

Risen Christ



Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

10 & 11 October 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.



Congratulations to all who celebrate their Confirmation this weekend:

Sunday 11th October 2026 Confirmation at St Patrick's Cathedral, 2:30pm

- ~ Caleb Allen ~ Jude Amiguet ~ Marcus Angelucci ~ Xavier Attard ~
- ~ Mia Bartholomew ~ Erica Bell ~ Thomas Blair ~ Alexander Blaszkowski ~
- ~ Hanna Borowska ~ Daniel Borowski ~ Dylan Burfoot ~ Amali Burkhart ~
- ~ Jack Calabro ~ Sophie Carey ~ Chase Celotti ~ Olivia Charles ~
- ~ Oliver Chesterman ~ Michael Cianci ~ Sonny Ciavola ~ Jack Conlin ~
- ~ Sophia Connors ~ Charlotte Cornwell ~ Ariel Cricco ~ Romeo D'Amico ~
- ~ Livia Davies ~
- ~ Liliana dos Santos ~
- ~ Tahli Douglas ~
- ~ Hannah Doyle ~
- ~ Nate Driscoll ~
- ~ Isla Dwyer ~
- ~ Charlie Edelston ~
- ~ Isla Fisher ~
- ~ Ivy Fisher ~
- ~ Jude Foulds ~
- ~ Patrick Fraser ~
- ~ Henry Frazzetto ~
- ~ Jack Grant ~
- ~ Sean Guo ~
- ~ Benjamin Harford ~
- ~ Lexi Harvey ~
- ~ Maeve Hatty ~
- ~ Ethan Holt ~
- ~ Amelia Hunt ~
- ~ Dante Ienari ~
- ~ Izabella Ienari ~
- ~ Ava Ierardi ~
- ~ Alessandro Iudicone ~
- ~ Luca Johnston ~
- ~ Harrison Justice ~
- ~ Evie Kazalac ~
- ~ Jacob Kent ~ Laura Key ~ Maja Klaric ~ Caden Lamers-Janes ~
- ~ Audrey Lavery ~ Talia Lewis ~ Annabelle Lindsay ~ Matthew Little ~
- ~ Jake Lloyd ~ Audrey Mangan ~ Lily Martindale ~ Luke Martinelli ~
- ~ Harper McNamee ~ Harry Moate ~ Anthony Morabito ~ Summer Moravski ~
- ~ Emily Moss ~ Ren Nolan ~ Ted Norman ~ Maeve O'Connor ~
- ~ Maeve Ogge ~ Maria Onate Pacheco ~ Ivie Otasowie ~ Ethan Pacheco Brito ~
- ~ Jarrod Palermo ~ Zara Palermo ~ Charlotte Pezzimenti ~ Nullah Quigg ~
- ~ Lexie Raynes ~ Rafael Rizzi ~ Harvey Saw ~ Evangelina Sirol ~ Liam Smith ~
- ~ Morgan Sparks ~ Alice Spencer ~ Thomas Stanton ~ Harry Stead ~
- ~ Charlie Stevenson ~ Lily Sullivan ~ Lachlan Thorpe ~ Angelica Vaughan ~
- ~ Marc Vukelic ~ Chloe Warren ~ Winnie Wise ~ Ava Zaccaria ~ Angus Zappia ~



*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: 27 Sep & 4 Oct 2026

Thanksgiving	Cash	\$1,771.00
	Electronic	\$7,169.00
Presbytery	Cash	\$1,411.95
	Electronic	\$485.00

Thanksgiving Offering

Month	Total
July	\$19,824.17
August	\$21,312.57
September	\$19,589.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 10

