

Risen Christ



Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

27 & 28 September 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.



2025 AFL Grand Final Geelong Cats v Brisbane Lions



Gospel - Luke 16:19-31

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

"In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things come your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

"The rich man replied, "Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning, so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

R.C.I.A. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



An open invitation is extended to people who are not Catholic, or as Adults have not received the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation and would like to fully participate in the Mass with the reception of the Eucharist. Please contact us and let's begin our enquiry time together.

Risen Christ Parish, Eltham & Montmorency welcome your participation.

What is RCIA? The RCIA, which stands for **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**, is a process through which non-baptised men and women enter the Catholic Church. It includes several stages marked by study, prayer and rites at Mass. Participants in the RCIA are known as catechumens, and it's a wonderful adult journey of Christian discovery and personal renewal.

If you know of anyone in your family or friendship groups or neighbourhood that might like to begin this "enquiry" time, with no obligation to continue in the process to Easter 2026, then please feel free to ask them. Please let Kate (in the parish office) know by phone (9435 4742) or email (RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au).

*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

www.olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

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: 7 & 14 September 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$252.00	\$691.00
	Electronic	\$1,735.67	\$4,730.00
Presbytery	Cash	\$500.85	\$957.95
	Electronic	\$50.00	\$180.00

Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering

Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
June	\$7,561.67	\$10,092.50	\$17,654.17
July	\$5,586.47	\$8,151.50	\$13,737.97
August	\$6,513.67	\$9,149.50	\$15,663.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 27

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 28

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharist

Eltham

Tuesday 30

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

Wednesday 1 October

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:30pm Rosary

Eltham

Thursday 2

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

7:00pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 3

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 4

12:00pm Baptisms: Mia, Ella, Isaac
Myla & Tahlia

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 5

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists

Eltham

Monday 6

2:00pm Mass

St Vincent's Aged Care

Tuesday 7

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 8

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,
Following is a list of ways in which you can
give towards the running of our Parish
(clockwise from top right):

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

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

C) EFTPOS terminals

D) thanksgiving envelopes

E) set up payments from credit/debit cards

Thank you for your generous support,
Michael





*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:

*Pat Hosmer, Siobhan Lappin, Frances McDonald, Jarrod Mizzi,
Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray),
Barney Steward, Jeanne Vanderwert*

For the recently **deceased**:

Michael Steward (brother/in law of Barney & Jeanette Steward)

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

Peter Brewer, Peter Dwyer, Tom Way

Eltham

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

*Stephen Andrew, Sheilah Arneson, Bill Boyce, Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker,
Mary Luttick, Bernard Murray, Audrey Tunks*

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

Ken Ritchie, Derek Rollins

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



**Congratulations to all who celebrate
their sacraments this weekend:**

Sunday, 28th September, 2025

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 10:00am
Emily Roukos

First Eucharist

Season of Creation

Week Four

Canticle

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth, who sustains us and governs us and who produces varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs. Praised by You, my Lord, through those who give pardon for Your love, and bear infirmity and tribulation. Blessed are those who endure in peace for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Reading

One day Francis was filled with joy because he was beginning to enjoy God in all creatures. He went through the streets singing and inviting everyone to sing along with him. Then he came upon an almond tree, and he said, 'Brother Almond, speak to me of God,' and the almond tree blossomed.
(From a legend of St. Francis)

Contemplation

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth and blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." (Matthew 5:5, 9)

Prayer of the Week

All-powerful God, Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognise that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



SEASON OF CREATION

For some years, the "Lifeboat Foundation" has been assisting victims of church-related sexual abuse with basic living costs, counselling, vehicle expenses, and just simply listening, believing and caring. The Foundation has been greatly assisted by donations of **unwanted cars**, e.g. from deceased states, or people relinquishing licence etc., either to give to victims who need them, or selling them to raise funds. You could help this important work (a) by identifying people who might **donate an unwanted motor vehicle**, and (b) **identifying someone to assist** in the administration of Lifeboat's "Car Donation Project" e.g. speaking to potential donors of vehicles, it's not complicated nor over-demanding of time. If you can assist or would like more information about the "Lifeboat Foundation" and/or the "Car Donation Project", contact **Fr Kevin Dillon**, frkdillon@outlook.com.au or **0421 777 360**.



