

Risen Christ



Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A

22 & 23 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.

Parish Ministry Gatherings - Social Justice & Hospitality

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Risen Christ Parish, We have now held our final 2 Parish Ministry Gatherings on the areas of Social Justice and Hospitality. And like last week, these meetings were well attended, with just on 20 people at Eltham for Hospitality and 15 people at Montmorency for Social Justice, on the same night! Such passion and interest was shared by both groups and an opportunity to look at the past successes as well as future possibilities.

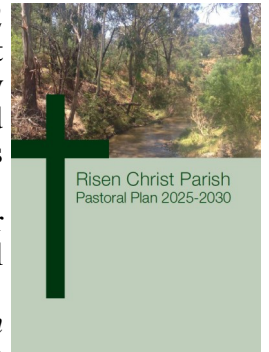
Lavanya Miranda put hup her hand to move reluctantly into the Social Just space as our new parish coordinator for the next 12 months - this was met with much applause by all in the SFX room.



My name is Lavanya Miranda, I live in Lower Plenty with my husband and our 15 year old daughter. We have been part of the parish for a few years now, becoming regulars at the Saturday 6pm service this last couple of years. Taking on the Social Justice coordinator role is my way of contributing to a community. It also gives me space to reflect, stay centred, and practise gratitude. Looking forward to working with our parishioners and strengthening our connection with the wider community.

From Peter Williams attending the gathering on Hospitality: "Those present shared inspiring ideas, hopes, and practical ways we can continue to deepen the spirit of hospitality within our community. It was heartening to witness so many parishioners offering their time, insights, and faith as we work together to strengthen this important pillar of parish."

A sincere thank you to everyone who attended and contributed so thoughtfully to the evening's discussions. Your generosity and enthusiasm to shape the welcoming heart of our parish community is invaluable. *Michael*



Easter Liturgy Timetable

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Thursday, 2nd April

7:00pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Good Friday, 3rd April

The Way of the Cross

11:00am @ OLHC, Eltham

The Passion of Our Lord

3:00pm @ OLHC, Eltham

Holy Saturday, 4th April

Blessing of the Food

5:00pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Vigil of the Resurrection

7:00pm @ SFX, Montmorency

Easter Sunday, 5th April

Dawn Vigil of the Resurrection

6:00am @ OLHC, Eltham

Easter Mass

8:30am @ SFX, Montmorency

Easter Mass

10:00am @ OLHC, Eltham



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: 1 & 8 March 2026

Thanksgiving	Cash	\$1,801.00
	Electronic	\$9,019.50
Presbytery	Cash	\$1,387.10
	Electronic	\$215.00

Thanksgiving Offering

Month	Total
December	\$18,205.17
January	\$20,974.17
February	\$20,922.62

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 21

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 22

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 23

7:00pm Communal Rite of Forgiveness
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Eltham

Tuesday 24

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Communal Rite of Forgiveness
Sacrament of Reconciliation

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 25

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 26

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

11:00am Funeral: John Stanley

Eltham

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 27

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 28

12:00pm Baptisms: Myles, Paige, Clover, Jackson,
Austin, Ashton, Phoebe

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 29 - Palm Sunday

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 30

9:00am Days for Girls

Montmorency

Tuesday 31

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

Wednesday 1 April

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 2 - Holy Thursday

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



Gospel: John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. - It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied:

'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.'

He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.'

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord, she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there.

Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Reflection: Break Open the Word 2026

At the heart of this narrative lies the close friendship Jesus had with the siblings Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany. Jesus got a message that the man he loved was ill. By the time he arrived, Lazarus had been dead four days. Each sister in turn lamented, *if only you had been here...* Jesus was greatly distressed at the sight of their tears and he too wept for his friend. People remarked on how much Jesus loved them.

But John is not really concerned to tell this as a human-interest story. He frames his narrative with a much bigger purpose. This is the last of the great 'signs' Jesus gives. It occurs as he moves towards his death and prepares to enter Jerusalem. It leads to knowing Christ and believing in him.

