

Risen Christ



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

22 & 23 August 2026

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



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

The Archbishop's Campaign invites us to proclaim the Good News by supporting ministries that serve those in need across our Archdiocese. Your generous gift helps bring this mission to life — not only in word, but in action.

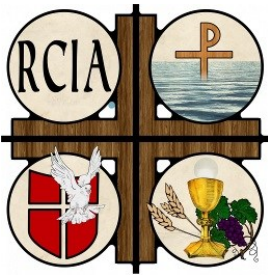
Thank you.



THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign



R.C.I.A. - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

An open invitation is extended to people who are not Catholic, or as adults have not received the Sacraments of Baptism or Confirmation and would like to fully participate in the Mass with the reception of the Eucharist. Please contact us and let's begin our enquiry time together.

If you know of anyone in your family or friendship groups or neighbourhood that might like to begin this "enquiry" time, with no obligation to continue in the process to Easter 2027, then please feel free to ask them.

Please let Kate (in the parish office) know by phone (9435 4742) or email

RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au.

Would anyone like to help Fr Michael as part of a team, sharing the journey of RCIA?

Confirmation Cathedral 2026

Dear Parents, Parishioners and Families of Year 6 Students in our Confirmation program for 2026.

Great News - On Wednesday afternoon I received a phone call from the Vicar General's Office in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, informing me that the Cathedral was available to Risen Christ Parish for Confirmation on Sunday October 11th at 2:30pm.

Naturally I said YES!

... and asked why this kind gesture was possible given the Archbishop's letter of formal closure of the Cathedral to Weddings & Confirmation celebrations in May 2026 until the planned building works were completed in a few years time?

The answer lies with the slow process of finalising contracts and starting delays with the builders availability!

Thus a great win for us.

Obviously no seating restrictions will apply and it is full steam ahead for a lovely experience in the Cathedral for our Grade 6 Students and all concerned.

I have been in contact with the School Principals at Our Lady Help of Christians, Holy Trinity and St Francis Xavier Primary Schools along with our amazing REL's and conveyed this good news.

I have also been in contact with our Regional Bishop of the Eastern Zone, Bishop Tinh Nguyen, who was happy to hear this news and confirmed that he would pastorally visit each Catholic Primary School and chat with these grade 6 students before the big day.

Please note that while the booking process remains the same, there is no longer a restriction on the number of tickets available per family and the event will not be livestreamed. Students will now participate in a rehearsal at St Patrick's Cathedral on Wednesday, 7th October, with further details to follow closer to the date.

Thank you for your help and consideration on this wonderful Sacrament.

Warmest Wishes, *Michael F. Sierakowski*, Moderator



*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: 2 & 9 August 2026

Thanksgiving	Cash	\$2,154.00
	Electronic	\$8,873.40
Presbytery	Cash	\$1,205.50
	Electronic	\$225.00

Thanksgiving Offering

Month	Total
May	\$18,752.55
June	\$22,507.82
July	\$19,824.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 22

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 23

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists

Eltham

Monday 24

2:00pm Mass

Calvary Lower Plenty Garden Views

Tuesday 25

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

11:30am Funeral: Iole Cusmano

Eltham

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 26

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 27

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

10:30am Emmaus Small Church Community

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 28

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 29

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 30

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

Tuesday 1st September

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 2

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 3

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 4

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 5

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 Liam & Natalia Park, Baby Margot Brady,
Kiera Taylor (9 years old); Peter, Stephen Andrew, Des Arneson,
Bill Boyce, Penny Boyce, Maria Bredle, Vincent Cipolletta,
Nora Edmond, Monivic Fanlo, Pat Hosmer, Siobhan Lappin,
Georgina Lynch, Mary Luttick, Cindy & Ed Morrissey,
Bernard Murray, Regina Roszczenko, Phil Rovtar, Beth Scott,
Audrey Tunks, Nicholas Turnbull, Jeanne Vanderwert, Grant Whiteside*