6:00pm Mass & First Eucharists

Montmorency

Sunday 11

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass & First Eucharists

Eltham

2:30pm Confirmation Mass

St Patrick's Cathedral

Monday 12

7:00pm RCIA Class

Eltham

Tuesday 13

9:30am Mass & SFX Year 2

Montmorency

10:00am Marian Month of October Rosary

Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 14

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

7:30pm Marian Month of October Rosary

Eltham

Thursday 15

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Montmorency

10:00am ASRC Food Collection

Montmorency

2:30pm Meditation

Eltham

Friday 16

9:30am Mass

Eltham

Saturday 17

12:00pm Baptisms: Kobe, Charlie,
Finn, Gianna

Montmorency

6:00pm Mass

Montmorency

Sunday 18

8:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Mass

Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Jordan, Alaska, Pia

Eltham

Monday 19

11:30am Mass & HT Grade 5

Holy Trinity

7:00pm RCIA Class

Eltham

Tuesday 20

9:30am Mass

Montmorency

10:00am Marian Month of October Rosary

Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group

Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community

Montmorency

Wednesday 21

6:30am Meditation

Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion

Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community

Montmorency

7:30pm Marian Month of October Rosary

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

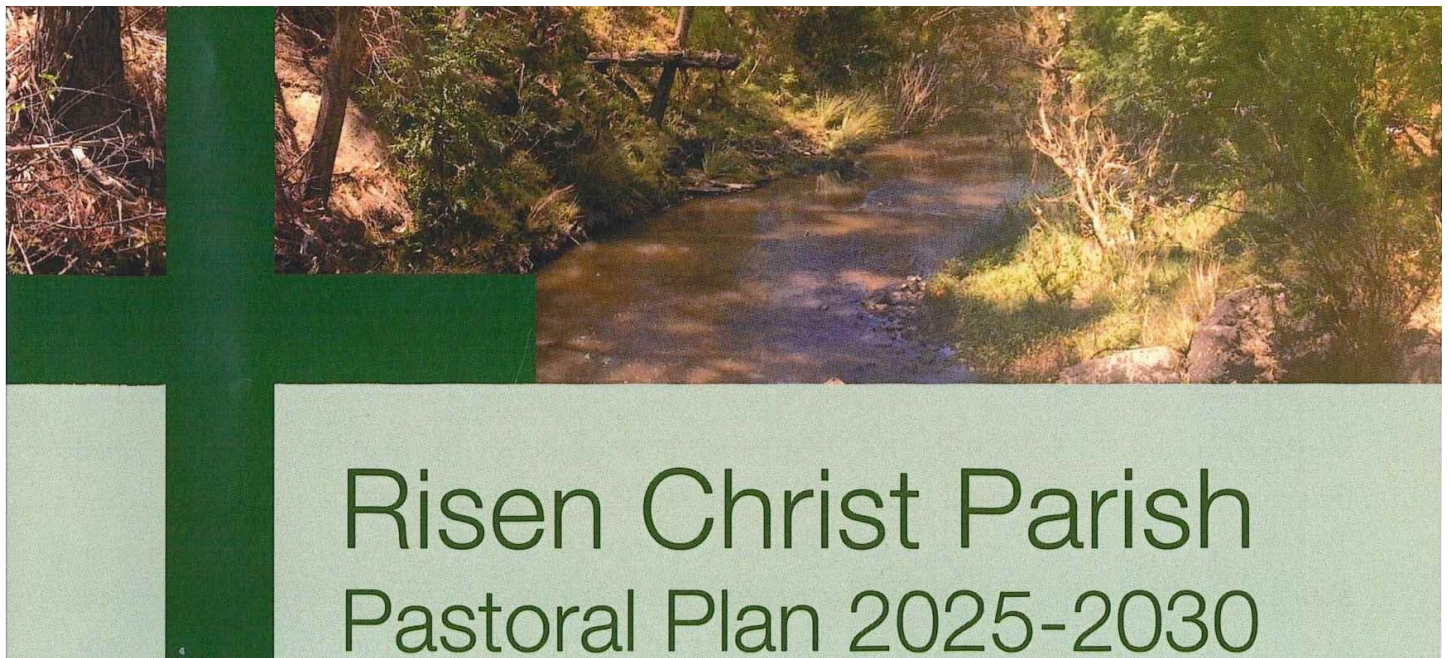
D) thanksgiving envelopes

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

Thank you for your generous support,

Michael





Our coordinators have been busy making contact with ministry groups across Risen Christ Parish and collating contacts. A summary of some of the findings are below:

