

Risen



Christ

Second Sunday of Lent

15 & 16 March 2025 - Year C

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: Luke 9:28-36

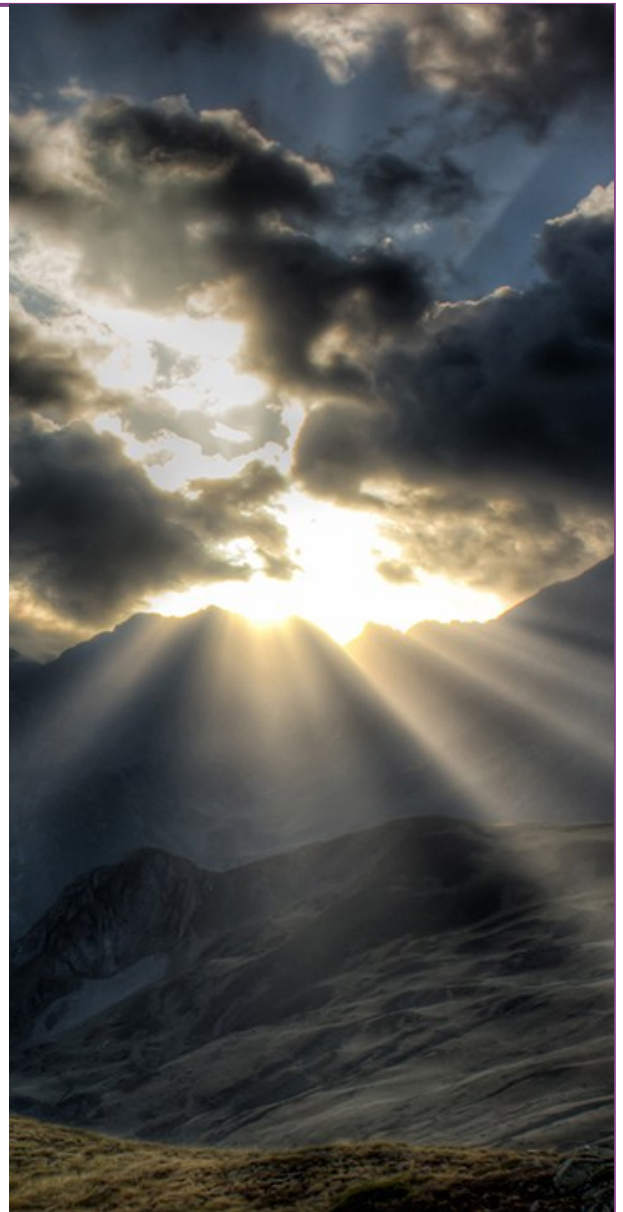
Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' - He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoke, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

Reflection - Break Open the Word 2025

Just before the story of the Transfiguration in Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus has spoken about disciples taking up their cross to follow him. Whoever wants to save their life will lose it; those who lose their life will save it. These references to Jesus' passion and death are followed by this astounding revelation of his resurrection to glory.

Like the story of Jesus' baptism, the transfiguration event is a revelation of who Jesus is. The disciples saw his glory in the brilliant shining light. The conversation with Moses and Elijah was about his passing which was to happen in Jerusalem, but the 'aspect of his face' changed... that is, he was present and manifested to them in a different way: no longer laying down his life on the cross, but now shown in his resurrection.

Peter was right. It was wonderful for them to be there. They catch a glimpse of the whole Paschal Mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. And so do we. It encourages us on our Lenten journey and spurs us on to the glory of Easter.



*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

Kerry Mash:

Volunteer

Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

New Website:

www.melbcatholic.org/risenchristparish

Facebook:

[Risen Christ Parish](#)

Risen Christ Parish Bulletin items:

RisenChrist.Parish@cam.org.au

Schools

St Francis Xavier Primary School

Principal: Philip Cachia: 9435 8474

principal@sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

www.sfxmontmorency.catholic.edu.au

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

RECONCILIATION

available half an hour before
any weekday or weekend Parish Mass.

