

Risen Christ



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

1 & 2 August 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 14:13-21

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate number about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.



Reflection - Break Open the Word 2026

Jesus must have been upset by John's execution. He needs to take some time out. Unfortunately, it was not to be. People follow him, and his heart goes out to them. He ministers to them and to those who were sick.

Then comes the amazing story of feeding the crowd. It occurs in all four gospels and there are six versions of the story! It is preaching in action. It is a sign of God's lavish banquet in the kingdom of heaven. God provides.

The story is clearly eucharistic. The pattern of the language and action is what we know from the story of the Last Supper and the Eucharist: took the bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to the people.

This is why we speak of the Eucharist as the foretaste and promise of the banquet of heaven. We come to understand God's abundant love and care.

Embedded in the story is also our mission to feed the hungry. Jesus says to the disciples: give them something to eat yourselves. Then he hands the broken loaves to them to distribute among the crowd.

*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.

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 1st August

12:00pm Baptisms: Max, Zoe, Bella, Remy Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 2

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Joshua, Pia, Zoe, Sofia Eltham

Monday 3

9:00am Days for Girls Montmorency

2:00pm Mass St Vincent's Care

Tuesday 4

9:30am Mass: Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop & SFX Prep-Yr4 Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 5

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 6

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:00am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation Eltham

Friday 7

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 8

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

Sunday 9

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists Eltham

Monday 10

7:00pm Confirmation Parent Faith Formation Evening Montmorency

Tuesday 11

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 12

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Thursday 13

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

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



Collections: 19 & 26 July 2026

Thanksgiving	Cash	\$1,451.00
	Electronic	\$6,534.50
Presbytery	Cash	\$1,701.90
	Electronic	\$240.00

Thanksgiving Offering

Month	Total
April	\$23,331.17
May	\$18,752.55
June	\$22,507.82



*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 Margot Brady, Baby Liam & Natalia Park, Peter, Stephen Andrew,
Des Arneson, Bill Boyce, Penny Boyce, Maria Bredle, Vincent Cipolletta,
Nora Edmond, Pat Hosmer, Siobhan Lappin, Georgina Lynch, Mary Luttick,
Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Bernard Murray, Regina Roszczenko, Phil Rovtar,
Beth Scott, Audrey Tunks, Nicholas Turnbull, Jeanne Vanderwert,
Noel Vincent, Brian Witten*

For those who have **died** recently:

Edwinda Bacani, Bernard Crowe

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

*Felicisima Bacani, Margaret & Kevin Brody, Barbara Hermans,
Francis Nelson, Bradley Said, Mary Thomasina Said,
Patricia Mary Shannon, Andrew Watson, Robert Wordsworth*

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:**

Saturday, 1st August, 2026

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Bella Jong
Remy Jong
Ned Jenson Nankervis
Max Pozzebon
Zoe Christine Sheedy

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Charlie Blumfield
Isaac Edwards
Ace Benjamin Drohan

First Eucharist
Festival Eucharist
First Eucharist

Sunday, 2nd August, 2026

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

Joshua Rainer Arndt
Pia Thi Cerone
Zoe Thi Cerone
Sofia Rose Fenech

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism

Children's Liturgy Meet the Team

Left to right:

Nathan Reynolds, Nika Cseh, Ferenc (Fez) Cseh, Daniel Cavedon, Sharmaine Perera
and Melanie Cricco

Absent:

Silvana Grande, Patrick Simoes, Jeanelle Extross-Simoes and Emily Wiltshire



Roster for week ending 2 Aug 2026

Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Austin, Judy	H10:00
Cseh, Nika	C10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Goodison, Pauline	CLNR
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Heyhoe, Margaret	R10:00
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Maloney, Jo	W6:00
McCarthy, Bernie	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Roy, Yvonne	CLNR
Rygala, Ella	H10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Stewart Family	PRSE
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR
Wood, Marie	CLNR