Right from the beginning, as Jesus delays his visit to Judea, John has Jesus remark: *This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory!* John sets up the misunderstanding between rest/sleep and death so that Jesus can remark, *now you will believe*. Then as he approaches Bethany, the conversation with Martha opens up the question of the resurrection on the last day. This gives Jesus the opportunity to say *I am the resurrection and the life!* and to evoke from Martha a statement of belief in Jesus as the Christ. John makes it clear that Lazarus was not just in a coma but was indeed dead (*he will smell - it is the fourth day*) and has Jesus say again: *Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?* Then after the dramatic and vivid image of Lazarus coming forth still bound in the burial cloths, John remarks that many came to believe in Jesus.

This means that the passage should be read with tenderness but also with a sense of grandeur. The first climax comes with Jesus' statement, *I am the resurrection and the life* and his promise of life in him. Then the story takes another run up, through the meeting with Mary, leading to the second climax: *Lazarus, here! Come out! ...Let him go free*. Each climax is followed by a profession of faith.

In John's gospel, this story sets up an enthusiastic welcome from the people as Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey, but also provokes the jealous religious leaders to begin to plot his death.





‘Something luminous’: Archbishop launches vision for renewal of Cathedral and precinct.

The transformation of St Patrick’s Cathedral and its surrounds on Melbourne’s Easter Hill has begun, with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli launching Light into the City as part of the annual Patrick Oration. The ambitious new project will reimagine the Cathedral precinct as a welcoming place of faith, culture, service and civic life for future generations.

Archbishop Comensoli delivered the Patrick Oration inside the Cathedral following a Mass to celebrate the feast day of St Patrick, the patron saint of the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The oration was dedicated to the renewal project, Light into the City, which Archbishop Comensoli said was needed ‘to strengthen the Church’s mission to serve the city of Melbourne and its people from this place’. The Cathedral’s broad appeal and importance to the city were exemplified, he said, in the impressive reach of its daily Mass broadcasts, particularly the 11am Sunday Mass, which is viewed by an estimated quarter of a million people each year, online or in person.

Yet this ‘is only a small part of what happens here,’ the Archbishop said, citing the dozens of other Masses each week, baptisms, weddings, funerals and reconciliation. ‘There are school gatherings ... civic commemorations, concerts, cultural events, and moments of quiet prayer,’ he said. City workers find tranquil refuge; families and friends from nearby hospitals come seeking comfort and a place ‘where their tears may be received’. It’s a place of civic outreach and a unifying presence in a diverse city.

Visitors in their hundreds of thousands participate in the spiritual and cultural life of the Cathedral, Archbishop Comensoli said. And in all, close to a million people are estimated to enter the Cathedral each year. Few other places in Melbourne ‘attract so many people, so consistently’.

The Archbishop described the Cathedral as unique in the urban landscape, contrasting its serene, hand-hewn bluestone under an open sky with the surrounding modern skyscrapers.

Cities are full of light, he said - the glare of headlights, the blinding lights of sporting fields, streetscapes ablaze. But ‘every great city longs for another kind of light, ... [one that] reveals meaning, beauty, hope.’

Cathedrals are ‘soaring testimonies to that light,’ he said. ‘That is why cathedrals have always stood near to the heart of cities. A light on a hilltop cannot be hidden, said Jesus. It is there for all to see. Our Mother Church, St Patrick’s, is such a light, rising here on Easter Hill, overlooking the city grid.’

It has stood for more than 125 years as the city has grown and changed around it, ‘a living thing, shaped by prayer, memory and the countless footsteps of those who have entered, seeking the light. It raises our minds and hearts heavenward ... as a reminder that the human spirit is made for something more.

‘And today, in our age of fragmentation and anxiety, and even isolation, that need for something more has not diminished. If anything, it has intensified. People are searching. And it is to such a light as this that they are drawn.’

Indeed, something luminous is happening in this Mother Church of our Archdiocese, the Archbishop said, with ‘a glow that continues to emanate from her inner core ... She is truly beautiful.’

But St Patrick’s Cathedral needs care through urgent restoration and renewal of the precinct, he said, detailing the deterioration of the sandstone - ‘It’s crumbling, and pieces are even falling off’ - the need for roof and floor repairs, and the improvement of the lighting and sound systems.

Beyond restoring the physical structure of the Cathedral, Light into the City aims to transform the surrounding area to be more welcoming, including the creation of gathering spaces and the repurposing of heritage-listed buildings for missionary outreach and cultural activities. ‘The entrances must be opened and made accessible for all. The grounds need to be softened and renewed,’ Archbishop Comensoli said. ‘And, there are currently no adequate amenities - don’t we know it! We need proper amenities to cater for the thousands who come here.’

