

Risen Christ



The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

13 & 14 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.



Risen Christ Parish Discernment and Reflection Session *Bringing Our Pastoral Plan to Life - this Sunday, 1pm*

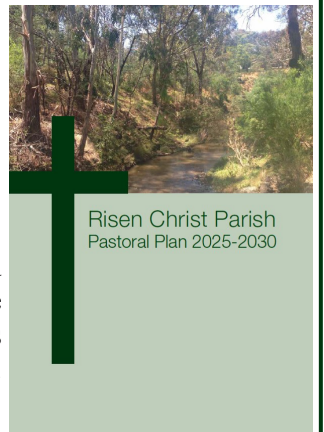
Please join us for our second session on

Sunday 14th Sep, 1:00pm to 2:30pm, Church Hall, St Francis Xavier

Facilitated by the Parish Pastoral Leadership Community

Come, be a part of shaping our future together as a community of faith.

Last Wednesday night 30 wonderful parishioners gathered at Eltham church and moved in to a discussion and discernment regarding the five areas of our future Pastoral Plan. It would be wonderful if that many, or more, could participate this Sunday to engage in ministry and propel our Parish into ministry and mission. To those who are available, looking forward to seeing you there at SFX School Hall.



Gospel - John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

The Gospel of John likes to play with the ambiguity of the phrase 'lifted up'. Jesus is physically lifted up on the cross to die, and then lifted up again in the resurrection. For John, it is a neat expression for the whole Paschal Mystery which is the central theme of today's feast.

As today's Preface says: *You placed the salvation of the human race on the wood of the cross, so that, where death arose, life might again spring forth...*

John follows this affirmation by explaining that all this is an expression of God's immense love of the world. In conclusion, we hear the stunning revelation that, in Christ, God wants the whole world to be saved: not just a chosen few, but all.

The Exaltation of the Cross is a wonderful return to the celebration of the Easter Triduum which we enjoyed five months ago. It unfolds the reality of the Eucharist which we celebrate each Sunday throughout the year.

*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: 24 & 31 August 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash	\$482.00	\$740.00
	Electronic	\$1,504.00	\$1,959.00
Presbytery	Cash	\$651.80	\$1,051.20
	Electronic	\$70.00	\$410.00

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 13

12:00pm Baptisms: Flynn, Jett

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 14

8:30am Mass & First Eucharist

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

1:00pm Discernment and Reflection Sessions:
Bringing Our Pastoral Plan to Life

Montmorency

Tuesday 16

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 17

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 18

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

11:00am Funeral: Maurice Brosnan

Eltham

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

7:00pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 19

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 20

12:00pm Baptisms: Coby, Iris, Esme,
Finn and Beau

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharist

Montmorency

Sunday 21

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Daisy, Florence
and Penelope

Eltham

Tuesday 23

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

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):

- scan the QR code (<https://bit.ly/45ifhRp>) & you can donate to any Parish finance campaign including Thanksgiving, Presbytery Offerings, baptisms etc.
- cash/coins in the collection baskets at each church
- EFTPOS terminals
- thanksgiving envelopes
- set up payments from credit/debit cards

Thank you for your generous support,
Michael



60th Anniversary Montmorency St Vincent de Paul Conference

In September 1965, two months after the St Francis Xavier parish church had been consecrated, five men, under the encouragement and guidance of Parish Priest Father Bendan Torr established the Montmorency St Vincent de Paul Conference. Since then, over 60 people have served as members of this conference. Currently we have 18 members, 50% of whom are women. Today we recognise all members for their contributions in being the face of the Catholic church in our community and assisting those in need.

Some other events from 1965 include:

- The Seekers became the first Australian group to reach Number 1 on the British music charts;
- Prime Minister Menzies announced that Australian forces would be sent to Vietnam;
- Charles Perkins led Freedom Riders through NSW protesting against racial discrimination;
- Australia was preparing for the change to decimal currency;
- The White Australia Policy was removed from the ALP's platform;
- Essendon were VFL premiers.

