

Risen Christ



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

4 & 5 July 2026

The Catholic Communities of Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham & St Francis Xavier, Montmorency



We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.

Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Should my yoke be easy and my burden light? I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2026

Those who fancy themselves as great scholars or theologians might feel as though these words of Jesus undermine their work. In fact, in this prayer, Jesus is pointing to the core of faith - it is not about study and erudition, it is about a personal encounter. By knowing Jesus, God ('abba') is revealed to us. We immerse ourselves in a mystery of love. Learning may support us in our understanding, but is different from believing and trusting and loving.

The second paragraph offers a stunning promise. Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, can show us how to deal with our troubles and anxieties. We have a relationship with this person, our Saviour, and so we can take any difficulty or problem to him. Our burdens will be lighter when we share them with Christ, and we will find rest. This gift is offered not to clever minds but to open hearts.

It is a short text to be read with tender warmth.



NAIDOC WEEK
50 YEARS DEADLY
5-12 JULY 2026

This year celebrates the 50th year of NAIDOC Week and also another anniversary. **2026 marks the 40th Anniversary of St Pope John Paul II's address to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Alice Springs. The address was a pivotal moment because it spoke not only to us, but to the whole of the Church in Australia.**

The message stick that is held up during the reading of the gospel at our Sunday mass is a reminder of this address which included these words: **"You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others."**

As Saint John Paul II spoke, a wind storm picked up the red soil from the Earth and swirled it amongst our people. The dust seemed to intertwine with the words of love, hope and empathy. The message touched our souls and it touched our skin. Never before had we felt so welcome in the house of Jesus. The impact of this day on our lives cannot be measured. It provided the encouragement for the establishment of Aboriginal and Islander Catholic Ministries all over Australia and it lit the fire in our hearts which still provides the warmth, energy and strength for us to continue. We now have over 120,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics in Australia and the support of our Australian Catholic Bishops on our journey of faith.

It is timely that we look back at what has been achieved in the past 40 years, but also be honest about what has not progressed.

Our contemporary Challenge 40 years on is:

**"walk with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on the journey.
Do not go ahead, or linger behind – we must be side by side."**



*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: 21 & 28 June 2026

Thanksgiving	Cash	\$1,817.15
	Electronic	\$7,464.50
Presbytery	Cash	\$1,509.05
	Electronic	\$550.00

Thanksgiving Offering

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

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 4

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 5

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists

Eltham

Tuesday 7

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 8

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 9

9:00am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 10

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Saturday 11

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 12

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Monday 13

9:00am Days for Girls

Montmorency

Tuesday 14

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 15

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 16

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

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

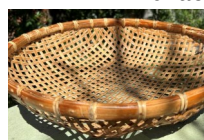
C) cash/coins in the collection baskets at each church

D) thanksgiving envelopes

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

Thank you for your generous support,

Michael





*Let us pray for all those who have gone
before us marked with the sign of faith ...*

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

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

For those who have **died** recently:

Vincenzo Cipolletta, Jarrod Mizzi

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

Leon Nolan

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

Roster for week ending 5 Jul 2026

Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Lucas, Maree	CLNR
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Rigg Family	PRSE
Stephens, Patricia	CLNR
Stone, Nan	W6:00
Taylor, Trish	C10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Williams, Peter	R10:00

Roster for week ending 12 Jul 2026

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Liss, Judy	H10:00
Lodi, Liduina	H10:00
Nolan, Kathleen	C10:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Renny, Teresa	H10:00
Renny, tom	H10:00
Rough Family	PRSE
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Sullivan, Frances	CLNR
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Watson, Denis	CLNR
Wood, Marie	W8:30
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

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



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

Saturday, 4th July, 2026

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Harry Driscoll
Luca Gasparini
Claudia Giarrizzo
Kobe Hitchens
Leon Robinson
Lenny Tomkins

First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist

Sunday, 5th July, 2026

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

Aurora Kernaghan
Aysha Richardson
Pia Richardson
Amelia Varley
Veronica Xiao

First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist



As his authority inside and outside the Church grows, so does Pope Leo's insistence that the Church must be transformed from within if it is to bring the Gospel to the contemporary world. Not everyone is listening / **By Austen Ivereigh**

Bishops behind schedule

ALAMY/VATICAN MEDIA



There can no longer be doubt where Pope Leo stands: the Church must now put into effect the Synod's Final Document agreed at the October 2024 assembly, and urgently, because we are well into the implementation phase, and the evangelising credibility of the Church's witness is at stake.