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

*Lorna Aicher, John Arundell, Paul David Goss, Bernie Kelly,
Kevin Pritchard, Wayne Robinson, Noreen & Eric Wohlfahrt*

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

Roster for week ending 23 Aug 2026

Armstrong, Miranda	R10:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Cseh, Nika	C10:00
Donnellan, Denice	H10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Grande, Silvana	H10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
John, Audry	H10:00
John, Des	H10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Leahy Family	PRSE
Love, Philip	W8:30
Lucas, Maree	CLNR
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Stephens, Patricia	CLNR

Roster for week ending 30 Aug 2026

Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Connor, Anne	W6:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Rigg Family	PRSE
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Sullivan, Frances	CLNR
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR
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, 22nd August, 2026

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Harley Davis
Trenton Kent
Henry Pattison
Willow Reid
Gemma van Beek

First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist
First Eucharist

Sunday, 23rd August, 2026

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

Eliza Kaldor

First Eucharist

Children's Liturgy

This week Jesus asks a difficult question
are we like Peter who knew that Jesus is the Messiah?

But who do you
say that I am?



Life in Kyiv has become so difficult that those who remain in the city have almost lost connection with ‘normal life’ / **By Visvaldas Kulbokas**

A nuncio's diary

November 2025. Kyiv. Russian drones are attacking warehouses full of medicines, trade and humanitarian aid, thermal power plants and electrical substations by the hundreds. The energy minister, Denys Shmyhal, explains to me that to install a protective layer for the main civilian infrastructure takes about two years, and in many cases the work was delayed, starting only at the beginning of 2024, when it should have started at least a year and a half earlier. Ukraine has no anti-missile defence systems or ammunition. The nuns who live in the nunciature have been saying for several weeks that you can no longer hear defensive missiles, only the explosions of incoming missiles.

One of the heads of government summoned a group of people to a confidential meeting. The essence of the meeting: this winter, Kyiv will not only not have electricity, but also no heating, and maybe no water. Confidential information is not so confidential anymore. Almost everyone understands that this is the situation.

About 800,000 people who have relatives or acquaintances in rural areas have moved out of Kyiv, a city with a population of about three and a half million. They expect to be able to heat themselves with diesel generators, gas firewood or pellets, and to have a separate water source. A journalist told me she had sent her sick mother and her young daughter abroad. She is remaining in Kyiv: she is still young, she will somehow survive the cold.

December 2025. Kyiv. The number of diplomats in the city is decreasing. Know that Kyiv may have to be completely evacuated, one embassy decides that only about 30 per cent of the staff will



One of Kyiv's 1,000 emergency centres that provide for citizens after power outages

remain in the city during the winter.

January 2026. Kyiv. Approximately every three nights, the city is intensively bombed. After each attack, the entire city and its surroundings are completely without electricity for 24-26 hours, until work teams have repaired at least some of the electrical substations. After that, each quarter of the city in turn is supplied with electricity for about two to four hours a day. About half of the city's population have no heating at all.

I have a consultation for a knee injury. Everyone in the hospital, patients and staff, is wearing a

coat. I ask a doctor: "How are you coping when your two daughters cannot go to nursery school?" "Thank God, everything is fine," he told me. "My wife took unpaid leave, she stays at home with our daughters, and during the day they go to the nearby supermarket to warm up."

I ask a nurse if she is able to prepare food at home. She has no electricity or heating, but she does have a gas stove, and her daughter, who lives in the next block, comes to prepare food. "I have nothing to complain about," she tells me.

The staff at the nunciature are reluctant to talk about their living

conditions. I have to almost pull their tongues with specific questions. The temperature in their apartments ranges from +2 to +9 degrees, and almost everyone uses special rechargeable strips for lighting - similar to reflectors that cyclists use in the dark, but brighter. After being charged, they emit a pale light for several hours.

