthful witnesses of the Gospel,
avoiding the distractions and influences that
surround us.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, inspire and strengthen all those who are
called especially to serve you in the priesthood and
religious life.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, guide those who have authority over others, in
all spheres of influence in our society. May they
recognise and promote your hope for our world.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, remember all those who profess faith in you.
May we be true witnesses of your love for all
humanity.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, remember the poor, the victims of war and
those struggling with ill health. May they be aware
that you know them and call them by their names.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, especially
Andrew Pighin & Regina Roszczenko, and for those
whose anniversaries occur at this time, including
Sylvia Bergamo, Kevin Boyd, Peppino Costanzo,
Barrie Edwards and Joe McKinley: may they rest
forever in the love of their God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God, our Father, we believe that you
answer our prayers, through Christ our
Lord.

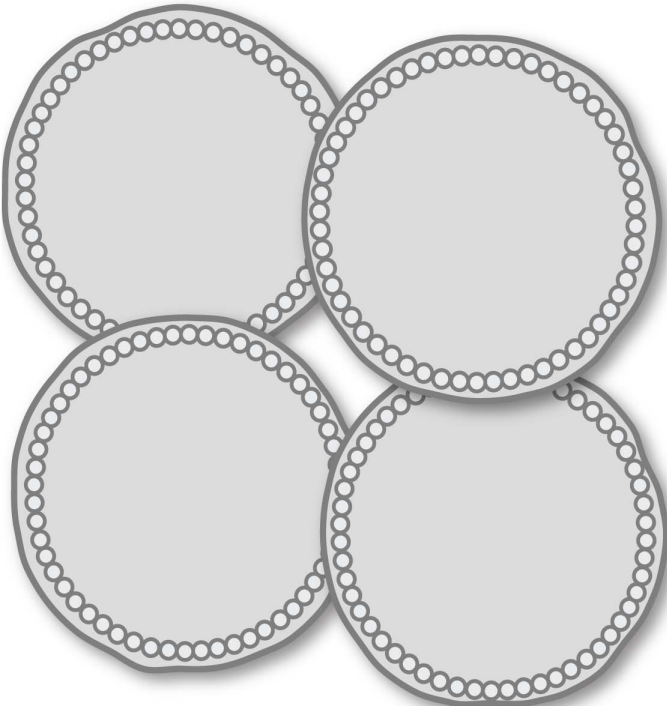
All: **Amen**

Children's Liturgy



**Give to Caesar what
belongs to Caesar...**

Jesus believed that people should
obey the law and pay their taxes to the Romans.
What are some laws or rules that we must obey?



Melbourne Synod 2026

What is the link between Vatican II and Synodality?

1. The Church as the People of God

Vatican II reimagined the Church as a communion of the People of God, called to journey together, discern together, and share responsibility for mission. Synodality is the practical expression of that vision in today's Church.

Synodal link:

- Synodality encourages listening to the voice and participation of all the faithful.
- Every baptised person shares in the mission of the Church.



Light into the City

Renewing the
spiritual heart of
Melbourne

<https://lightintothecity.org.au/>



Melbourne Catholic Digest Finding hope in the face of uncertainty Anchored in faith

Sometimes it's hard to think about the future. In an age when technology and other forces are reshaping our lives and our world so quickly that we struggle to keep up, the Church offers us deep traditions and wisdom to anchor us and give us hope for the future.



Last week, Catholic university students from across Melbourne gathered for the grand final of the inaugural Archbishop's Shield debating competition. In stark contrast to the superficiality and polarisation that characterises much of the online world, it was an opportunity for young people to come together in person and to engage with some of the deep questions of the Catholic faith in a spirit of curiosity, generosity and camaraderie.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/uni-students-unite-in-faith-and-reason-for-inaugural-archbishops-debating-shield>



Also growing up in a world of rapid digital advancement, St Carlo Acutis - whose feast day we celebrated on Monday - found his anchor in the Eucharist, the powerful presence of Christ with his people. Recently, Melbourne hosted a first-class relic of this 'saint for our age', drawing thousands of people over the weekend to an overnight vigil at St Catherine of Siena in Caroline Springs.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/thousands-visit-relic-of-millennial-saint-known-as-gods-influencer>



Melbourne was also recently visited by Franciscan friar and internationally renowned AI ethicist Fr Paolo Benanti. Participating in a panel discussion on artificial intelligence and the common good at the Melbourne campus of Australian National University, Fr Benanti's advice was to ground the discussion around AI in shared reason rather than what divides people. 'We have to find what unites us,' he said.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/vatican-ethicist-warns-ai-risks-creating-ultra-processed-knowledge>



As we contemplate the news this morning about Pope Leo XIV's recent diagnosis of lung cancer, let us unite with people around the world in prayer for the Holy Father, anchored in faith and in the hope to be found in Christ.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-leo-xivs-surgery-reveals-lung-cancer>



Dadirri Where Aboriginal and Augustinian spiritualities meet The Friends of St Augustine National Lay Congress in South Yarra over the weekend has explored the deep connections between Aboriginal spirituality and the Augustinian tradition. Talks by Aboriginal elder Theresa Ardler and the Augustinians' Provincial Fr Tony Banks highlighted shared themes of community, healing, deep listening and the experience of God in the present moment, arguing that these common spiritual foundations can inspire active hope and practical reconciliation.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/magic-dreaming-where-aboriginal-and-augustinian-spiritualities-meet>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

www.melbournecatholic.org or www.facebook.com/CatholicArchdioceseofMelbourne