He paid tribute to the extraordinary courage of those who built St Patrick’s during times of hardship, war and social upheaval. ‘They did not build for themselves. They built for us...

‘Tonight, we stand in the place of our forebears. Now it is our turn to build with courage.’

Light into the City will be a once-in-a-generation effort to renew St Patrick’s and the Cathedral precinct. The project requires vision and conviction, he said, and a total investment of \$190 million, and Archbishop Comensoli invited the community to be part of this vision by participating in the public campaign to raise the needed funds.

‘I now need your help, your prayers and your support,’ he said. ‘Tonight, I am asking you and, through you, all of our local Church - prayerfully, confidently and with great hope - to consider how you might be part of this vision, whether as individuals, parishes, organisations or community groups.

‘Just as the Cathedral was first built through the generosity of many, so this new chapter will also depend on the generosity of those who believe in its mission.

‘One day, perhaps decades from now, someone will walk in through the doors of our Cathedral, searching. Perhaps they will be grieving a loss, or overwhelmed by anxiety, or questioning the meaning of their life, or looking for some help in their or someone else’s need.

‘But because we chose to be courageous over caution, there will be a place ready for them: strong, open, radiant, welcoming. That is legacy - not what we have simply preserved from the past, but something living that we give to the future: a light, from Christ.’

The Patrick Oration ended with a parade of lanterns out of St Patrick’s Cathedral, carried by representatives of Melbourne’s diverse migrant and lay ecclesial communities and parishes, in a symbolic carrying out of light into the city. The guests milled around the forecourt enjoying refreshments and each other’s company in a glimpse of what an open precinct that welcomes all could look like.

Among the distinguished guests at the oration were Cardinal Mykola Bychok CSsR, auxiliary bishops of Melbourne Rene Ramirez RCJ and Thinh Nguyen, several state and federal MPs, and representatives of Christian and interfaith communities. Also in attendance were members of many Catholic communities, social service agencies, health and aged care organisations, clergy, religious, seminarians, and parishioners from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/archbishop-launches-light-into-the-city>



Through 'the door that is light':

Zahra's journey of hope and courage

As the Church journeys through Lent towards Easter, CatholicCare Victoria has launched its 2026 Easter Appeal, sharing deeply personal stories of how refugees and people seeking asylum are rebuilding their lives in Australia.

At the heart of this year's appeal is the story of Zahra*, an Afghan mother who arrived in Australia three years ago seeking safety, dignity and a future for her children after fleeing violence and

oppression.

'CatholicCare did not just teach me how to survive,' Zahra says. 'They gave me strength. They helped me raise my voice. They reminded me that I am human.'

Easter is a season of renewal, grounded in the Christian belief that hope can rise even from suffering. For many people supported by CatholicCare Victoria, this renewal is more than symbolic; it is deeply personal.

Zahra's journey has been marked by conflict, forced displacement and separation from her children - a separation she describes as heartbreak beyond words.

'When I landed in Australia, I felt like I had died - a body without a soul,' she recalls. 'A mother's heart is not divided by distance. It is broken by it.'

Arriving alone, traumatised and physically unwell, Zahra faced overwhelming uncertainty. Through CatholicCare Victoria's Asylum Seeker

Support Program, she was accompanied by people who listened to her story, affirmed her dignity and walked beside her as she began to rebuild her life.

With support, Zahra has accessed medical care, studied English, completed first aid and food safety qualifications, and begun training in healthcare, determined one day to give back to the community that supported her.

'They are not just a service,' she says of CatholicCare. 'They are building the human. They are building the future person.'

Zahra's is one of six stories being shared during the Easter Appeal via a series of short videos, offering insight into the realities of displacement and the transformative impact of compassionate, practical support.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/through-the-door-that-is-light-zahras-journey-of-hope-and-courage>



Humanitarian crisis deepens in Lebanon as Pope commemorates slain priest

Lebanon has been gripped by panic and an internal displacement crisis following Israeli evacuation orders as part of the US-Israeli war with Iran, raising fears the conflict could force many Christians to leave the region permanently.

Heavy Israeli airstrikes on Iran-backed Hezbollah and ongoing clashes, along with mass evacuation orders, have forced

hundreds of thousands to flee the conflict, leaving many homeless. Hezbollah joined Iran in the fighting despite a prohibition from the Lebanese government.