The Conference Minutes books from the mid 1960's provide a snap shot of the activities of the conference:

- All members were male and addressed each other as "Brother".
- There was a big emphasis on outreach, beyond the parish: Members paid weekly visits to Ozanam House in North Melbourne to assist the homeless men. Regular visits were also paid to Bundoora Hospital and Larundel.
- Fund Raising Methods: Rags were regularly collected, sorted and resold to provide funds for their good works.
- Appeals went out for old rosary beads and local doctors were approached for medical samples to be sent to the Missions.
- Requests were received for assistance with lawn mowing and firewood.
- Christmas Cards: 17 gross (2448 cards) sold in one year, significantly more than today.
- There were fewer "cases" but these were attended to on a regular basis. "Cases" referring to the people who were assisted, a term that would not be used today. These people were identified by name in the minutes, a practice now discontinued.
- Until mid 1970 the conference also looked after the Greensborough area until their conference was established.
- An approach was made to Father Torr for a Poor Box *"the Parish Priest is to be approached for permission to build a Poor Box into the wall of the Church . This has become necessary owing to the Box being broken into 3 times in 3 weeks"* This was approved and the cost was \$11.70 and a letter of thanks was sent to Father Torr.

However, more importantly conference members' mission to those in need have been strongly supported by the thousands of parishioners who have passed through this church and the countless families of the parish schools. There is also a history of strong support for all of our parish priests, Fathers Torr, Casamento, Mathieson, Terry and currently Father Michael. As a sign of our appreciation, our current members have prepared a small token for parishioners after Mass, supplied out of their own funds.



Pope Leo's three-step guide to becoming a Catholic school

An Australian school was transformed after it adopted three Augustinian values: the search for truth, for community and for interiority / by John Holroyd

After more than 25 years of teaching in Catholic schools, I have shyly formed the view that teaching is a vocation, and that the classroom is and ought to be a sacramental space. The water slowly turns into wine.

The moment this became real for me was when I attended a conference on Augustinian education in Lima in 2012. The keynote speaker was the Prior General of the Augustinian Order, Fr Robert Prevost. I still have my printout of his talk - with my excited scribbling in the margin. In a Catholic school, he told us, "the reign of God" (Mark 1:15) is always at hand. For me as a teacher with a perhaps-vocation to teach in a Catholic school, this was a shot of adrenaline.

Fr Robert - now better known as Pope Leo XIV - did not mean by *El Reino* that there are chariots and trumpets approaching; rather that when they pursue Catholic values schools can provide low doorways to learning which will also be gateways to the Gospel. Fr Robert emphasised that the Kingdom is ushered in by excellence in the undertaking of the ordinary activities of the school day. He then offered a map for a distinctively Augustinian way of becoming a Catholic school, by putting three values at the centre of its life.

The first value is *the search for truth*. In the restless pursuit of the truth the human person has the "twin supports" of faith and reason. There are times when the more intuitive, creative right brain should be unshackled. This means leaving the classroom door open to points of view unpopular in secular culture - for example, that the Holy Spirit could be alive and active in the room. The school must be animated by the conviction that the truth exists, that it can be sought out, and that it is only reached through dialogue and an interplay of perspectives. This shields us not just from relativism but from trying to find a short cut on the difficult journey towards the truth. Debate means coming off the fence and taking a position rather than accepting the weak gruel of "That's your view and you're entitled to it"; it means listening to arguments against your point of view, and being allowed to change sides. As Augustine crisply put it, "The truth is neither yours nor mine so that it can be both yours and mine."



The future Pope Leo XIV - Robert Prevost - preaching in Peru in 2015

My experience has been that the truth uncovered in argument and debate is not merely notional, but jolts the person who has found it into a commitment to bring about change: "Truth conquers," in Augustine's words, "and the victory of truth is love." The truth will enter the room alongside the teacher who has the attitude of love. At her or his best, this is the daily commitment or "Yes" of a teacher with a heart to teach. This is where the classroom becomes a sacramental space.