Roster for week ending 28 Sep 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	R10:00
Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	H10:00
Reardon, Peter	H10:00
Rigg Family	PRSE
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Skipper, Patsy	CLNR
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Taylor, Colin	H10:00
Taylor, Trish	H10:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30

Roster for week ending 5 Oct 2025

Bowlby, Ross	H10:00
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Cotter, Anne	CLNR
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	W8:30
Edwards, Elisabeth	C10:00
Grande, Silvana	H10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Illiffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Reischel, Will	R10:00
Rough Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	E10:00
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

Made in Peru

Will Pope Leo be a cautious consensus-builder or will he continue the Francis upheaval? The first biographer to draw on in-depth interviews with him may have the answer / **By Austen Ivereigh**

Those of us waiting for the real Pope to emerge from beneath his “cautious, careful, and measured façade” might be in for surprise, the veteran Vatican journalist John Allen wrote recently on his Crux news site. For it is likely that “the cautious, careful and measured façade, in the end, is the real Pope”.

Moves that might appear to be tantalisingly discordant - receiving Fr James Martin SJ in the apostolic palace to affirm his ministry to gay people while inviting Cardinal Raymond Burke to celebrate the traditional Latin Mass in St Peter's Basilica, say - are not, in other words, an exercise in consensus-building prior to some dramatic reveal, but the papal programme itself: a leadership, in Allen's words, that emphasises balance, consideration for different points of view, and the belief that “what the Church needs right now, above all, is not further upheaval but a measure of peace”.

Is that right? Is it Leo's task to tamp down or halt what Francis upheaved? For answers, we need not look far: Allen's wife, Elise Ann Allen, also an American journalist and *Vaticanista*, this week publishes the first in-depth study of Leo XIV, drawing on his first sit-down interviews as Pope - the result of two meetings with him over the summer, one at Castel Gandolfo and one at the Vatican.

She goes back some years with Leo, having first interviewed the then Bishop of Chiclayo in December 2018 in Peru, and they seem to have hit it off. Robert Prevost was at the time also vice-president of the Peruvian bishops' conference and head of its safeguarding commission; Alen was doing one of her many in-depth reports on sex abuse cover-up in *El Sodalicio*, the notorious Peruvian lay movement she knew from the inside. Five years later, when Prevost, by now the prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops, came for dinner at the Allens' flat in Prati, she was again struck by his openness, humour, simplicity and attentiveness to everyone around him.



ALAMY/AP, JULIO REANO

She tells this story at the start of *León XIV: Ciudadano del mundo, misionero del siglo XXI* (“Leo XIV: Citizen of the world, missionary of the 21st century”), which was commissioned by the Peruvian branch of Penguin Random House, and is for now available only in Spanish, with translations expected early next year. The book's Perus focus is justified by Allen's research, which shows how deeply Leo was shaped by the country whose nationality he eventually adopted, by the people he missioned to, and by the tensions - political, social and ecclesial - in the Church that he had to navigate. In those pressures and choices, the future Pope was born; without Peru, one might say, there would be no Leo. And it is fair to say, *pace* the other Allen, that the Leo born of Peru is indeed far more focused and decisive than the cautious, careful façade might lead you to believe.

For Prevost there is no searing childhood grief of an orphaned Karol Wojtyła, nor the trauma of a shy Joseph Ratzinger dragooned into the Hitler Youth, no sign, even, of something like the teenage Jorge Mario Bergoglio's mystical encounter in the confessional. Genetically, the Prevosts are an interracial riot, but in character they come across in Allen's

Pope Leo, as the then Bishop of Chiclayo, Robert Prevost, says Mass in Motupe, Peru in 2018

telling as next-door folk: quiet, modest, unremarkable. The family home in suburban south Chicago is calm and tribally Catholic: parish school, weekly Mass, the Rosary, volunteering in church activities. Young Bob sings in the choir, is an altar boy, and everyone, including himself, sees him as singled out for priesthood.

