

Risen Christ



The Ascension of the Lord

31 May & 1 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 - Luke 24:46-53

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.

'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them, he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

These words from the end of Luke's gospel occur on the day of the resurrection, following the story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus and the appearance of the risen Lord to the apostles.

The risen Christ spells out for them that the gospel would be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. The apostles will soon take up this mission when they are 'clothed with power from on high'. Christ says he is sending upon them the gift promised by the Father (the Holy Spirit). He takes them outside the city and 'withdraws' from them. By then, it must have been quite late at night.

The apostles are not sad - they go back to the city full of joy! The ascension is not an ending, but a new beginning, the establishment of a new relationship with the risen Lord in the Holy Spirit.

WAR IN GAZA

THE BATTLE FOR ISRAEL'S SOUL

Israeli war aims in the Gaza conflict seem to have changed, from the elimination of Hamas personnel one at a time to making Gaza uninhabitable by destroying every building still standing. This would put pressure on the civilian population to leave, taking Hamas with it. Neither of these policies has shown much regard for civilian casualties. Nor have the Palestinians anywhere else to go. The Israeli government is deliberately threatening the civilian population with starvation, if it does not die first from untreated wounds and disease. All in aid of a policy that has shown no sign of succeeding. Hamas remains undefeated, hostages unfreed.

The watching world is horrified, and political leaders across the globe are having to shift from supporting Israel's right to defend itself against a barbaric and merciless foe to questioning the means by which it is doing so. Under international pressure, the Israeli government has had to relax its embargo on humanitarian aid entering Gaza. But for two million Palestinians the appalling nightmare continues.

What explains the Israeli political establishment's callous disregard for human life in Gaza? Israel does not face an existential threat. There is an assumption in some sections of Israeli society that one Jewish life is worth more than one Palestinian life. Of course this assumption of superiority is by no means unique to Israel: there is an

implicit white supremacy behind much western colonialism.

But do Jewish supremacist attitudes towards Arabs in particular have other roots? The Israelite conquest of the land of the Canaanites, recorded in the early books of the Hebrew Bible, was a cruel and ruthless affair. The same justification - that this was the "Promised Land" given to the Hebrews by God - is now evoked by Jewish settlers in the West Bank and by biblical fundamentalists influential in the Netanyahu government. But they do not understand their own religious history. Judaism evolved, and gradually became less exclusive. It became aware of the moral content of the Covenant and how it applied to non-Jews. The commandment "Love thy neighbour as thyself" may initially have been thought to apply exclusively to fellow Jews. The prophet Amos was not the only one to see its universal relevance. The parable of the Good Samaritan was told by Jesus in answer to the question, "And who is my neighbour?" and the answer - "The one who showed mercy" - was acceptable to Jewish onlookers. As it would have been acceptable to Amos, who taught the dignity of all humanity created in God's image. The lesson of the parable is as characteristically Jewish as it is characteristically Christian - and it is often disregarded by both. It is missing in the way the Israeli regime is treating Palestinians. They are not counted among the "neighbours" to whom Leviticus 19:18 refers, as people to be loved "as thyself". Many Israelis understand this, which is why Netanyahu's ruthless approach to the Palestinians is widely rejected. This war is not just about Gaza, or Hamas. It is a battle for Israel's soul.

*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
February	\$8,426.67	\$8,121.50	\$16,548.17
March	\$8,083.67	\$15,977.50	\$24,061.17
April	\$6,796.67	\$10,257.50	\$17,054.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 31

12:00pm Baptisms: Prim, Matilda

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 1 June

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Xena, Isla, Evie

Eltham

Tuesday 3

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 5/6

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 4

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 5

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:00pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 6

9:30am Mass & HT Preps & OLHC Prep/1

Eltham

11:30am Funeral: Ron Pfeil

Montmorency

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

10:00am Rosary

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

2:00pm 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



St Vincent de Paul Society

good works

***We would like to share with the parishioners of Risen Christ Parish,
the Community of St Francis Xavier,
the families at St Francis Xavier Primary, Holy Trinity Primary & Catholic Ladies College
our Annual Report from St Vincent de Paul (SVDP) Montmorency Conference
for the period 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024***

In this the Diamond Jubilee year of SVDP Montmorency, the conference wishes to thank all the parishioners and school communities for their financial, food and other support over the past 60 years. Without this support, we would never be in a position to assist the underprivileged in our community.

SVDP is an international community of ordinary people attempting to build a just society through advocacy and good works for vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our local community.

