

Risen



Christ

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

19 & 20 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.



Bishop Terry Curtin

10am Mass of Thanksgiving

Next Sunday, 27th September 2026

At Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham

All Welcome!

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2026

It is alarming how readily we identify with the workers who have done a full day's work; we too cry out: That's not fair! It doesn't sit right in our present economic climate with our elaborate conditions of employment. We shake our head when someone else scores and we miss out for no good reason.

Does it offend us to witness irrational generosity? Are we perhaps more comfortable with what is predictably and sensibly selfish?

The first thing to recognise is that there is no injustice happening here. The day's wage was negotiated and freely accepted. The fair go actually kicks in with the workers who were standing there all day because no one noticed them or hired them.

This is a parable of the kingdom of heaven. It tells us that God is extravagantly generous towards us, and especially to those who are disadvantaged or marginalised. We too can be inspired to adopt a preferential option for the poor.

The parable is dramatic, challenging and controversial. This makes the final affirmation of generosity all the stronger.



*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: 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 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

Monday 21

7:00pm RCIA Class 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

Friday 25

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 26

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 27

8:30am Mass & First Eucharists Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Monday 28

7:00pm RCIA Class Eltham

Tuesday 29

9:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

Wednesday 30

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Thursday 1st October

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:00am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation Eltham

Friday 2

9:30am Mass 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, 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 whose **anniversaries** are at this time:

*Paul Collins, Eva Crowe, Ruth Elliott, Rosa & Salvatore Ficarra,
Catherine Griffiths, George Gunton, Onofrio Saltalamacchia*

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

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, Denise	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

Roster for week ending 27 Sep 2026

Armstrong, Miranda	C10:00
Bowyer, Darrell	ASRC
Bowyer, Rosemary	ASRC
Capuana, Marisa	CLNR
Connor, Anne	W6:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Cseh, Ferenc	H10:00
Cseh, Nika	H10:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Kenny, Michael	W6:00
McKenna, John	CLNR
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Perera, Brian	H10:00
Perera, Sharmaine	H10:00
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Stewart Family	PRSE
Taylor, Trish	R10:00
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR

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, 19th September, 2026

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Remy Cerone
Simone Ines Cerone
Theodore Jack Cerone
Hudson Thomas Stacey
Zoe Catherine Stacey
Violet Schraven

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm

Sophie Overton
Zachary Overton

First Eucharist
First Eucharist

Sunday, 20th September, 2026

Our Lady Help of Christians, 12:00pm
Ashton Eric Battenally

Baptism

Scarves, Socks & Beanies

To the Parishioners of Risen Christ Parish, I am overwhelmed by the generosity of your parishioners. Your contributions to the homeless makes such a difference to their lives to receive all those high-quality hats, scarves, socks, etc and helps to maintain their dignity.

It is tragic to witness the increase in the number of homeless which is nigh on impossible to solve. However, your magnificent contribution goes a long way in maintaining their dignity and catering for their immediate needs, on behalf of the homeless, I thank you.

Sincerely, your contributions are overwhelming.

Lorenda Gracey, on behalf of St Vincent de Paul Society



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

A Japanese woman's perilous nine-month journey across post-war Manchuria and Korea with her two young children was followed by shorter and stranger journey into the Catholic Church / **By Akane Kawakami Davis**

Walking with my grandmother

The Second World War ended for Japan on 15 August 1945, but for my grandmother it went on until the summer of 1946, exactly 80 years ago.

She was far from alone in this. When news of Japan's surrender reached Manchuria, the Japanese living there - colonisers till the day before - instantly became refugees, expected to evacuate as soon as possible. Most of the menfolk were away fighting on various fronts, so the women and children formed impromptu groups and began to travel down through Manchuria and Korea, aiming for the port of Pusan where, they had been told, Japanese ships would be waiting to ferry them home. My grandmother had only recently moved to Manchuria: her husband was the Japanese Consul of Chita in the USSR, and when he realized - as the diplomat-spy he was - that Japanese fortunes were turning, he had sent his family to Japanese-occupied territory for safety.

