Risen Christ

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

7 & 8 November 2026

The Catholic Communities of
Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham & St Francis Xavier, Montmorency

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation who are the traditional custodians of this land and pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Reflection: Break Open the Word 2026

In this parable, Jesus encourages his disciples to hold themselves ready, to be prepared for whatever comes. Again, the imagery of the wedding banquet speaks of the joy of God's kingdom; but this is a fable. It does not correspond to any wedding arrangement we know about. Where is the bride? Who are all these bridesmaids? Why is the groom suddenly arriving at midnight? We do not know; we simply take it at face value.

It is also a mistake to psychologise the narrative, thinking perhaps that the wise maidens are smug or selfish. Part of the message seems to be that readiness to accept salvation is a personal responsibility. We can help each other along the way, but we cannot do it for another.

The parable encourages us to look ahead in the way we live our lives. If we are short-sighted or living only in the present, we will be caught short ... and find ourselves on the outer.



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

Parish Priest

Michael F. Sierakowski - **Moderator**
michael.sierakowski@cam.org.au

Parish Office *- all correspondence to:*
Risen Christ Parish Office
86 Mayona Road, Montmorency Vic 3094
(03) 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 Hours
Kerry Mash - Wed & Fri 10am-3pm

website: www.melbcatholic.org/risenchristparish

Please send bulletin items to: 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: 25 Oct & 1 Nov 2026		
Thanksgiving	Cash Electronic	$1,488.00 $7,081.00
Presbytery	Cash Electronic	$1,372.30 $335.00
November Masses	Cash	$1,280.00

Thanksgiving Offering	
Month	**Total**
August	$21,312.57
September	$19,589.17
October	$20,510.17

Risen Christ Parish Calendar of Events

Saturday	**7th**	
6:00pm	*Mass*	*Montmorency*
Sunday	**8th**	
8:30am	*Mass*	*Montmorency*
10:00am	*Mass*	*Eltham*
Monday	**9th**	
9:00am	Days for Girls	Montmorency
7:00pm	RCIA Class	Eltham
Tuesday	**10th**	
9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion	Montmorency
10:00am	Rosary	Montmorency
7:00pm	Jordan Small Church Community	Montmorency
Wednesday	**11th - Remembrance Day**	
6:30am	Meditation	Montmorency
9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion	Eltham
10:00am	Small Church Community Annual Liturgy of the Word with Communion & Lunch	Montmorency
Thursday	**12th**	
9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion	Montmorency
10:30am	Emmaus Small Church Community	Montmorency
10:30am	ASRC Food Collection	Montmorency
2:15pm	Meditation	Eltham
Friday	**13th**	
9:30am	Liturgy of the Word with Communion	Eltham
10:45am	Funeral: Paul Buchan	Montmorency

Thanksgiving

Dear Parishioners,

Following is a list of ways in which you can give towards the running of our Parish:

- A) EFTPOS terminals
- B) scan the QR code (https://bit.ly/45ifhRp) and 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, Beth Scott, Audrey Tunks, Nicholas Turnbull, Jeanne Vanderwert, Noel Vincent

For those who have **died** recently:

Paul Buchan, Xavier Callaghan, Fr Brendan Lane

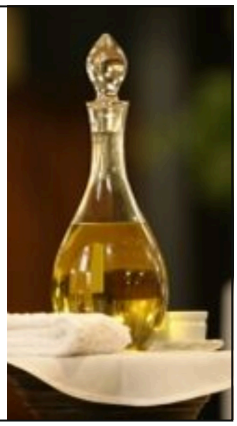
For those whose **anniversaries** are at this time:

Andrew Pighin (son of Connie Spena) ~ 1 month anniversary
Andrew John Azzopardi (15th anniversary), *Peter Baker, Matthew Bibby* (30th anniversary), *Aaron Carter, Desmond Deehan, Julian Keogh, Melinda Layne, Ian McCabe, Russell Mee, Maria Morabito*

