

Risen



Christ

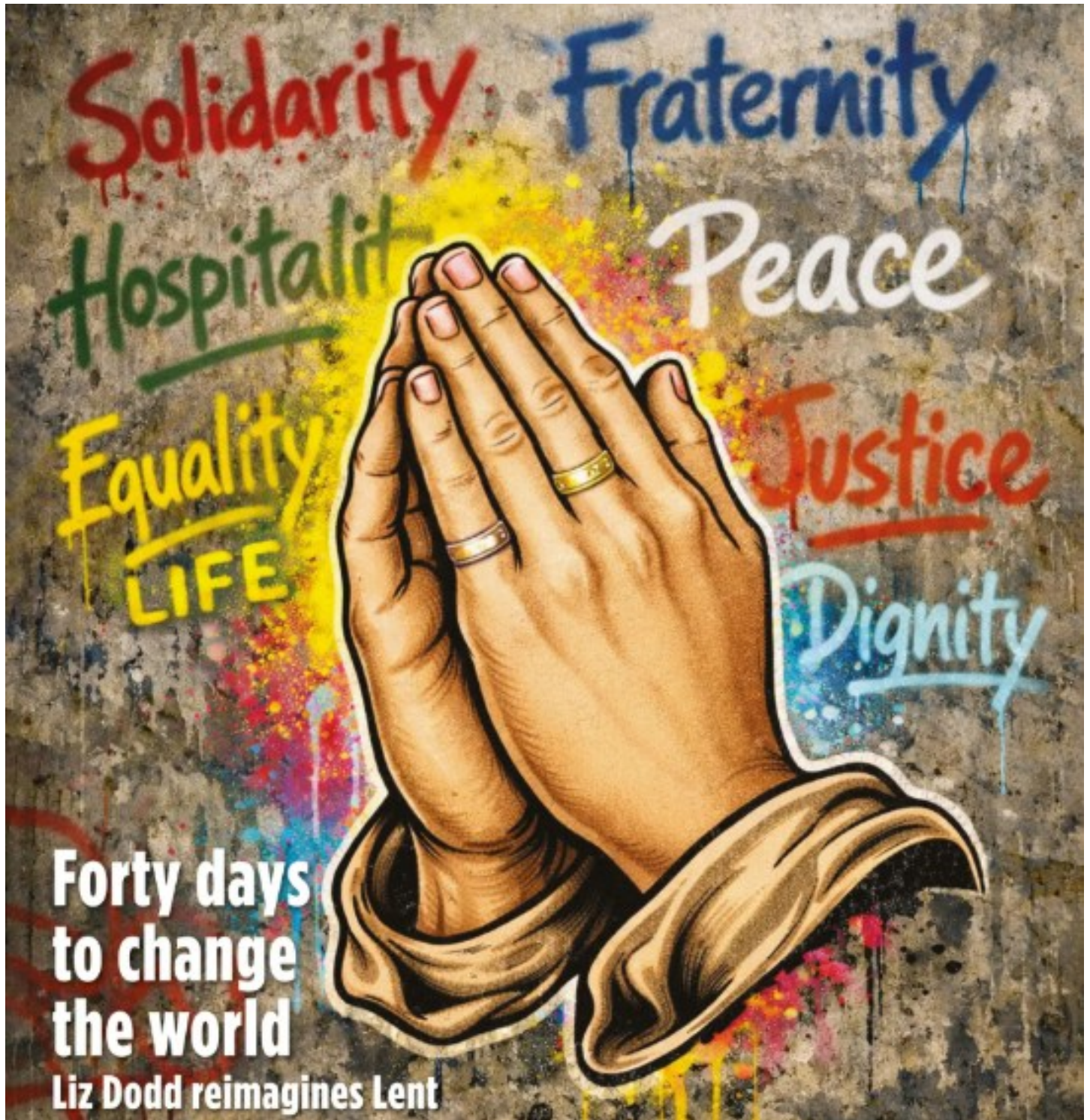
Second Sunday of Lent - Year A

28 February & 1 March 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.



*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: 15 & 22 Feb 2026

Thanksgiving	Cash	\$1,545.70
	Electronic	\$6,800.17
Presbytery	Cash	\$1,392.85
	Electronic	\$300.00

Thanksgiving Offering

Month	Total
November	\$15,369.89
December	\$18,205.17
January	\$20,972.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 28