This was how my grandmother became one of the thousands of mothers who started the trek southwards in August 1945, with her two small children: first on a train but soon on foot, rendered penniless when the Japanese-Manchurian currency was decreed invalid, camping in abandoned houses, stables, or in the fields. Many children died along the way, of malnutrition, or when it came, the extreme Korean cold. The women were preyed on by Red Army recruits. There was no international body to organize the evacuation. The US government sent a Colonel Bell to Harbin to support the refugees, but not until the summer of 1946; the UNHCR would not be formed until 1950; and the Red Cross could only help those who made it to the 38th parallel into what would, after the Korean War, become South Korea.

My Grandmother never talked to me about her walk, not even when our family lived in the apartment next door to hers. This was in a

residential area of Tokyo called Senzoku, where my brother and I appropriated both apartments as our rightful living space. We did go on

COURTESY OF AKANE KAWAKAMI DAVIS



Akane Kawakami Davis's grandparents, with her mother, in Manchuria (circa 1939)

walks, through, my grandmother and I: to her church. She was a Catholic, the only one in the extended family, and although my parents were agnostics, they didn't mind me being taken off their hands every Sunday morning. Her church was run by a pleasant Italian priest with excellent Japanese, and there I learnt to say the main prayers, sing some hymns, and kneel and stand at the correct times; nothing much more, but I enjoyed the floral and musical atmosphere, the older ladies in mantillas, and the Easter egg hunts. (They were real, hard-boiled eggs, not a chocolate one in sight.) I never asked my grandmother why she was a Catholic when everyone else in the family was either agnostic or nominally Buddhist/Shintoist. I only discovered later that she had found her faith through gratitude, when she made it back safely to Japan after her nine-month walk, she and her children hungry but alive and well.

The little first-hand knowledge I have about the walk comes from my mother, who was eight at the time. Her memories were all from a child's point of view: her mother with a rucksack on her back and her baby brother in a sling in front, hold her hand; the grassy path that was almost always along a railway line down which no trains came; the "flower game", involving spotting the first red flower every day, a ploy (she realized later) to keep her walking; the little metal pot which it was her job to fill every evening - there seemed always to be a stream somewhere nearby - to cook the potatoes, beans, millet, or whatever they'd managed to find for their meagre supper. She remembered the icy winter in Chang Chun, where the mothers found a house with ondols (the traditional Korean heating system) and managed to stay warm over the winter of 1945/46, although it was not warm enough for the youngest babies - at least not when the cold came with malnutrition - who died one after another. Her brother, my uncle, was the only baby in the group under six months old who survived.

Later, I read published witness accounts, looked up history books, and filled in the gaps in my mother's memories. The walkers were astonishingly vulnerable, and would not have survived without the help of many ordinary Chinese and Koreans, although some, of course,

remembered too well that they had only recently been liberated from Japanese rule. Some Chinese families also took on babies whose Japanese mothers decided would be better off alive in China than starving en route. (I remember watching, in the 1980s, appearances on Japanese TV by such "left-behind orphans" - *zanryu-koji* - appealing in Mandarin to their birth parents to identify themselves.)

My grandmother had accomplished a truly amazing task by bringing both of her small children back alive, no mean feat for a young, privileged woman from an aristocratic family who had never had to work in her life. Even at the last stage, on the crossing from Pusan, many had died: my mother remembered hearing splashes in the night which she later realized were the sound of water burials. When they finally made it onto Japanese soil, my grandmother took them back to her own family home in Otsu, near Kyoto, for several months while they waited for news of their father. In the end, he was more fortunate than they had been; unlike many of his colleagues, he managed to avoid arrest and detention in the Soviet hard labour camps and arrived back in Japan by sea, several months after his family. He returned to discover that his wife had kept his children safe and taken up a foreign faith.