Collections: 23 Feb & 2 Mar 2025

		OLHC	SFX
Thanksgiving	Cash Electronic	\$672.00 \$3,254.00	\$988.00 \$2,579.00
Presbytery	Cash Electronic	\$946.15 \$250.00	\$818.35 \$170.00
Thanksgiving / Stewardship Offering			
Month	OLHC	SFX	Total
December	\$9,129.67	\$10,865.50	\$19,995.17
January	\$6,878.43	\$8,984.50	\$15,862.93
February	\$8,426.67	\$8,121.50	\$16,548.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday 15

12:00pm Baptisms: Mietta, Aria,
Lottie, Lucas & August Montmorency

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

7:00pm St Francis Xavier School Trivia Night Montmorency

Sunday 16 - Second Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

12:00pm Baptisms: Sadie, Nora, Emmeline
Evelyn & Edward Eltham

Tuesday 18

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

10:00am Craft Group Montmorency

11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry Eltham

2:00pm Bethany Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 19

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the word with Communion Eltham

1:00pm Kairos Small Church Community Montmorency

Thursday 20

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 21

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 22

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 23 - Third Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Monday 24

2:00pm Mass St Vincent's Care, Eltham

Tuesday 25

9:30am Mass & SFX Prep Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency

7:00pm Jordan Small Church Community Montmorency

Wednesday 26

6:30am Meditation Montmorency

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Eltham

Thursday 27

9:30am Liturgy of the Word with Communion Montmorency

10:00am Emmaus Small Church Community Montmorency

10:30am ASRC Food Collection Montmorency

Friday 28

9:30am Mass Eltham

Saturday 29

6:00pm Mass Montmorency

Sunday 30 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:30am Mass Montmorency

10:00am Mass Eltham

Monday 31

7:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
(Communal Rite of Forgiveness) Eltham

Tuesday 1 April

9:30am Mass & SFX Yr 3 Montmorency

10:00am Rosary Montmorency



*Let us pray for all those who have gone
before us marked with the sign of faith ...*

Montmorency

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:
*Regina Roszczenko (mother of Liz Gray), Siobhan Lappin,
Cindy & Ed Morrissey, Skye Stojanov*

For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:
*Isabelle Borg, Terry Boyd, Jack Feil, John Frawley, Lawrence Gatt,
Mary Greenwood, Peter Lamers, Margaret McKinley,
Angelina Monteiro, Michael Morabito, Carol Said, Paul Andre Said,
Terry Said, Gianluca Salvitti, Ben Vincent, Claire Wood*

Eltham

For those in need of **healing**, remembering especially:
*Penny Boyce, Ruth Decker, Carmel Lloyd,
Nyretta Malone, Bernard Murray*

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

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

Roster for week ending 16 Mar 2025

Andreatta, Brenda	CLNR
Ballenger, Nima	E10:00
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Hall, Vali	ASE
Kulkens, Mark	W6:00
Lodi, Liduina	H10:00
Love, Philip	W8:30
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Maynes, Phil	W6:00
McEwen, Christine	H10:00
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Reardon, Peter	E10:00
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scully, Greg	R10:00
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Thu
Stewart Family	PRSE
Williams, Anne	PRYR
Williams, Peter	PRYR

Roster for week ending 23 Mar 2025

Bacani, Brian	W6:00
Capuana, Marisa	LoW-01 Thu
Capuana, Marisa	PRYR
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Drljo, Frank	CLNR
Dunell, Linda	ASE
Edwards, Elisabeth	E10:00
John, Audry	H10:00
John, Des	H10:00
Mallia, Anthony	C10:00
McKinley, Michael	W8:30
Ramsdale, John	W8:30
Reardon, Kathy	E10:00
Skipper, Patsy	LoW-01 Tue
Stone, Nan	CLNR
Taylor, Colin	H10:00
Taylor, Trish	H10:00
Williams, Peter	E10:00
Zavadil Family	PRSE
Zerjal, Frida	CLNR
Zylstra, Diane	R10:00

ASE = Altar Society @ Eltham;

C = Commentator;

CLKR = Powerpoint Clicker @ SFX;