12:00pm Baptisms: Siora, London

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 1 March

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Harvey, Sutton, Ryan,
Emmison, Raffie

Eltham

Monday 2

9:00am Days for Girls

Montmorency

7:30pm RCIA Class

Eltham

Tuesday 3

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 5

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

11:00am Funeral: Maxine Duke

Montmorency

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 5

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 6

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 7

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 8

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 9

7:30pm RCIA Class

Eltham

Tuesday 10

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 4

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 11

6:30am Meditation

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

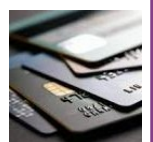
C) cash/coins in the collection baskets at each church

D) thanksgiving envelopes

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

Thank you for your generous support,

Michael



A long walk in solidarity

There is more to Lent than giving up chocolate. Being with Jesus as he approaches the Cross stirs his followers to respond to cruelty with energy, disruption and defiant prayer / **by Liz Dodd**

A few years ago, the community of hospitality where I live invited a Kurdish asylee to stay with us. It was the first time I had lived with someone observing Ramadan, which, in that year, as it does today, overlapped with Lent. While I grumbled about fasting from Instagram, she woke before dawn to pray, eat and drink water before college. We moved our mealtime later so we could still eat together after sunset; even after a full day fasted, she loved to cook. One evening, when iftar came before the rice was ready, I found her sitting at the kitchen counter with a single date, black tea, and her eyes closed. It was one of the holiest things I have ever seen.

It was also, spiritually speaking, one of the most confusing. How could this woman, who had suffered so much, believe that God wanted her to go hungry? Because it reminded her, she told me, that when she thirsted under canvas in the Mediterranean heat, and her stomach twisted with anxious hunger in Calais, God had been with her. Fasting wasn't reparation, or gratitude, or even penance: it was solidarity. God with her, and she with God, and both with the family she had left behind. It reminded her that God was with her now, as she navigated the casual cruelty of the asylum system, and my cooking.

Thanks to her, solidarity became my way into Lent. I know that this should be obvious: it is, I think, the essence of our liturgical traditions. Staying in dark, cold churches on Holy Thursday evening and shuffling towards the crucifix on Good Friday are all the actions of people who stay, act, and wait while God suffers. But the suffering we are in solidarity with during Lent is not an abstract sentiment figured into wood: it is the panic of a woman shot in the head by an ICE agent; of children in detention centres. Not pious or penitential or something passively undertaken, but the way Jesus lived it: chosen, radical, political. Our Lent ought to disrupt, frustrate and offend: it is a season of solidarity, practised through presence, action and prayer.

I learned this from our Muslim guest, but also among my sisters and activist allies. Not far from our convent in New Jersey, USA, there is an infamous private, for-profit migrant detention centre called

Delaney Hall. The centre, which is operated by the GEO Group, has come under fire from migrant rights activists for its dire living conditions. Just before Christmas, Jean Wilson Brutus, a 41-year-old Haitian asylum-seeker, died in custody there "of natural causes". He died far from home, in a grim migrant prison, days after being arrested and held by Trump's violent militia. But he did not die far from family, because a small group of volunteers - nuns, friars, local activists - have kept vigil outside ever since Delaney reopened. They provide practical support to visitors and they pray. Because of their enduring presence, Jean Wilson Brutus was surrounded by the prayers of strangers who loved him enough to wait right outside.

"We are there whether it's 40C or if it's -13C," my sister Susan Francois CSJP told me. She has held vigil since the beginning, facing off against ICE and MAGA protesters with a sign saying: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me - Jesus." She describes it as a spiritual practice: "We pray, and giving hot chocolate to an eight-year-old girl or helping a mum stay warm is prayer too. I know when I leave there that I have done something in the face of the inhumanity in my country. It is an incredible presence of common humanity in a way that I have never seen and, from my perspective, is definitely Spirit-led".

Presence - as those who have been arrested on anti-ICE and pro-Palestine actions can attest - is a form of direct action. This is incarnational theology, and it was modelled perfectly on Ash Wednesday, when non-violent activists gathered to start Lent by marking the Ministry of Defence with chalk reminiscent of the ash they received down the road at Westminster Cathedral. Pax Christi's Ash Wednesday vigil is, in my experience, one of the most profound ways to enter Lent. Jesus' journey through Lent is profoundly non-violent, culminating in one of the most extraordinary acts of non-violence in history: God, crucified, still breathing out love. Direct action against the industry of war is carried on that breath.