Roster for week ending 9 Aug 2026

Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Capuana, Marisa	CLNR
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
McKenna, John	CLNR
Nolan, Kathleen	R10:00
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	H10:00
Reardon, Peter	H10:00
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Scully, Greg	H10:00
Scully, Helen	H10:00
Stone, Nan	W6:00
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Taylor, Trish	C10:00
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30
Zavadil Family	PRSE

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

Ordaining married men 'would enrich Church'

TOM HENEGHAN

The primate of Belgium said that married clergy would be "an enrichment for the Church" after attending the General Synod of the Church of England. Archbishop Luc Terlinden of Mechelen-Brussels told the Christian newspaper *Nederlands Dagblad* that Belgium's bishops had informed the Vatican in 2023 that they were "open to a discussion regarding the possibility of ordaining married men".

In March, Bishop Johan Bonny of Antwerp said he would begin ordaining *virī probati* in 2028 because he does not have enough priests to perform the tasks specified in documents from the Synod on Synodality documents.

"In that context, we also call for a certain degree of decentralisation," said Terlinden, who is the president of the Belgian Bishops' Conference.

A Greek Catholic bishop told him that 90 per cent of their priests are married. "In the West, we do not always have enough respect for that Eastern tradition, which is also Catholic," he said.

Terlinden said on 10 July when he



Archbishop Luc Terlinden

attended the General Synod in York that "Roman Catholics can learn a lot" from the "long-standing traditions of synodality" in the Anglican Communion. Several Anglicans told him they could

also learn from Catholics.

He told *Nederlands Dagblad* that synodality in the Anglican Church "really functions like a parliament. That is also part of the long English tradition."

Terlinden observed that the Anglican Church's understanding of synodality differs from the Catholic version. "I felt that there was sometimes a lack of theological and philosophical depth," he said. "Moreover, such a system perhaps does not leave sufficient room for what we in the Catholic Church call 'discernment in the Spirit'."

Asked how synodality was developing in the Catholic Church, Terlinden said: "We ask ourselves the question of how synodality - the participation of all believers - relates to the collegiality of the bishops. As a bishop, I am convinced that a balance must be struck between these two matters."

"With us, the bishop or the pope always has the final word. That makes sense. But at the same time, I identify very well with the words Pope Leo XIV recently spoke to the cardinals: 'I must listen before I lead, learn before I teach'."

More than 800 Catholic educators 'inspired by faith' at inaugural RE symposium

Written by Cathy Jenkins

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/more-than-800-catholic-educators-inspired-by-faith-at-inaugural-re-symposium>

Over two days, 22-23 July, more than 800 Catholic educators, clergy and school leaders gathered at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to reflect on the evolving role of religious education in contemporary learning environments. Combining thought-provoking keynote presentations, practical workshops and meaningful dialogue, the inaugural Religious Education Symposium - Inspired by Faith: Journeying to Excellence - provided a space that was both intellectually stimulating and professionally enriching.

The symposium was opened by Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli, who reminded participants that 'to educate is to bring up, to rear, to nourish'. From the outset, attendees were immersed in a prayerful and hope-filled environment that invited deep reflection on what it means to be educators in faith.

One of the symposium's greatest strengths was its capacity to connect theory with practice. Presenters offered insightful

perspectives on contemporary challenges and opportunities in religious education while sharing practical strategies that participants could apply within their own contexts. The balance between theological reflection, pedagogical innovation and engagement with the 'signs of the times' ensured that every session remained relevant, purposeful and engaging.

'I speak of a 'constellation', because the world of Catholic education is a living and pluralistic network: parish schools and colleges, universities and institutes of higher education, professional training centres, movements, digital platforms, service-learning initiatives and school, university and cultural pastoral programmes. Each 'star' has its own brightness, but together they chart a course.' - Pope Leo XIV, *Drawing New Maps of Hope*

A particular highlight was the quality of conversation among participants. The symposium fostered a spirit of openness, collaboration and mutual learning, encouraging attendees to share experiences, explore diverse perspectives and engage with challenging questions. These exchanges reinforced the significance of religious education as a discipline that nurtures critical thinking, spiritual development, ethical reflection and intercultural understanding.