I go with a nun to a small shop. While larger shopping malls have their own generators, small shops operate in the dark. We go inside, use our phones to light our way, select our items, and approach the cash register. The salesperson turns on the cash register terminal for a minute and accepts payment by card. Schools have been closed for a couple of months. The deputy speaker of the Ukrainian *rada* tells me that the temperature in her office is almost zero, and the walls are stained with damp. "The renovations made a few years ago have gone to shit," she says. There is no water - either for the toilet or for making tea.

February 2026. Kyiv. The Spanish ambassador asks me where he might find a handyman who could fix a generator - theirs is no longer working, and most of the handymen and specialists have been mobilised. The Lithuanian ambassador complains that it is difficult to work because their generator has also broken down.

Various humanitarian aid groups arrive. Generators and mobile boiler rooms are brought in. Wherever possible, churches become humanitarian shelters. Parishes are trying to set up outdoor tents or indoor spaces where people can connect to the internet, drink hot tea, and stay warm.

On the left bank of Kyiv, where the situation is worst, I visit Catholic missions. One, coordinated by the Order of Malta, has been bringing in gas stoves and gas cylinders for several weeks. "People see our tents standing on the street through their windows, and after a few minutes we have to stop the line, because the day's batch of one thousand stoves has run out," I'm told. The Sant'Egidio

Community tries to visit the elderly. Their situation is especially difficult: it is difficult to go to the shops for food when the elevator is out of order.

April 2026. Winter is over. Kyiv is reborn. The school next to the nunciature is buzzing with students again. But already we are all - government, ordinary citizens and diplomats - preparing for the coming winter.

1-2 May 2026. Lviv. I am at a joint prayer meeting of Roman and Greek Catholics, being held for two days at a secret location (for security reasons). There are over 5,000 participants. When I express my surprise at how the organisers got permission to hold such a large event during the war, it was explained that there were high-ranking military personnel among the organisers. Thank God, there are no bombings. The programme itself was quite simple: prayers, hymns, spiritual conferences.

On the evening of the second day, more than 200 people announce that during the prayer meeting they had been cured of various diseases: deafness, knee injuries, etc. But the spiritual result was even greater. One of the themes of the spiritual conferences was forgiveness: if we ask God for forgiveness, we are told, let us also forgive others. It was quite powerful to forgive Vladimir Putin, Patriarch Kirill and others. Forgiveness does not mean justifying their actions. It becomes a prayer for them, that God will have mercy on them and deliver them from unspeakable evils.

25 May 2026. Rome. I am walking down the street, and, for some reason, I stop at a house. At that very moment, a 90-year-old Italian monk whom I knew 26 years ago suddenly appears. We talk for two minutes (I have no more time), and he emphasises in a sharp tone: "Do you know that without strong prayers for the conversion of Russia, it will end badly for many European nations?" I take his words as a prophecy. A few days later, I share these words with Pope Leo XIV.

July 2026. Kyiv. It is obvious that Ukraine has no defence

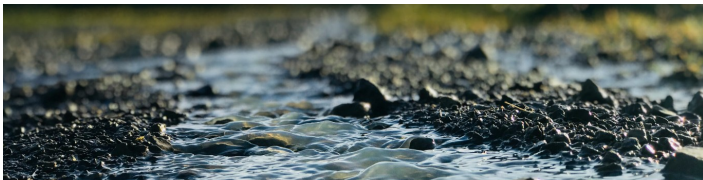
against ballistic missiles at all. You don't need to be a military expert to understand this: almost all ballistic missiles make a sound like someone stabbing the ground with a heavy dagger blow. Massive bombings of the Ukrainian capital occur every four or five days. Sometimes, the last almost all night, from 1am to 6am. Our favourite shopping centre was bombed in May. Now everyone knows shopping centres and warehouses are targets. If the city is to survive this coming winter, it has to have food and water. The nunciature - like hospitals and schools - is trying to become more autonomous, to have our own artesian water source, our own mini-power station, our own heating solutions.