Social Justice

The Social Justice ministries are well established and largely self-sufficient, with a number of dedicated parishioners supporting a range of important initiatives. These include St Vincent de Paul conferences at Eltham and Montmorency, ASRC, KADASIG, Days for Girls, Project Kenya, the Aboriginal Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and refugee assistance.

What's going well: A strong range of ministries are actively supporting people locally and beyond our parish community.

Opportunities: Many of these groups rely on a small number of committed volunteers, so there is an opportunity to welcome new members and build ongoing support for these ministries.

If you are interested in social justice and would like to learn more or become involved in one of these groups, new members are always welcome. Social Justice Ministry Co-ordinator: Lavanya Miranda: lavanyamiranda@yahoo.com

Hospitality

The Hospitality ministries provide many opportunities to support, connect and build community across Risen Christ Parish. This includes visiting elderly and sick parishioners, delivering the Eucharist to those who are homebound, providing transport to Mass, hobby and interest groups, social gatherings, hospitality after Mass, gardening and parish maintenance.

What's going well: There is a strong range of social and practical support available, with Sunday hospitality at Eltham, Family Groups at Montmorency, hobby groups and new coffee catch-ups providing opportunities for connection.

Opportunities: Some services rely on a small number of volunteers, and there is an opportunity to increase participation and ensure these valuable services can continue.

We would love to hear from parishioners who would benefit from support, as well as anyone who would like to volunteer, join a group or help with parish grounds and maintenance including the recent bulletin callout for Eucharist to people at home. Hospitality Ministry Co-ordinators: Robyn De Remer and Paul Brady: pbrady3095@gmail.com

Prayer and Liturgy

Prayer and Liturgy across both parishes is well organised and supported by a small group of dedicated and committed parishioners. The ministries continue to operate smoothly, with many people generously sharing their time and gifts. Ministries include preparation for Sunday liturgies including Liturgy of the Word, preparation of prayers of the faithful, Eucharistic ministry, music ministry, rosary, small church communities, meditation, church cleaning, sacristans, flowers, counters and piety stall. Children's Liturgy has also been a wonderful development this year, supported by a great team of volunteers.

What's going well: There is strong commitment to maintaining the prayer and liturgical life of the parish, and both communities work particularly well together for major celebrations such as Easter and Christmas.

Opportunities: Much of the work currently depends on a small number of people, many of whom have been carrying their responsibilities for some time. Some roles and responsibilities are not formally documented or rostered, creating a risk if key volunteers are no longer able to continue.

As we prepare for the future and our transition towards lay-led communities, there is an opportunity to build broader participation, document roles and develop some succession and contingency planning. New volunteers are warmly encouraged to become involved and learn from those currently leading these ministries. Prayer & Liturgy Ministry Co-ordinator: Margaret Heyhoe: marghi@bigpond.com

Leo touches the heart of France

The Pope took Paris and Lourdes by storm last weekend. Is something shifting in the country's relationship with its Catholic roots? / By Aili Winstanley Channer

ALAMY/AP, GREGORIO BORGIA



As dawn broke last Sunday, the streets of Lourdes in south-western France were already heaving with crowds winding their way down the hill from the train station to the Sanctuary, many already having travelled for hours that morning to reach the town. Whether they had come from next-door Tarbes or from Manila or Brazil, and whether they were wearing backpacks, carrying children on their shoulders or pushing a wheelchair, everyone was buzzing with excitement. I was passed by a group of teenagers singing alleluias.