He enters an Augustinian minor seminary, where he is bright, studious, kind, pious and *sportif*. We learn the reasons for his attraction to a missionary life (a desire to get out and serve the poor), and specifically to the Order of St Augustine (a love of the saint of Hippo, and its emphasis on education and community) which he enters after earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Villanova in 1977. But there is no existential crisis, no suffering or serious sin of the kind that marks a man - nothing that backs him against a wall and reveals a lion's heart. Does nothing ever happen, or is no one saying? Maybe this is the miracle fruit of loving, stable families. Leo recalls to Allen a few evanescent doubts about whether to opt for marriage rather than the celibate life, and says he flirted with a life of politics rather than faith. But the road looks clear.

He wants to be a missionary, but not as a lone ranger; he longs for a harmonious community life. The Augustinians offer both.

Even his time training with other Religious for a Master's in Divinity at the progressive Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in early 1980s Chicago - he is, *naturellement*, diligent, punctilious, and cheerful - leaves him oddly unaffected by the post-conciliar turmoil. Allen says he absorbed there the liturgical changes, the ecclesiology of the People of God, and so on. But in her telling Prevost sits lightly to the discussions on campus. Leo tells her the debates helped him "to be open to considering all aspects of the teaching of the Church", but that "This doesn't mean that, as a priest, I would reject them". Duty and obedience prevail.

Marked down now as clever and able, Prevost makes his solemn profession and is dispatched to the Augustinianum in Rome in 1981 to study canon law. He is ordained (1982), gets his licentiate, or JCL, from the Angelicum (1984) and later a doctorate, or JCD (1987), with a thesis on the role of the Augustinian prior. Why law? Allen does not ask, but it figures. Law is concrete; it is practical. It's about good order, justice, rights, problem-solving.

There is much that is safe, cautious and conventional about Prevost at this time, a ream of touchpaper apparently safe from sparks. Worryingly for a 30-year-old cleric, he loves Rome, feels at home there, doesn't want to leave. But in 1985 - *Dios es bueno* - while still working on his doctorate, he is dispatched to Peru. And there, even though his basic character remains, the pastor in Prevost begins to come alive, along with a passion for a vision of the Church rooted in Latin American reception of the Second Vatican Council.

He was set alight in that first year in Chulucanas, in northern Peru, the base of the mission that the Chicago Augustinians had taken on in the early 1960s, in one of the poorest and least developed areas in the country. They created a prelature under a bishop Leo describes as prophetic, John McNabb OSA.

At first Prevost was horrified. It was the apogee of Shining Path, the Maoist guerrilla movement notorious for its ferocious scorched-earth tactics and fundamentalist ideology; ordinary Peruvians, especially in rural areas, were caught in the crossfire of terrorism and the army's brutal counter-terrorist response. No one was spared the explosions, power

cuts and gun battles, nor the hyperinflation and economic meltdown. Foreigners - including missionaries - faced death threats and kidnappings. Prevost, arriving after floods had wrecked the roads, asked God what on earth he was doing there. The answer came in a bout of typhoid fever. He was rushed to a clinic, the only time in his life he has been in hospital. There his shell cracked, and from it life emerged. Prevost felt God telling him to get over it and get on with it. "I'm going to give it my all," he promised, and after that - he tells Allen - never looked back.