To include an anniversary, please contact the Parish Office on 9435 4742 or risenchrist.parish@cam.org.au



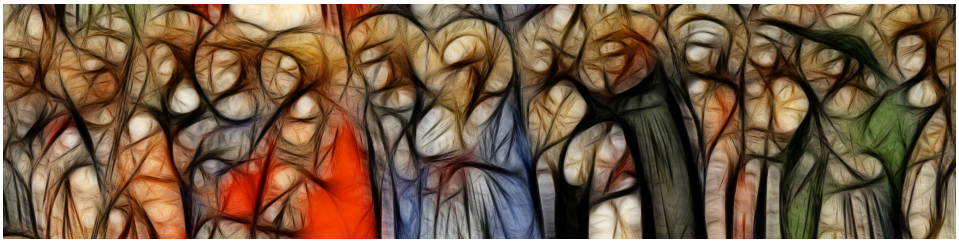
Dear Parishioners,
for all November Masses,
weekday & weekend,
the Sacrament of Anointing
will be offered to everyone
at the conclusion of our
Parish Celebrations
of the Eucharist.



November Remembrances ...

Aaron Carter; Bobbie Jean Carter; Ginger Lee Carter; Leslie Carter; Robert Carter; Ryszard, Teresa & Zbigniew Cichaki; Anthony & Elizabeth Corera; Merrita Kellar; Patrick Kellar; Aggie Mitchell; Genni Newman; Mr A Pedroni; Mrs MA Pedroni; Power Family members; Mr TW Renny; Mrs HJ Renny-Peters; Maria, Janina & Vladyslaw Rygala; Mr JH Sheridan; Mrs JM Sheridan; Mr P Sheridan; Mr RH Sheridan; Mrs FM Simpson; Frank & Marietza Toohey; Toohey Family members; Shane Williams; Janina Wrzeszcz





Roster for week ending 8 Nov 2026	
Beckford, Peter	PRYR
Cotter, Anne	W8:30
Donnellan, Denice	E10:00
Furtado, Lorraine	C10:00
Goodison, Pauline	CLNR
Haines, Geoff	E10:00
Haines, Jan-Marie	E10:00
Hannon, Genn	ASRC
Hannon, Kevin	ASRC
Love, Philip	W8:30
Maloney, Jo	W6:00
McCarthy, Bernie	W6:00
Reardon, Kathy	ASE H10:00
Reardon, Peter	H10:00
Roy, Yvonne	CLNR E10:00
Ryan Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	H10:00 R10:00
Scully, Helen	H10:00
Smith, Neil	E10:00
Wood, Marie	CLNR

Roster for week ending 15 Nov 2026	
Armstrong, Miranda	E10:00 R10:00
Britton, Jayne	H10:00
Britton, Michael	H10:00
Capuana, Marisa	CLNR
Castellanos, Rodrigo	E10:00
Davidson, John	PRYR W8:30
Dunell, Linda	E10:00
French, Jossie	W8:30
Hall, Vali	ASE
Heyhoe, Margaret	C10:00
Mallia, Anthony	E10:00
Maloney, Nigel	W6:00
McKenna, John	CLNR
Said, Marie	ASRC
Said, Mike	ASRC
Scannell Family	PRSE
Scully, Greg	E10:00
Stone, Nan	W6:00
Volunteer please	H10:00
Volunteer please	H10:00

ASE=Altar Society, Eltham;
C=Commentator; CLNR=Cleaner;
R=Reader;
E=Eucharistic Minister; H=Hospitality;
PRSE=Pilgrim Rosary Statue, Eltham;
W=Minister of the Word

Christmas Hampers and Gift Certificates

If you would like to arrange a gift certificate for any of the Christmas items (right) just let us know. An example of the Gift Certificate is below.

How to Purchase a Christmas Hamper or Gift Certificate

If you wish to purchase either a Gift Certificate of any of the Christmas Items for the 'Bundles of Joy' please use the bank details below:

Kadasig Aid and Development
BSB: 083 276; A/c #: 822 436 380
Please ensure to include your name and the item you wish to donate in the reference details.