Catholicism came to Japan twice. The first time was when the Jesuits arrived in the 16th century, in 1549: they were welcomed by many of the local lords (*daimyo*) and converted thousands over the course of just under a 100 years. But the persecution - of priests and lay Christians alike - began in the late 1500s, and the religion was ultimately banned in 1614 under the reign of Tokugawa Ieyasu. Ieyasu established the Tokugawa shogunate in Edo (Tokyo), and the Tokugawas' suspicion of Christian and foreign influences culminated in the remarkable policy of the National Seclusion (1639-1852), which expelled all foreigners, banned the Japanese from travelling overseas, and closed Japan to the rest of the world for over two hundred years. It was only in 1853 - after the Americans forced Japan to reopen - that Catholicism arrived a second time, when members of the Missions Étrangères de Paris (MEP) landed on Japanese shores. They were followed

by many more missionaries, both Catholic and Protestant, who set up churches everywhere: most survived the militaristic government of the 1930s and 40s, although Japanese Christians were routinely accused of lacking in patriotism because of their adherence to a foreign religion.

It was an MEP missionary, Father Grinan, who started the Otsu Catholic Church in 1907, which is almost certainly where my grandmother was baptised. How she found her way to it is a mystery, but she continued to practice, even under her husband's disapproving gaze. An old-school patriarch, he nevertheless allowed this freedom of worship in his house, as long as the Japanese gods were also honoured. I remember their apartment in Senzoku housed three altars: one Buddhist one for their ancestors, one for the Shinto kami, and a small space for "my grandmother's god", where a rosary was draped over a framed prayer card featuring the Good Shepherd.

When I began my own belated quest for faith, in my early twenties, I realized - painfully slowly - that those Sunday morning walks had left their mark. I was pretty ecumenical (even catholic) in my search, but it was when I first sat down in a Catholic church - not unlike the one we used to walk to in our Senzoku days - that I knew what I wanted. It was not a Damascene moment, or even a more modestly spectacular one like Claudel's in the cathedral of Notre-Dame in Paris: it was a prosaic realization that I was back where I had started, at the place where my grandmother had walked with me. She had done all the walking, my decades before my birth, and I had just done the bit at the end, but we had arrived: she in a church in Otsu, and I in a small chapel in Cambridge. (Or rather, a series of small chapels in various places; as I said, I was a slow learner.) Today, I think about how she arrived back in Japan - 80 summers ago - exhausted, but triumphant and flooded with relief, and wish I knew something about the small walk she took following that big one, to the Otsu church after they had all settled into her parents' house and life had resumed some normality. But I do know a little about how that walk has continued in my life.

Akane Kawakami Davis teaches French literature at Birkbeck, University of London.

IRELAND / Working document for Synodal Pathway's national assembly revealed

Irish Church will be urged to explore women's ministry

Sarah MacDonald

The Irish Synodal Pathway's national assembly in October will consider recommending that the Irish Church establish a "national office for women" and advocate for "an ongoing exploration" of women's ministry, including the diaconate, *The Tablet* has learned.

The two proposals are contained in the draft working document for the national assembly which takes place on 17 October in Co. Meath.

The key question that has guided the Synodal Pathway since the Irish bishops announced it in 2021 is: "What does God want from the Church in Ireland at this time?" Baptism emerged as the key theme.

The working document sets out five pathways intended to spur the conversion, renewal and future growth of the Church in Ireland.

They are: the Church that proclaims the Gospel; the Church as a place of belonging; the Church as a place of

healing; the Church that accompanies; and the Church that empowers for ministry and co-responsibility.

Each pathway contains a series of proposals for the assembly covering issues including women, young people, lay ministry, faith formation and the legacy of abuse in the Church.

One proposal recommends that women, and women's voices, be visible, heard and valued in liturgy and public prayer at all levels of the Church in Ireland in order to "rebalance our Church's unconscious bias".

Elsewhere the document asks the assembly to recommend the establishment of a "national office for women" at the level of the Irish episcopal conference, as part of church commitment at parish and diocesan levels in Ireland to the full inclusion of women.