More and more state institutions, municipal offices, hospitals, schools and kindergartens, especially those closer to the front, are going underground. Including, of course, the military. One general recently explained to me that all the officers in his corps head-quarters spend about six months of the year almost entirely underground. The problems arise during short periods of vacation: a soldier returns home to his family, and does not know what to talk about.

I understand this to some extent. Whenever I leave Ukraine, I often do not know what words to use and what topics to talk about. One humanitarian need we have is for special programmes that will help people here to return to "normal life".

An enthusiastic French friend explains to me how hippotherapy sessions - a therapeutic method that uses specially trained horses - work. When a soldier returning home spends a day with a horse, and his wife and children snuggle up to the same animal, whatever happened at the front, he has at least one beautiful and emotional topic to share with his family. The horse has become a wonderful unifying element. War kills and divides, but a beautiful animal can revive emotions and heal families.

Archbishop Visvaldas Kulbokas has been the Pope's representative in Ukraine since June 2021. He is a native of Klaipėda, Lithuania.



HEBREW PROPHETS

God Witnesses Injustice

What does the Lord require of you? Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God. - Micah 6:8

Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev reflects on the central themes of the biblical prophets:

The historical period of the prophets, from around 740 to 520 BCE, was a time of shattering social crisis and political instability that ultimately led to the destruction of both Israel and Judah...

While [the Jewish] elites treated the impoverishment of common labourers as an acceptable condition of society, the prophets would not turn aside from this human suffering. Seeing the situation as if through God's eyes and carrying God's word, the prophets proclaimed that economic injustice and the oppression of the poor were intolerable and abhorrent. The growing inequality was, in the prophetic perspective, an existential crisis...

Animated by God's love for creation and God's passion for justice, the prophets confronted the princes and the privileged, decrying the greed and insensitivity of these elites. Amos, the first of the writing prophets, was unstinting in his condemnation:

They sold the righteous for silver and the poor for a pair of shoes. They pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the humble (Amos 2:6-7).

Isaiah and Micah were contemporaries of Amos. While Amos confronted the king and the high priest in the northern kingdom of Israel at the height of its wealth and regional dominance, Isaiah and Micah condemned the arrogant elites in Judah, the southern kingdom, at the apex of its power.

Your princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves; everyone loves bribes, and follows after rewards (Isaiah 1:23).

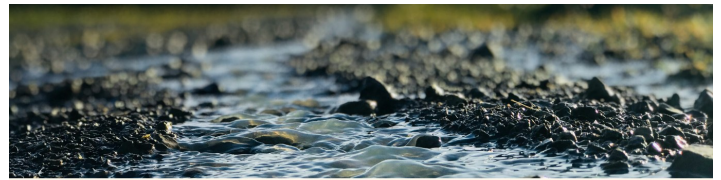
Hear, I beg of you, O heads of Jacob ... Is it not for you to know justice? You who hate the good and love the evil (Micah 3:1)

Though each prophet has a unique style, they share God's concern for justice in our fractured world:

Amos, Isaiah, Micah, and Hosea are just four of the fifteen prophets whose words have been preserved in Scripture. Each of these prophets possessed extraordinary vision. Perceiving their world as if through God's eyes, these prophets were able to maintain a sustained focus on the suffering of the poor, to see the disaster that would inevitably come in the wake of profound, endemic injustice. At the same time, lifted by divine inspiration, each prophet possessed the moral imagination to transcend the brokenness of [their] own day and envision an alternative society. Even in the midst of crisis and imminent disaster, the prophets could see an inclusive economic and social order in which all beings would flourish.

These then are the three qualities inherent in every prophet and in the prophetic stream: an encounter with divine love, an concern for the world, courage to name oppression, and moral imagination to articulate an alternative future.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/god-witnesses-injustice/>



HEBREW PROPHETS

The Task of the Prophets

It is the task of the prophet to bring to expression the new realities against the more visible ones of the old order. Energising is closely linked to hope. We are energised not by that which we already possess but by that which is promised and about to be given.