Livelihood Centre

The construction of the Livelihood Centre in the Bolocboloc community has taken some time to get started, there were many challenges along the way, the weather and availability of construction products, but thankfully the way is clear at present for this to commence.

This project has been funded by the Lamers Foundation who wish to make a difference in the lives of Filipino families for which we are extremely grateful.

The Centre will allow all livelihood activities to be centred/stored in one place instead of in a range of places. Livelihood products and records being in the one place as well as selling from the centre will make life much easier for all involved in the project.





Sponsorship

As we have mentioned before, there are many ways you can sponsor through Kadasig.

There are so many ways you can get involved.
We have three different ways to sponsor the community in Cebu.
A Medical Sponsorship, a Centre Sponsorship, and an Educational Sponsorship. Each type of Sponsorship will cost **$280 (AUD) per annum** (Tax Deductible).

If you have any queries regarding our sponsorship program or would like more information, please contact *Fay Sinclair* (Sponsorship Coordinator)
faysinclair@gmail.com
0425 723 992

Social Outreach Visit to the Philippines in 2027

Are you interested in a social outreach visit to the Philippines, possible dates in February/March 2027?

Trips have been taking place almost annually since 2009 and has included two groups of students. This trip gives travellers an opportunity to learn and experience life in a developing country. The trip would be for approximately 10 days spending time on the island of Cebu, Philippines and staying at the Seda Ayala Hotel. You would be visiting and sharing time in a range of places and situations such as:

- In Cebu City, Inayawan rubbish dump and the families living there;
- Parian Street Children Program where children found in a range of situations are cared for and families/relatives are followed up;
- Balay Pagtabok a place for boys, some in conflict with the law, run by a Dr/Brother who studied in Australia;
- Time in the Province of Barili, south of Cebu City, allows visits to Kadasig programs including:
  - Friendship Schools, sponsor children/families;
  - Livelihood programs, income generating programs and the beautiful falls;
- Annie, our wonderful volunteer nurse, along with our colleagues, will be with the travellers to always share their knowledge and experiences at all times, so the group can learn and embrace the many experiences offered.

Accommodation in Barili will be at Bellisimo Hotel. The trip allows visitors to experience and understand life in the Philippines in a range of grass roots areas.

If you are interested and wish for further information, please don't hesitate to contact:
Glenys Gayfer, papel-imports@bigpond.com, 0411 196 395

Days for Girls

How wonderful this program is for girls and women! For those who do not know, the Days for Girls Kits provide reusable menstrual kits. The sewing of the shields and pads require good sewing skills plus there are those who do ironing, folding, make the bags and put the kits together, in all, an extremely helpful gift to assist all females.

Our group meets early each month in the parish of Risen Christ, Eltham & Montmorency, and what a productive group it is. All attending, sharing their passion to assist girls and women to maintain their dignity and be able to go to school and work.

Recently a balikbayan box has been sent to Fr Shay Cullen of PREDA Foundation, Olongapo, which will go to the indigenous Aeta people, and our Kadasig families will be delighted to receive more supplies. Women and girls to date have found them immensely helpful.



Kadasig Fundraising Dinner October 2026



Everyone enjoyed good conversation and great food at the dinner!

What a night! Forty-four of our committee members, family, friends, and fantastic supporters of Kadasig enjoyed the evening at Maney's Dumpling restaurant in Bundoora. Thank you to everyone who attended, as well as a big thank you to Rachel from Maney's Dumpling and the wonderful staff who made the evening so enjoyable.

We were fortunate to have wonderful photos by award winning photographer, Joan Muller, donated for sale. They sure were a hit! Thank you so much Joan for your donation of your wonderful photos.

The food was delicious, the restaurant was buzzing, and a very pleasant evening was had by all. More importantly we raised some well needed funds for medical supplies in addition to supporting our wonderful volunteer Nurse Annie Anthony.