On women's ministry and ordination to the diaconate, Proposal 9 states:

"This assembly recommends that the Church in Ireland advocates for ongoing exploration of women's ministry, including the diaconate."

While recognising that this issue ultimately belongs to the discernment of the universal Church, the document notes that women and the diaconate have arisen "at all moments of the Synodal Pathway". It says it "must remain to the forefront of future discussions both within every area of the Church in Ireland, and in Irish representation at the wider level of ecclesial discernment".

Bishops, the proposal suggests, must use their role and influence to encourage discussion and education on this issue nationally and internationally.

Such advocacy needs to be theologically informed by current theology and ecclesiology, with particular emphasis on female theologians who have researched and written on the role of ordained ministry.

KADASIG FUNDRAISING DINNER

SATURDAY 10 OCTOBER

6.00 PM

MANEY'S DUMPLING - 7/12-16

MCLEANS ROAD, BUNDOORA



...so come and join us

Set Menu

\$40.00 per person

\$28 (under 12)

BYO: wine - \$3 corkage

Range of drinks available to purchase

(Advise Glenys if you have any dietary requirements)

Great Raffle Prizes Available

For Bookings Contact **Glenys Gayfer**

M: 0411 196 395 E: papel-imports@bigpond.com

This is a pre paid function

Name: **Kadasig Aid & Development**

BSB: 083 276

A/c No: 822 436 380

Ref: Dinner and your name

Prayers of the Faithful for 20 September 2026 Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: Lord, Father of all goodness, listen to the prayers of those who faithfully call out to you. With confidence we pray.

For the Church: we pray for the intentions of Pope Leo as he seeks to guide the Church in the modern world. May he continue to encourage young Christians not to be afraid and to place trust in Jesus. *Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For our parish community: we give thanks for our brothers and sisters at Risen Christ Parish. It is a place where the Lord and his mercy can be found.

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

For the faithful: dear Lord, you have compassion for all you have made. Bear with us through any grief, loss or temptation. Look with mercy on the waywardness and ingratitude of your people. Only give us your grace and we shall have happy days in your presence. *Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the world: we remember and pray for all those suffering in the face of natural disasters, famine and war. We pray for those being persecuted for their faith.

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

For the sick: we pray for all those who are sick, especially those named in our bulletin. Give them the grace of hope. We pray too for your gifts of patience and endurance for those who care for the sick. *Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who have died: we remember with love and gratitude those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries fall at this time, including *Paul Collins, Eva Crowe, Ruth Elliott, Rosa & Salvatore Ficarra, Catherine Griffiths, George Gunton and Onofrio Saltamacchia*. May they rest in peace.

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

Leader: God, our Father, we place our trust in you, listen to our prayers and deign to answer them, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

A Franciscan Journey Towards the Feast of St Francis



WEEK 3 - SOCIAL JUSTICE: PEACE, THE POOR AND CREATION

Parish Ministry: Social Justice - Peace, the Poor and Creation

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

Franciscan spirituality does not separate love of God from love of neighbour and care for creation. Francis chose a life of simplicity and solidarity, especially with people who were poor or excluded. He also developed a profound sense of kinship with the created world, praising God through Brother Sun, Sister Moon and all creatures. These are not merely beautiful images; they challenge us to consider how we live. Our Social Justice pillar asks us to look beyond ourselves: Who is carrying a burden we could help lighten? Where can we choose simplicity rather than excess? How might our parish care more faithfully for the environment and the people entrusted to us? In 2026, as the Franciscan Family marks 800 years since Francis's death, we are invited to make his spirit visible in today's world through peace, compassion, solidarity and hope.

A Franciscan thought

"Instruments of peace" and servants of those who are most vulnerable listening to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor.

Living the Gospel this week

Make one small Franciscan choice this week: reduce waste, repair rather than replace, support a local charity, check on someone who is isolated, or choose a peaceful response where conflict would be easier. Spend time enjoying spring and giving thanks to God for this creation.