Such was the Pope's message at the second extraordinary consistory he has called this year, gathering the world's cardinals to focus on interconnected themes he summed up as "our view of the world, peace, the common good and synodality". All the topics were important. But it was the passion with which he emphasised the fourth of these which surprised many of them, and the way he connected it with collegiality, which is what Leo is now doing when he calls the cardinals (and later this year, the bishops) together to discern with him. Both moves - implementing synodality, instituting collegiality - were high on the list of reasons the cardinals elected Leo, and he is not disappointing them.

"I wish to ask for your help," he told the cardinals in his opening address. "I am counting on you to help me discern what the Spirit is saying to the Church today. I need your support: strong, explicit, and public. I need to feel sustained by you, as by brothers." Help me, he entreated them, "to listen to what is emerging in the Churches ... Sincere advice is always an act of communion." And then: "I also ask you to uphold, each within your own Church and in your own

ministry, this style of ecclesial discernment." The Pope said he was "convinced that the Lord is teaching us a more evangelical way of living out together the responsibility he has entrusted to us," adding: "The credibility of our witness and the fruitfulness of our mission depend on this."

Hence the need for a "a synodal style at the service of the mission of the Kingdom", he said, recalling paragraph 86 of his encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*. A synodal style, as he said there, "requires attention to the way in which decisions are made and responsibilities exercised, through transparency, evaluation, and shared responsibility". Leo had stressed in Spain that synodality was for mission, and that a missionary conversion without synodality - as many seem to think possible or desirable - is a non-starter. "When we learn to listen to one another, to share responsibilities, and to recognise the action of the Spirit in the various Churches, we are not merely improving the way we work," he told the cardinals. "We are becoming a Church that is better able to engage with the men and women of our time and to bear witness to them of the joy of the Gospel."

The careful argumentation of Leo's opening address to the cardinals - synodality is not a set of procedures, but a humble opening to the Spirit, one that does not diminish the authority of clergy and bishops but helps all grasp the meaning of authority itself - was aimed at

the resistance of and within some bishops' conferences to the reception of the Synod Final Document. The cardinals, most of whom head dioceses and often preside over those conferences, must manage that resistance on Leo's behalf. A minority are part of it.

The timetable of the Final Document's reception, which will culminate in an assembly in Rome in October 2028, was spelled out by the synod secretariat in March 2025, and backed by Leo after his election. Its first phase, guided by a "pathways" document in July last year, is what we are supposedly now midway through: 2026 involves dioceses and parishes reading together the Final Document and translating its proposals into practices and structures at the local level. In some parts of the Church this is not happening, which defies the ecclesiological assumption that bishops govern the universal Church with and under the Pope, and are bound by their collective decisions. The Final Document, after all, was approved by a massive majority of bishops' delegates from across the world at the conclusion of the largest ever consultation and discernment process in Catholic history, and endorsed as papal magisterium by Pope Francis. What is collegiality, if not that?

Mostly the resistance comes in the form of passive-aggressive inaction and silence. How many Catholics in England and Wales, for example, have even heard of the Final Document, let alone know that we are now halfway through the year designed for us to receive it and put it into practice? When bishops do mention synodality, it is often framed as a corporate management practice: consulting to secure consent for parish closures, or to earn goodwill for pre-cooked pastoral plans. This allows them to say they were "already" synodal before the word was ever coined. Leo's opening address skewered this deflection when he said synodality was *not* about "improving the way we work".