Bishop McNabb was the pioneer of a pastoral plan inspired by the avant-garde 1950s renewal initiative of an Italian Jesuit, Fr Riccardo Lombardi. Initially aimed at empowering animators in local settings to read the signs of the times and enable conversion, the Movement for a Better World - it's still going - developed in the 1970s a dynamic method of implementing the Second Vatican Council's People-of-God ecclesiology in parishes. Chulucanas was the first diocese in Latin America to adopt the New Image of the Parish, which sounds a lot like an 1980s version of the synodal, pastoral vision of the Francis era, even using the same language of participation, communion and mission. Prevost soaked it all up and put it into practice. "All that we are hearing about today in the talk about synodality," Leo tells Allen, "we were doing in the 1980s in Chulucanas."

That pastoral plan would become the model for Prevost over the next 20 years, as it was for the other Augustinian missionaries in northern Peru: to create parishes with strong lay agency and participation. For McNabb, who had attended the final session of the Council, it was all about moving away from what Leo calls "an individualist spirituality and privatised piety in which I pray to God, go to Mass, and hope that God saves me" and about "us becoming an authentic ecclesial communion in order together to give witness to the presence of Christ in the world".

In this, says Leo, Latin America remains a beacon to the rest of the Church. He tells Allen "there are still parts of the Church that have not lived the renewal of Vatican II" and that it is time to ask why. In this, Leo sounds like other Latin American bishops, who often describe how the Church in Europe and North America lit the fuse of Vatican II but then retreated into the sacristy and the old clerical model, while Latin America, a bystander at the Council itself, went on to nurture its fire.

After returning to Rome to receive his JCD, in 1988 Prevost was sent back to Peru, this time to the city of Trujillo. He was given the task of building a formation house for local Augustinian vocations. Over the next 10 years he was also director of formation of the friars, and spiritual director to many, while teaching at the diocesan seminary. He also acted as judge in the diocesan tribunal, handling mostly cases of abuse - by lay catechists and teachers as well as by priests. And on top of it all, he was also a parish priest.

Allen's many interviews with those who knew him at the time offer a portrait of a highly disciplined workaholic - awake at 4am, in the chapel by 5, Eucharist at 6 - who says little but achieves much: an introvert doer, careful planner and problem-solver. He was demanding of those who worked with him or whom he was forming, ensuring they developed their inner lives - where Augustine believed we meet God - while working for good qualifications. At the same time, he was a pastor in the Latin American mould, teaching the Augustinians to be attentive to people's needs through what he called *acompañamiento solidario*, walking with the poor in solidarity with them.

This was not just about creating people's kitchens but defending human rights. The Latin American Church's meetings at Medellín (1968) and Puebla (1979) deeply influenced the friars' pastoral action in the parishes they ran - something not welcomed by many of the diocesan clergy in Trujillo, who sniffed at their commitment to the formation of lay people and empowerment of women. Their social activism brought death threats, and the Augustinian mother house in Chicago at one point urged them to pull out. But most of the friars chose to stay. (Leo was threatened by people claiming to be Shining Path *senderistas* but he refused a bodyguard.) It was hard work, but it paid off in vibrant communities that could "walk on their own two feet", as one of Allen's interviewees put it.

Elected prior of his Chicago-based province, Prevost headed back to the US in 1998, and three years later he was elected Prior General of the order worldwide, with its base in Rome.

If Peru broke him open as a pastor, and gave him a concrete expression of Church, his dozen years as Prior General gave him a global vision at a time with the OSA's vocations shrank in Europe and the US and grew in Africa and Asia. He learned how culture conditions viewpoint. "When you asked him

something,” recalls a friar, “he’d say, ‘But you have to see that’s not how it’s seen in the Philippines, or in Asia, or Korea.’” He revamped the OSA’s formation programmes and modernised the order’s global communications, even doing a complete redesign of the OSA’s website with the assistance of another friar, without help from technicians.

Leo describes his way of leading as “not primarily hierarchical”. He gathers people and allows them to feel heard. “The truth belongs to everyone: it’s not mine or yours, but is of all of us, and we have to seek it together,” he tells Allen, quoting Augustine. But he is prepared to be decisive. “Some might say I’m bold, others might say crazy; but I’m prepared to go ahead.”