The organisation of the event was exemplary. Sessions were thoughtfully structured, presenters were knowledgeable and engaging, and ample opportunities were provided for networking and professional connection. The welcoming atmosphere contributed to a strong sense of community and shared purpose among participants.

The extraordinary range of workshops reflected the richness and breadth of religious education within Catholic schools. Sessions were organised around themes including Religious Education Curriculum, Pedagogy, Scripture, Prayer, Nurturing Faith, Mission Together, Leadership, Catholic School Identity and Culture, Tradition and Shared Story, and Catholic Worldview. Together, these themes highlighted the vital contribution of religious education to intellectual enquiry, ethical awareness, spiritual growth and social cohesion in contemporary education.



A nun to remember

The story of Irish Sr Kate McCarthy, resistance heroine and Nazi camp survivor

Mary Kenny

The Nun of Ravensbrück Cathi Fleming

Nuns have had a bad press - and screen image - in Ireland in recent times, repeatedly portrayed as mean, sly and cruel oppressors of young women, in films like *Philomena* and books such as *Small Things Like These*.

To it's been a refreshing change to see the heroic story of an Irish nun reach the Irish bestseller lists this summer. This is the extraordinary life of Sr Kate McCarthy of Drimoleague, West Cork, who played an audacious role in the French Resistance in the Pas-de-Calais area, and endured the most horrible brutalities in Ravensbrück concentration camp. She only escaped the gas chambers by the grace of God - and her own daring and initiative.

Kate, as she is referred to throughout the book, was born in 1895, the eldest of nine children of a farming family. Just before the Great War, aged 18, she joined the Franciscan Sisters of Calais - not the first Irish nun to have done so - taking the religious name of Sr Marie-Laurence. As soon as war broke out in 1914, she was sent to nurse at Béthune in the Pas-de-Calais region, a medical hub for wounded soldiers and civilians. This hands-on experience would be an apprenticeship for her activities when the Second World War erupted.

In 1919, she was moved to the United States, where she followed her vocation as a nursing sister in Louisiana, in a climate of sweltering heat. And then, in April 1940, she was back in France, in time for the German Occupation in May that year.

Again, she found herself attending to the medical needs of Allied prisoners of war at the Hazebrouck hospital, under German command. This drew her into the wider field of supporting those already involved in resistance. She linked up with a local widow and garage owner Sylvette Leleu, who rebuffed Kate's offer of prayerful condolence for her husband's loss (although secularist and Religious subsequently formed a strong bond of friendship).



Kate McCarthy, aka Sr Marie Laurence

Along with the café owner Angèle Tardiveau, and others associated with the Musée de l'Homme network, Kate helped to provide clothes and identity cards to escaping soldiers. She also provided, most usefully of all, information.

But by summer 1941, betrayed by a traitor, the Gestapo were on their tracks and Kate was arrested. She was held in solitary confinement in Béthune for eight months and then sent to Lille, where she was sentenced to death along with Robert Henneton, one of the Béthune resistance group. Robert was executed, but Kate's penalty was commuted to deportation. She had pleaded that she was Irish and Ireland was a neutral country: it didn't cut much ice with the Gestapo. The deportation order meant "*Nacht und Nebel*" - "night and fog" disappearance into the vast miasma of the Reich's terror. Kate was hauled to Brussels, and then by cattletruck across Germany to the women's camp of Ravensbrück, near Berlin.

And there Kate was to live through all the horrors of the concentration camp experience - beatings, humiliation, hunger, dysentery, filth, typhus, the daily observance of death and torture, witness to the medical experimentation carried out on prisoners, notably young Polish girls. Kate's faith helps her to endure - although at the lowest points, she is visited by doubts - and she clings to

her rosary beads. On her journey to the camp, she had been reunited with Sylvette and Angèle and a genuine sisterhood between the women forges an unbreakable sense of solidarity.