Leading the reflection for the final session, the cardinal secretary-general of the Synod, Cardinal Mario Grech, summed up the joy of the three-year Synod process (2021-24), which, he said, has "awakened throughout the Church a widespread desire for participation, mutual listening, and communal discernment". Conversation in the Spirit

had shown people that discernment is not an exchange of opinions but “a shared search for what the Spirit is saying to the Churches today”. But as always in church history, this awakening now needed to be received and shared; hence the need to reflect on the Final Document, put it into practice, and then share its fruits with others. As the “primary stewards” of this synodal journey, Grech said the bishops’ responsibility was “to foster discernment, safeguard communion, encourage participation, and guide the process of reception”. And in this the cardinals had a special role in “helping to overcome misunderstandings and fears”.

Leo’s concluding speech doubled down on this, carefully linking their two-day experience to the broader synodal conversion, vital for the Church’s mission today. Consistories like this, using conversation in the Spirit for reciprocal listening and discernment, would happen now at least annually, he promised, “so that the Holy Spirit might assist the Pope in guiding the

Church”. This was not a parliament or congress for the negotiation of different opinions and interests, “but an experience of communion for the purpose of mission”. In this way it models the “style” needed in the whole Church, “such that every baptised person, in accordance with their own vocation and responsibilities, may participate in building a civilisation of love and in serving the common good”. Creating spaces in which the People of God “can listen to one another, pray, discern and walk together” was - he reminded them - “the very heart of the process of implementing the Synod”.

He dealt firmly with objections and excuses. Synodality was not holding lots of meetings nor a management method but a “spiritual stye”, in which, “by listening to one another, we learn together to listen to the Lord”. The issue wasn’t “who has the power to decide?” - canon law, he did not need to add, was pretty clear on that - but rather, “how do we together safeguard the gift the Lord has entrusted to his Church?” Put *that*

question at the centre, Leo said, and all the nervousness of authority and co-responsibility find their proper place. “When we listen to one another with humility and openness, making room for the Holy Spirit, our conversations are not merely an exchange of ideas, but become a place of conversion, where we grow together in faithfulness to the Lord.”

And in case the memo still hadn’t landed, Leo ended by asking the cardinals to put the Final Document into practice, and whole-heartedly. “I wish *once again* to entrust to you the path of implementing the Synod. I ask you to accompany the process *with conviction* in the Churches you serve, fostering a genuine understanding of it and encouraging everyone to take part,” he told them. It was a categoric ask: one that Leo, whose authority grows by the day, is staking his pontificate on.

Austen Ivereigh is a fellow in contemporary church history at Campion Hall, Oxford. His most recent book is *First Belong to God: On Retreat with Pope Francis* (Messenger Publications).



EVERYONE IS CHOSEN

The Grace Is From God’s Side

Father Richard points to God’s covenant with the Jewish people to illustrate how the choosing rests entirely on God’s side, not on our own merit:

We first see the idea of grace in the Hebrew Scriptures through the concept of election or chosenness. This is eventually called “covenant love” because it finally becomes a mutual giving and receiving. This love is always initiated from God’s side toward the people of ancient Israel, and they gradually learn to trust it and respond in kind. The Bible shows a relentless movement toward intimacy and divine union between Creator and creatures. For this to happen, there needs to be some degree of compatibility, likeness, or even “sameness” between the two parties. In other words, there has to be a little bit of God in us that wants to find itself.

We see the message of implanted grace clearly in Jesus. He recognises that he is one with God. Jesus knows that it is God in him doing the knowing, loving, healing, and serving. Jesus fully trusts his deepest identity and never doubts it, which is the unique character of his divine sonship. We often doubt, deny, and reject our true identity, our own belovedness, finding it hard to believe what we did not choose, create, or earn for ourselves. Such unaccountable gratuity is precisely the meaning of grace and also why we are afraid to trust it. Yes, it is God in us that always seeks and knows God; like always knows like. We are made for one another from the beginning (Ephesians 1:4-6). Maybe the ultimate grace is to know that it is all grace to begin with! It is already a grace to recognise that it is grace.

God doesn’t love the ancient Hebrew people or anybody else because we are good. God loves us from a free and deliberate choice. Receiving God’s love has never been a worthiness contest. This is very hard for almost everyone to accept. It is finally a surrendering and never a full understanding. The proud will seldom submit until they are “brought down from their thrones,” as Mary put it (Luke 1:52). It just does not compute inside our binary, judging, competing, and comparing brains.