The second key value that Fr Robert suggested should be written on the doorpost of the Augustinian classroom is *community*. In Augustine's words, "The reason why you have come together is to be one in mind and heart on the road to God." For Robert observed that one insight about community characteristic of Augustine's thought is that everything we have should be "held in common" (Acts 2:44). The resources and talents of every teacher, student and their families should flow to those who are most in need. As St Thomas of Villanova wrote, "The free gifts and graces which we have received are not for ourselves alone but the benefit of all." The Catholic school must not make a cult of the pupils whose gifts look the best in the shop window; at school speech day Jesus will return to sweep all the photogenic prizes off the table and clattering to the floor. The second insight about community Fr Robert shared is that "No one is fully known

except in friendship." Perhaps the most appealing thread in Augustine's story is the warmth of his friendships. I particularly like Alypius - "the brother of [Augustine's] heart" - who jumps in, boots and all, with Augustine's febrile conversion, even if he has no idea what the heck is going on (*Confessions*, Book 8). Students need to feel that they are seen and known; then they will be better able to make friends. There is nothing worse than being the lonely student who has no one to be with at break times. Friendship is just as vital in the staffroom. In a school inspired by Augustine, the priority at the beginning of the year is not the launch of new "data-driven" initiatives but to spend time together reconnecting and celebrating the recreation that the summer has provided. The headteacher takes genuine pleasure in the company of her colleagues. She begins the year by listening to them.

The third value Fr Robert identified as key to the Catholic school is *interiority*. Students and teachers are encouraged to look inward and find a map with which to journey between head and heart. Augustine wrote of the "inner teacher" within each learner, before whom we "need not feel ashamed". That "inner teacher" is in fact the hidden Christ. The presence of the inner teacher means that the student must have the final say in how she steers her boat out of the safe harbour of school. She decides what to retain, and what to leave behind. I love the way Augustine asks, "For which parent would be so foolish as to send their child to school to find out what the teacher thinks?"

Interestingly, Fr Robert did not say that the three Augustinian values are *Unitas*, *Caritas*, and *Veritas* - the flags that you see flying in the driveways of his *alma mater*, Villanova University, Philadelphia, and other Augustinian schools and colleges. I like to think that the everyday search for truth, for community and for interiority is the way the Holy Spirit breathes almost imperceptibly into a Catholic school, illuminating the path to freedom (Exodus 15:8).

After I returned to Australia from Peru our school adopted these values. It transformed both the search for truth within the classroom and the relationships between the staff and the pupils. It is only subsequently that I can see that we were being gently pushed on to a wave which was about to be surfed with aplomb by Jorge Mario Bergoglio and is now being ridden by his successor, Robert Prevost.

John Holroyd is the head of religious education at Villanova College, Brisbane, Australia.

A small Sheffield-based charity has begun a quiet revolution in the care of the dying in Palestine's West Bank / by **Joe McNally**

Born in Bethlehem

Last month marked the second anniversary of the only licensed palliative care provider in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust's Hospice at Home service. The initiative was launched in response to an urgent request from the Christian community in Bethlehem, a city with the highest reported incidence of cancer in the OPT. Seven out of every 10 cancer diagnoses in the region come too late for curative treatment. Before the service began, palliative care simply wasn't available to people living in this part of Palestine's West Bank - leaving many to face the end of their lives in pain and without dignity or comfort.

Unable to fund a dedicated hospice, the Sheffield-based Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust (BCHT) instead developed a home-based care model. A solid operational structure was quickly established, licences were obtained and trained palliative care medical staff recruited. Just two months after the trust began its work in the Bethlehem area came 7 October. Since then, the socio-economic and security environment in the West Bank has deteriorated dramatically. The area essentially shut down - tourism halted, businesses closed and the already high poverty levels severely worsened. In a region where nearly 30 per cent of people were already surviving on less than £1.34 a day, unemployment and poverty soared. Restrictions on movement added extra difficulty to the delivery of healthcare.