We raised a massive $1,950.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed in one way or another to this fantastic result.

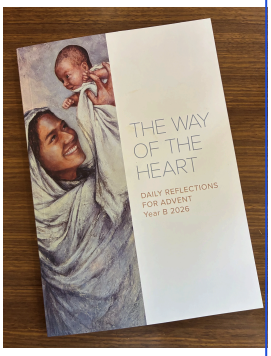
Subscribe to Kadasig Newsletters:
https://kadasigaid.com.au/newsletter/

Thank you Penola College!

Again, the Year 8 students at Penola College have raised funds for Kadasig. It was a privilege to join the assembly, where a donation of **$1,913.08** was given to Kadasig. This money will be used to redirect leaking water to a community in the mountain in the Barangay of Luyo by piping it up and providing a pump. Collecting water can often be a challenge and many times it is the job of the children to fetch water. Sincere thanks to the students for being so caring. You do make a difference!

Advent Journey
A journey of preparation and hope

As Advent draws close, we welcome you to join a small group to reflect, discuss, and pray as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.



Together, we will explore the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love through Scripture and shared reflection.

Whether Advent is a familiar season for you or a new journey, these gatherings offer a space to slow down, connect with others and deepen your faith.

Again, this year, we have a wonderful Advent Resource, The Way of the Heart to help us reorientate and open our hearts to the treasure already given to us.

The Resource Booklets will be available in both churches from 22 November.

Come as you are. All are welcome.

If you are interested in journeying in a smaller group, you are welcome to contact our Risen Christ Parish Liturgy Coordinator, *Marg Heyhoe* 0403 532 383

Small Church Community

This year St Francis Xavier Small Church Communities celebrate 31 years of gathering, praying and listening to God's words in Scripture.

Reflecting together we listen for the message and meaning for our lives in the words of Jesus in the Gospel in the presence of the Spirit alive in each of us and in our gathering.

Only in the Scriptures are we able to find hope and promise for healing of our broken world and fractured lives.

In the Readings of last weekend we heard in the Beatitudes, the new law set before us as we strive to become like the disciples on the road to Emmaus. ***Do our hearts burn within us as we listen to His voice along the way?*** We hear the voice of Jesus better when we listen together!

There will be a gathering of *Liturgy of the Word with Communion* and a shared light lunch in the Parish House, Montmorency, on **Wednesday 11th of November at 10.30 am.**

You are most welcome to come along and join us.

Enquiries: Patsy Ph: 0429 439 675
Anne Cotter Ph: 0409 861 487

OLHC Meditation Group

Come along and join us on Thursdays at OLHC, Eltham at 2:15pm for Meditation.

Further information please call Trish on:
0402 914 817



IRELAND / Endorsement of Synodal Pathway 'historic and prophetic'

Priests' group praises bishops

Sarah Mac Donald

ALAMY/PA, LIAM McBURNEY



Archbishop Martin: 'Some recommendations need greater planning'

The Association of Catholic Priests has commended the Irish bishops for their "historic, prophetic and pragmatic endorsement" of the Irish Synodal Pathway which saw 300 delegates attend a National Assembly in Gormanston, Co Meath from across the island of Ireland.

Following the conclusion of the assembly, the priests' association assured the bishops of its support and solidarity in the years ahead "to sustain and embed the Synodal Pathway in the Irish Catholic Church".

The association said its members were greatly encouraged by the bishops' decision "to bring propsals concerning parish and diocesan life back to their local communities, examine existing initiatives and identify where improvements or new approaches are needed".

They were also heartened by "the call for more shared leadership and responsibility, and greater recognition of women's contributions, vocations and ministries within the Church" and "the desire for stronger engagement with young people".

The assembly's delegates voted on 35 proposals. Among the mostly highly recommended was the proposal that healing and reconciliation in the wake of abuse scandals should be a priority for the Irish Church's future renewal.

