

Risen Christ



Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

29 & 30 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.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of min, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father and his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2026



Today's gospel passage follows on directly from what we heard last week. Peter, the hero in last week's story, is rebuked in this week's gospel. The foundation rock has become a stumbling block. It is good for us to know that none of us gets it right every time.

Jesus' sharp response to Peter makes it clear that he is not looking forward to his looming destiny. There are no easy heroics. It is as though he responds with gritted teeth. He is to suffer grievously. Yet his confidence in the Father's love enables him to see glory beyond the cross.

Then he throws out the terrifying challenge. Jesus' followers must also lose their life if they are to gain life. They too must take up the dreaded cross. There is no short-cut to glory. But as disciples shoulder the cross and carry the burden of suffering, they experience a profound union with Christ who has been there before them.

The reader should try to use inclusive language, saying: "not God's way but a human way". In the following paragraph, 'a man' can be read as 'someone'.

*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.*





*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 who have **died** recently:

Helen Hedigan, John Spora (NSW)

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

Robert Lord

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



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

Saturday, 29th August, 2026

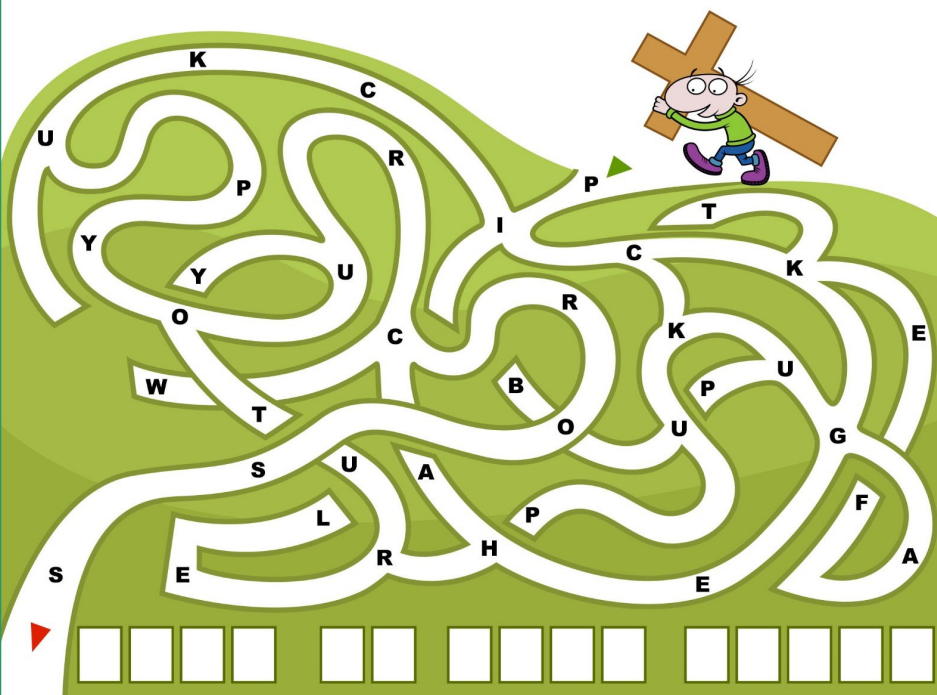
St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Mila Girardin
Sophie Robson
Evie Scannell
Daniel Tanzil
Esther Tanzil
Liam Tyrrell

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

Children's Liturgy

Find the way through the maze. As you pass through the letters along the correct path, write them in the boxes below to discover what Jesus said to his disciples.