"For me it truly marks the beginning of Lent: an occasion to rethink lifestyles, examine our presence in society and reflect on the contribution

we make to its betterment," Ellen Teague, *Tablet* writer and peace activist, told me. "It's a spiritual practice, a time of repentance, conversion and of new hope that another world is possible. It reminds me that I cannot be indifferent to injustice and violence in the world." Another activist, Anne Dodd (no relation), told me her belief in Christ as a non-violent reconciler inspired her commitment. "Every action we take, however small, is intimately connected, all part of the Whole and All centred in Christ, and draws us closer, in the doing, to Christ."

At the root of all this is prayer; that is, a relationship of radical dependence on God. Ailing capitalism's labyrinth of cruelty - the system that sustains detention centres and the arms trade - may not crumble because of our placards, but it is weakened by the kind of prayer that changes us. Sr Katrina Alton CSJP helped spark my own vocation with her commitment to non-violent peacemaking. Now the National Chaplain to Pax Christi England and Wales, she told me prayer is a form of resistance. "Each time we say the Our Father we loosen our grip on the lie that this violent, fractured world is all there is. 'Your kingdom come' is not escapism; it is an invocation that unsettles the powers and opens cracks for grace to break through. We pray at bedsides, and we must also pray at detention centres, government buildings, and arms manufacturers, where suffering is normalised, administered, and hidden in plain sight. Prayer places our bodies where God's heart already aches. Lent invites us into truth: let your hearts be broken. Whatever breaks your heart is already breaking God's."

I used to hate Lent, perhaps because I was afraid to enter into that broken heart until I lived alongside it in my work with refugees. With them and my sisters I discovered it is not a place to languish; it is a well of energy and action. Jesus' Lenten journey is a long walk in solidarity towards the Cross, in community with troublemakers and outcasts. Forget giving up chocolate: radical presence, courageous action and defiant prayer are how we are called to follow him.

Liz Dodd is a Sister of St Joseph of Peace. Her Lent book, *Easter in Disguise*, is published by Bloomsbury.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

A real hunger for God: record numbers at Rite of Election

Come closer

God is always calling us to come closer - and never more so than in Lent. Sometimes this call can feel like a test, but as this week's stories show, God has a remarkable way of using even the most challenging events in our lives to deepen our faith and draw us into his service.



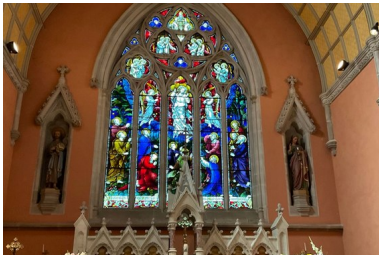
This year's Rite of Election on Sunday welcomed about 550 candidates and catechumens to St Patrick's Cathedral - a record number and an exciting sign of the powerful ways God is at work in the lives of people throughout the Archdiocese.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-real-hunger-for-god-record-numbers-at-this-years-rite-of-election>



As students prepare to return to university, we talk to ACU student and Wiradjuri man Paul Payne about how his personal struggles, including the end of his military career, opened up a surprising path to God, new opportunities to serve, and a deeper sense of peace and purpose. God has 'given the gift of having those experiences and being put in those difficult situations so that I can grow,' he says.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/answering-the-call-how-veteran-paul-payne-found-new-peace-and-purpose>



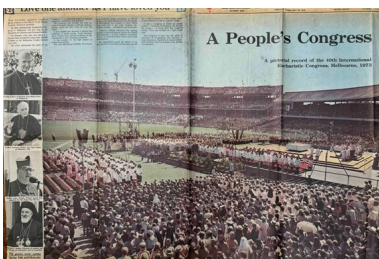
As St John the Baptist's Parish in Clifton Hill prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary this weekend, we hear how one couple's tragic loss deepened their devotion to God, inspiring them to build a church and a spiritual legacy that is still going strong.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-lasting-legacy-of-a-faith-filled-couple-turns-150>



And we share a simple Lenten initiative that encourages us to be attentive to all the ways God is calling people to come closer, and to be part of his life-changing invitation.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/can-you-spare-10-seconds-a-day-a-challenge-for-lent>