Prayer

Creator God, you have made us brothers and sisters with all creation. Through St Francis, teach us simplicity, compassion and peace. Help us to notice those who are struggling and to care for our common home. May our choices reflect your love for every person and every creature. Amen.

Image: Francis's praise of creation becomes an invitation to gratitude, stewardship and reverence for God's gifts.



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.**



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IS NOW

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WILL

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LAST EVERYONE BE WHO FIRST

Children's Liturgy

Use the words below to find out what Jesus said.



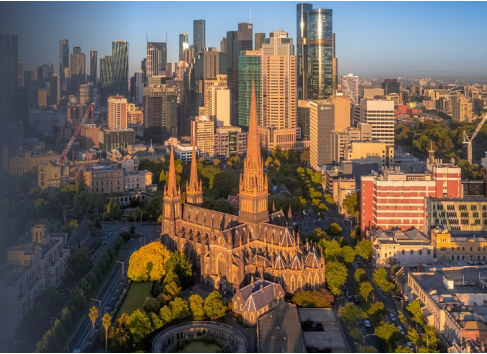
Melbourne Synod 2026

How were the themes chosen?

Over the past years, the faithful have been invited into two significant consultation processes: The Fifth Plenary Council of Australia (2021-2022), the Preparation for the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (2022-2023) and local consultation to guide the 'Take the Way of the Gospel' process. All of these processes highlighted themes in common. In addition, ongoing feedback is received through pastoral visits, input from clergy, the Council of Priests, our partners in mission in health, education and community services. The feedback consistently highlighted the key areas for mission for the Archdiocese of Melbourne.



Light into the City



Renewing the
spiritual heart of
Melbourne

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



Melbourne Catholic Digest

Hear and believe

Truth, humility and perseverance



The Church cannot look away from suffering, especially suffering caused within its own community. On the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, the Archdiocese gathered for the 2026 Prayer Service of Lament for survivors of abuse, drawing us into Mary's witness at the foot of the Cross. Just as she remained present amid suffering and uncertainty, the service called us to confront painful truths with honesty, compassion and hope.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/to-remain-to-listen-to-believe-2026-prayer-service-of-lament>



This week, *Melbourne Catholic* joins with the rest of the community in football fever. Unusually for this time of year, the city's Australian Rules fans have made room for other codes too. The MCG was packed for the recent NFL match between the San Francisco 49ers and the Los Angeles Rams. The sport is known for the players who bring their faith onto the field, and this match was no exception, with both teams attending Mass locally and then coming together in a post-game prayer huddle.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/prayer-the-strategy-in-inaugural-nfl-game>



The annual inter-seminary soccer tournament, held last weekend at Marcellin College in Bulleen, highlighted the teamwork, sacrifice and hope of seminarians across the country. As one said, the tournament is vital for building brotherhood and getting to know other men following the priestly vocation.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-common-goal-seminaries-gather-for-annual-soccer-tournament>



And as the AFL season reaches the pointy end, we meet a Hawthorn legend, Steve Lawrence and his wife Annie. The two feature in our Better Together series and reveal the commitment they have made to each other since meeting in the early 1990s, raising six children and working to support others in their faith.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/annie-and-steve-lawrence-2>



Social Services Sunday: Nourished by God; propelled to go out - This year's Social Services Sunday (20 September) focuses on how we, nourished by Christ, are called to walk alongside those facing hardship and help build communities where everyone belongs. Catholic Social Services Victoria has prepared a parish kit with suggested notices for parish bulletins as well as an inspiring video from the Episcopal Vicar for Justice and Social Services, Fr John Petrulis.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/social-services-sunday-2026>



A Strange Way Home: new autobiography from Archbishop Coleridge - *A Strange Way Home* by Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge offers a rare glimpse into the life of one of Australia's most respected church leaders. Michael McGirr says that while not everyone may want to hear what he has to say, '[Archbishop] Coleridge works hard to voice some important insights and to share many illuminating experiences. This book is an important window on the reality of church leadership in our time.'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-strange-way-home-new-autobiography-from-archbishop-coleridge>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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