According to Una Allen, convenor of the working group on healing of the Irish Synodal Pathway, "healing needs to be front and centre" and "benfit all those who have been excluded, abused, wounded and hurt".

The proposal that gained the strongest support among bishops, people and priests, 69 per cent, was that which called for a review of catechetical provision and sacramental preparation.

A number of proposals in relation to women in the Church received mixed support. Forty-two per cent of delegates highly recommended that there should be ongoing exploration of women's ministry in the Church including the diaconate; 12 per cent recommended this; but 27 per cent did not recommend it.

The Irish bishops met last week in Maynooth to reflect on the assembly's outcomes, the culmination of a five-year journey since 2021 to engage and sound out the Irish faithful on a future path for renewal. The leader of the Irish Church, Archbishop Eamon Martin, said that while some of the recommendations could be activated quickly, others would require greater planning.

Children's Liturgy

Like the wise bridesmaids waiting for the groom to arrive, how can we be alert and ready to meet Jesus among us?

Draw a picture of yourself doing something that helps you to be ready!





Prayers of the Faithful for 8th November 2026 - 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leader: "Stay awake!" With the audacity of those who pray with great faith, we turn to Christ and pray for all troubled peoples in our world.

For the Church: we pray the Holy Church will lead us in seeking wisdom. Give us the courage to listen and discern wisdom and to be a reflection of her light in the world.
Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For our parish community: we give thanks for our brothers and sisters in Risen Christ parish, for the good works they do in the community, in schools, homes, families and workplaces, here and throughout the world.
Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the faithful: Lord Jesus, our souls thirst for you. Give us the grace to desire and love you more and more. Let us never lose you from our sight. We pray we will be active in our lives and calm in our hearts.
Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the world: we pray for all those suffering in the face of natural catastrophes, those in want and for those who are persecuted for their beliefs. We pray especially for those exposed to danger, harassment, abuse or discrimination for their faith in Christ as our Redeemer.
Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the sick: we pray for all those who are in ill-health, especially those named in our bulletin. We ask your blessing on those who care for them. We pray too for the isolated, the lonely and those estranged from loved ones. Reconcile them to yourself and to one another.
Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

We remember those who have died recently, especially *Paul Buchan*, *Xavier Callaghan & Fr Brendan Lane*, and those whose anniversaries fall at this time, including *Andrew Azzopardi*, *Peter Baker*, *Matthew Bibby*, *Aaron Carter*, *Desmond Deehan*, *Julian Keogh*, *Melinda Layne*, *Ian McCabe*, *Russell Mee*, *Maria Morabito & Andrew Pighin*. Grant that your perpetual light will shine upon them.
Let us pray to the Lord. ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Leader: Lord Jesus, you who have taught us to pray, please listen to our prayers, and deign to grant them, for you live and reign for ever and ever.
All: ***Amen***

Melbourne Synod 2026

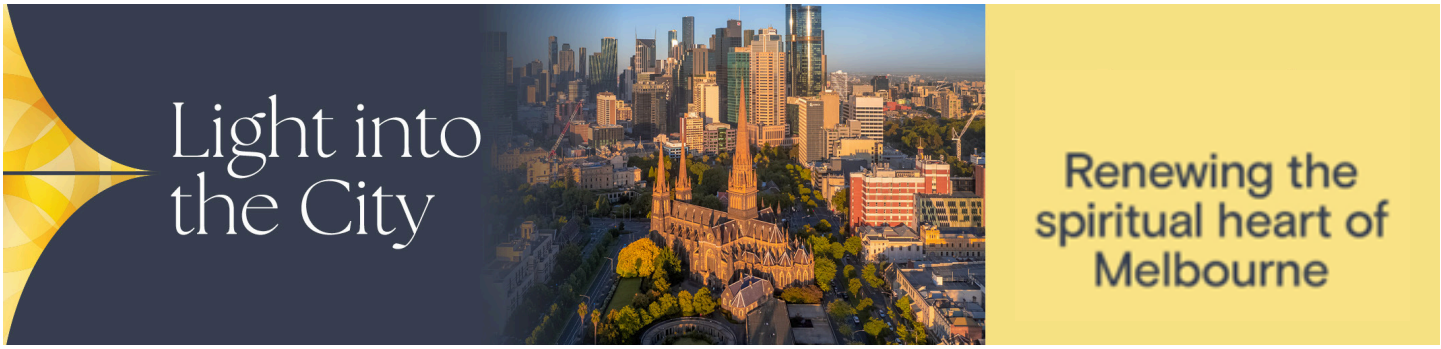
What is the link between Vatican II and Synodality?