From 1944, as Germany was losing the war, the brutality worsened. Finally, in April 1945, the exhausted nun was liberated by the Swedish Red Cross, and she began her journey home - eventually back to her convent in Cork, where she died in 1971. Except for one interview with a French journalist, Jean Prévost, she never spoke again about her terrible experiences.

Cathi Fleming, a retired primary school teacher from Kildare, has chosen to write a biography in the form of a novel, based on the facts of Kate McCarthy's life. It's an important book, diligently researched, and told with straightforward unaffectedness. The drama really gathers pace with the nun's deportation to Ravensbrück. There's also a fascinating appendix on the postwar lives of the various characters involved.

There could have been more political context. While Kate and her comrades plunge into the Resistance once de Gaulle's 1940 call is heard, it is worth explaining that, until at least 1942, the majority of the population of France were "*attentistes*" - waiting to see what would happen. This made early resistance all the more remarkable. The Vichy regime, hardly mentioned here, had initial national support, including from the institutional Catholic Church.

Irish neutrality could have been brought into more perspective too. Those Irishmen and women who served the Allies - meaning the British - weren't always warmly welcomed home after 1945. Kate will not have been applauded for having accepted an honour from King George VI - she had saved the lives of at least 160 Allied servicemen. Indeed, the old bitterness of British-Irish history is one of the reasons why Kate's story - along with the stories of other Irish people who worked with the French Resistance - has waited until now to be told.

Prayers of the Faithful for 2 August 2026 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, in the knowledge that nothing can come between us and the love of God, and with confidence, let us bring our prayers before God who answers all our needs.

For the Church: that our Holy Father and all bishops and clergy may be nourished by Christ's eucharistic bounty and effectively feed a world starving for hope and truth.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the hungry and the poor: that inspired by today's Gospel miracle of the loaves and fishes, we may generously share our resources to ensure food and basic human dignity are provided for all in need.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For our own community of Risen Christ Parish: that we will help one another to hear the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For educators and students: that teachers, parents, and all who guide young minds are filled with Mary McKillop's passion for learning, integrity, and selflessness.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, embrace and support all who are experiencing illness and those who care for them, especially those in our parish communities. We ask that you bring them your healing, comfort and peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, especially *Edwinda Bacani and Bernard Crowe* and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Felicisima Bacani, Margaret & Kevin Brody, Barbara Hermans, Francis Nelson, Bradley Said, Mary Thomasina Said, Patricia Mary Shannon, Andrew Watson and Robert Wordsworth* and also for those who have no one else to pray for them: that they may all be welcomed into God's eternal home.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God of love, you sustain and nourish all who hunger for your presence. Hear us and help us to reach out to your inviting hand.

All: Amen

Dear SFX, HT, OLHC and Parish Families,

Parents and caregivers of Year 6 Confirmation candidates are invited to attend the 2026 Confirmation Parent Faith Formation Evening, to be held on **Monday, 10th of August, at 7.00 pm at St Francis Xavier Church, Mayona Road, Montmorency.**

The Parent Faith Formation Evening marks the beginning of your child's preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. This year, due to renovations at St Patrick's Cathedral, the Sacrament will be celebrated at Catholic Ladies' College, Diamond Street, Eltham, on Sunday, 11th October at 2.30pm. **As the Confirmation will be held at a new venue,** the logistical arrangements will be different from previous years. **It is therefore essential that all families attend this evening's information session,** where important details about the organisation and running of the celebration will be explained.

At the information evening, you will be introduced to the Sacramental team and the process of preparing our students for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Emphasis will be placed on preparing our students in partnership as a **'Parent Initiated, School Supported and Parish Based Program'**.