A place of prayer and healing nestled in the misty Pyrenean foothills, Lourde usually has a quiet and reflective atmosphere. Not so on Sunday: it was like a festival ground. As they took their seats for the outdoor Mass just on the other side of the river from the Grotto where Bernadette Soubirous beheld the Virgin Mary, more than a hundred thousand people were laughing, smiling, singing and cheering, armed with sun hats, water bottles, national flags from countries around the world and banners greeting the Pope.

The fervour of the reception Pope Leo received in France went far beyond what anyone had expected. This *engouement*, as the media called it - infatuation - took Paris by storm. An estimated 800,000

Pilgrims at Lourdes to hear Pope Leo celebrate Mass before a huge congregation on Sunday

worshippers attended the Mass at the Place de la Concorde on Saturday, more than three times the numbers that were seen when Pope Benedict celebrated Mass there in 2008. Finding metro stations closed and roads blocked after I saw President Emmanuel Macron welcome Leo to the Palais de l'Élysée on Friday, I had ducked into a café to charge up my phone and try to work out how I could get across the city to Notre-Dame amid the vast crowds of people who were hoping to get a wave from the pope-mobile over the course of the afternoon.

The waiter was asking everyone if they'd caught sight of him yet. Some, including several French Catholics who had travelled into the capital, were full of anticipation, thrilled that they might get to glimpse Pope Leo with their own eyes and in their own country. One young man who'd just popped into the café for a coffee seemed rather more nonplussed about all the disruption. He wasn't Catholic, he said, but he admitted it would be fun to catch sight of him. *Pourquoi pas? Il a l'air tranquille, celui-là* - "This one seems chill". Whether it's his disarming demeanour or his uncompromising stance on issues such as

human dignity, peace and AI, this Pope seems to have won almost everyone over.

The extent to which the capital had turned itself upside down to welcome Leo, with a security enterprise on the scale of that of the Olympics two summers ago, was particularly striking, because the public square in France is usually stringently sterilised of any signs of religion. In the name of *laïcité*, France's strict interpretation of the separation of Church and state, I was once told that putting a star on a primary school classroom Christmas tree was forbidden, because it's a "religious symbol". But in the excitement of the papal visit, signs of faith and enthusiasm for all things Leo were not just visible: they were everywhere.

Is something shifting in France's relationship with faith and with its Catholic roots? During the last papal visit to France 18 years ago, President Nicolas Sarkozy, known for a relatively soft approach to *laïcité*, was accused of breaching the separation of Church and state by meeting Pope Benedict at the airport and by calling for dialogue between religion and civic affairs. But Macron did both things again this time without prompting much criticism or even surprise. Speaking alongside Leo at the Palais de l'Élysée, he said *laïcité* was not a rejection of religion, paid generous tribute to what the Church has contributed to French arts and culture for nearly two millennia, and praised its continued efforts in support of the vulnerable. He even unexpectedly showed up at the last minute for the Mass celebrated by the Pope at St Étienne Cathedral in Metz on Monday. The Overton window for how a French president should interact with the Catholic Church seems to have shifted.

In his speech in the Palais de l'Élysée, Pope Leo praised France for its contribution to human rights, including freedom of religion. He stressed that a healthy secularism "consists not in excluding religion from the public sphere or from education, but in striving to ensure that the State and religious institutions maintain dialogue and join forces in the service of the common good, that the world may have life". Speaking to the bishops in Lourdes two days later, he was more blunt, urging them "not to give up" the defence of the Church's "right to be heard in the public square", particularly on issues such as assisted suicide.

Macron sensed that there was a public appetite for giving the visitor from Rome a warm welcome and for celebrating what he represented. Amid widespread disgruntlement, political uncertainty and economic insecurity, any chance to capitalise on a mood of hope and stir

pride in what France has offered the world, including through its Catholic history, was worth seizing. The visit came at the latest point a Pope would normally make an official visit to a country before a national election; Leo may also have wanted to come to Paris before the possible election next year of Marine Le Pen as president, after which a visit might be considered more awkward.