Roster for week ending 30 Aug 2026

Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Connor, Anne	W6:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Fleeton, Renee	H10:00
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
Watson, Denis	CLNR
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

Roster for week ending 6 Sep 2026

Armstrong, Miranda	H10:00
Boyd, Mary	PRYR
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dopheide, Marlis	H10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Haines, Geoff	R10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Hannon, Genni	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Love, Kathleen	H10:00
Maloney, Jo	W6:00
McCarthy, Bernie	W6:00
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Rough Family	PRSE
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Skipper, Patsy	CLNR
Sullivan, Frances	W8:30
Wood, Marie	W8:30

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

With synodal assemblies taking place in every diocese in England and Wales and throughout the global Church during 2027 and early 2028, a representative of the General Secretariat of the Synod explains what we might expect from this next stage /
By Richard-Nazzareno Farrugia

On the road to Emmaus

ALAMY/THE PICTURE ART COLLECTION



Giving an account of the journey so far, reviewing what has been done, taking stock of successes and shortcomings: these are moments that naturally create a certain degree of tension. Any evaluation exposes us to judgment. It highlights not only what has been accomplished but also what remains unfinished. It is understandable, therefore, that many might approach the “evaluation assemblies” to be held in dioceses throughout the world during the first half of 2027 with similar expectations.

A document produced on 27 July by the General Secretariat of the Synod for the bishops and synodal teams preparing for these assemblies invites the local churches to see them from a very different perspective. Rather than measuring activities or results, the assemblies should be considered as invitations to each local church to

recognise what the Lord has accomplished within it - not an examination or a test, but an experience of gratitude and truth. The whole local church gathered by its bishop, is being called to contemplate its journey so far in the light of God’s action.

The title of the 19-page document - “Recollecting: accompanying the preparation of the local church’s evaluation assembly” - provides the key for interpreting everything that follows. Far from being simply a taking-stock, the word “recollecting” carries a rich spiritual and biblical resonance. In the Christian spiritual tradition, *recollection* describes the interior attentiveness through which the believer becomes aware of God’s presence and action. Applied to the life of a local church, recollecting becomes a communal act of prayerful attention: pausing together to see

A journey to remember: Les pèlerins d’Emmaüs en chemin (The Pilgrims of Emmaus on the Road) by James Tissot (1894)

where the Holy Spirit has already been at work and to become more aware of the Lord’s presence throughout the church’s synodal journey.

This also resonates deeply with the biblical meaning of *remembering*. In Scripture, remembering is never a nostalgic glance towards the past: it means recognising God’s faithfulness throughout history in order to learn to discern the present and open oneself to the future that God is preparing. What is envisaged is a communal and prayerful assessment of the implementation phase of the synodal journey, seeking to acknowledge its fruits, identify where the Holy Spirit has been at work, and illuminate the next steps of the Church’s journey. It is far closer to a

spiritual assessment than to an institutional appraisal.

In preparation for the assembly every diocese will prepare a “narrative report”, but this should not be a list of initiatives or pastoral activities. It will tell the story of what the Lord has brought to maturity since the conclusion of the 2021-2024 Synod, with grateful attention to his presence within the community. This is, after all, the dynamic of the Gospel itself. Having recognised the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread, the disciples on the road to Emmaus immediately return to Jerusalem to share what they have experienced (cf. Luke 24:33-35). The Church continues to grow in the same way: by recounting the wonders God accomplishes among his people.

Accordingly, the questions proposed by the preparatory document are centred first and foremost on the Lord’s action: “What surprises us about the Lord’s action during these years? Which words of sacred Scripture have illuminated the journey of the community during these years?” Before asking which initiatives proved successful, local churches are invited to see where the Holy Spirit has already opened new paths.

The words of the Psalm come naturally to mind: “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain” (Psalm 127:1). A Church that practises recollection does not define itself by what it has achieved but by how faithfully it has followed its Lord.

Having gathered experiences, testimonies and the fruits of the journey, the community is invited to take a further step: to identify the signs and dynamics of transformation that have emerged. The question is no longer simply “What happened?”, but rather “*What is the Lord calling us to?*” This is what the Italian text of the document calls *rilettura*, rendered in the official English translation as “the prayerful revisiting of lived experience”: a shared listening to experience in prayer and in the light of faith and the Word of God, through which the community seeks to become aware of what the Lord is bringing to maturity in its life. Though the title “evaluation assembly” could easily suggest an organisational or administrative gathering, it is the moment when the local church gathers to receive, share and interpret together its prayerful revisiting of the journey, allowing itself to be guided towards the next stage of its mission. This is why it is suggested that Conversation in the Spirit should be the assembly’s method of working. This is more