God does no love you because you are good; God loves you because God is good, and then you *can* be good because you draw upon such Infinite Source of Goodness. The older I get, the more I am sure that God does all the giving and we do all the receiving. God is always and forever the initiator in my life, and I am, on occasion, the half-hearted respondent. My mustard seed of a response seems to be more than enough for a humble God, even though the mustard seed is “the tiniest of all the seeds” (Matthew 13:32).

God makes use of everything that we offer and thus expands our freedom. Otherwise, it would not be a covenant love, but a mere coercion. God implants the desire within us to desire even more intimacy with God.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-grace-is-from-gods-side/>

A pope must listen first, then lead, Leo explains

PATRICK HUDSON

The Pope concelebrated Mass for the Solemnity of Sts Peter and Paul with members of the College of Cardinals at the formal conclusion of their extraordinary consistory. During the Mass in St Peter's on Monday, Leo conferred the pallium on the metropolitan archbishops appointed in the past year, urging them to be "apostles and builders of unity".

In his homily, he said the bands of white wool worn by the Pope and archbishops "express the commitment of every shepherd - and of every Christian - to take upon their shoulders the brothers and sisters entrusted to them".

Leo argued that "communion within the Church is not built by clinging rigidly to one's own position, but by seeking, in all hearts, points of encounter in the Truth".

This echoed the themes of the Pope's addresses to the cardinals during the working sessions of the consistory on 26-27 June.

Preaching at a Mass on the first morning of the consistory, Leo said they would practise synodality and collegiality, "Christian fraternity, which binds us together as the baptised and as bishops".

"Therefore, in helping me in the exercise



Leo and cardinals in the Paul VI Hall during the consistory

of the Petrine ministry, you will find in me one who asks, not commands," he said, insisting that "the authority of primacy belongs to the one who listens and only then leads".

In his opening address to the 178 cardinals gathered at the first session, Leo said the dialogue with the Pope modelled at the consistory "is one of the most important responsibilities entrusted

to the College of Cardinals".

The session began with a reflection from Archbishop of Kraków Cardinal Grzegorz Rys on the parable of the Good Samaritan before the cardinals, assembled in 20 small groups, discussed the question "In what world are we called to proclaim the Gospel?"

The prefect of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Cardinal Victor Manuel Fernández, began the second session with a reflection on the first 10 paragraphs of chapter five of Leo's first encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas* - including the declaration that just war theory is "outdated" - which the cardinals then discussed.

The next morning, the Archbishop of Johannesburg Cardinal Stephen Brislin introduced the third session with a reflection on the wider themes of *Magnifica Humanitas*, with discussions then focusing on the common good. Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary general of the Secretariat of the Synod, opened the fourth session with an address on the "implementation phase" of the Synod on Synodality.

In his concluding address, Pope Leo said he drew hope from the consistory not only from "what we have shared, but the manner in which we have done so".

Children's Liturgy ~ Volunteers Needed

We are excited to be launching **Children's Liturgy of the Word** in our parish during Term 3 and are seeking a few more volunteers to join the team. This ministry helps our younger parishioners hear and reflect on the Sunday Gospel in an engaging and age-appropriate way, helping them grow in faith and feel connected to our parish community. Whether you can assist regularly or occasionally, we would love to hear from you. For more information or to express your interest, please contact risenchrist.parish@cam.org.au.

"Let the little children come to me..." (Mark 10:14)



PROJECT KENYA ~ Changing Lives in Nairobi, Kenya



Last week's Bulletin featured a description of the lives of two small children, Dahlia and Jayden who live in the township of Embulbul, an impoverished suburb in the sprawling city of Nairobi, Kenya. For some twenty years now, **Project Kenya** has been supporting some of the extremely poor children in this area to receive a quality education and **this project has been supported strongly by members of the Risen Christ Parish, right from the start in 2006.**

The education of one Primary student (that includes a meal each day) is equivalent to less than the cost of one cup of coffee a week here (\$200). If you are interested in being part of our little mini



'World Vision' scheme (donations are tax deductible through the Edmund Rice Foundation) please contact **John McKenna** via email johnandmarg@live.com for more information.