- Walter Brueggemann, *The Prophetic Imagination*

In 1980, Richard Rohr gave a series of talks on the Hebrew prophets. Here he speaks of the hopeful imagination to which the prophets and God invite us:

Prophets nurture and evoke a new way of thinking. They give us images and words which subvert our system and tell us that we haven't seen the whole picture yet. Prophets are not just concerned about social change for the sake of social change. They are concerned above all with *transformation and freedom of the heart*, and then out of that free heart, the prophet says, "Listen." The prophet creates a new, freeing consciousness which allows us to hear the divine word.

In the midst of that freedom, the prophets plant a promise, an alternative and new vision - but the promise never really gets fulfilled. It both tantalises and torments us with dissatisfaction - and nevertheless calls us forward! It isn't that God or the prophets are playing games with us. It's that we are energised by the hope of God's promises. What gives us the energy and power to keep moving is the promise, the dream, the vision of what could be and what's beyond the moment. The prophet knows that, and God knows that. In the exodus, God plants the promise in Moses's heart, and then Moses gives it to the people.

These promises are not lies. They're true, but they're not always what we expect or hope for, and so God calls us a little further. This is the way that divine love stretches our hearts. This is the real rebirth. This is the way we're reborn again and again until we enter, through death, the promise of a deeper life.

The established and dominant culture does not have authentic promises because it seeks to maintain itself. The system has materialistic and self-protecting promises for more money and a better life; it encourages us to consume more and more. It cannot offer a promise which fills and expands the heart beyond itself to the larger world.

God's promises energise and expand the heart, deepening our capacity for life and our quality of being in this world. They put the authority inside us. This, finally, is the only overcoming of death, the only answer to the absurdity that this time is going to end. That's what the promises of God do - lead us to the experience of deeper life. The Gospel writers call it resurrection.

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-task-of-the-prophets/>

Prayers of the Faithful for 23 August 2026 - Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Strong in our faith in Jesus, Son of the Living God, we pray to our Father for all humankind. From heaven "He sees the most humble"; He is tender towards the unfortunate.

Peter's successor, the Holy Father, guides the Church in its mission within the world. Grant him strength, wisdom and understanding through the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Our political leaders sometimes run counter to the wisdom of God our Father. May they align themselves more to the ways of justice and peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Contemporaries of Jesus saw Him as a great prophet, but not God. To those separated from the Faith, reveal your love, Father.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Our baptism calls us to be witnesses of God's Kingdom. May we live in communion and harmony with our neighbours, seeking also to help heal division and disunity.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are ill in body, mind or spirit, may the God of love and compassion heal them, and may their family, friends or neighbours comfort them and help them in their need.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Lorna Aicher, John Arundell, Paul David Goss, Bernie Kelly, Kevin Pritchard, Wayne Robinson and Noreen & Eric Wohlfahrt*, may they rest in the peace and love of God for all eternity.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: We ask you, Father, to listen to our prayers and deign to grant them. May your love be welcomed by all peoples, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2026

The papal coat of arms of the Holy See shows two crossed keys, one gold and one silver. They are a symbol of spiritual power (keys of the kingdom of heaven). The Petrine ministry is not about controlling or restricting God's grace, but rather about facilitating access to it. We say the power of the keys is exercised by the Bishop of Rome, successor of Peter, acting collegially with all bishops who are successors of the apostles.

The extent to which this understanding of the 'power of the keys' is embedded in this gospel text is debatable. Following Peter's bold affirmation of Jesus' identity, he is singled out for leadership. But it is the Christian community which receives the Lord's protection against the underworld. This extremely rare use of 'ekklesia/Church' in the gospels suggests that Matthew is writing of this incident with hindsight.

Within today's community of the baptised, everyone needs to grapple with the question Jesus puts to his disciples: 'but you, who do you say I am?' The challenge of the gospel calls us to an encounter with Christ; it summons us to believe in him.