Home visitation is at the heart of SVDP mission and vision and as such seeks to be recognised **as a caring organization offering a “hands up and not just a hand out” to people in need in our local community** irrespective of their faith, ethnicity, social background, gender or political opinions. We do this, on your behalf, by respecting their dignity and privacy, sharing our hope for individuals and **to empower and enable them to create change in themselves encouraging them to take control of their own destiny.** We are inspired by the joy of the Gospels and our Catholic social teachings to do things that matter. The spirit to feed, heal, shelter, nurture and inspire – the power to change lives is in everyone.

Economic inequality and/or inadequate income support payments entrench poverty and disadvantage.

These factors together with the **current cost-of-living crisis** with increases in rents, interest rates, food and utilities prices, directly impact the disposable income of families. These pressures have broadened the demographic characteristics of those people whom we assist. We have noticed recently a substantial increase in visits related to domestic and family violence within our local community, especially (but not exclusively) placing women and children in a heightened risk of homelessness and insecurity.

Support from Schools and Parishioners

SVDP Montmorency is most grateful and thankful to our supporters: **SFX parishioners, our two parish primary schools - HT & SFX and Catholic Ladies College**, through your support of our appeals. We are entirely dependent on their generosity. Unfortunately, we do not receive any monies from any of the three tiers of government to support our work.

Over the past year, your conference assisted **243 adults (74 more than the previous year) and 194 children (10 more than the previous year)** by providing support, friendship, material assistance and advice about accessing government, health and financial services. In addition, we also visited 45 families with Christmas hampers and gifts.

Although our resources are continually being stretched, we were, thanks to your generosity, able to **provide assistance to the value of \$40,349 over the 12 months to April 2025 (\$8,940 more than the previous year).** On the right is a summary of how we have provided material assistance to people in need in the Montmorency/Briar Hill/Lower Plenty/St Helena/Eltham North areas.

Food	\$15,587
Furniture	\$5,971
Clothing/Household Goods	\$5,692
Accommodation	\$4,413
Education	\$2,165
Utilities	\$1,768
Whitegoods	\$1,567
Other	\$3,184

How to donate to the SVDP Winter appeal

Envelopes: SVDP envelopes are available in the St Francis Xavier church pews or at the tables at the entrance doors or at the Parish 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 give to a SVDP member or contact Mike on 0417 221 245. Receipts can be issued by simply completing name and address on the envelope.

On Line: www.vinnies.org.au 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.

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

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

If you are donating **online, by phone or direct transfer** please send an email to msaid@netspace.net.au with your full name and address, amount and date of deposit so that the conference can acknowledge your generosity and ensure these monies are allocated to the **Montmorency or Eltham Conferences.**

What is 'hope' right now?

In the face of death, cruelty and suffering in Gaza, a Catholic priest, the son of Jewish parents who fled Nazi Germany and found refuge in South Africa, searches for a hope rooted in the memory of past breakthroughs / **By David Neuhaus**

The Israeli Army continued its bombardment of Khan Younis last Saturday. In the bombing, Alaa al-Najjar, who was at work, lost nine of her 10 children: Sidar, Luqman, Sadin, Riwal, Ruslan, Jubran, Hawa, Rakan and Yahya. Her only surviving son, Adam, and her husband Hamdi, were critically wounded. I share these words with you under their gaze.

There is no light at the end of the tunnel right now in Palestine/Israel. The lights have gone out one by one. Zephaniah's words ring out, "Ah, soiled, defiled, oppressing city! It has listened to no voice; it has accepted no correction" (Zephaniah 3:1). Our governments are made up predominantly of heartless leaders, who seem to have no conscience. And we continue to descend into the darkness of an age in which there is no hope, no mercy, no empathy, no compassion. When I try to push away this sense of despair, I feel I am betraying those who are mourning their dead, the wounded, those trapped as hostages and prisoners, the displaced and homeless, the hungry and thirsty, those dying slowly because there are no medicines, those locked into a reality in which the horizon of hope has been shut off, replaced with a solid wall that explicitly proclaims that there is no exit.

What is hope in my life as a Christian? I am well aware of what hope is not. It must not be an opium; Marx clairvoyantly defrocked hope as part of religion understood as a drug that anaesthetises burning desire for change. Hope must not be a neurotic illusion; Freud prophetically revealed the immature or psychologically unhealthy nature of hope that turns its back on the world, replacing it with a projection of an imaginative desire. It must not be an absurdity; Kafka has forced us to look at a world in which the hope of finding meaning is often an escape from the inevitability of

senselessness.

