

Risen Christ



Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

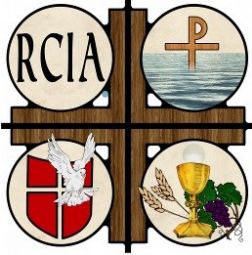
12 & 13 September 2026

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.

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).

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown not prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant" he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2026

We regularly pray: *'forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.'* This is a dangerous prayer. As we seek God's endless mercy, we are committing ourselves to limitless forgiveness of one another. Thinking himself generous, Peter asks, *How often... seven times?* No, says Jesus, *forgive without limit.* We are repeatedly forgiven by God, so we ought to keep on forgiving one another.

The servant asks the king for time to pay; the king cancels the debt entirely. This is what the kingdom of God is like.

Now this servant doesn't follow the Golden Rule: do unto others... His behaviour is the opposite of the king's and his fellow servants are scandalised; they report the situation. The servant comes to a horrible end. We can avoid such an outcome if we do what is right.

In Luke's gospel (6:36), Jesus says, *Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge and you will not be judged; do not condemn and you will not be condemned; forgive and you will be forgiven.*

The story has vivid contrasts and gripping dialogue. It can be read energetically. At the beginning of the reading and at the end, 'brother' should be read as 'brother and sister'.

September 11, 2001
25th Anniversary



*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.melbocatholic.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: 30 Aug & 6 Sep 2026

Thanksgiving	Cash	\$1,634.00
	Electronic	\$8,324.00
Presbytery	Cash	\$2,420.30
	Electronic	\$415.00
Father's Day		\$1,500.00
Nepal Appeal		\$2,056.00

Thanksgiving Offering

Month	Total
June	\$22,507.82
July	\$19,824.17
August	\$21,312.57

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 12

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 13

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists

Eltham

Monday 14

2:00pm Mass

St Vincent's Care

Tuesday 15

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 6

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 16

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

Thursday 17

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 18

9:30am Mass & Service of Remembrance:
Mehru (Mary) Irani

Eltham

Saturday 19

12:00pm Baptisms: Remy, Simone, Theodore,
Hudson, Zoe & Violet

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 20

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptism: Ashton

Eltham

Tuesday 22

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 23

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

Thursday 24

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

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,
Chiara Sansonsetti (7 years old), Kiera Taylor (9 years old),
Peter, Stephen Andrew, Des Arneson, Bill Boyce, Penny Boyce, Maria Bredle,
Vincent Cipolletta, Nora Edmond, Monivic Fanlo, Michelle Hogan,
Pat Hosmer, Mary (Mehru) Irani, Siobhan Lappin, Georgina Lynch,
Mary Luttick, Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Bernard Murray, Regina Roszczenko,
Beth Scott, Audrey Tunks, Nicholas Turnbull,
Jeanne Vanderwert, Noel Vincent, Grant Whiteside*

For those who have **died** recently:

Mehru (Mary) Irani

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

Andrew Lopuszynski, William Warrillow (25 year anniversary)

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:**

Sunday, 13th September, 2026

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

Colette Bahadi

Oscar Collins

Festival Eucharist

First Eucharist

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



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.

Roster for week ending 13 Sep 2026

Cotter, Anne	CLNR
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Davidson, John	PRYR
Davidson, John	W8:30
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Iliffe, Yvonne	E10:00
Liss, Judy	H10:00
Lodi, Liduina	H10:00
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
Nolan, Kathleen	R10:00
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Renny, Teresa	H10:00
Renny, Tom	H10:00
Ryan Family	PRSE
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scully, Greg	C10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Stone, Nan	W6:00
Wood, Gerard	CLNR

Roster for week ending 20 Sep 2026

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Beckford, Peter	C10:00
Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Capuana, Marisa	W6:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Cseh, Nika	R10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
French, Jossie	W8:30
Goodison, Pauline	CLNR
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	H10:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
Nolan, Kathleen	H10:00
Nolan, Mike	H10:00
Roy, Yvonne	CLNR
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Scannell Family	PRSE
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Wood, Marie	CLNR

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

Does it matter that Andy Burnham is a Catholic?