According to the United Nations, nearly 700,000 people have been displaced from southern Lebanon, south Beirut and the Bekaa Valley as they seek refuge in Beirut. The violence has also killed more than 80 children.

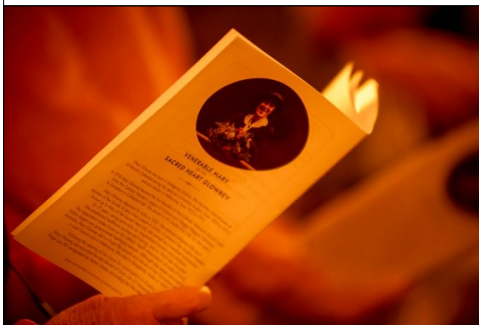
Lebanese Prime Minister Nawaf Salam warned on 6 March of a 'looming humanitarian disaster' after Israel ordered mass evacuations on 5 March in south Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburbs. He said Lebanon has been dragged into a devastating war it did not choose.

The Assembly of Catholic Patriarchs and Bishops in Lebanon issued a statement on 5 March warning about the 'dangerous escalation of armed

conflicts', highlighting the deaths of innocent victims, mass displacement of families and the deepening humanitarian crisis. Stressing that the continued 'spiral of violence threatens the dignity of the human person', they called for an immediate end to hostilities, a return to constructive dialogue, and urgent international action to prevent further deterioration.

In the wake of ongoing loss and violence in the region, Caritas Australia is receiving regular detailed updates from Caritas Lebanon, which has been responding since hostilities intensified on 2 March. Ongoing strikes continue to force families to flee repeatedly, often arriving at shelters with few or no belongings. Many shelters, particularly in Mount Lebanon, North Lebanon and Akkar, are now at or near full capacity.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/humanitarian-crisis-deepens-in-lebanon-as-pope-commemorates-slain-priest>



Selfless, faithful and a great doctor: Melbourne celebrates Venerable Mary Glowrey

Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey has been celebrated at a Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday 13 March at St Patrick's Cathedral. On 21 November last year, Pope Leo XIV honoured the sister-doctor's remarkable life and contribution, from her upbringing in rural Victoria to helping millions in India, when he accorded her the title Venerable. Following the Mass, the congregation

moved to the Australia Catholic University's Cathedral Hall - the very site where, in 1916, Mary Glowrey delivered her inaugural speech as the founding president of the Catholic Women's Social Guild, now known as the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga.

The evening's emcee, Emeritus Prof Gabrielle McMullen, director of Mary Glowrey Heritage, noted the 'tangible link between then and now, between a life lived in faith and the Church's recognition of that life today.'

Mary Glowrey was exceptional. She studied medicine at a time when few women did, and practised in Melbourne for several years. The call to India came to her while she was a parishioner at St Patrick's Cathedral, and she left to do missionary work in 1920.

She joined the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph in India, becoming Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart. For 37 years, she served as

a medical missionary, founding the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), which has since grown from 16 sisters into a network of more than 3,500 member organisations.

Catholic Women's League president Jane Munro addressed a common question regarding Mary's identity: 'We're sometimes asked, if Mary Glowrey becomes a saint, would she be a saint for India or for Australia? We always answer: both. One of the graces flowing from her cause has been the connection between Australia and India.'

This enduring connection was highlighted with the presence of several CHAI delegates, including the outgoing Director General, Fr Dr Matthew Abraham, and his successor, current Associate Director General Sr Dr Helen Mary Anthony.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/selfless-pious-and-a-great-doctor-celebrating-venerable-mary-glowrey>

Roster for week ending 22 Mar 2026	
Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00
Capuana, Marisa	LoW-01 Thu
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Lodi, Liduina	H10:00
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Renny, Teresa	H10:00
Renny, Tom	H10:00
Rough Family	PRSE
Stone, Nan	CLNR
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Taylor, Trish	PRYR
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Wood, Marie	W8:30
Zerjal, Frida	CLNR
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00
Roster for week ending 29 Mar 2026	
Armstrong, Miranda	"Narrator"
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Cseh, Nika	R10:00
Davidson, John	W8:30
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Lucas, Maree	CLNR
Maloney, Jo	W6:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Nolan, Mike	H10:00
Northrop, Greg	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Kathy	H10:00
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Ryan Family	PRSE
Stephens, Patricia	CLNR
Taylor, Trish	"Other"
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
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	