Allen’s witnesses show how his gentleness and calm demeanour conceal a steely resoluteness. When he learned of financial and sexual misconduct in the OSA’s Mexican province, for example, he called together its leaders. They denied it all furiously, at which point Prevost but a briefcase on his desk, saying that in it he had the bank statements of a number of them. “So either we start to work on this, or I’ll read them out, one by one. You decide: Shall we get to work?” Allen’s source, who was there that day, was struck by Prevost’s *modus operandi*: how a period of careful listening and evidence-gathering was followed by bold action. (In Mexico’s case, the provincial and his allies were sacked.)

Francis, who had spotted Prevost’s smarts long before he was Pope - they met in Buenos Aires in the early 2000s, when Bergoglio was its archbishop and Prevost was visiting his friars there - named him Bishop of Chiclayo after his term as Prior General ended in 2013. As well as leading a diocese he took on several roles in Peru’s bishops’ conference: its vice-president, head of its safeguarding and education commissions, and a member of its juridical and social action bodies, as well as of Caritas Peru.

Allen reveals why in 2020 Francis named Prevost apostolic administrator of the diocese of Callao,

which neighbours Lima archdiocese: to deal with the fallout from its former (Spanish) bishop’s attempt to impose the Neocatechumenal Way on every parish, to the point of sending round heavies with guns to threaten reluctant parish priests. Francis sacked the bishop, and sent Prevost in to clear up the mess.

Allen goes into forensic detail about Prevost’s dealings with the mounting abuse crisis in Peru, centred on the powerful, wealthy, reactionary movement known in Peru as *El Sodalicio*. The Sodalitium Christianae Vitae (SCV), to give it its proper name, was suppressed by Francis shortly before he died, following years of probes, sanctions and expulsions ordered by Rome. Allen followed all this closely as a journalist with Crux. Earlier, working for the Catholic News Agency - the SCV-owned outlet in Denver, Colorado, which was later bought by the conservative conglomerate EWTN - she had experienced the SCV’s abusive culture first hand. Later she would give evidence - full disclosure: so did I - to a Vatican tribunal that sanctioned one of its high-ranking members, the former director of the CAN, Alejandro Bermúdez.

We read of Prevost’s boldness in assisting *Sodalicio*’s victims in their struggle for justice, and in helping Rome intervene; of his patient, courageous confrontation with the many groups in the Church and in Peruvian society controlled by the SCV; and his encouragement of journalists seeking to uncover the corruption and cover-up. Both in Peru and later in Rome, as a curial cardinal from 2023, Prevost was key to the sanctioning and later suppression of the SCV, which he came to see was rotten at its core.

Leo is not the first Pope with baggage from his past in relation to abuse, but the first whose baggage is as a courageous reformer. He created and led Peru’s safeguarding commission, and brought Fr Hans Zollner SJ over from Rome to raise the bishops’ awareness of the issues. Allen painstakingly addresses the accusation that Prevost mishandled an abuse case in Chiclayo, which

Sodalicio-adjacent sources used to try to discredit him in the run-up to the conclave, and which has been - irresponsibly, she demonstrates - repeated by the US abuse survivors’ group SNAP.

What happened in Chiclayo might provide the best clue to who Leo is and how he will lead the Church. The narrative at the time of his election was that he took the diocese in a synodal, pastoral direction while carrying everyone with him, building bridges as he went. But Allen paints a far more conflicted picture.

His promotion of lay leaders, especially women, to key diocesan roles - his pastoral vicar was a layman - as well as his support for popular devotions, backing for human rights, practical emphasis on social justice and focus on the peripheries all came as a shock to a diocese governed for 30 years by Spanish Opus Dei bishops. True, Leo introduced the changes with sensitivity: John Paul II and Benedict rather than Francis were quoted to help the synodal medicine go down. But many of the Opus Dei clergy were furious at Prevost’s promotion of lay people, and while most were gradually won over, a few remained bitterly opposed to the end.