For reasons I cannot understand, God allows evil to have its day. I rebel and revolt against this, even against God Almighty who allows it. This rebellion is an integral part of the life of faith. Abraham cried out against God, who revealed to him the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. "Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked!" (Genesis 18:25). Habakkuk railed against God, who seemed deaf to his cries, "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen?" (Habakkuk 1:2). Jesus too, on the Cross, cried out this sense of abandonment that echoes throughout history, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). At the ninth hour, hope has evaporated. The cry against God is part of the word of God. A certain kind of hope must die in contemplating the reality of violence, war and death.

There are two kinds of hope. There is a hope that is *future oriented*. It hopes for certain things that seem to appear faintly on a horizon. It roots itself in a vision that provides an alternative to the reality in which we find ourselves. Equality. Justice. Peace. Security. Prosperity. All these hopes are legitimate, when the horizon is not completely blocked off by walls that make exit from the present impossible. Our present is a wasteland left over from waves of unceasing hatred, unrelenting vengeance and brutal violence. When I look around in Palestine/Israel today and cry out to God, all those things that I might indeed have hoped for, now seem like phantoms; appearing briefly and then evaporating, shattered on the hard, merciless rocks of reality. Revenge. Hatred. Victory. Violence. Ethnocentricity. These rocks constitute our reality.

However, there is another sort of

hope that struggles for breath inside me. A hope that is *past oriented* - a hope rooted in the memory of past breakthroughs. My Jewish parents fled Nazi Germany at a time when there was no hope and an empire of death held absolute sway. Those relatives who did not flee were murdered. My parents found refuge in South Africa where a racist regime erected a system of apartheid that privileged Whites over Blacks. It ground on for decades. Black people were sentenced to life in the margins, to pauperisation, brutal repression and hopelessness. Anyone who resisted was forcibly silenced. During those long years of death, hoping for something different from what was reality, mostly constituted wishful thinking, an avoidance of reality. Opium. Illusion. Absurdity. The privileged





had the luxury of hoping, while the poor mostly experienced abandonment.

And yet, Nazi Germany and apartheid South Africa are memories of the past. This is a consolation in times of present darkness and gives birth to an occasional glimmer of hope in Palestine/Israel today. Memory of the past is an integral part of my life of faith. As a Christian I am called constantly to remember the Cross on which hung a man crucified. He died an excruciating death, painful and slowly suffocating.

As I gaze on him, I am forced to contemplate my own complicity in the structures of evil that had him condemned to death. There is no easy escape from that place. I must stand before the Cross on Good Friday and at the tomb in which he

was laid on Holy Saturday. However, Easter Sunday does come. It is then I can remember that the tomb in which he was placed is empty. The God I believe in does not allow death, darkness and evil to have the final word. Sometimes God takes a long time. An exasperated Habakkuk heard the words "If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come, it will not delay" (Habakkuk 2:3). I do not understand the words "it will not delay". All I sense is that interminable delay.

I am racing against God. In our present, there is no open horizon. Before us is more death, threats of even more destruction, ethnic cleansing and suffering. There is nothing I can hope for - equality, justice or peace - that does not seem like a total illusion within a reality

where revenge, killing and cruelty are omnipresent. And yet ... hope is a part of who I am as a Christian. I stand before an empty tomb that contained the corpse of a man who had been tortured and crucified. His mangled body had been wrapped and placed in the tomb. But now he is not there. The tomb is astonishingly empty. The faith born before that empty tomb that he is risen is a part of whom I am. If I did not believe that the tomb is empty, I would not be a Christian. It is out of this conviction that a different kind of hope emerges.

This hope does not look toward an illusory horizon. This hope looks back, remembering that God has been good. This hope is born of the conviction that God desires good for humanity. This hope finds its roots in an experience of God's life-giving love. It is out of this hope that I can continue to speak and act. It is this hope that will not allow me to give up, not on God and not on humanity. It is this hope that means I cannot walk past the dead, the wounded, the displaced, the hungry, I cannot look away from Gaza City, Khan Younis and Rafah, Jenin, Tulkarm and Nablus, I cannot forget those still hostages from all over Israel, those dead and mourning there too.

It is this hope that does not ask the question: what will happen to me if I see what is happening? What will happen to me if I speak out? Rather, it is this hope that prompts the question: what will happen to the people of Palestine/Israel if I do not see, if I do not speak out?