Britain's new prime minister thinks his left-of-centre politics and his religion are intertwined. Does that mean God cannot be a conservative? / By Mike Craven

When I was 15 and joining the Labour Party, I was certain that God was a socialist. Why wouldn't he be? To me, Christ's teachings were about equality, fairness and human dignity. Andy Burnham had a similar formation. He is now Prime Minister and, unapologetically and unambiguously, a Catholic - the first to enter Downing Street. The question is not whether this is simply a novelty for the history books, but whether it means anything for how he governs.

Burnham thinks it does. He has never been shy about his faith and has described his religion and his politics as intertwined. He grew up in a Liverpool-Irish Catholic household, an altar boy who listened to Archbishop Derek Worlock rail against the injustices of Thatcher's Britain. That is not a politician reaching for a convenient sound bite. It is a man telling us, repeatedly and over many years, where some of his deepest political instincts come from.

You could see it on his first day in the job. He did not lead with tax or Europe but with what Catholics would recognise as the preferential option for the poor. And he did it at the Catholic rough sleeping charity established by Cardinal Hume. "There's a reason I started my first day as Prime Minister at The Passage," he said. "what I saw this morning - the dedication of staff, the courage of people rebuilding their lives - shows what's possible when we act with purpose. We're getting to work immediately with organisations like The Passage to make sure no one is left without a safe place to call home."

Then there was his promise to take power out of Westminster and put it "into every postcode in the land". The political word is devolution; the Catholic social principle is subsidiarity - the idea that decisions

should be taken as close as reasonably possible to the people they affect. Add solidarity, human dignity and the common good and you have not an obscure corner of Catholic theology but much of the marrow of modern Catholic Social Teaching. And these instincts come from a man raised in that tradition by a mother who, he says, will be wearing out her rosary beads on his behalf.

This is also unmistakably a post-Vatican II Catholicism: the Church of *Gaudium et spes*, engaged with the world rather than retreating from it, preoccupied with human dignity, solidarity and the common good. Burnham is a product of a particular generation of English Catholicism, formed by bishops such as Worlock who believed the Church should stand with the poor and challenge unjust structures. It is a serious and coherent tradition. But to some Catholic commentators, it is not nearly serious enough.

For a certain kind of critic, none of this counts for very much. Homelessness, devolution, opportunity for young people - these, they say, are the easy causes, the ones on which almost everyone can agree. The issues that really test a Catholic politician are abortion, same-sex marriage and assisted dying. Burnham is plainly at odds with Church teaching on the first two, while the third may yet test him. Christian Concern's Andrea Williams has said she can see nothing obviously Christian in his politics at all. From that perspective, Burnham's is an *à la carte* Catholicism: he chooses the dishes he likes and sends the others back to the kitchen.

There is a legitimate challenge buried in the accusation. Catholicism cannot mean simply attaching a religious label to whatever political opinions we

would have held anyway. Nor does Catholic teaching understand conscience as a licence to believe whatever we find convenient. Conscience has to be formed: by Scripture, reason, experience and the teaching of the Church. A Catholic cannot simply say, "my conscience tells me so" and decare the argument over.

But neither does Catholic moral teaching provide a ready-made legislative programme. There is a distinction between believing something to be morally wrong, deciding what the law should prohibit, and determining what is politically possible in a pluralist democracy. Catholic politicians have to make judgements in all three categories.

Jacob Rees-Mogg is instructive here from the opposite end of the political spectrum. His personal opposition to abortion is absolute and explicitly Catholic. Yet he has also acknowledged that the British electorate will not support an abortion ban. That does not necessarily make his Catholicism insincere. It illustrates the problem faced by every religious politician in a democracy: governing a country is not the same thing as administering a diocese.

This is not an academic problem. British voters support legal abortion by very large margins. More tellingly, so do the electorates of Ireland and Portugal - two historically Catholic countries which liberalised their abortion laws through democratic votes despite the explicit opposition of their bishops. If Catholic electorates themselves reach those conclusions when asked directly, the dilemma facing Catholic politicians in a country that is decidedly not Catholic is obvious.