Echoes of Melbourne 1973, as Eucharist28 planning ramps up In 1973, as the fresh winds of the Second Vatican Council were sweeping across the world, the 40th International Congress in Melbourne offered an exciting opportunity for the faithful in Australia to embrace a renewed love and understanding of the Eucharist. Looking back at this pivotal moment in the Australian Church, we compare Melbourne's experience with what we can expect when the International Eucharistic Congress comes to Sydney in 2028.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/echoes-of-melbourne-1973-as-eucharist28-planning-ramps-up>



Civilian deaths and persecution of Catholics as Ukraine marks four years of invasion As Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine enters its fifth year, Caritas Australia warns that 2025 was the deadliest year yet for civilians, while a new documentary reveals that no Catholic priests remain in occupied territories due to Russian persecution. Pope Leo XIV has renewed his appeal for an immediate ceasefire, urging the faithful to pray for 'the embattled people of Ukraine'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/civilian-deaths-and-catholic-persecution-as-ukraine-marks-four-years-of-invasion>

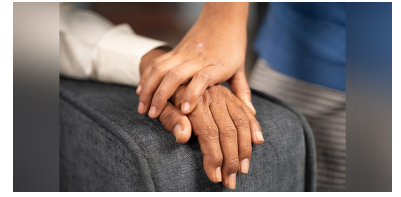
<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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

ACT'S ASSISTED DYING SCHEME SEES 14 PEOPLE DIE IN THREE MONTHS Fourteen people have died by voluntary assisted dying in the first three months of the ACT scheme.

Source: *Canberra Times*.

<https://cathnews.com/2026/02/27/acts-assisted-dying-scheme-sees-14-people-die-in-three-months/>



ANGELIC ENCOUNTER CAN'T BE REPLACED BY CHATBOT: BISHOP VARDEN There is a "prophetic challenge" facing the Church in today's world with the rise of "digital, artificial" media, according to Bishop Erik Varden, who is conducting the Lenten spiritual retreat at the Vatican. Source: *Crux*.

<https://cathnews.com/2026/02/27/angelic-encounter-cant-be-replaced-by-chatbot-bishop-varden/>



COMMISSIONER HOLDS PRIVATE MEETING WITH SURVIVORS AND THEIR FAMILIES Royal Commissioner Virginia Bell yesterday held a private meeting with victims, survivors and their families from the Bondi massacre. Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*.

<https://cathnews.com/2026/02/27/commissioner-holds-private-meeting-with-survivors-and-their-families/>



ALBANESE MAINTAINS UNCOMPROMISING STANCE ON ISIS FAMILIES Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has voiced compassion for the 23 Australian children detained in Syria, but remains defiant against their desperate pleas to return home.

Source: *9news.com.au*.

<https://cathnews.com/2026/02/27/albanese-maintains-uncompromising-stance-on-isis-families/>



GRAPE DAY FOR WINERY ESTABLISHED BY THE JESUITS 175 YEARS AGO The annual blessing of one of Australia's oldest operating wineries took place in the Clare Valley on February 20.

Source: *The Southern Cross*.

<https://cathnews.com/2026/02/27/grape-day-for-winery-established-by-the-jesuits-175-years-ago/>



LENTEN RETREAT OFFERS WOMEN A SPACE TO 'STOP, REST, AND RECEIVE'

Each year, more women are choosing to step away from the noise of everyday life and treat the annual Women's Lenten Retreat in Sydney as a kind of pilgrimage. Source: *The Catholic Weekly*.

<https://cathnews.com/2026/02/27/lenten-retreat-offers-women-a-space-to-stop-rest-and-receive/>



VATICAN'S TOP DIPLOMAT URGES PUSH FOR UKRAINE PEACE

The Vatican's top diplomat, Archbishop Paul Gallagher, has urged the international community to take "concrete steps" towards peace in Ukraine. Source: *Vatican News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2026/02/27/vaticans-top-diplomat-urges-push-for-ukraine-peace/>



EX-INTELLIGENCE CHIEF ARRESTED OVER SRI LANKAN BOMBINGS Families of victims of Sri Lanka's 2019 Easter Sunday bombings have expressed renewed hope for justice after police arrested a former top intelligence official over the coordinated attacks that killed 279 people. Source: *UCA News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2026/02/27/vaticans-top-diplomat-urges-push-for-ukraine-peace/>



Peace an urgent necessity to halt suffering, says Leo

Patrick Hudson

Peace in Ukraine "cannot be postponed" Pope Leo said, ahead of the fourth anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion.