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:

Darby (13 years old), Stephen Andrew, Des Arneson, Elizabeth Benson, Bill Boyce, Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker, Nora Edmond, Pat Hosmer, Siobhan Lappin, Mary Luttick, Jarrod Mizzi, Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Bernard Murray, Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), Phil Rovtar, Audrey Tunks, Jeanne Vanderwert

For those who have **died** recently:

Bezar, Alice Ley, John Stanley

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

Adrian Aloï, Marianna Cantone, Maria Muscat, Stella Skehill, Maxwell Vanderwert, Michael Wellington, Claire Wood

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

Prayers of the Faithful for 22 March Fifth Sunday of Lent

Leader: "I shall put My Spirit in you, and you shall live." This is what we believe. This is God's promise.

We wait, and we long for, fullness of redemption, and in our waiting and longing, Lord, teach us patience and resilience.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The Holy Spirit is the source of our life in Christ. It is indeed worthy of celebration. May we come to His table with reverence and joy.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

As Jesus moves towards His death, he encounters Martha. "I am the resurrection and the life," he tells her. "Do you believe this?" "Yes Lord," she answers. Lead us into our OWN "YES".

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Our world is sorely in need of good leadership. We pray that world leaders will be blessed with discernment and wisdom.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We hold those who journey in faith towards Baptism into the Catholic church, especially those in our Risen Christ parish.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who are ill, especially those listed in the bulletin, that they will be strengthened by the presence of the Lord who journeys with them.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have died recently, especially *Bezar, Alice Ley and John Stanley*, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Adrian Aloï, Marianna Cantone, Maria Muscat, Stella Skehill, Maxwell Vanderwert, Michael Wellington and Claire Wood*. May they forever rest peacefully in the arms of their God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, who had promised life and salvation to those who believe, hear and answer these prayers humbly offered today. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All: Amen

OPEN DAY

SUNDAY, 17 MAY 2026: 1.00PM - 4.00PM
BOOK NOW VIA WWW.LOYOLA.VIC.EDU.AU/BOOKATOUR



Easter Liturgies - Volunteers Needed!

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham

There are sign up sheets in the OLHC Gathering Area for:

- i Palm Sunday - Hospitality
- ii Good Friday - Readers
 - Eucharistic Ministers
 - Veneration Ushers
- iii Easter Dawn Mass - Readers
 - Eucharist Ministers
 - Breakfast Attendance (RSVP)
 - Catering (Items of Food)
- iv Easter 10am Mass - Reader
 - Commentator
 - Eucharist Ministers
 - Hospitality.

Please consider putting your name down if you would like to contribute to our celebrations.

Kathleen Nolan

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency

Friends, as our Lenten journey draws to an end we look forward to celebrating the Triduum together.

If you are going to be around over Easter, we would like you to consider being involved. There are sign up sheets in the porch, for the Liturgies of **The Lord's Supper** and the **Easter Vigil** which will be celebrated in the Church of St Francis Xavier.

Your presence and participation does matter, so please give some thought as to how you may share your gifts to enrich the life of our Community, by placing your name and phone number in the spaces provided.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or questions we would welcome hearing from you.

Contact *Patsy*: 0429 439 675 or Parish Office: 9435 4742



Harmony Week - Everybody Belongs

Monday 16 to Sunday 22 March 2026

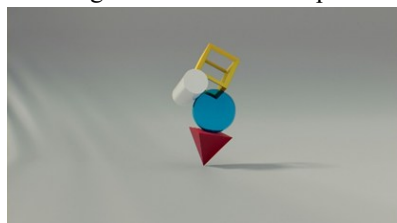
This year Australia celebrates Harmony Week from the 16-22 March. This is a wonderful time to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures that make up our Catholic community and share the message that everyone belongs.

Harmony Week coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial

Discrimination.

Harmony Week is a celebration of our diverse identity, promoting **inclusiveness, respect, and belonging** for everyone, from First Nations people to our newest community members. It highlights that despite our diverse backgrounds, we are bonded by shared **Australian Values** such as freedom, fairness, and equal opportunity.