Coles and Woolworths Paper Bags

We are looking for donations of Coles and Woolworths **paper bags** to help with collection and delivery of grocers, vegetables and bread.

Please leave them at the Vinnies / Piety Stall at OLHC, Eltham.

Thank you, Mary O'Connor



Melbourne Synod 2026

Melbourne Synod Commission

'It is the task of the preparatory commission to assist the Bishop especially in matters pertaining to the organisation and preparation of the Synod. The preparatory commission also helps the Bishop in drawing up the synodal Directory, in his determining those questions to be proposed for synodal deliberation, as well as in the designation of the synodal members. The diocesan Bishop, or his delegate in the event of being unable to do so, presides over the meetings of the preparatory commission'. (from Congregation for Bishops, Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples *Instruction on Diocesan Synods* - <https://bit.ly/4gHZXGw>)



Chair: **Most Rev Martin Ashe**, Auxiliary Bishop of Melbourne; Members: **Bong Bernardo**, Couples for Christ, National Director of Evangelisation and Mission, **Fr Cameron Forbes**, Rector, Corpus Christ College, **Jacqui Giuliano**, Animation Coordinator, Southern Region Consultant, Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal, **Fr Binh Le**, Parish Priest, Laverton Parish, **Fr Dean Mathieson**, Parish Priest, Parish of St John Paul II (St Peter's, Toorak and Our Lady of Lourdes, Armadale), **Marcelle Mogg**, Chief Mission Officer, Villa Maria Catholic Homes, **Teresa Rhynehart**, Director for Mission, Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne, **Katherine Stone MGL**, Local Leader, MGL Sisters, **Silvana Scarfe**, Formation Coordinator & Formation Specialist, Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal, **Jasmin Tavita**, Manager Engagement and Growth, Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, **Judeline Wadhwani**, Northern Region Consultant, Proclaim: Office for Mission Renewal

Light into the City

Renewing the spiritual heart of Melbourne



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Melbourne Catholic Digest

A people on the way

Opening hearts and doors

This week, we are reminded that mission begins with meeting people where they are, and taking the next step with them.



Emmaus Parish Brunswick Moreland begins a new chapter by walking together in encounter, companionship and renewed hope. The new parish combines the legacy of St Ambrose, Our Lady Help of Christians, St Joseph and St Fidelis into the one parish family.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-people-on-the-way-emmaus-parish-brunswick-moreland>



One of our Archbishop's Campaign community recipients is Geelong's Bay Leaf Community Kitchen, which offers food, welcome and a pathway from receiving help to helping others. As co-founder Martin Rowan says 'anyone who comes in experiences the joy and the peace and the love that we've got to offer.'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/nourishing-families-in-need-at-bay-leaf-community-kitchen>



And Fr Deonildo de Andrade returns to Timor-Leste from studying in Melbourne to help transform classrooms through listening and cultural understanding. During his three-year ACU master's Fr Deonildo lived in the parish of St Mary's in Altona, making strong community connections that he plans to maintain back home.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/transforming-classrooms-in-timor-leste-with-positive-discipline>



The Bethany Way graduates one year on - The first cohort of the Archdiocese's formation initiative, The Bethany Way, graduated nearly a year ago. For two participants, Grace and Maria, the experience began with an invitation to grow in their faith. They discovered a renewed relationship with Jesus and a greater confidence to participate in the mission of the Church.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-bethany-way-graduates-one-year-on>



Feathers and fins - Tasmania's Neil the Seal and the hit song 'Eastern Rosellas' have been dominating Kate Moriarty's social media algorithm lately, and she can't get enough of them. She's finding inspiration, as a Catholic, in the way Neil unapologetically takes up space, and in the father-son creative collaboration behind 'Eastern Rosellas'. In a world dominated by grim news, she wonders if the reason these stories have so captured the imagination might have something to do with rediscovering the joy of creation.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/feathers-and-fins>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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