than a technique for facilitating dialogue. It asks participants to listen both to one another and to the Holy Spirit as they seek God’s will together. “Recollecting” also means asking how the local church is *responding* to the Lord’s continuing invitation. The synodal journey is not one pastoral initiative among many. It belongs to the ordinary life of the Church, continually called to grow into an ever more evangelical way of living. As Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary general of the Synod, recently observed: “It is not a matter of talking about synodality, but of seeking how to live it in the ordinary life of our churches.” This vision of the Church’s journey finds authoritative confirmation in Pope Francis’ decision to endorse the Final Document of the Synod as part of the ordinary Magisterium, and in Pope Leo XIV’s commitment to accompanying its implementation.

The issue for the evaluation assembly is not simply whether the Synod has been implemented in the diocese or not. The question reaches much deeper: “*What concrete form of a missionary synodal Church, and what new paths of synodality, are emerging in our local church?*” The question assumes that the Spirit is already at work, even amid situations that remain fragile or incomplete. It is from this perspective that local churches are invited to approach this moment.

If the synodal journey is an enduring call to ecclesial conversion, what matters is not presenting an impressive record of accomplishments but honestly recognising both what the Lord has brought to maturity and what he continues to invite his people to deepen. The guidelines for the implementation phase of the Synod published in 2025 acknowledged that local churches were advancing at different rhythms and under very different circumstances. For precisely this reason, every community was encouraged to continue the synodal journey “courageously”, facing difficulties and resistance “with freedom and *parrhesia*”, confident that every experience - even ones marked by struggle - becomes a gift for the whole Church.

This is why evaluation is not only an experience of gratitude but also an experience of truth. Gratitude requires the courage to look honestly at one’s own history. A local church glorifies God not by presenting a flawless image of itself but by acknowledging with humility both the gifts it has received and the areas where further conversion is still

needed. This union of gratitude and truth frees evaluation from the temptation to become an exercise in self-promotion. There is little value in forcing immature processes or multiplying initiatives simply to demonstrate greater activity. Even becoming aware of delays, resistance or unfinished growth can itself be a fruit of the journey, since naming reality truthfully before God is already a step in ecclesial conversion. The synodal journey does not end with the evaluation assembly. Recollection naturally gives rise to sharing. Every local church is therefore invited to prepare not only a narrative report, refined through the assembly’s reflections, but also a “Letter to the churches”: an act of ecclesial communion through which what the Lord has accomplished in one community becomes a source of encouragement for others. This reminds us that no local church walks the synodal journey alone. Every experience, with its fruits and its struggles alike, becomes a gift for the whole Church. Following the diocesan assemblies, national assemblies are scheduled to take place during the second half of 2027 and continental assemblies during the first four months of 2028; the implementation process culminates with an assembly in Rome in October 2028.

Recollecting restores to ecclesial evaluation its evangelical meaning. It is not a balance sheet to be presented, nor an account of activities completed, but an act of faith through which a community becomes attentive once more to the Lord’s presence in its own history, gives thanks for his work and listens for what he continues to ask of it. This is the meaning of that “experience of gratitude and truth” which is at the heart of the entire process. Gratitude, because the first protagonist of the Church’s mission is always the Lord. Truth, because only an honest gaze allows a community to recognise both the fruits it has received and the conversions to which it is still being called.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, local churches are invited to look again at the journey they have travelled. Only in looking back do they discover that the Lord had been walking with them all along. To recollect is, ultimately, to recognise his faithful presence in the Church’s history - and, from that renewed awareness, to move forward with hope.

Richard-Nazzareno Farrugia is a priest of the Diocese of Gozo, Malta, and an official of the General Secretariat of the Synod.