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week as traditionally, it signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

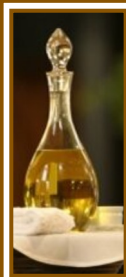


As Pope Francis reminded us in his encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship).

"The image of a polyhedron can represent a society where differences coexist, complementing, enriching and reciprocally illuminating one another, even amid disagreements and reservations. Each of us can learn something from others." Pope Francis, *Fratelli Tutti*, n 215

In the same way that Harmony Week affirms belonging for everyone irrespective of their background, Galatians 3:28 declares, "So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free men, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ

Jesus," dismantling the social and cultural barriers that separate people and reminding us that every person has inherent dignity and value.



***Dear Parishioners, for this final week of Lent,
the Sacrament of Anointing
will be offered to everyone at the conclusion of our
Parish Celebrations of the Eucharist.***





6. Who participates in a Synod?

A Synod involves the whole People of God: bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful. Each has a distinct role, but all share responsibility for the Church's mission. Synodality does not blur roles - it helps each vocation flourish in service of the Gospel.

7. Synodality and bishops

Bishops remain shepherds and teachers of the faith. Synodality does not weaken their authority; rather, it enriches their ministry by grounding leadership in prayerful listening and communal discernment. A bishop who listens walks more closely with his people, as Christ the Good Shepherd does.

8. Synodality and priests

For priests, synodality is not an added burden but a way of exercising ministry in communion. When priests foster listening and participation, parishes become more alive, missionary, and joyful. The priest presides at the Eucharist, but the whole community contributes to the Church's mission.

9. Synodality and the laity

Synodality affirms that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all the baptised. Lay people are not simply helpers of clergy; they are active disciples called to witness to Christ in families, workplaces, and society. A synodal Church takes this vocation seriously.

10. Synodality is about mission

The purpose of synodality is not internal reform for its own sake. Its goal is evangelisation - helping the Church become more faithful, more welcoming, and more effective in proclaiming the Gospel to today's world.

TRUMP'S WAR

BEWARE THE 'BLITZ SPIRIT' IN TEHRAN AND BEIRUT

Donald Trump's illegal "war of choice" against Iran is based on a fallacy: that the ruling regime can be pulled down by bombing from the air. Israel seems to be party to the same mistake. History teaches two lessons. First, that well entrenched rulers can repress opposition and prevent rebellion if they are prepared to be ruthless enough. Second, that sustained aerial bombing does not break civilian morale. Third might be added the law of unintended consequences. Sir Keir Starmer, chided by Trump for not being Winston Churchill, should have quoted back his warning: "Never, never, believe that any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on that strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter."

The attack on Iran has created a shortage of oil and natural gas that is already causing economic damage across the globe, because the regime has throttled the Strait of Hormuz. A fifth of the world's supplies of hydrocarbon-based energy have been stranded at the far end of the Persian Gulf. Trump never anticipated this, or if he was warned about it, he chose to ignore it. His priorities lie elsewhere. On Truth Social, his social media account, he declared: "Watch what happens to these deranged scumbags today. They've been killing innocent people all over the world for 47 years, and now I, as the 47th President of the United States of America, am killing them. What a great honour it is to do so!" Hardly Churchillian.

Before the Second World War, it was widely assumed that the terror caused by an extensive bombing campaign would quickly create panic in the population, which would demand peace at any price. This did not happen when London was bombed for 57 consecutive days in 1940-41. Nor did it happen when far worse damage was later inflicted by the RAF on German cities. The fire-bombing of Tokyo in March 1945, which killed upwards of 100,000 - more than died in either Nagasaki or Hiroshima - did not end that war. Killing Iranians by the thousands now will not end this one. Indeed, more than 70,000 Palestinians are thought to have been killed by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza. Yet Hamas has still not been eliminated there. The ghastly conflict unfolding in southern Lebanon is another example of the futility of aerial bombing. It will not vanquish Hezbollah, and my energise it.

Nevertheless, Israel's instinct that it must rely on superior military strength to keep it safe is understandable. It has fought off several attacks from its neighbours. The flaw is in thinking that even precisely targeted air attacks, aimed at killing leading figures on the opposite side, can achieve regime change. And the claim that precise targeting prevents civilian casualties does not bear much examination. The bombed-out landscape of southern Beirut is beginning to look like London after the Blitz. And there is reason to suppose an angry defiant "blitz spirit" is alive and well among its inhabitants.