Indeed, the history of democratic Catholic politics is largely a history of translation rather than imposition. Christian Democrats in post-war Germany and Italy did not attempt to turn the Catechism into the criminal code. They drew on Catholic ideas about human dignity, family, solidarity, subsidiarity and the obligations of property, and translated them into programmes



Burnham launched his premiership at The Passage, a homeless charity in Westminster

capable of commanding support in pluralist societies. Catholic Social Teaching influenced their politics profoundly without supplying an answer to every legislative question.

That, I think, is a more useful way of asking whether Burnham's Catholicism matter.

We should expect neither theological purity nor indifference from a Catholic politician. We can reasonably expect a conscience seriously formed by the tradition, an honest engagement with its teachings, and an attempt to reconcile them with the responsibilities of governing people who do not share the faith. Sometimes that process will produce conclusions entirely consistent with Church teaching. Sometimes it will not.

There is an uncomfortable consequence of that argument for people like me. If I want that

generosity extended to Andy Burnham, I have to extend it to Catholic politicians whose politics I strongly dislike. I find much of what Giorgia Meloni and J.D. Vance say about the world profoundly objectionable. But I cannot honestly claim that their Catholicism is therefore fraudulent. They too have wrestled with a Catholic intellectual and moral tradition and reached conclusions very different from mine.

And that exposes something the 15-year-old version of me did not understand when he confidently decided that God was a socialist. Catholic Social Teaching does not map neatly on to the modern political left or right. Burnham can sound profoundly Catholic when he talks about poverty, solidarity and the distribution of power while finding himself in conflict with the Church over abortion. Vance may

sound much closer to Catholic teaching on abortion, family and the social consequences of individualism while raising very different questions about the Church's teaching on migrants, solidarity and our obligations to the stranger.

None of us gets to claim the whole tradition for our political tribe. For me, there is nevertheless a tribal warmth in seeing a fellow northern Catholic, formed by something recognisably similar to the Worlock-era Catholicism that influenced my own politics, walk into Downing Street. I am proud of it. But I do not expect Burnham to follow every Church teaching or canonical requirement, any more than I expect a Jewish, Muslim or Anglican prime minister simply to translate the doctrines of their faith into statute.

So does it matter that Andy Burnham is a Catholic? Yes - but not because Downing Street will now take instructions from Rome. It matters because religion is one of the things that formed the moral imagination of the man exercising political power. It helped shape his understanding of poverty, community, dignity, responsibility and the proper use of power. That formation cannot dictate every political conclusion, but nor is it meaningless simply because some of those conclusions diverge from Church teaching.

And if I claim that understanding for Burnham, intellectual consistency requires me to extend it to Meloni, Vance, Rees-Mogg and other Catholic politicians whose conclusions I may dislike. The respect we owe them is not agreement, still less is it immunity from criticism. It is the recognition that faith and politics meet in the complicated territory of conscience, judgement and human fallibility.

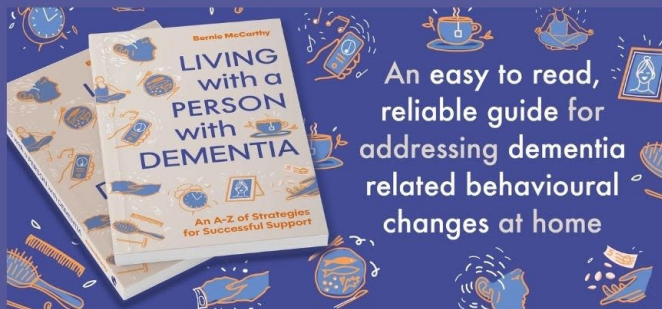
Perhaps the 15-year-old me had it slightly wrong. God was never a socialist - or a conservative. The more difficult task for Catholics in politics is not to recruit him to our side, but to allow a faith we do not entirely control to challenge the politics we already have.

Mike Craven is a former director of The Tablet and the executive chair of Lexington Communications.