Speaking after the Angelus in St Peter's Square on Sunday, the Pope said peace was "an urgent necessity that must find a home in our hearts and be translated into responsible decisions".

"My heartfelt thoughts remain focused on the tragic situation unfolding before the eyes of the whole world: so many victims, so many lives and families shattered, such immense destruction, such unspeakable suffering," he said.

During the general audience on 18 February, Leo met a group of relatives of Ukrainian prisoners of war and other missing persons, along with Ukraine's Ambassador to the Holy See, Andrii Yurash.

"Every war is truly a wound inflicted upon the entire human family [which] leaves in its wake death, destruction and a trail of pain that marks



Ukraine's Ambassador to the Holy See, Andrii Yurash

generations," he continued in his Angelus address.

"I invite everyone to join in prayer for the embattled people of Ukraine and for all those who suffer due to this war and every conflict in the world, that the long-awaited gift of peace may shine upon our days."

On Monday, the Ukrainian Council

of Churches and Religious Organisations (UCCRO) issued an appeal after four years of "heroic resistance" since the invasion on 24 February 2022. It said the war had "caused the deaths of thousands upon thousands of Ukrainians [and] the brutal violation of human rights and freedoms in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, including targeted religious persecution", as well as "the abduction of Ukrainian children, horrific treatment of military personnel and civilian prisoners [and] the destruction of cities and civilian infrastructure".

The UCCRO said that by resistance "the foundations were laid for the establishment of a just and lasting peace for Ukraine">

"At the core of Russia's aggression against Ukraine ... lies the chauvinistic and misanthropic ideology of the 'Russian world', the creation and spread of which is facilitated by the Moscow Patriarchate and other major Russian religious centres together with the Kremlin," it claimed. "We call on intergovernmental institutions, international religious organisations, and individual Churches and religious leaders to expose and condemn the ideology of the 'Russian world'."

Prayers of the Faithful for 28 February & 1 March - Second Sunday of Lent

Leader: The eyes of the Lord are upon those who hope for His kindness. Placing our trust in God, we come to Him with our needs and petitions.

For Pope Leo: may he constantly open the Gospel for us, so that the faith of Christians is made joyful and fruitful. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For those in need: may we see Christ in them and help them in the Spirit of Jesus, who came among us 'as one who serves'. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the strangers in our midst, especially those who are refugees and those whose status is unclear, be welcomed, treated with respect, and given the opportunity to see their dreams fulfilled. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For a resolution of all conflicts in every land and nation: may we learn to co-exist in this shared world, promoting love, peace and reconciliation. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the elect and all candidates preparing for reception into the Church: that they may encounter Christ as they embark on this pilgrim journey. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and hospitalized, their families and caregivers: that the sick find support from the many professionals dedicated to their welfare, so that their anxieties and pain may be reduced. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all those who have died recently, especially Rosemary Scully; and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Val Carrigg, Jim Deehan, Maree Hall and William Maloney: may their lives of faith and trust in Jesus bring them eternal life. *Let us pray to the Lord.* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: God of glory, you sent your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem us from sin and lead us to holiness. Answer our prayers, so that we may receive your mercy and share it with others. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen



*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:

*Stephen Andrew, Des Arneson, Bill Boyce, Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker,
Nora Edmond, Pat Hosmer, Siobhan Lappin, Alice Ley, Mary Luttick,
Jarrod Mizzi, Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Bernard Murray,
Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray),
Phil Rovtar, Audrey Tunks, Jeanne Vanderwert, Brian Witten*

For the recently **deceased**:

Mardi Bowers, Rosemary Scully

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

Val Carrigg, Jim Deehan, Maree Hall, William Maloney

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, 28th February, 2026

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm
London Ivy Adamic

Baptism

Sunday, 1st March, 2026

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

Emmison Mae Egan

Raffie Jae Egan

Ryan Thomas Egan

Harvey Jack Kanizay

Sutton Indy Kanizay

Max Archie Monaco

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

Baptism

History of Your Library 2010 to 2026

The first catalogue was put together in 2010 and updated every year until 2017 and randomly since then, the last date being 2026.

The library began with a gift of shelving from OLHC school when they renovated the old library. At that time, I asked parishioners to stock the library. They responded with enthusiasm. Due to limited space it has been necessary to cull books from time to time. The latest intake of books was gifted by a couple of parishioners. Again, space is the problem, and I have sorted out a number of books to put on the shelves. These are listed in a dark blue font in the catalogue, and on the book spine.