Unfolding catastrophe in Venezuela threatens tens of thousands more lives

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/unfolding-catastrophe-in-venezuela-threatens-tens-of-thousands-more-lives>

Caritas is warning that the humanitarian situation in Venezuela is rapidly deteriorating in the aftermath of the devastating double earthquake on 24 June. There are fears the true scale of the catastrophe is still emerging and could reach up to 100,000 casualties in the coming weeks as missing people are located.

Current official figures confirm at least 1,700 people have died, more than 5,000 have been injured, and tens of thousands remain trapped or missing. Entire housing complexes have crumbled, including up to 16 towers in La Guaira, near the capital Caracas, alone.

Caritas Venezuela has been working in the country since 1963 and is present in all states across the country through its diocesan network. Prior to the earthquake, the organisation was supporting more than 60,000 vulnerable households amid an economic crisis that saw 7.9 million people already requiring humanitarian assistance.

The organisation reports that people are still trapped under rubble, and critical infrastructure has been badly damaged across multiple states, where mass displacement is underway and communities remain cut off or unsafe.

Caritas Venezuela further reports that 'hospitals are overwhelmed' and urgently require field hospitals, medical supplies, blood, surgical equipment and trauma specialists. Water and sanitation systems have failed, and thousands of families are sleeping outdoors amid ongoing aftershocks and fear of further collapse.

Despite the scale of the disaster, local communities have shown extraordinary courage and solidarity. Caritas Venezuela described how 'from the very first hours, thousands of Venezuelans poured out their support: neighbours rescuing neighbours, families sharing what little they have, and volunteers tirelessly giving their time and effort.'

'The scale of human suffering unfolding in Venezuela is immense, and the worst may still be ahead,' said Kirsten Sayers, CEO at Caritas Australia. 'Behind every number is a family searching for a loved one, a child sleeping in the open, or a community that has lost everything.'

Pope Leo XIV offered prayers for the Venezuelan earthquake victims, after sending donations from the Vatican in the immediate aftermath. Speaking to pilgrims gathered outside St Peter's Square on 28 June after praying the Angelus prayer, the Pope expressed his solidarity with the people of Venezuela and prayed for the dead and wounded.

'Praying to the Lord for the eternal rest of the deceased, I renew my spiritual solidarity with their families, the injured and all who have been shaken by this tragedy,' he said.

'I also wish to express my gratitude and encouragement to those generously working on search and rescue efforts and providing assistance.'

Caritas Venezuela has activated a nationwide emergency response, deployed thousands of volunteers and coordinated aid delivery through its extensive network, which reaches even the most remote communities.

The organisation's response continues to be supported by 'national and international allies, our sister Caritas organisations throughout the region and the world, the universal Church, humanitarian organisations,' and others who Caritas Venezuela says 'have delivered their support with a speed that renews our hope.'

Looking ahead, Caritas Venezuela warns that 'this tragedy will not be resolved in days. The emergency will give way to recovery and then to reconstruction, and at each stage we will need the same solidarity that moves us today.'

As aftershocks continue and search efforts intensify, the coming days are critical, not only for saving lives, but for shaping the trajectory of this crisis. Caritas is urging the international community and the public not to look away as the disaster fades from headlines.

To support Caritas Australia's Venezuela Earthquake Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/venezuela or call 1800 024 413 toll free.



Prayers of the Faithful for 5 July 2026 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: 'Come to me.' Confidently, we turn to Christ who offers us rest. We pray for the intentions of the Church and of our parish community.

'I will give you rest.' Lord, we pray for those in monasteries, for those in religious houses, havens of peace for those looking to recharge their batteries. We pray for vocations to the religious life.

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

'I am humble of heart.' Lord, we pray that our public leaders will work for our communities with humility, and dutifully. We also pray for those organisations which work for reconciliation and peace.

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

'My burden is light.' Lord, we pray for those who struggle under burdens of trauma, anxiety, uncertainty and fear. We pray for the easing of their pain. We pray also for those who work to alleviate social suffering.

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

'I proclaim your praise.' Lord, we entrust ourselves to you; we are called to live in your welcoming peace and joy, and to share this with others.