BOOK LAUNCH

Bernie McCarthy

will be in conversation with Anne Connor
to celebrate the release of his latest book
Living with a Person with Dementia

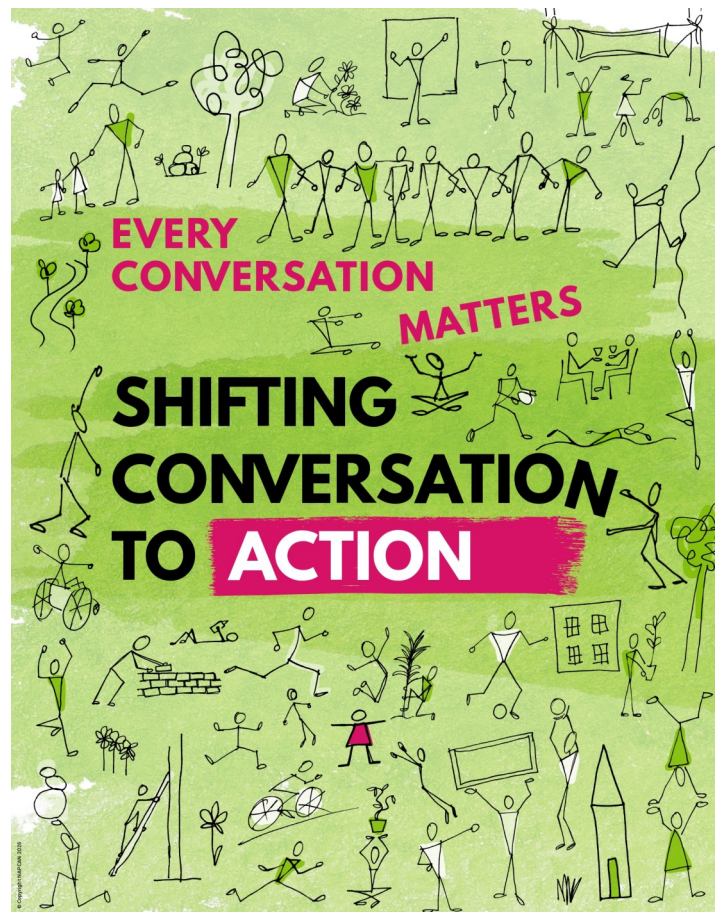


An easy to read,
reliable guide for
addressing dementia
related behavioural
changes at home

Wednesday 23 September | 6pm
Readings Hawthorn

free event, bookings essential

<https://www.readings.com.au/events/living-with-a-person-with-dementia-by-bernie-mccarthy>



NAPCAN PREVENT CHILD ABUSE
www.napcan.org.au

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
6-12 September 2026

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services

The Top Shelf...

Reading *A Franciscan Journey towards the Feast of St Francis* in last week's bulletin prompted me to seek out a couple of resources from the library.

1. *In the Footsteps of Francis ... awakening to Creation* is a talk by Richar Rohr 'exploring St Francis' life and vision from fresh eyes.' The CD is available on the Top Shelf.
2. *Francis: A Saints Way* by James Cowan is a book I bought in Assisi, written by an Australian who lived in Italy for three years, walking in the footsteps of Francis, breathing his air and sleeping in his caves. **I couldn't find it on the Top Shelf so if you have it at home, please return ASAP.**



Children's Liturgy

Spot the 7 differences between these pictures.



A Franciscan Journey Towards the Feast of St Francis



WEEK 1 - FAMILY: LIVING THE GOSPEL AT HOME

Parish Ministry: Living the Gospel at Home

Over these four weeks, our parish journeys towards the Feast of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October, reflecting on Franciscan spirituality and how it speaks to our Parish ministries. Each week invites us to see the Gospel not simply as something we hear, but as something we live - in our homes, our relationships, our community and our prayer.