There are many books by current authors, but books published before Vatican 2 are first to be culled. Some books have disappeared on to people's shelves at home.

I have been down to the church to organise the library shelves and to my surprise I have twenty *Joan Chittester* books on the shelf, including a book of CDs that are now on the top of the smaller shelves. I was obviously in love with Joan for a time. Give her a try, you may love her too.

Please use the borrowers book in the **BLUE** folder and mark when returned.

There is a collection of Christian Meditation CDs on the shelves too, all numbered by the date of publication. I firmly believe that Christian meditation will be tomorrow's church, and so I invite you to listen to them.

The library cannot accept any more books at this time. Thank you for your support.

There are many roads to journey in faith and reading is certainly one.

Blessings, Trish



Roster for week ending 1 Mar 2026

Capuana, Marisa	LoW-01 Thu
Cotter, Anne	CLNR
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Davidson, John	PRYR
Davidson, John	W8:30
Dopheide, Marlis	R10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Illiffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Liss, Judy	H10:00
Maloney, Jo	W6:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Wood, Gerard	CLNR
Zavadil Family	PRSE

Roster for week ending 8 Mar 2026

Beckford, Peter	C10:00
Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Cseh, Ferenc	H10:00
Cseh, Nika	H10:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	E10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Goodison, Pauline	CLNR
Hall, Vali	ASE
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Love, Philip	W8:30
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
Perera, Brian	H10:00
Perera, Sharmaine	H10:00
Roy, Yvonne	CLNR
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Stone, Nan	W6:00
Taylor, Trish	R10:00
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Wood, Marie	CLNR
Wood, Marie	LoW-01 Thu

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham;

C = Commentator;

CLKR = PowerPoint Clicker @ SFX;

CLNR = Cleaner @ SFX; R = Reader;

E = Eucharistic Minister;

H = Hospitality;

LoW-01 = Liturgy of the Word with
Communion @ SFX;

PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;

M = Music; W = Minister of the Word

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'



Reflection: Break Open the Word 2026

It is only a few weeks since we heard the story of Jesus' baptism in which the heavens opened and the Father's voice was heard. Now, a similar revelation-event occurs in the presence of Peter, James and John. The heavens open and light, bright as the sun, shone around Christ. And again the voice: *This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour*; followed by the added exhortation: *Listen to him*.

These disciples have received the gift of a glimpse of the resurrection. Memory of this vision returned, no doubt, to make sense of their bewildering experience of the Paschal Mystery when they witness Christ's agony in the garden before he is arrested.

For the disciples as now for us, beholding Christ in the Paschal Mystery fills us with awe ('fear of the Lord'). The proclamation of this story should aim to evoke a sense of amazement on the part of the assembly, a wonder which will be reinforced in the celebration of the Eucharist.



Communal Rite of Forgiveness (Reconciliation)

- Monday 23rd March, 7pm at Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham
- Tuesday 24th March, 7pm at St Francis Xavier, Montmorency

Dear Parishioners and Friends
of Risen Christ Parish,

As part of our Lenten Journey for 2026 - we are offering two opportunities for this Communal Rite of Forgiveness along with our grade 4 students and their families for a prayerful time of reconciliation together in preparation for Holy Week and our Easter celebrations.

Parish Ministry Gatherings - You're invited to join!

We invite you to join us at 7pm for a cuppa, followed by a 7:30pm meeting start.

Prayer and Worship - Thursday 12 March at OLHC:

RCIA, Communion to the Sick, Welcomers, Commentators and Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Church Cleaning, Meditation Group, Small Church Communities, Liturgy Committee, Children's Liturgy, Youth Ministry, Faith Development Group and Bereavement Ministry.

Hospitality - Thursday 19 March at OLHC:

Transport to Ministry, After Mass Hospitality - Eltham and Montmorency, Gardening and Funeral Hospitality.

Social Justice - Thursday 19 March at Risen Christ Parish Office:

St Vincent de Paul, Kadasig, Refugee Assistance, Parkview Retirement Village, ASRC Food Collection, Days for Girls and Social Justice Committee.

Everyone is warmly invited to attend, regardless of which community you attend.

We will provide more information on getting involved in the Risen Christ Parish at the meetings. We look forward to coming together as a community in service and mission.