3. Local Churches and Participation

Vatican II encouraged stronger local churches, episcopal conferences, and shared pastoral responsibility. It recognised diversity as a gift and insisted that the universal Church comes to life in local communities.

Synodal link:

- Synodality fosters co-responsibility at diocesan, parish, and regional levels.
- It strengthens the capacity of local churches to discern and respond to their context.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

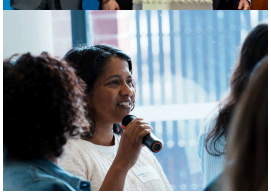
Melbourne Catholic Digest

Communities coming together

More fully what God calls us to be







Communities are stronger when they come together. As we support each other in practical ways, joyfully celebrate shared stories and values, and discern together the way forward, we form bonds of faith, friendship and trust.

On Saturday, one of our local communities gathered with its neighbours to mark All Hallows' Eve, reimagining the popular annual event by swapping creepy Halloween costumes and trick-or-treating for a fun-filled, family-friendly celebration of the saints.
https://melbournecatholic.org/news/why-hallow-there

In 1956, a few local Catholic families had the inspired idea of banding together to support each other financially as they sought to provide their children with a Catholic education. Today, the fruit of that idea is the Catholic Development Fund, which last week celebrated 70 years of this 'deeply Christian' endeavour with a Thanksgiving Mass and cocktail reception.
https://melbournecatholic.org/news/seventy-years-of-shared-faith-celebrating-cdf

And over the weekend, members of the upcoming Melbourne Synod participated in two formation sessions. Cathy Jenkins reflects on how these preparations are helping to form members as a discerning, synodal community. She observes that 'It is through listening to one another, valuing each person's gifts and seeking together the promptings of the Spirit that the Church becomes more fully what God calls her to be.'
https://melbournecatholic.org/news/members-gather-for-formation-as-melbourne-synod-approaches

https://melbournecatholic.org/news

St Vincent de Paul Society VICTORIA *good works*

CASH CASH CASH

Yes, as they say, 'cash is king'.

From this weekend until all sold, our St Vincent de Paul members at Montmorency will be selling packs of Christmas Cards, handmade Christmas decorations & Christmas tree ornaments for very reasonable prices (mostly $5 or some at $10) before & after Masses at Montmorency.

So, **bring along your cash** as we have no credit card machine.

Many thanks to Lorraine Gioules for once again making such high quality items for sale to benefit those in need in our local community.



Save the Date!

On Sunday 6 December we will be holding an Advent coffee catch up at SFX Monty after the 8:30am Mass. We would love for as many Parishioners as possible to hang around and enjoy meeting others in our wonderful community.
We are in need of one more coffee machine to borrow on the day and the owner willing to make coffees. (Under the supervision of Lenny!)
We are also planning on providing Christmas treats for all to enjoy. We would appreciate any offers to bring a plate of your favourite Christmas treat to share. For catering purposes, please let us know if you plan to contribute.

Any questions please contact:
Robyn 0409 254 611
Paul 0421 818 061
Kathleen 0417 617 044



Transport to Mass

There are many parishioners who are in need of transport to be able to attend Mass. If you are able to **offer assistance**, please contact:
Paul 0421 818 061



If you are **in need** of transport to be able to attend Mass, please contact Paul (0421 818 061) or call the Parish Office (9435 4742) so we can put you in touch with those who are able to assist!