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

E = Eucharistic Minister;

H = Hospitality;

LoW-01 = Liturgy of the Word with
Communion @ SFX;

PRSE = Pilgrim Rosary Statue @ Eltham;

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



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

Saturday, 15th March, 2025

St Francis Xavier, Montmorency, 12:00pm

Mietta Adamo
Aria Valerie Christou
Lottie Rose Christou
Lucas Gilmore
August Goss

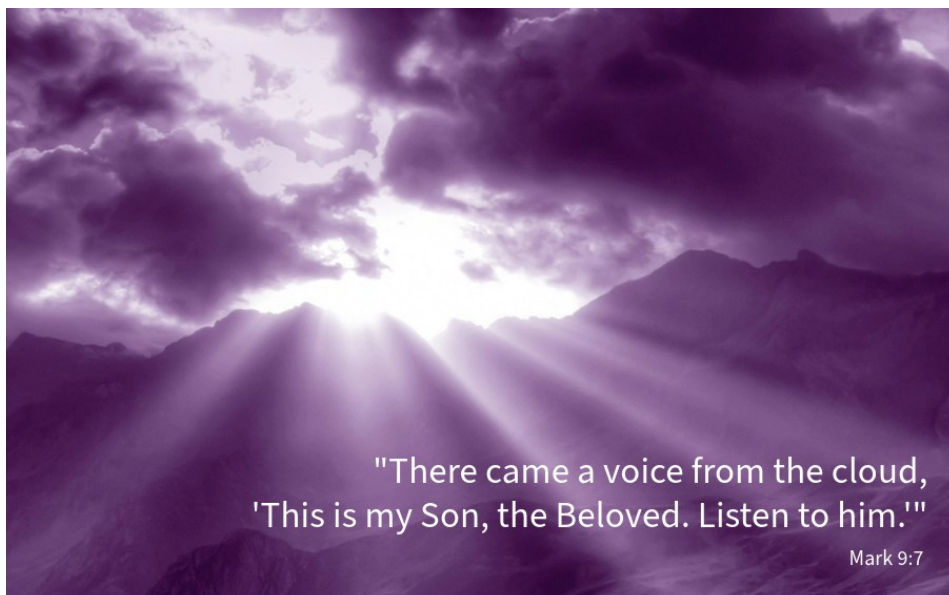
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism

Sunday, 16th March, 2025

Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, 12:00pm

Emmeline Ellis
Nora Ellis
Sadie Ellis
Evelyn Katie Malin
Edward Byron Mercer

Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism
Baptism



"There came a voice from the cloud,
'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'"

Mark 9:7



THE TEARS OF THINGS

The Way of Tears

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/the-way-of-tears/>

In his book *The Tears of Things*, Father Richard Rohr describes the path of tears as one that leads to sympathy with suffering and communion with reality.

Are we the only animal that cries and sheds tears as an emotional response? It seems so, but what function do they serve for us? Jesus says we should be happy if we can weep (Luke 6:21), but why? Tears seem to appear in situations of sadness, happiness, awe, and fear - and usually come unbidden. What is their free message to us and to those who observe them? Has humanity gotten the message yet? Whatever it is, it's surely a message too deep for words.

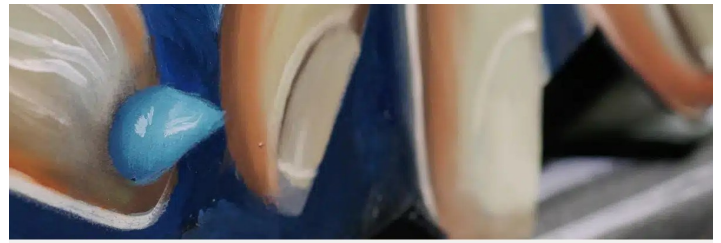
In the first book of Virgil's *Aeneid* (line 462), the hero Aeneas gazes at a mural depicting a battle of the Trojan War and the deaths of his friends and countrymen. He's so moved with sorrow at the tragedy of it all that he speaks of "the tears of things" (*lacrimae rerum*). As Seamus Heaney translates it, "There are tears at the heart of things" - at the heart of our human experience. Only tears can move both Aeneas and us beyond our deserved and paralysing anger at evil, death, and injustice without losing the deep legitimacy of that anger.