Leo condemned the instrumentalization of religion for political purposes. He countered these narratives by meeting migrants at the Centre Bakhita in Parish, and by firmly rejecting nationalist movements - and defending the EU as a project of peace - in his address at the Robert Schuman Conference Centre in Metz. He also held a meeting with leaders of other faiths, who had earlier signed the Metz Appeal, promising to work together for peace and justice and to counter the weaponisation of religion to justify hatred.

Traditionalist Catholics, such as the *Ecclesia Dei* groups sympathetic to the excommunicated Society of St Pius X (SSPX) but still in communion with Rome, were keen to join the party in cheering on the Pope's visit, despite rejecting Leo's messages on religious freedom, a healthy secularism, multifait coexistence, migration and many other issues. The Archdiocese of Paris drew criticism for allowing a group of Catholic influencers including the controversial Fr Matthieu Raffray to hold a prayer service at St Sulpice, Paris' largest church, for two thousand people on the eve of the Pope's arrival; the Bishop of Carcassonne, Bruno Valentin, was among those who attended. Fr Raffray,

who like all the priests of the Institute of the Good Shepherd only celebrates Mass in the old rite, is actively involved in the identitarian movement: an ethno-nationalist who is anti-Islam and anti-multiculturalism. He has defended far-right leaders from Éric Zemmour to Jean-Marie Le Pen. The paper *Libération* ran a piece accusing identitarians of engaging in "entryism" to try to leave a mark on the visit.

As one priest put it, for these Catholics, religion becomes just "an element of culture and heritage" that they are "try8ing to preserve, not to respond to the Gospel, but as a way of marking their territory".

In his address to the bishops in Lourdes, Leo praised France's Catholic heritage: "Yes, Jesus has given you much, and in his love he wishes to give you still more." But, while leading a Vespers service for priests, seminarians and religious at the restored Notre-Dame Cathedral, he stressed that "Notre-Dame is more than a monument" or "a stone structure to be admired" : it is a place where the "Church appears for what she is, namely a living organism", with a "mission not only in terms of preservation but also of creativity". The baptismal font, "situated at the entrance as a blessing and an invitation", is a sign of this.

Nobody can account for the huge rise in adult baptisms in France, which have jumped from about 4,00 a year a few years back to 13,000 this year. But this comes in the context of a wider decline in religious faith and practice. The restoration of Notre-Dame may seem an apt symbol of the renewal of the French

Church, but, still in the dark shadow of abuse scandals and widespread public disillusionment and loss of trust, it too seems to be suffering purgative fire. Perhaps it is now starting to rise from its ashes. As the crowds stood in the bright sunshine at Mass in Lourdes - and before he met abuse survivors later in the day - Leo emphasised in his homily that the call to conversion concerns not only individuals but the Church herself: "She must have the courage to begin with herself. In order to heal the deep wounds, infidelities and painful errors that have occurred within her, we must humbly place ourselves under the Lord's purifying gaze."