Reflection

St Francis reminds us that following Christ is not an idea reserved for special occasions. It is a way of life. His conversion unfolded through ordinary encounters, difficult relationships and a growing desire to live the Gospel simply and wholeheartedly and at its core it has the element of Fraternity and Relationship. For our families, this can be a gentle invitation to notice where God is already present: around the dinner table, in the rush of the morning, in the patience required by children, in the forgiveness offered after an argument, or in a quiet conversation with someone who needs to be heard. Franciscan spirituality calls us towards a fraternal life that is simple, joyful, humble and centred on Christ. Our homes can become places where these qualities are practiced - not perfectly, but faithfully. As we reflect on the Family pillar of our Parish Pastoral Plan, we can ask how our family life might become a small, living expression of the Gospel.

A Franciscan thought

"To live the Gospel in fraternity - a central thread in the Franciscan vocation."

Living the Gospel this week

Choose one ordinary moment this week - sharing a meal, driving together, helping with a task or saying goodnight - and make it deliberately prayerful. Offer God a moment of gratitude, listen without distraction, or make the first move towards reconciliation.

Prayer

Loving God, through the example of St Francis, teach us to recognise your presence in the ordinary moments of family life. Make our homes places of welcome, patience, forgiveness and joy. Help us to love one another more generously and to bring the peace of Christ into every relationship. Amen.



Image: The holiness of Francis was lived in relationship with others, not apart from the world.

Melbourne Synod 2026

What are the themes for the Melbourne Synod?

- Young Discipleship
- Missionary Leadership
- Formation and Participation



Light into the City

Renewing the
spiritual heart of
Melbourne

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



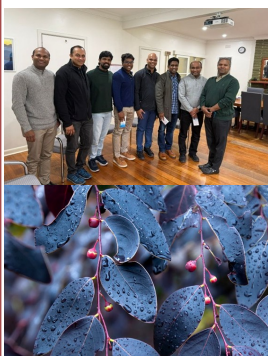
CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Melbourne Catholic Digest

Attentive hearts

Learning to listen

In a world crowded with noise, the Church continues to remind us of the importance of listening: to God, to one another and to the world around us.



The priests of Institute Voluntas Dei embody this, with their distinctive spirituality centring on responding to God's will in the midst of everyday life through a willingness to listen and to say 'yes'.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/bringing-new-life-institute-voluntas-dei-clergy-in-the-archdiocese>



That same spirit of attentiveness was at the heart of Catholic Earthcare's Season of Creation gathering, where participants were invited to listen to Country, and to the interconnected cries of the earth and the poor. The gathering challenged Catholics to see care for creation as an act of hope.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/listening-to-country-caring-for-our-common-home>



Listening also requires discernment. As Mannix Library manager Amy Isham reflects, literacy in the age of algorithms and AI is about learning how to think critically, recognise truth and encounter the experiences of others with empathy.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-literacy-mission-of-mannix-library>



In harmony: parish musicians gather for a day of formation - A call to participate in the redemptive work of Christ was at the heart of a recent Archdiocesan worship and music training day attended by musicians from 35 parishes. The unique gathering, held at St Benedict's Parish in Burwood on 29 August, was initiated by Proclaim: The Office for Mission Renewal's in response to requests from young and adult musicians for deeper formation and an opportunity to network.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/in-harmony-parish-musicians-gather-for-a-day-of-formation>



Safeguarding a practical expression of love - This weekend marks Safeguarding Sunday (13 September). This year's theme, "Love Protects", recognizes that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love. This Sunday also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of clergy, staff, volunteers and safeguarding leaders who work to foster cultures of safety and trust throughout church communities. A number of prayer resources are available for parishes to use locally.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/safeguarding-a-practical-expression-of-love>



Listening, discerning, preparing: Melbourne's Synod journey continues - Synod program lead Cathy Jenkins provides an update on Melbourne's Synod journey, including the work being completed by the National Centre for Pastoral Research on the Synod consultation data and the Synod writing groups. Prepared through prayerful analysis and discernment of the feedback received, the Synod working document (*Instrumentum Laboris*) brings together the principal themes, insights, and questions that have emerged and will serve as an important resource for discussion during Melbourne's synod this December.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/listening-discerning-preparing-melbournes-synod-journey-continues>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

www.melbournecatholic.org or www.facebook.com/CatholicArchdioceseofMelbourne