This phrase "the tears of things" has continued to be quoted and requoted in many contexts over centuries. We find it on war memorials, in poetry, in the music of Franz Liszt, and in Pope Francis' recent encyclical letter *Fratelli Tutti*. (I myself remember it because of a haggard, bent-over Latin teacher who would often enter the classroom moaning "*Lacrimae rerum*" several times before he began quizzing.)

Because the phrase has no prepositions in Latin, it allows two meanings at the same time: Virgil seems to be saying that there are both "tears *in* things" and "tears *for* things". And each of these tears leads to the other. Though translators often feel compelled to choose one or the other meaning, I believe the poet implies it is both.

There's an inherent sadness and tragedy in almost all situations: in our relationships, our mistakes, our failures large and small, and even our victories. We must develop a very real empathy for this reality, knowing that we cannot fully fix things, entirely change them, or make them to our liking. This "way of tears", and the deep vulnerability that it expresses, is opposed to our normal ways of seeking control through willpower, commandment, force, retribution, and violence. Instead, we begin in a state of empathy *with* and *for* things and people and events, which just might be the opposite of judgmentalism. It's hard to be on the attack when you are weeping.

Prophets and mystics recognise what most of us do not - that *all things have tears and all things deserve tears*. The sympathy that wells up when we weep can be life changing, too, drawing us out of ourselves and into communion with those around us.



THE TEARS OF THINGS

Lamenting All That's Lost

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/lamenting-all-thats-lost/>

Artist and organiser Stephen Pavey finds parallels between Israel during the prophet Amos' time (8th century BCE) and the United States today:

In Amos's time, the Northern Kingdom of Israel had extended its lands and increased its influence over trade routes, which brought great economic prosperity to the nation. God's vision of society - in which wealth is shared and the needs of every member of society are met - was fracturing because of rampant materialism, greed, corruption, and bribery. Like we see in the United States, the gap between the wealthy few and the masses of poor and oppressed had grown wide. While moral standards were collapsing in the public sphere, religious practices and worship of God remained very important in society ...

In chapter 5, Amos begins a lament, or cry of sorrow, against this way of life: "There will be wailing in all the streets" (5:16). In our own day, the prophet Callie Greer, who lives in Selma, Alabama, and organises with the Poor People's Campaign, tells the nation, "you must let me wail." In February 2020, she testified to her pain and oppression at a public gathering in Selma: years earlier, her daughter had died in her arms due to poverty and lack of health care. Callie cried out, "You must let me wail for the children I've lost to poverty and will never get back, wail for all the children we mothers have lost. I won't waste my pain. I hope I make you feel uncomfortable. I hope I make you feel angry. I'm wailing because my babies are no more."

Richard Rohr reflects on Jesus' blessing for those who weep:

Jesus did not intend his statement "Blessed are those who weep" (Luke 6:21) to be sentimentalised or remain unnoticed. Hard-heartedness, or what Zechariah and other prophets called "hearts of flint", prevented the people from hearing the law and the words that YHWH had sent by the Spirit. A heart of stone cannot recognise the empires it builds and the empires it worships. Lamentation does. It moves us through anger and sadness, empowering us to truly hear and respond to the always-tragic now.

The prophet Ezekiel says: "I shall give you a new heart, and put a new spirit in you; I shall remove the heart of stone from your bodies and give you a heart of flesh instead. I shall put my spirit in you ... You shall be my people and I will be your God" (Ezekiel 36:26-28). This is the organ transplant that we all long for, the interior religiosity that all spirituality seeks.

Of course, language about God having emotions is always a projection of our human emotions onto God. But if we can understand that God weeps over the human situation - as Jesus wept over Jerusalem, again over Lazarus' death, and in Gethsemane - we know it's a universal truth. God doesn't hate anything God created; God pities it in the true meaning of the word *pity*, which is to have compassion for the suffering of everything.