Hope is rooted in the experience of a God who loves us, and of a community that this hope engenders. Hope motivates me to know what is happening in Palestine/Israel and not look away. It pushes me to put faces, names and narratives to those who have died and are dying as we speak and not ignore them. Hope drives me to seek out others who are desperately trying to bring all this to an end, determined to do something together. Hope is the life force that seeks to make me and you witnesses to a humanity that is being extinguished in a world that turns away from those falling by the side of the road. Hope resources resilience that pushes on despite everything. My prayer is that this hope resists the growing despair.

David Neuhaus SJ is a lecturer in biblical studies and lives in Jerusalem at the Pontifical Biblical Institute.



*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, Ian Leach, Frances McDonald,
Jarrod Mizzi, Cindy & Ed Morrissey,
Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray)*

For the recently **deceased**:
*Sr Rosina Livingstone (Principal SFX 1978-1980),
Ian Leach, Ron Pfeil, John Whiteside*

Eltham

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

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
Sebastiano Cartisano, Sara-Theresa Concisom, Doris John
To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office
9435 4742 or RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au.

Roster for week ending 1 Jun 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	R10:00
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	C10:00
Henry, Gayle	H10:00
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Leahy Family	PRSE
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Thu
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR
Wood, Marie	W8:30

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

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



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

Saturday, 31st May, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Prim Cora Ellis

Matilda May Leslie

Baptism

Baptism

Sunday, 1st June, 2025

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

Sienna Eve Marshall

Emily Jane Moss

Ivie Eva Otasowie

First Eucharist

First Eucharist

First Eucharist

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

Isla Jay Dwyer

Evie Mae Dwyer

Xena Cha Tijan

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

**Bridging
Now to
Next**

27 MAY – 3 JUNE

#NRW2025

RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



SOME REFUGEE UPDATES



RYAN AND THE NAZARI FAMILY

Ryan is now 3 months old. Ten weeks ago the paediatrician was concerned because he was gaining as much weight in a week as he should in a month! It turned out Shah Gul was supplementing him with formula because she didn't trust her milk supply. Now Ryan is ONLY fed breast milk and he is maintaining an appropriate weight.

After 6 months on stress leave Javid is now back at work. He is a youth worker providing care in community houses for teenagers who have been removed from their homes. He felt so threatened and unsafe he finally had to take time off and get counselling. But he is a strong man, and has now returned to work.



ARSHAN, ARSHIDA AND THE AMIRI FAMILY

Arshida is 9 months old and despite her challenging birth, she is doing brilliantly. She babbles, crawls, smiles all the time and contentedly entertains herself. Arshan is 2 years old, and continues to be a handful – so much so that we have arranged for a paediatric assessment of his development. To help Bano get a little adult time for herself, Marlis and I have started going with them to a playgroup at the local Catholic Church. After an hour, we take the children home and Bano stays for an hour-long adult cooking class hosted by the school. It is making a BIG difference for Bano.



Abrham, Bezar and Twins

The family is doing brilliantly. When Abrham became Manager of Wetlands at Werribee Council, there were 60 non-functioning wetlands. Now there are 90 wetlands, all of them on the way to being very healthy. But the success story in the family is Bezar. She continues to have fortnightly chemo, but the medication she currently has does not remove her hair. In a few weeks she will begin her placement for Level 4 Aged Care. She has 2 days of English classes and her progress is phenomenal. And one day a week she does volunteer work. With any luck, in 2 weeks time she will have her driving license. What a woman! But please continue to pray for her, stage 4 Ovarian Cancer is a tough one.

Diako

Diako is struggling with his degenerative spine condition and doctors are now recommending fusing some disks. His daughter continues to search for a suitable house to buy in Doncaster. Once this happens, the whole family; including Diako; will return to Victoria. He can't wait to "come home" to Our Lady's.

Next week I will write about the Ali family hiding in Pakistan waiting for a visa to Australia. Their situation is dire, and they have lost all hope.

Miranda

Prayers of the Faithful for 1 June 2025 - The Ascension of the Lord

Leader: "Why are you standing there looking at the sky?" We pray for the hope and the courage to trust in God's path for us.

For those who are struggling to find hope, may they feel Jesus' love and may we embrace them with our own love and support.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for the grace to be able to look beyond the present, to seek and be open to creative alternatives and to remember that Jesus is "with us always, to the end of time".