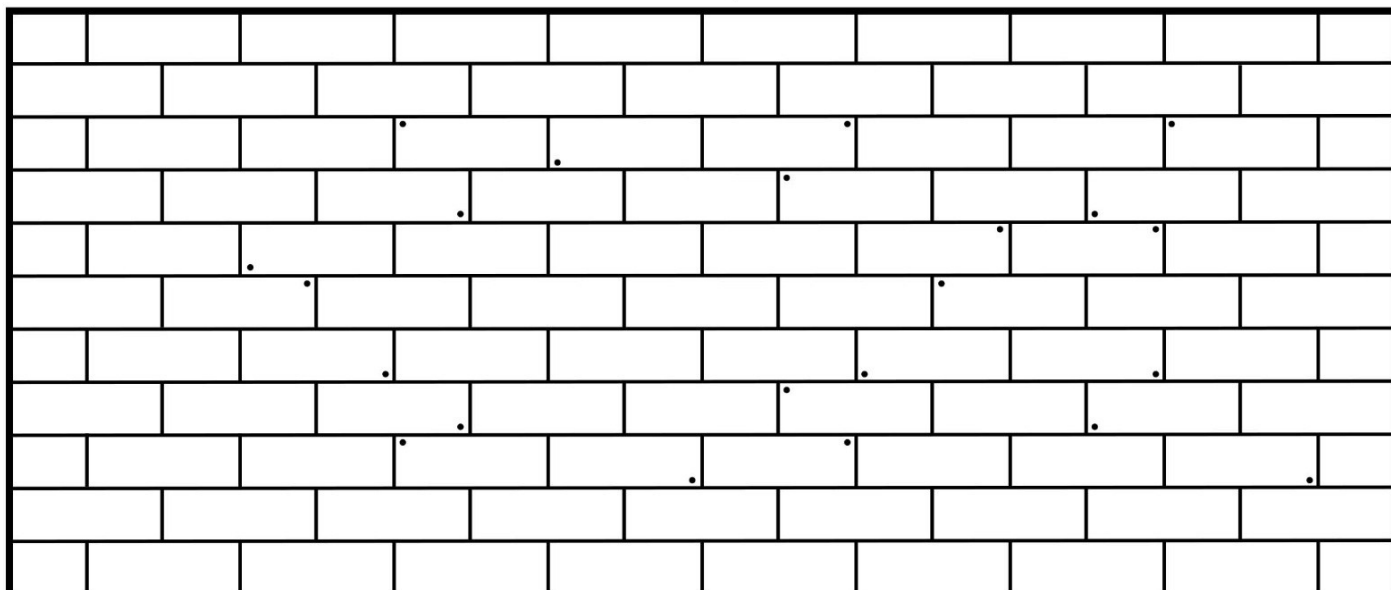
There was a visible sign of this self-reckoning as Leo's torchlight procession culminated on the forecourt in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary. The mosaics by Marko Rupnik, a priest accused of abuse, on the front of the basilica have recently been covered up.

Unlike previous popes, Leo did not watch the procession from the basilica's balcony, but walked it himself as a pilgrim on foot, bearing his torch. The crowds had been gathering before sunset from the grotto to the basilica and were singing the Rosary in many languages in anticipation of being joined by Pope Leo.

As night fell and the full moon rose, we each held our torch: someone struck a match to light the first one and then shared their flame with the people around them, until, little by little, every one of us in the crowd was illuminated. At the chorus of each song, we lifted our torches to the sky, singing *Ave, ave, ave Maria* at the top of our lungs.

Children's Liturgy

Color in the bricks that contain a dot • to reveal a special symbol. Do you know what it stands for?





*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*

For those who have **died** recently:

Ermanno (Eric) Fabbri, John Steward

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

Mick Fagan, Lina Moylan, Madge Warrillow

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

Roster for week ending 11 Oct 2026

Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Davidson, John	W8:30
Dhanasen Family	PRSE
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Fitzgerald, Susan	H10:00
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Geoff	R10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Lucas, Maree	CLNR
Maloney, Jo	W6:00
McCarthy, Bernie	W6:00
Nolan, Kathleen	H10:00
Nolan, Kathleen	PRYR
Nolan, Mike	H10:00
Reischel, Marita	H10:00
Roy, Yvonne	E10:00
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Stephens, Patricia	CLNR
Taylor, Trish	C10:00

Roster for week ending 18 Oct 2026

Beckford, Peter	C10:00
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Cricco, Melanie	H10:00
Cseh, Ferenc	E10:00
Cseh, Nika	R10:00
Donnellan, Denise	E10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Leahy Family	PRSE
Love, Philip	W8:30
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
Nolan, Mike	PRYR
Reardon, Kathy	ASE
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Stone, Nan	W6:00
Sullivan, Frances	CLNR
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Watson, Denis	CLNR