Despite these challenges, BCHT nurses continue to go out each day to negotiate many of the 198 new check-points that have sprung up in and around Bethlehem. Beginning with just 11 patients, this small team of dedicated nurses has made more than 3,200 home visits, caring for 227 patients and supporting their families in their most difficult times. The trustees of the charity provide support and oversight by constant contact, and by visiting and reviewing the work of the team on the ground.

The chair of the trustees, Philip



Hospice staff comfort a patient and his family

Hopkins, Professor of Anaesthesia at the University of Leeds, and Fr Augustine O'Reilly, a retired priest of the Hallam diocese, have visited some of the patients in Bethlehem. They sense the emptiness and desolation in and around the city. Fr Gus visited a Muslim family where a widowed mother was caring for her 33-year-old terminally ill (only) son, who had been discharged from hospital to die at home without any follow-up support. Medicines were scarce and expensive. Fr Gus was surprised to discover that a Catholic priest could enter a Muslim household as a welcome friend. He prayed for and with the sick and sorrowing, and was moved to learn that before the intervention of the BCHT service the widowed mother had been trying to sell her house so that she could pay for her dying son's treatment.

Phil Hopkins, a parishioner of St Joseph's parish, Wetherby, joined the BCHT team on a visit to a frail woman with large pressure sores, who had been confined to bed for six years after suffering a stroke. As the nurses dressed her wounds and a physiotherapist gently moved her limbs, he saw her face lighting up. He could see that for her the nursing team was not providing merely clinical treatment - the nurses represented human contact, comfort and dignity.

Another patient, a 66-year-old woman with advanced breast and thyroid cancer, was dying in pain and exhaustion. Her family, overwhelmed and unsure how to help, had been considering a hospital admission. The BCHT nurses addressed the woman's pain,

rehydrated her, and taught her simply mouth care. Helen, one of the nurses, improvised a mouth care swab from a stick and gauze when no kit was available - preventing a distressing and unnecessary admission and giving the family tools to care for the dying woman at home.

This work demands resilience and creativity. Medical supplies are often scarce; families may struggle to afford medicines or follow complex treatment plans. In Bethlehem the BCHT staff have learned how to make a little go a long way. As the service has become better known, local appreciation has grown. Dr Abdallah Alwawi, head of Anaesthesia at Al-Quds University, Jerusalem, observed: "A quiet revolution in care-giving is emerging - rooted in compassion, driven by dignity. In a place often associated with suffering, this initiative is sowing seeds of healing, presence, and human connection. True care is not only about healing, but about companionship, listening, and honouring life until its last breath." He offered his appreciation for the work of those "who choose to serve, not in the comfort zone but where they are most needed".

The BCHT service is currently supporting 95 patients and is slowly helping to build compassionate communities across the Bethlehem area. Amid the current hardship in the West Bank, the BCHT's medical team is demonstrating that compassion transcends barriers and that in the Holy Land caring for the sick is itself a form of peace-building. "in this place of deep faith and enduring hope, the care needs of the terminally ill are far greater than our current capacity," a spokesperson for the trust said. "We urgently need financial support to sustain our service and to reach those who are still in pain and left to end their days without medical or nursing care."

For more information go to www.bethlehemcareandhospicetrust.org or email: info@bcandht.org

Joe McNally is a retired senior police officer, and the founder and President of the Bethlehem Care and Hospice Trust.