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the Lord's blessings in our lives, our family, friends, home and country. May we spread his blessings and joy in our community and in a wider sphere, living as informed, active, community members.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Jesus' kingdom rose above earthly concerns, conflicts and power plays. We pray for our new Pope, Leo XIV, and our newly elected government. May both leaders be energized and moved by the power and humility of Jesus' life. May they use the responsibility of their respective roles to work tirelessly for global dialogue, social outreach, and peaceful solutions.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We remember those living with illness, their family and carers. May they be comforted by the living power of the Spirit.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died, especially *Ian Leach, Sr Rosina Livingstone, Ron Pfeil & John Whiteside* and for those whose anniversaries occur around this time, including *Sebastiano Cartisano, Sara-Theresa Concisom & Doris John*: may the message of Jesus' Ascension bring trust and hope in the evolving, eternal life of the Spirit.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: The power of the Holy Spirit extends "to the ends of the earth". May we feel Jesus' Spirit ever present in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen



RARE COPY OF POPE LEO'S DOCTORAL DISSERTATION DISCOVERED IN SYDNEY



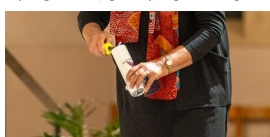
A copy of the doctoral dissertation of Fr Robert Prevost - now Pope Leo XIV - has been discovered in the University of Sydney's Fisher Library, Daniel Canaris writes. Source: *ABC News*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/30/rare-copy-of-pope-leos-doctoral-dissertation-discovered-in-sydney/>

CATHOLIC SECTOR BACKS MINISTER'S CALL FOR INSURERS TO INCREASE HOSPITAL FUNDING



Catholic Health Australia has backed Health Minister Mark Butler's call for private health insurers to increase their funding to hospitals, with new data showing that insurers are paying hospitals and patients less while generating large profits.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/30/catholic-sector-backs-ministers-call-for-insurers-to-increase-hospital-funding/>

CATHEDRAL HOLDS NIGHT OF PRAYER FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS



Domestic and family violence victims, survivors, their extended families, communities, those who had caused harm and those working in the system came to St Stephen's Cathedral in Brisbane for a night of prayer. Source: *The Catholic Leader*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/30/cathedral-holds-night-of-prayer-for-domestic-violence-victims/>

POPE MAKES SURPRISE VISIT TO LAUDATO SI' PROJECT



Pope Leo XI made a surprise excursion yesterday to the papal residence in Castel Gandolfo, where he visited the Borgo Laudato Si' project initiated by his predecessor, Pope Francis. Source: *Vatican News*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/30/pope-makes-surprise-visit-to-laudato-si-project/>

FUTURE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS GET A TASTE OF RURAL LIFE



An immersion program in Western Australia's Wheatbelt region is building connections between future health professionals and rural communities. Source: *UNDA*.
<https://cathnews.com/2025/05/30/future-health-professionals-get-a-tase-of-rural-life/>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Love in action



On Saturday afternoon, current and former members of the Young Christian Workers (YCW) came together in Melbourne to celebrate a movement that for 100 years has demonstrated the remarkable power of small acts of love carried out in the midst of ordinary lives. <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/see-judge-act-ycw-celebrates-100-years-of-putting-love-into-action>



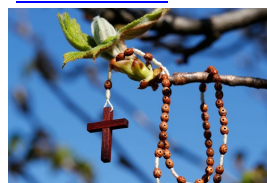
As we mark Reconciliation Week, we speak to Aboriginal elder Maureen Moore, a woman whose quiet, resilient faith and generous service epitomizes love in action.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/looking-back-with-love-an-unassuming-aboriginal-elders-quiet-faith>



Diocesan leaders from around Australia gathered in Melbourne recently as preparations for the fifth Australian Catholic Youth Festival - the largest event on the Australian Catholic calendar - ramp up.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/melbourne-prepares-to-host-australias-largest-catholic-event-this-december>



And as 10 years tick over since the publication of Pope Francis' groundbreaking encyclical *Laudato si'*, we hear how parishes and communities in Melbourne continue to live out its call to care for our common home through everyday acts of love and hope. <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-decade-of-laudato-si-the-deeply-moral-message-of-humanitys-connection-to-the-environment>



Parishes urged to consider new ways of addressing domestic violence
Women experiencing domestic violence are in a bind: it's not safe to stay in their homes; leaving makes them vulnerable to homelessness. Charities like McAuley Community

Services for Women are trying new tactics to keep women safe, while advocating for more to be done at the parish level to help prevent violence in the first place.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/parishes-urged-to-consider-new-ways-of-addressing-domestic-violence>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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