THE TEARS OF THINGS

Sitting with Reality

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/sitting-with-reality/>

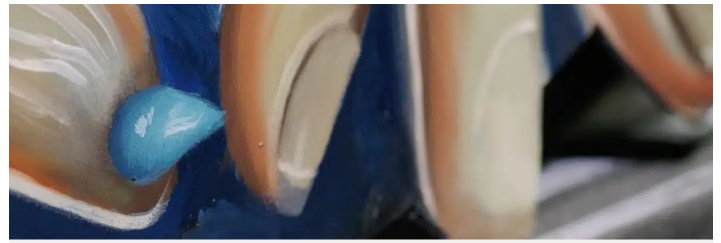
Mirabai Starr shares what she learned about the nonviolent direct actions of Jesuit peace activist Father Daniel Berrigan (1921-2016). Inspired by conversations with her friend and iconographer Father William (Bill) McNichols, she reflects:

What many of his followers may not have known was that Daniel Berrigan was inconsolable. As a champion for nonviolence, Dan did not see a lot of evidence that the culture of war would ever wane. Nevertheless, he persevered. What else can a true prophet do? “One is called to live nonviolently”, he said, “even if the change one works for seems impossible. It may or may not be possible to turn the United States around through nonviolent revolution. But one thing favours such an attempt: the total inability of violence to change anything for the better”. He also said, “Peacemaking goes nowhere and yet it must be done”.

As a young Jesuit, Fr. Bill lived in a communal house with Dan Berrigan in New York City. Sometimes, when Dan did not come down for dinner, Bill would go upstairs and knock on his door. “He’d look like he’d been assaulted”, Fr. Bill told me. It wasn’t the criticism he received that burdened him, because when Bill asked him what it was like to be continuously attacked, he answered, “I think I must be doing something right”. It was more about what Fr. Bill describes as “taking on God’s anguish for the world and walking around with it”. Fr. Bill says that in these moments, he was so deeply moved by Dan’s sorrow that all he could do was to sit quietly beside him. “It was like visiting Job”, he told me...

A prophet cannot know that all will be well, that those in power will wake up and mend the damage they have caused, and that peace will prevail. The mystic can never be certain that union with God will be the outcome of longing for God. They must rest in unknowing. Unknowing is not always comfortable. In fact, it can feel a lot like grief.

And yet that emptiness, that waiting, that liminal space is sacred. It’s what distinguishes a prophet-mystic from a self-righteous activist or a spiritual narcissist. It is in the interior desert, where the landscape appears barren, that patience reveals the miracle of life teeming just below the surface. The more we mindfully observe what is, the more beauty comes into focus. There is nothing broken here, nothing to fix. Rather, the prophet-mystic practices sitting with reality as it is. From that space of quiet listening, we may perceive what is our to do and tap into the vitality we need to do it. We take up our birthright of belonging and, in the spirit of the mystical Jewish reaching of *tikkun olam*, we mend the broken world and restore wholeness to the web of interbeing.



THE TEARS OF THINGS

Universal Sadness

<https://cac.org/daily-meditations/universal-sadness/>

As Christians begin to observe Lent, the forty days before Easter, Father Richard highlights lamentation as an essential aspect of our faith:

Only one book in the Bible is named after an emotion: the book of Lamentations. Jeremiah is said to have written it to express grief over the people’s exile from Jerusalem when they were invaded by the Babylonians in 587 BCE. But the book reads more like an expression of universal sadness over the human situation, or what is often called “the tragic sense of life”. It’s notable for an almost entire lack of anecdotes or clear examples. Elsewhere in the prophetic writings, we read references to specific rulers, kingdoms, and moments in history. Not here. This is universal sadness. It is an invitation to universal solidarity.

The Palestinian poet Mosab Abu Toha expresses the devastation of grief and the longing for peace:

I wish I could wake up and find the electricity on all day long.; I wish I could hear the birds sing again, no shooting and no buzzing drones. I wish my desk would call me to hold my pen and write again, or at least plow through a novel, revisit a poem, or read a play. All around me are nothing but silent walls and people sobbing without sound.