Prayers of the Faithful for 30 August 2026 - Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Brothers and Sisters, we turn to the Father and widen our horizons to pray for the ends of the Earth. We belong to the Universal Church that encompasses all regions of the Earth. Today we join with the whole Catholic Community to pray that our Church is a harbinger of hope for all humankind.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Those in positions of civil authority do not always consider the marginalised in our society. May they discern what is needed to serve the best interests of all citizens, to enable the Common Good.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

In our times, Christians are being persecuted for their faith. Revering the Cross and the Resurrection, we offer our solidarity to those who suffer for their belief in Jesus Christ.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

The young are our hope for the future. May their studies in our schools prepare them for lives of service for, and enrichment of, our communities.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick, especially those named in our bulletin, may the love and presence of our Risen Christ, bring hope and healing to them.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, especially *Helen Hedigan & John Spora* and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Robert Lord*, may they rest in the eternal joy of the presence of the living God.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Strengthened in our faith through Jesus, who promises us new life, we pray to you Father. Deign to answer our prayers that come from our hearts.

All: Amen



In 2026, on this memorial we will gather as the Church in Melbourne for our annual Service of Lament for survivors of abuse. The Service of Lament will be held on Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 4pm in the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral.



Simplicity September

This September, simplify one thing in your life & discover what truly matters.

Sponsor yourself, your family or a friend to participate and raise money for **Palms International Volunteering**, Australia's only Catholic lay organisation that delivers international development and formation through long term international volunteering.

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SIMPLICITY SEPTEMBER



St Vincent de Paul Society
VICTORIA
good works

News from the Montmorency Conference of St. Vincent de Paul.

In the last 2 weeks, a significant change has occurred in the Montmorency Conference with a change of leadership. **John Ramsdale** has completed his four years as President and under the Society's rule must hand on this responsibility to another member. At the last Conference meeting, a vote was held and John McKenna was elected as the new President for the next four years.

It is important to acknowledge the enormous contribution John Ramsdale has made over many years but especially the last 4 years as President. Only last year more than \$41,000 worth of assistance was delivered to over 240 adults and 152 children in our area, **all co-ordinated by John**. This included bills paid, furniture bought, educational needs met, accommodation arranged, vouchers delivered, visits co-ordinated, contacts with our Primary schools and CLC as well as chairing fortnightly meetings and attending regional meetings. John has a very 'hands on' style, caring, approachable and combined with great interpersonal and listening skills ... all topped off with a good sense of humour. From all of us, well done John and thank you.

John McKenna

'Project Kenya' Newsletter Number 3, 2026
is now available to read on
our Parish Website.

Simply visit
<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/risenchristparish>
and you will find the Project Kenya Newsletter
under 'Parish News'.

This newsletter is the first for the 2027 Financial year, supporting the enrolments for the 2027 year at Embulbul. Once again the school there needs our support to continue to offer places for the desperately poor in this suburb of Nairobi. One such student who has received support in the past from Project Kenya is featured in the Newsletter. In fact **Lucy Njeru has been helped since pre-school days, so having made it to Form 3**, the second last year of Secondary school, she & her mother are immensely grateful for the help they have received over the years.

You can also view **a letter from the CEO of the Foundation** that is well worth a read.

Thank you once again for your wonderful support.

A Franciscan Journey Towards the Feast of St Francis

Four weekly reflections connecting Franciscan spirituality with our Parish Pastoral Plan

In 2026, the Franciscan Family marks the 800th anniversary of the Transitus - the passing of St Francis of Assisi on 3 October 1226. The Franciscan Family describes this centenary as an invitation to renew our call to holiness by following the example of the Poor Man of Assisi. These four reflections offer a simple parish journey towards his feast, drawing connections with our pastoral pillars of Family, Hospitality, Social Justice and Liturgy.

Each weekly reflection will provide a short reflection, a Franciscan thought, a practical invitation, and prayer.

WEEK 1 - FAMILY

LIVING THE GOSPEL AT HOME

Theme: holiness in ordinary relationships, forgiveness, simplicity, joy and making the home a place where the Gospel is lived.

WEEK 2 - HOSPITALITY

WELCOMING CHRIST IN EVERY PERSON

Theme: encounter, welcome, fraternity and seeing Christ in people who may be overlooked or difficult to approach.