Before making him prefect of the bishops’ dicastery in January 2023, Francis had already been giving Prevost more responsibilities in Rome. Afterwards, he became one of the few Curia whom the Pope deeply trusted. Leo says his relationship with Francis was frank and fond, and they shared a sense of humour, but they weren’t “intimate friends” and sometimes disagreed.

But it is clear that Leo is following in the path of the Latin American Church’s reception of Vatican II, which Francis universalised in his pontificate. Leo’s programme may be to build bridges and bring peace. But Allen’s meticulously documented story of Prevost in Peru shows he will at the same time continue the Francis upheaval, even if more patiently, quietly, and strategically.

Austen Ivereigh’s most recent book is *First Belong to God: On Retreat with Pope Francis* (Messenger Publications).



Pilgrims of hope

JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE

EMBARK ON A TRANSFORMATIONAL & SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IN THIS YEAR OF JUBILEE

melbournecatholic.org/jubilee



Fundraising Dinner Sat 11 Oct at 6pm

Maney's Dumplings
7/12-16 McLeans Road, Bundoora

\$40 adults, \$20 under 12 years
Please advise dietary requirements
BYO wine, drinks available to purchase
Prepare for our usual wonderful raffle along with the \$1 and \$2 boards
Funds raised will go towards supporting Annie our volunteer nurse in Cebu

BSB: 083276, Acct No 822436380
This is a prepaid event
Use your name as reference
Any queries please contact Glenys Gayfer
papel-imports@bigpond.com; 0411 196 395

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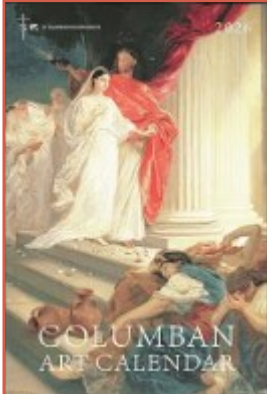
The Marian Month of October

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency:
a group of Parishioners gather each Tuesday after the 9:30am Mass to pray the Rosary, from approximately 10:10am.



Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham:
we will be praying the Rosary for October every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm.

All welcome.



OLHC Vinnies
now have a limited number of **Columban Calendars** for 2026 available at the **Piety Stall** from this **Sunday 28 September. \$10.00 each.**

Prayers of the Faithful for 28 Sep 2025 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Christ invites us to care for the Lazaruses of our day. With confidence, we pray for our suffering humanity.

The way for the baptised is littered with obstacles. We pray to the Lord that we may walk faithfully and justly in this world. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

There is a vast gap in our society between the rich and the poor. May those working to bring about justice be successful in bridging the gap. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In Jesus we meet the God who saves. May we know how to recognise and respond to the accomplishment of His love in the life of the world. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Many people are afraid of death and do not believe in the resurrection. May our priests, deacons and laity provide comfort to the families who are grieving the loss of those they love. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May those who are ill in body, mind or spirit receive the necessary help and encouragement to cope with their trials. May those who look after the sick be filled with the strength to continue to bring love and hope to those in their care. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died recently, especially *Michael Steward*, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Peter Brewer, Peter Dwyer, Ken Ritchie, Derek Rollins and Tom Way*: may the God of love and justice welcome them into his kingdom of everlasting glory. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Christ our Lord, you who give life to all humanity, hear our prayers. In your goodness grant our petitions. You who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen

VATICAN MINISTER APPEALS FOR WOMEN'S DIGNITY, EQUALITY



The Vatican's foreign minister yesterday reaffirmed before the United Nations the Holy See's commitment to promoting the dignity and equality of women, but warned that these goals cannot be achieved without respecting dignity "from the unborn to the elderly". Source: CNA.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/24/vatican-minister-appeals-for-womens-dignity-equality/>

WHITE HOUSE CONFIRMS ALBANESE-TRUMP MEETING



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese will meet US President Donald Trump in Washington next month, the White House has confirmed.