Richard continues:

The prophets, and Jeremiah in particular, invite us into a divine sadness about reality itself, more than outrage at this or that event. The language then changes from anger at “sin” to pity over suffering and woundedness, yet still holds out for relief: “I will restore you to health and I will heal your wounds, says YHWH” (Jer 30:17). Felt reality is invariably wept reality, and wept reality is soon compassion and kindness. Decisive and harsh judgments slip away in the tracks of tears.

As an example of this “slipping away”, my mind recalls the Roman church’s change in its official stance toward suicide, shifting from an emphasis on punishment to empathy for the person and family. I also think of Alcoholics Anonymous’ recognition that addiction isn’t a malicious moral failing but “a sickness to be cured”. Anger can’t make such switches. Tears can.

Has God changed, or have we just grown up enough to hear a grown-up God? Old Scripture passages of mercy and pity that once seemed sentimental or impossible begin to finally make sense - and we suddenly notice their frequency, although they were always there. “You had left in tears, but I brought you back. I guided you to springs of water by a smooth path” (Jer 31:9, Jerusalem Bible). This process of transformation by way of tears is largely hidden and unconscious, characteristic of the work of the Spirit.

My belief is that tears, although they look like a mere emotive reaction, are much more: a deeply free action that many do not enjoy. They proceed from deep inside, where we are most truly ourselves. Tears reveal the depths at which & from which we care.

Parish Pastoral Leadership Team - Member Profile

Introducing: Rodrigo Castellanos

Sentence about yourself, family and which Mass you attend:

My name is Rodrigo, I was born in Mexico and married to a Polish-Australian (Irena), therefore our kid (19 year old daughter, Kami) is a MexPolAussie. I attend the 10am Mass at OLHC.

Why did you join the Parish Leadership Team and what do you hope to achieve?

I am a member of the Secular Franciscan Order and we have a commitment to support our local parishes in any capacity they require. I hope to be able to contribute in supporting the growth of the extraordinary energy and people that already belong to our parish.

What do you do with yourself?

I am a martial artist (Aikido) and also work for a not for profit organisation that delivers life skills (resilience, emotional regulation and respectful relationships) in Victorian schools.

What's one thing you think would surprise people about yourself?

I am Mexican but do not eat avocado.

What is one thing on your bucket list that people might be surprised to learn?

I don't know if this counts, but once upon a time I wanted to be a member of the Pontifical Swiss Guard, until I learned you had to be Swiss (duh!).



Prayers of the Faithful for 15 & 16 March 2025 - Second Sunday of Lent

Leader: Jesus was sent to save the world. As we prepare for the Easter celebrations, let us ask God to grant us all a new birth in the Spirit, as we pray.

For the Church: that we may listen with both minds and hearts to God's beloved Son and be transformed by His words.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For a spirit of gratitude: that we may look beyond our daily routines and, like Abraham, see God's blessings, that are as numerous as the stars of the sky.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all catechumens and candidates, in particular: Boh, Graham, Melanie and Peyman as they prepare themselves for reception into the Church this Easter. May we grow with them in the life Christ has shared with us.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are on a journey, whether physical or spiritual: that they may know God's presence each step along the way and rely upon God's light and truth to guide their steps.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For peace: that God will bring an end to the violence in Ukraine, protect the innocent from harm, open channels for food and medicine, and help peace negotiations to begin.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lor, embrace and support all who are experiencing illness, especially those in our parish communities. We ask that you bring them your healing, comfort and peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur at this time, including Isabelle Borg, Terry Boyd, Jack Feil, John Frawley, Laurence Gatt, Mary Greenwood, Frank Hermans, Peter Lamers, Margaret McKinley, Angelina Monteiro, Michael Morabito, Carol Said, Paul Andre Said, Terry Said, Gianluca Salvitti, Ben Vincent and Claire Wood. May they be cradled in our Lord's loving embrace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, may your love reach out and touch all those in need of your mercy. We offer these prayers to you through Jesus our Lord.