WEEK 3 - SOCIAL JUSTICE

PEACE, THE POOR AND CREATION

Theme: Franciscan simplicity, solidarity with those in need, peace-making and care for our common home.

WEEK 4 - LITURGY

PRAYER THAT LEADS TO LIFE

Theme: Eucharist, Scripture, conversion and carrying prayer beyond the church into daily life, leading into 4 October.



As we journey together towards the Feast of St Francis on 4 October, may these reflections invite us to see our own parish life follows Christ through a Franciscan lens. We will also discover how this approach can inspire us in our homes, our community, our service to others and our prayer. May this journey draw us closer to Christ and encourage us to live the Gospel with the same simplicity, joy and love that marked the life of St Francis.

The **Hospitality Group** are pleased to invite you to the second Monty Community Event for this year, to be held after Mass on Sunday 20th September 2026 at Café 3094 in Montmorency for coffee and a catch-up.

Please RSVP to Robyn De Remer (0409 254 611), Paul Brady (0421 818 061) or Kathleen Cantwell (0417 617 044).

The last coffee morning in May was well attended and enjoyed by all who came. We look forward to meeting more of you on September 20th and further increasing our community connections. Many thanks, Robyn



The current Hospitality Roster for 10am Mass at OLHC runs out at the end of September.

A new roster with the current volunteers is out this Sunday, 30 August.

This will include the *spaces for other people to sign-up* for the vacant weeks.

Please consider volunteering, if you aren't already on the roster, as providing hospitality after the 10am Mass is such an important extension to the wonderful sense of our OLHC Community, as experienced through our weekly Eucharist.

Thank you, Kathleen Nolan

Melbourne Synod 2026

What is the difference between an Assembly and a Synod?

An assembly has broader membership. A Synod is a structured, canonical event with a defined consultative vote in governance.



Light into the City

Renewing the spiritual heart of Melbourne

<https://lightintothecity.org.au/>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Melbourne Catholic Digest Lord, what do you want for me? Belief made tangible through action

The Catholic faith is no relic of the past, but a vibrant and active force shaping the future.



Our stories this week feature those who heed the call to be a living, breathing presence of Christ in the world: from the hopefully energy of young people gathering at St Patrick's Cathedral to prepare for the global journey of World Youth Day,

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/hundreds-gather-at-seoulfest-to-launch-world-youth-day-2027>



to the dignified work of chaplains bringing human connection to those in prison,

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/catholiccare-prison-chaplaincy-offering-compassion-dignity-and-hope>



and the courageous witness of our political leaders striving to live out their vocation in the public square.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/faith-and-the-vocation-of-politics>



This faith that compels us to look beyond ourselves shows in Liam Bui, a second year seminarian who says his decision to pursue his vocation began with a prayer of surrender and asking, 'Lord, what do you want for me? And really surrendering my will to his.'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-little-kindling-liam-bui-on-pursuing-his-vocation-to-the-priesthood>



Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

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A reminder too that all are welcome to this Saturday's Episcopal Consecration of Most Reverend Stuart Hall as Bishop of the Military Ordinariate at St Patrick's Cathedral. The Mass will also be livestreamed and broadcast to community channel C31 (channel 44 on TV).

<https://www.youtube.com/archmelb>



Student artists go boldly along the path of faith and justice - More than 500 entries responded to the Young Voices Awards 2026 theme: 'To go boldly: The path of faith and justice'. The annual awards are presented by Australian Catholics in partnership with Australian Catholic University.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/student-artists-go-boldly-along-path-of-faith-and-justice>



National Christian book prize honours innovative introduction to Scripture - This year's Australian Christian Book of the Year is a bringing to life of four New Testament letters. The judges have commended *God's Very Special Letters: The Epistles for Kids* by Matt Dodd and Thom Brandson as a book that enables children to relate to God through his word.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/national-christian-book-prize-honours-innovative-introduction-to-scripture>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events> ~ www.melbournecatholic.org or www.facebook.com/CatholicArchdioceseofMelbourne