A sadness I can love with

In his final book, the Franciscan writer and teacher Richard Rohr allows God's grace to convert the misery we feel at the state of the world into something beautiful

Austen Ivereigh

The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage

RICHARD ROHR

If you've never read a new book by Richard Rohr, one of the spiritual masters of our age, here is your last chance. For the Franciscan friar, teacher and retreat-giver, based since the late 1980s in his Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, insists this is his final book. In his eighties now, weakened by a prolonged illness - hence the five-year hiatus since the bestselling *The Universal Christ* - in interviews and podcasts he sounds frail these days, his pauses far longer. He has had to say goodbye to so much in the last 10 years of his life, he says at one point in *The Tears of Things*, that "I cannot become over-reliant on anything self-affirming or self-validating". He sees the shadow side of everything, learning not to be angry with the state of the world, but sad. "And this is a sadness I can live with, a sadness I can love with. Things do not have to be perfect for me to reverence them, respect them, honour them, love them, and forgive them."

If this is indeed his valedictory work, it is a heck of a goodbye, a little book so packed with gems like this that it's hard to know what to underline. It is a characteristically readable portal to the prophets, those extraordinary figures in the Old Testament whom we barely ever consider. At the same time, it is a wisdom book and a personal memoir, the perfect spiritual companion to our "age of outrage". It would make a superb Advent or Lent parish book: after giving us the keys to them, Rohr sends us off to read Ezekiel or Jeremiah, and then invites us to see how in our own time we might let God's grace convert the seething, gasping, powerless rage we daily feel - at Gaza, Trump, Putin, Ukraine - into something good and beautiful: a jubilee of hope, a doorway into a better world. He shows us how to live fruitfully with suffering and evil, so it doesn't suck us in or oppress us, but to absorb it as God does, moving from necessary but fruitless rage into lamentation and love. That way, we don't just pass it all on, but are freed to serve this world. Rohr puts it gnominically: "Anger hardens, while sadness saves."

In the prophets of the Bible, Rohr finds a model of this alchemy: a gradual but definite movement from early rage and self-righteous anger (where many of us tire of them, and give up on reading them) through different forms of disorder - failure, impotence, the breakdown of dualistic categories - through sadness into compassion and praise. In this final state, living in and out of grace, their prophecy becomes fertile, a mature response to evil and injustice, inspiring others.



Spiritual master: Richard Rohr

As Rohr hints more than once, this is his own life journey. Many of us first met him through his book on the Enneagram 25 years ago, which is the definitive Christian reading of the ancient spiritual tool that maps our personalities and compulsions. He is a ONE, the reformer type, whose gift-yet-burden is to see clearly what is wrong and what needs to change. Like all gifts, it needs to be redeemed. A spiritually immature ONE is constantly trapped in his own righteousness, judging and condemning; he needs to be broken out of his egocentrism and rigidity, to learn compassion and the broader, bigger horizons of God. Jeremiah is the exemplar of this journey of transformation, moving eventually out of harsh judgement into something like God's own sadness, into the "tears of things" - Virgil's *lacrimae rerum*. Isaiah, Ezekiel and Job undergo the same evolution, learning to love as God loves, and to embrace "third-way" thinking, transcending duality and coming to understand the way God is and operates. They learn that true religion is not a purity cult, dependent on our performance and perfection, but an opening to God's grace; and that God's way is not punitive violence but redemptive suffering. Studying the prophets, says Rohr, is to grasp "the rite of passage into adult religion".

His thesis is illustrated not just by these "full journeys", but also by the "unfinished prophets", those who (at least in the biblical accounts) remain stuck: Elijah in spectacle, Jonah in reward-punishment, and John the Baptist, who enjoys too much being the judgemental outsider and ends up bewildered by Jesus, one who "stands at the gateway but has not yet heard Jesus' parables of the reign of God". The Baptist reminds Rohr of justice activists and traditionalists in the Church who are morally correct but spiritually immature - baptised with

water, but not the "fire and spirit" of Jesus' baptism.