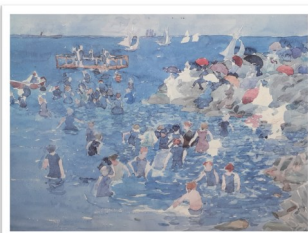
All: Amen

Invitation to MASSG Twilight Bargain Art Sale

When: Art sale starts 6:30pm on Monday, 31st March, 2025

Where: War Memorial Hall, Main Road, Eltham

Montmorency Asylum Seekers Support Group invites you to an inspiring evening of conversation and fundraising.



- Learn about the work MASSG does supporting people seeking asylum.
- Join a special conversation with Mahdi who will tell us about his journey as he sought asylum in Australia.
- Find the perfect artwork at the Twilight Bargain Art Sale. Unique art for sale at bargain prices
Framed and unframed original works, prints and posters

MASSG
Montmorency
Asylum Seekers
Support Group



massginfo@gmail.com

Please note: All profits go to people seeking asylum. Cash or EFT please. No cards.

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL

Year 9 – 25 years plus leaders

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@f/ACYF25




Bulletin Book Review: PATRIOT

Alexei Navalny is a name we should remember with reverence, the way we do for Martin Luther King.

Like King, he lay down his life for his country and his people. He died last year, 2024, in a Siberian prison. He was forty-seven years of age, leaving behind a strong and loving wife and children whom he adored.

I finished reading *Patriot* this week; the book he wrote whilst incarcerated in Russian prisons. It reveals a brave and committed fighter for his people and for truth. You may recall in 2020 Putin had him poisoned with a chemical nerve agent as he was waiting to board a plane to Germany. He recovered in a Berlin hospital after many months of treatment and immediately returned to Russia to expose Putin's party as *crooks and thieves*. Interestingly, much of his early days were spent in Ukraine where his grandmother pointed out Putin's corruption and lies. He finished a law degree at Moscow University and embarked on a journey of political activism. He spent years in Russian prisons and relied on the *Sermon on the Mount* to give him strength: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice for they will be satisfied*. I cannot help but believe he is an inspiration for the courage and fight for justice we see in President Zelenskyy. There is no doubt Zelenskyy would be familiar with Navalny's story and probably with Alexei himself.

"Patriot" is available to borrow from *The Top Shelf*.



Lent & Easter

The Montmorency conference of SVDP has some booklets that may be of interest to parishioners that may assist them in their preparations for Lent and Easter season. Pamphlets are in the front foyer near the entrance doors. Some of the pamphlets include: Stations of the Cross for Married Couples; Family Meal Prayers for Lent; Calvary - a Lenten Rosary Reflection; Lenten Family Graces - A Treasury of Prayers for Lenten Meals

We hope that you enjoy the selection. A gold coin donation in the poor boxes located at the front and side entrances will help defray costs.



Second Sunday of Lent 15th and 16th of March 2025

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) is a 13-year-old primary school student from Samoa. Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result.

Toefuata'iga's school community struggled without reliable access to clean water, which impacted students' education and hygiene. Teachers often had to leave the school to fetch water from nearby homes, disrupting lessons and adding strain to the community. When the water ran out at the school, students were sent home which meant they missed out on valuable learning time.

Thanks to the support of Caritas Australia in partnership with Caritas Samoa, Toefuata'iga's school now has a 10,000 L water tank through a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) program. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.

"Now that we have the water tank, things are so much better, we can stay at school all day, and I get to spend more time learning and playing with my friends. I'm happy that we don't have to go home early anymore." – said Toefuata'iga.

This transformative story is just one example of how Caritas Australia's Project Compassion creates waves of change around the world. Will you stand with students like Toefuata'iga this Lent?



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above.

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.



St Vincent de Paul Society
good works

ON 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ELECTION AS POPE, FRANCIS ON ROAD TO RECOVERY



Pope Francis' latest X-rays confirm that his condition is improving while hospitalised for a lung infection and double pneumonia, the Vatican said overnight. Source: *NCR Online*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/13/on-12th-anniversary-of-his-election-as-pope-francis-on-road-to-recovery/>

BISHOP ANNOUNCES DIOCESAN SYNOD FOR CAIRNS



Cairns Bishop Joe Caddy wants to hear from people across the Cairns community as he announces a diocesan Synod to begin later this year.