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham;

C = Commentator;

CLKR = PowerPoint Clicker @ SFX;

CLNR = Cleaner @ SFX; **R** = Reader;

E = Eucharistic Minister; **H** = Hospitality;

PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;

M = Music; **W** = Minister of the Word



Congratulations to all who celebrate their sacraments this weekend:

Saturday, 10th October, 2026

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 6:00pm
Ace Drohan

First Eucharist

Sunday, 4th October, 2026

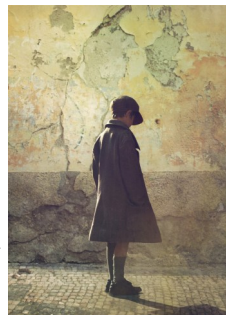
Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 10:00am
Danica Casamento
Mikayla Delgoda
Sarah Fenech
Mia Fisher
Jack Mrak
Jude van der Burgt

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

Cantata Memoria For the Children

On October 21st 1966, 116 children and 28 adults perished when a coal spoil tip enveloped Pantlas Junior School together with some houses in Aberfan, South Wales.

To mark the 50th anniversary of the tragedy Karl Jenkins was commissioned to write *Cantata Memoria* which commemorates the event in a moving and compassionate musical piece.



The combined Welsh choirs of Victoria, Australian Welsh Male Choir, Geelong Welsh Ladies Choir, Melbourne Welsh Male Choir, Mornington Peninsular Ladies Welsh Choir, Victoria Welsh Choir and The Gisborne Singers, will perform *Cantata Memoria* on Sunday evening, 25th October at 5:00pm, Melbourne Town Hall. They are joined by soloists Adrian Tamburini and Heulen Cynfal, the Melbourne Youth Chorale accompanied by Flagship Melbourne Youth Orchestra conducted by Brett Kelly.

You are warmly invited to attend this once in a lifetime occasion.

All proceeds from the concert will be donated to an Australian Children's Charity.

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1632651>



The Marian Month of October

Pray the Rosary

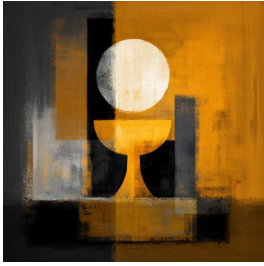
During the month of October,
the Rosary will be said at
Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham
every **Wednesday evening at 7:30pm.**

Prayer for peace is what Our Lady requested
and I think it is sorely needed in our world today!



The Month of October is the Rosary
Month,

and in Honouring our Mother,
the Rosary will be said at
St Francis Xavier, Montmorency
on **Tuesday** after Mass
at approximately **10:10am.**



If you know someone
who'd like a regular visitor
to bring the Eucharist and/
or friendship, or if you'd
like to volunteer for this
ministry please send a
request to the Hospitality

Group via the Parish Office.

Thank you.

risenchrist.parish@cam.org.au

9435 4742



Eltham Vinnies

now have in
stock

2027

**Columban
Calendars**



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

Just a reminder that RCIA has started up and we have a lovely group. You are most welcome to join if you are considering becoming Catholic or participating in the sacraments fully.

(RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au).

Prayers of the Faithful for 11th Oct 2026 - Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: God our Father responds faithfully to our needs. Therefore, with confidence we offer Him our prayers.

Pope Leo has recently completed a very successful visit to France. May the Lord watch over him and support him in his mission of service for all humanity.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our country's Church leaders, lay and cleric: that they respond to the needs of our communities, especially those marginalised and those in need of spiritual, emotional or economic assistance.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for parents and educators: that they encourage those in their care, providing clear examples of how to negotiate their way in our heavily consumerist society.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