Fr Michael will provide an overview of the history and significance of the Sacrament of Confirmation. Parents and caregivers will also be introduced to Kathy Horan's *Becoming Catholic: Confirmation—A Practical Guide for Families*. This resource is designed to support families in preparing their child for Confirmation and strengthening their faith formation at home, complementing the learning and conversations taking place at school. It aims to encourage meaningful family conversations about faith through Scripture, shared activities and opportunities for prayer and reflection.

During the evening, we will explore the question, "What is the Sacrament of Confirmation?" and explain how the Sacrament will be celebrated across Risen Christ Parish, bringing together the Catholic communities of St Francis Xavier, Montmorency; Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham; Holy Trinity, Eltham North and Parish candidates. At the Faith Formation Evening, families will receive a link to a Google Form to formally enrol their child for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Thank you for supporting your child's participation in our 2026 Sacramental Program.

Best wishes,

Michael F. Sierakowski (Parish Moderator)

Kathy Toomey, Megan Bird and Rudy Vail (Faith Leaders)

Holy Trinity: ktoomey@htelthamnth.catholic.edu.au

St Francis Xavier: mbird@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

Our Lady Help of Christians: rudy.vail@olhceltham.catholic.edu.au

Risen Christ Parish: risenchrist.parish@cam.org.au





CENSUS 2026



Shape the Future: Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.

National Vocations Awareness Week

Vocations come from families, communities and parishes. Strong families and communities are the place where vocations are first nurtured. In this National Vocations Awareness Week, let us pray for all families in our parish, and for those preparing for marriage. Let us also pray that our parish community may always be welcoming and encouraging of vocations to marriage, priesthood and consecrated life.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

The Top Shelf...

Having read the *Melbourne Synod* article left on the Gathering Area table and last Sunday's Bulletin, it occurs to me that Risen Christ parish is well into the Synod experience.

I was particularly pleased to read that both papers have referred to Father James Mallon's book, *Divine Renovation*. Quote: *The church doesn't have a mission; the mission has a church.*

This book has been on our shelves for several years and it is available on the top shelf for you to borrow.

Please sign the dates in and out.

En-Cristo

Trish Taylor



Holy Days is a heartwarming Catholic comedy-drama arriving in cinemas on 6 August. The film tells the uplifting story of three elderly nuns and a grieving young boy on an unforgettable journey of faith, friendship, hope and community.

Trailer:

<https://bit.ly/4fYkG8N>

For more information:

<https://holydays.com.au/>

Your generous gift supports ministries across the Archdiocese –bringing the Good News to life not only in word, but in action.

Thank you.



DONATE
ONLINE

THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

The Archbishop's Campaign will commence next weekend. You are invited to reflect on what a vibrant faith community means for you and your family, and to consider making a personal, recurring monthly gift in support of the vital ministries that serve our Archdiocese. From next week, you will notice campaign materials throughout the parish, including posters, envelopes with tear-off pledge cards, a banner on our website, and content across our social media channels. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks; in the meantime, you are encouraged to begin prayerfully discerning your support.



Scarves, Socks & Beanies

Winter temperatures
continue to bite!

Thank you, thank you, to the Parishioners of Eltham and Monty Faith Communities. Your generous contributions of warm, beautifully hand-crafted scarves and beanies and new socks, are greatly appreciated. While winter seems endless to us, how much more desperate must it feel for people with no place to belong, cold, alone and no place to call home. Can we imagine ourselves in their situation? A depressing thought! Your contribution may seem small in contrast to the great need, but no doubt, make such a difference. These desperate people depend on our compassion and good will, as we depend on each other! Thank you. Mary O'Connor (OLHC) & Patsy Skipper (SFX) 0429 439 675





Melbourne Synod 2026

A series of regional consultations has begun across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli inviting the faithful into a process of 'spiritual conversations'.

The gatherings are part of a journey that includes broader consultation involving parishes, schools, agencies and religious communities, and will culminate in the Archdiocesan synod this December.