Source: *The Catholic Leader*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/13/bishop-announces-diocesan-synod-for-cairns/>

MAN LEAVES ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL WITH ARTIFICIAL HEART IN WORLD FIRST



An Australian patient has become the first in the world to leave hospital with a levitating titanium heart, in a major step towards halving deaths from cardiac failure and establishing a world-leading medical manufacturing industry on Australian soil.

Source: *SMH*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/13/man-leaves-st-vincent-hospital-with-artificial-heart-in-world-first/>

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION SAYS GOVERNMENTS SHIRKING "MEANINGFUL ACTION" TO CLOSE THE GAP



The Productivity Commission says governments are shirking "meaningful action" to close the gap, as new data reveals soaring rates of Indigenous imprisonment and ongoing failures to reduce rates of suicides and children in out-of-home care.

Source: *ABC News*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/13/productivity-commission-says-governments-shirking-meaningful-action-to-close-the-gap/>

MATER MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT WARNS OF 'CYCLONE ANXIETY'



A Mater youth mental health expert has warned that Tropical Cyclone Alfred may leave cases of 'cyclone anxiety' in its wake.

Source: *Catholic Health Australia*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/13/mater-mental-health-expert-warns-of-cyclone-anxiety/>

CONFERENCE TOLD DEACONS 'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'



There was a strong spirit of camaraderie at the 2025 National Deacons Conference, held at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre in

Hahndorf, South Australia, writes Deacon Tim Grauel. Source: *The Southern Cross*.

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/13/conference-told-deacons-pilgrims-of-hope/>



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Hope in the wilderness

True hope is not surface optimism, a 'look-on-the-bright-side' attitude that refuses to look real suffering in the face. As we embark on the journey of Lent, we are reminded that a hope forged in the wilderness - in the hardest and most testing of circumstances - can truly sustain us in our lives and mission.



On Sunday, almost 350 people claimed just this kind of deep, sustaining hope for themselves as they took the next step in their journey of Christian initiation at the Rite of Election at St Patrick's Cathedral. We hear some of their inspiring stories.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/finding-a-home-in-the-mother-church-rite-of-election-2025>



Leaders and professionals from a range of Catholic agencies and organisations came together on Thursday to hear three inspirational women leaders discuss what it means to lead with hope in uncertain times.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-wind-in-your-sail-women-leaders-on-nurturing-hope-in-uncertain-times>



And to mark the Jubilee of the World of Volunteering, which took place over the weekend, we hear from one volunteer teacher about her time in Timor Leste, where she gained far more than she could give and learnt about the power of simply being present to people in all the challenging and joyful circumstances of their lives.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/lessons-beyond-the-classroom-a-volunteers-experience-in-timor-leste>



Mothers seek to restore families through the power of prayer...

An international movement of mothers centred on Marian devotion and united in a mission to intercede for their families is quietly growing in Australia. Dedicated to the restoration of families, through the transformative power of prayer, Mothers Who Pray for Their Children is guiding mothers to grow spiritually and embrace their vocation as intercessors.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/mothers-and-the-restoration-of-families-by-the-power-of-prayer>

<https://www.motherswhoprayfortheirchildren.com/>



Pope prays for wounded families, says forgiveness renews hope, healing...

The best medicine to heal the pain of a wounded family is forgiveness, Pope Francis said. 'Forgiveness always renews the family, making it look forward with hope,' the Pope said in a video message to present his prayer intention for the month of March, 'For families in crisis'. In the video, which was recorded weeks before his hospitalisation on 14 February and released on 4 March, the Pope reminds us that 'Forgiveness means giving another chance. God does this with us all the time. God's patience is infinite. He forgives us, lifts us up, gives us a new start.'

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-prays-for-wounded-families-says-forgiveness-renews-hope-healing>

<https://melbournecatholic.org/events>

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