As the gospel tells us today, accepting God's invitation to the banquet of the kingdom of God involves change. We pray that we will undergo a change of heart, to focus our lives on Christ's teachings of love for God and for our neighbour.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are never invited to grand feasts or wedding celebrations. May they find friendship and companionship in their communities.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are ill, especially those named in the bulletin: may they be strengthened by the love of the God who accompanies them in their suffering.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, especially *Eric Fabbri & John Steward*, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including *Mick Fagan, Lina Moylan & Madge Warrillow*, may they rest peacefully in God's kingdom.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our Father, in whom our hope lies, we pray that you will grant our petitions, through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

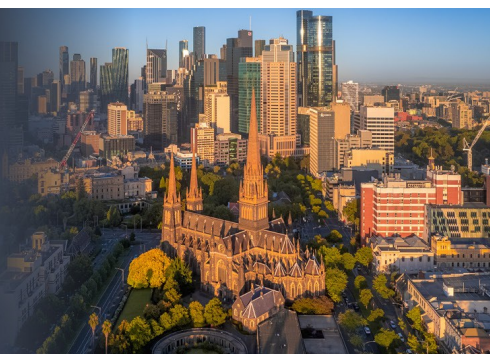
Melbourne Synod 2026

What is the link between Vatican II and Synodality?

Although the Second Vatican Council, or Vatican II (1962-1965), never used the word synodality, it laid the theological, ecclesiological, and pastoral foundations for a synodal Church. Synodality - the practice of walking together, listening to the Holy Spirit, and discerning as the People of God - is widely understood today as the practical continuation of the Council's vision.



Light into the City



Renewing the
spiritual heart of
Melbourne

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



Melbourne Catholic Digest Celebrating St Francis

Our whole lives

Last weekend, Christians all over the world celebrated the 800-year-old legacy of St Francis of Assisi, a man of uncommon humility and vision. In a age marked by rampant egos and tragic conflict, his message of peace and his willingness to give his whole life for God and neighbour resonate more powerfully than ever.



Here in Melbourne, as part of the Capuchin Friars' local celebrations for the Year of St Francis, members of the Franciscan family gathered to commemorate the Transitus of St Francis, a centuries-old tradition marking the Italian saint's entry into eternal life,

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/melbourne-franciscans-mark-the-transitus-of-st-francis>



while in Assisi, cardinals and friars gathered to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of a man who taught us to see God's glory in every part of creation.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/in-assisi-cardinals-and-friars-celebrate-800th-anniversary-of-st-francis-death> & <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/an-inbuilt-desire-to-praise-god-cantic-of-the-creatures>



To mark International Day for Older Persons last week, we spoke with Australia's Age Discrimination Commissioner, Robert Fitzgerald AM, about the connections between Catholic Social Teaching, human rights and the call to accompany those who struggle with isolation.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/robert-fitzgerald-am-on-faith-human-rights-and-ageing-with-dignity>



And we meet One Voice Family, a local Catholic family joyfully giving their time and musical talents to bring glory to God and to serve the Church here in Melbourne and beyond.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/one-voice-one-familys-music-ministry>



A place to call home: Croatian centre celebrates 25 years For 25 years, the Croatian Catholic Centre of St Leopold Bogdan Mandić in Sunshine has stood as much more than a place of worship. Located on the corner of Fitzgerald Road and Whiteside Avenue in Ardeer, the centre has become a spiritual home, a meeting place and an important guardian of Croatian language, faith, culture and traditions for generations of Croatian Australians in Melbourne's western suburbs.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-place-to-call-home-croatian-centre-celebrates-25-years>



Doing more: St Vincent's delegation explores Venerable Mary Glowrey's Indian legacy More than a century after the Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey set out for India to pursue her vocation, a small delegation from St Vincent's Health Australia were invited by the Catholic Health Association of India to follow her footsteps in this land of more than a billion dreams. One of the delegates, Adjunct Prof Pat Garcia, reflects on their experiences, on the call to serve, and on what Mary might have meant when she said she could have done more.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/doing-more-st-vincent-s-delegation-explores-venerable-mary-glowreys-indian-legacy>

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