This journey of transformation, the task of true religion, is the purpose of his centre in Albuquerque, and the golden thread uniting his 30-odd-books, whether he is writing on the Enneagram, the task of men's spirituality (*The Wild Man's Journey*) or the second half of life (*Falling Upward*) that brings us to the vision of the divine in *the Universal Christ*. What *Tears* brings to his rich table is a bracing critique of the way our Churches have so often sought to locate evil in individuals, while ignoring the culture and systems that create large-scale evils around us: poverty, war, ecological devastation. "The Church has been trying for centuries to save individuals while ignoring the corrupt system in which those individuals operate," writes Rohr, adding that in terms of "societal change" this has been a "notorious failure". Harping on individual sin and guilt, backed by the idol of a punitive God, "has simply produced an ocean of blowback from folks who already thing they are unworthy". The way of the prophets, and ultimately Jesus, on the other hand, is to call out the shadow, putting the institution into a healthy crisis, so that it abandons the myth of a purity or morality cult - which is all about us - and moves into radical unity with God's covenant of restorative justice. Jesus came not to condemn but to offer a wedding banquet, a vision of the common good, a new order of things - a vision of the Kingdom of God that inspired people to change.

Rohr believes his Catholic tradition has too often been "a purity cult that we use to prove we are superior beings", confusing sanctity with moral perfection. And it has created too little space for the prophetic alongside the priestly roles. The priest maintains the order and orthodoxy within the system;; we need that primary order to start from, but we also need the disorder that the prophet brings, to take us beyond the argumentative, dualistic mindset and into the creative contemplative mind. This is the role of prophets, "those who have the courage to make God's way of loving action the source, the goal, the criterion, and the standard for all human morality and behaviour". The ideal, of course, is to have priestly prophets and prophetic priests, but they are usually very different types. Yet, when they come together, they produce remarkable figures like Pope Francis, whom Rohr describes as "an amazing and most rare example of one who can operate as both high priest and high prophet". In Rohr's life and work, we have another example, and no more fitting conclusion to both than *The Tears of Things*.



*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,

Jarrold Mizzi, Cindy & Ed Morrissey,

Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), Jeanne Vanderwert

For the recently **deceased**:

Libertad Bayola

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

Eva Crowe, Andrew Lopuszynski, William Warrillow

Eltham

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

Stephen Andrew, Bill Boyce, Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker,

Mary Luttick, Bernard Murray, Audrey Tunks

To include an anniversary please contact Parish Office

9435 4742 or RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au.



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

Saturday, 13 September, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Flynn Patrick McKenzie

Jet Shannon McKenzie

Baptism

Baptism

Sunday, 14 September, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 8:30am

Xavier Michael Attard

First Eucharist

Season of Creation

Week Two

Canticle

Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars, in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful. Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind, and through the air, cloudy and serene, and every kind of weather through which You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Reading

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my saviour. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever. (Luke 1:46-55)

Contemplation

"The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it on the seas, established it over the rivers." (Psalm 24:1-2)

Prayer of the Week

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace. We thank you for being with us each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



SEASON OF CREATION

Roster for week ending 14 Sep 2025

Armstrong, Miranda	H10:00
Dhanasen Family	PRSE
Donnellan, Denise	H10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	H10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	H10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Haines, Geoff	C10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
Lucas, Maree	CLNR
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Thu
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Stephens, Patricia	CLNR
Stone, Nan	W6:00
Taylor, Trish	PRYR
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

Roster for week ending 21 Sep 2025

Bucknell, Dom	R10:00
Capuana, Marisa	LoW-01 Thu
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Grande, Silvana	H10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Leahy Family	PRSE
Maloney, Jo	W6:00
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Rygala, Ella	H10:00
Volunteer Please	H10:00
Volunteer Please	H10:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Williams, Peter	PRYR

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

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025
WE ARE A SAFE, HOPE-FILLED AND WELCOMING CHURCH



Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves.

We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

NEW ARCHBISHOP LOOKS FORWARD TO SERVING THE CHURCH IN BRISBANE



Archbishop Shane Mackinlay was welcomed by the people of Brisbane at his installation Mass at St Stephen's Cathedral yesterday.

Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/12/new-archbishop-looks-forward-to-serving-the-church-in-brisbane/>

GOVERNMENT URGED TO HELP 2500 PATIENTS STUCK IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS



The states and territories are calling on the Albanese Government to do more to address a large number of elderly patients stuck in public hospitals waiting for aged care beds.

Source: *ABC News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/12/government-urged-to-help-2500-patients-stuck-in-public-hospitals/>

AUSTRALIA'S NEW BISHOPS ATTEND FORMATION COURSE, MEET POPE

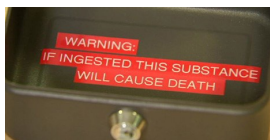


Bishops ordained to the episcopate in the past year, including five Australian bishops, attended a formation course in Rome this week,

which concluded yesterday with an audience with Pope Leo XIV. Source: *Vatican News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/12/australias-new-bishops-attend-formation-course-meet-pope/>

VICTORIA'S EUTHANASIA PROGRAM STRUGGLING TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND



Victoria's voluntary euthanasia program is struggling to keep up with surging demand from dying Victorians as the program's review board seeks changes to rules blocking access.

Source: *Herald Sun*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/12/victorias-euthanasia-program-struggling-to-keep-up-with-demand/>

SOCKTOBER KICKS OFF WITH ZAMBIA THE GOAL



Catholic Mission has launched its annual Socktober program, an initiative that focuses on inspiring young people to make a difference through the

universal game of soccer.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/12/socktober-kicks-off-with-zambia-the-goal/>

WOLLONGONG DIOCESE NAMES NEW SCHOOL AFTER MILLENNIAL SAINT



A new kindergarten-to-year-12 college for 1800 students in Leppington, southwest Sydney, will be named after St Carlo Acutis.

Source: *The Catholic Weekly*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/09/12/wollongong-diocese-names-new-school-after-millennial-saint/>

We are called to be saints Not I, but God

The canonisation of two bright, young saints at the weekend, shines a light on the many paths that lead us closer to God. As the first millennial saint, Carlo Acutis, said, 'Not I, but God.'



In a few weeks' time, three men will be ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. They share with us how a series of false starts and trials helped solidify their 'yes' to God's calling.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/false-starts-and-saying-yes-with-courage-preparing-for-the-priesthood>



In canonizing Sts Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati, Pope Leo XIV reminded us that holiness is available to everyone.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/new-young-saints-encourage-faithful-to-live-life-to-the-full-pope-says>



For Missionaries of God's Love sister Stephanie Sullivan, the Church's newest saints teach us to 'seize every moment, being attentive to the presence of God and grace at work'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/living-holy-wild-the-joyful-holiness-of-saints-carlo-acutis-and-pier-giorgio-frassati>



The program for the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) has officially been released, with a number of local and international speakers set to headline the festival in just under 100 days.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/full-program-released-for-acyf>

CHOIR TO TAKE AUDIENCE ON DRAMATIC MUSICAL PILGRIMAGE ALONG PATH OF MIRACLES

On 19 September at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne chamber choir Polyphonic Voices will perform *Paths of Miracles* - a hauntingly beautiful contemporary choral work inspired by the Camino de Santiago - bringing to culmination a demanding but hope-filled musical pilgrimage embarked on many months ago. The choir's director, Michael Fulcher, says the journey has both inspired and deeply challenged the singers.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/choir-takes-audiences-on-a-dramatic-musical-pilgrimage-along-the-path-of-miracles>

DR EDWARD SRI INSPIRES MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ON LOVE AND FAITH

As part of his recent visit to Melbourne, American theologian and author Dr Edward Sri presented a keynote address at Australian Catholic University (ACU) and a live-audience podcast recording at John Paul II House, a Catholic centre for university students in Carlton, engaging students and young adults in conversations about love, relationships and living the Catholic faith in everyday life.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/dr-edward-sri-inspires-melbourne-university-students-on-love-and-faith>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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