Archbishop Comensoli described the practice of spiritual conversation being undertaken by participants from Melbourne's northern and western parishes last weekend as something 'begun and sustained through prayer'.

Everyone will be invited to speak honestly from their own experience, he said, but mostly they will be listening attentively and respectfully to one another. 'Only then do we ask a deeper question ... What is the Holy Spirit revealing among us?'

'This is the way of Jesus. He listened. He spoke. He accompanied. He revealed, and then he sent.'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/walking-together-on-the-synodal-path>

Opening our doors wider

Light into the City is a multi-year vision delivered in stages.

Stage one, beginning this year, is the most urgent. It includes the necessary restoration of the Cathedral, construction of a new adjacent assembly building, and landscaping to create a more accessible and welcoming precinct.

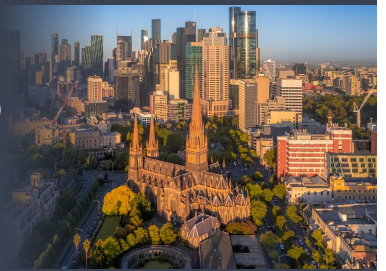
Stage two, will restore and repurpose the Presbytery and Cardinal Knox Centre, with the intent to provide new culture, arts and social outreach facilities for wider community benefit.

The overall Light into the City vision contemplates a further, final stage involving the construction of new facilities for mission agencies. This stage is still in development and is not part of the Light into the City fundraising campaign.

<https://lightintothe.city.org.au/vision/>



Light into
the City

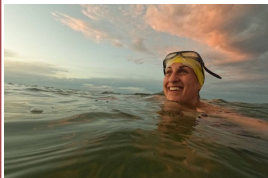


CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Melbourne Catholic Digest The communities that inspire and sustain us

Founded firmly in God's love

In the life of faith, we are often sustained and inspired by those around us: by the love they show us, the things they teach us and the beauty they reveal to us. By the love they show us, the things they teach us and the beauty they reveal to us. At their best, the communities that form and nurture us can become a conduit of God's love and a source of joy and wonder.



Throughout her life and career, Catholic photojournalist Fiona Basile has known many such communities, including the remarkable group of open water swimmers at Seaford Beach who invited her to join them for a swim in the Bay one winter's morning in 2021. Through the process of documenting and celebrating this beautiful community in two acclaimed books of photography, she has gained a deeper sense what it means to live life to the full.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/life-to-the-full-photojournalist-fiona-basile-on-swimming-storytelling-and-seeing-the-beauty>



For Burmese Catholics, 'Parents' Day' is a big deal. Coinciding with the feast of Sts Anne and Joachim on Sunday, this year's Parents' Day Mass was an opportunity for the broader Myanmar Catholic community to come together and celebrate the gift of the smaller, domestic communities that are created when faithful parents nurture their families with love and devotion.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/this-is-like-family-local-myanmar-community-gathers>



The Church, throughout its history, has been called to be a community founded firmly in the love of God. On Saturday, the first regional consultation sessions for the upcoming Melbourne Synod were a recent expression of this mission. Catholics from across the northern and western regions of Melbourne gathered to seek the Spirit's guidance, asking how we might be shaped into the kind of welcoming, nurturing community God intends us to be.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/walking-together-on-the-synodal-path>



Archbishop's Campaign calls faithful to be stewards of the Church's mission - Archbishop Peter A Comensoli has launched the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign, calling on Melbourne's Catholic faithful to be stewards of the Church's mission by supporting seminarians, retired priests and vital ministries across the Archdiocese. This year, the campaign aims to raise \$2 million to strengthen key ministries including the CatholicCare Chaplaincy Program, the John Pierce Centre for the Deaf and Melbourne Overseas Mission.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/archbishops-campaign-calls-faithful-to-be-stewards-of-the-churchs-mission-2>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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