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

'The Lord is full of compassion.' Lord, we pray for those in our parish communities who are ill: that they receive the care and treatment they need.

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

'You will find rest for your souls.' Lord, we pray for those who have died recently, especially *Vincenzo Cipolletta* and *Jarrod Mizzi*; and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Leon Nolan* that they rest in eternal peace.

Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: O Christ, you who wish only peace for our world, heed our prayers and deign to grant them, you who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen



Melbourne Synod 2026

What is a Synod? A synod is a gathering of God's people - bishops, priests and laity - who come and discern together about matters regarding faith, governance, and pastoral care. This process involves prayer, dialogue, and consultation, aiming to foster a deeper understanding of the Church's mission in the contemporary world.

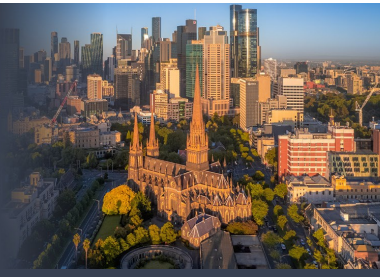
The *synod* means "journeying together", reflecting the Church's commitment to collaboration and shared decision-making. A synodal gathering is focused on pastoral renewal and can result in decrees or pastoral plans that guide the diocese in its planning. A Synod is convoked by the Archbishop to discern the pastoral activities for 'the good of the diocesan community'. This is the final object of the Synod.

Our Progress

Light into the City is a five to ten-year vision that will be realised over three stages. We've begun the journey. Work is progressing behind the scenes to shape the next chapter for St Patrick's Cathedral precinct. We will share updates in the weeks and months ahead. If you would like to receive updates, and learn how you can be part of this shared legacy, please subscribe to our newsletter: <https://lightintothecity.org.au/#newsletter>



Light into
the City



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Melbourne Catholic Digest Proclaim26 ignites leaders for mission

A liberating love

Discipleship begins not in abstract theory or theological principles but in real human experience. An encounter with God's overwhelming love for us liberates and inspires us to share that love with others.



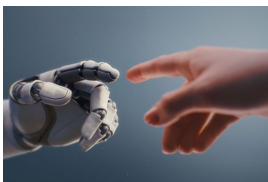
Last week, the Proclaim26 conference brought people together from across the Archdiocese to learn about they can bring their own particular experiences and gifts to the mission of the Church. As parish and community leaders gathered on the first day of the conference, international keynote speaker Sherry Weddell explained how each person's background, talents and life experiences together make 'a specifically shaped instrument to do something really crucial for the kingdom of God'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/proclaim26-ignites-leaders-fo-mission>



On Saturday, it was announced that Pope Leo XIV has appointed our own Archbishop Peter A Comensoli to the Dicastery for Evangelisation, Section for Fundamental Questions regarding Evangelisation in the World, in addition to his responsibilities as Archbishop of Melbourne. Humbly asking for our prayers as he takes on this new role, he encouraged each of us to 'renew our commitment to share the hope of the Gospel with all we meet'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-leo-appoints-archbishop-comensoli-to-dicastery-for-evangelisation>



And as Pope Leo's encyclical *Magnifica humanitas* continues to be discussed both within the Church and beyond, a recent webinar explored the implications of AI for our understanding of what it means to be human, and how the Pope's liberating vision of a 'civilization of love' affirms both the human experience of limitation and our God-given dignity.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/civilisation-of-love-webinar-affirms-human-limits-and-dignity-in-the-age-of-ai>



Pope asks cardinals to be 'builders of Christ's communion' at extraordinary consistory - Pope Leo XIV opened the second extraordinary consistory of his pontificate on 26 June, urging cardinals to help him discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church today and reminding them they are not 'guardians of particular interests', but disciples called to communion in Christ.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-asks-cardinals-to-be-builders-of-christs-communion-at-extraordinary-consistory>



The archbishops behind Melbourne's 179 years as a diocese - Last week, on 25 June, we marked the birthday of the Diocese of Melbourne. We take a look at the nine Archbishops who have shaped it.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-archbishops-behind-melbournes-179-years-as-a-diocese>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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