Source: ABC News.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/24/white-house-confirms-albanese-trump-meeting/>

HEALTHCARE COSTS DRIVE YOUNG PEOPLE TO LENDERS



A disturbingly high number of people aged 18 to 35 are resorting to "buy now, pay later" loans or tapping their superannuation to pay for health care, a national patient survey has found.

Source: The Australian.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/24/healthcare-costs-drive-young-people-to-lenders/>

SYDNEY ARCHIVES TO KEEP MEMORIES ALIVE



The site of Sydney archdiocese's new archives building is officially under construction after the site blessing and groundbreaking by

Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Meagher last week.

Source: The Catholic Weekly.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/24/sydney-archives-to-keep-memories-alive/>

ALL'S QUIET ON THE BOOK CLUB FRONT



The Discalced Carmelites of the Australia-Oceania region have launched a new initiative aimed at sharing their charism of prayer, silence, and community - a silent online book club.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/24/alls-quiet-on-the-book-club-front/>

NUNCIO TAKES SOLIDARITY MESSAGE TO SUDAN



The Apostolic Nuncio to South Sudan has completed a 10-day visit to Sudan, where he carried a message of closeness and solidarity from Pope Leo XIV to the Catholic community amid the ongoing civil war.

Source: Vatican News.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/24/nuncio-takes-solidarity-message-to-sudan/>

CHURCH LEADERS BACK RALLY AGAINST CORRUPTION



Catholic clergy, religious and laity came out in droves at an anti-corruption rally in Manila, Philippines, on Sunday that drew tens of thousands of

protesters. Source: Catholic Review.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/24/church-leaders-back-rally-against-corruption/>

THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE GOOD OF OTHERS Lives of service

The Christian life is inherently one of service, of selflessly seeking the glory of God and the good of our neighbours. Though every life of service is unique, each of us is invited to follow in the way of Christ, who showed us what it means to serve truly and completely.



Last Saturday, at St Patrick's Cathedral, three men committed themselves to lives of Christ-like service by answering God's call to the priesthood. As Archbishop Peter A Comensoli reminded them at the Ordination Mass, 'Priests are called, St

Paul said, to the work of service, the work of self-giving.'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/three-new-priests-ordained-in-melbourne>



For 55 years, St Luke's Parish in Lalor has had a special mission welcoming, supporting and serving migrant communities in Melbourne's north. This year - as one of the Archdiocese's official Pilgrim Places - it has also been welcoming pilgrims from across the Archdiocese and beyond, offering each visitor a glimpse of the hope we have in Christ.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/st-lukes-lalor-a-pilgrim-place-of-welcome>



And having celebrated Social Services Sunday last weekend, Catholic Social Services Victoria Executive Director Josh Lourensz reflects on his recent visit with the Archbishop and Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services Fr John Petrus to three

Catholic service organisations in Melbourne's west, and on the opportunities each of us has to encounter and connect with our neighbours.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/encounter-and-connect-a-reflection-for-social-services-sunday>

WALKING THE TIGHTROPE BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND CHINA, CARDINAL CHOW CALLS FOR UNDERSTANDING

Chinese Cardinal Stephen Chow has the enormous task of being a conduit between the Vatican and the Chinese government, while at the same time taking up the pastoral challenge of bringing young people in his home of Hong Kong back to the Church. His approach to both is one [of] empathy and understanding, using dialogue to bridge differences.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/walking-the-tightrope-between-the-vatican-and-china-cardinal-chow-calls-for-understanding>

'GOD KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING': BISHOP THINH NGUYEN REFLECTS ON TIME AT BISHOP SCHOOL

It's been almost a week since Bishop Thinh Nguyen and Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ returned from Rome, where they attended what is affectionately known as the annual 'Baby Bishops' School'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/god-knows-what-hes-doing-bishop-thinh-nguyen-reflects-on-time-at-bishop-school>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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