



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

1st Sunday in Lent 22 February 2026

Readings for Year A Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11

"The temptation in the wilderness"

After Jesus' baptism by John, Jesus is reported to have gone to the desert to fast and pray for 40 days. While in the desert, Jesus is tempted by the devil.

Matthew and Luke give more detail than Mark does, but each one tells how the devil tempts Jesus in the desert. The devil presents three temptations to Jesus and tempts Jesus to use his power to appease his hunger; he tempts Jesus to put God's promise of protection to the test; and he offers Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world if Jesus will worship the devil. In each case, Jesus resists the temptation, rebuking the devil with words from Scripture.

The account of Jesus' temptation in the desert is filled with allusions and parallels to the Old Testament, including the story of the people of Israel. The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the desert in Exodus, and Jesus spends 40 days in the desert. As the Israelites were tempted during the Exodus, so too is Jesus tempted.

Each temptation offers insight into both God and the human condition. Jesus' rejection of the temptations shows that he will not put God to the test. Grounding himself on the word and authority of Scripture, Jesus rebukes the devil, confident in God's protection and faithfulness.

As we start our journey through Lent, our Sunday readings call us to adopt the same confidence that Jesus had in the face of temptation: God's word alone will suffice; God's promise of protection can be trusted; God alone is God.

Loyola Press



m.stmaryofthecross.com



[m.stmaryofthecross.com/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/m.stmaryofthecross.com)



[catholicmassstmaryofthecross](https://www.youtube.com/catholicmassstmaryofthecross)



The Season of Lent at St Mary of the Cross Parish

Masses this weekend

Just a reminder that the Prep/Foundation Mass is this **Sunday 22 February at 10.30am** in the St Louis' School Hall. Mass will be followed by a cuppa. All parishioners are welcome to join and welcome our school families. Fr Michael will celebrate this Mass.

Our St Louis' **Sunday Mass at 9.30am** will be celebrated by Fr Kevin Burke, welcome Fr Kevin. Our St Brigid's **Sunday Mass at 11am** will be celebrated by Fr Ignatius Tan. A warm welcome to our dear friend Fr Ignatius. Our 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass at St Louis' and 8am St Brigid's are as per the normal schedule.

Lenten Small Groups

It's not too late to join a small group. Most are full and due to continued interest, we're offering **two additional** online options on **Wednesday or Friday evenings**.

We warmly invite you to join us by signing up at the Welcome Desk today, or call Anne on 0417 033 399.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

We have 2 options for Stations of the Cross during Lent. **Monday Evenings at St Louis at 7.30pm** starting on 23 February until 30 March. **Friday mornings at St Brigid's at 10.30am** starting on 20 February until 27 March. This will be followed by the Holy Rosary at 11am and mass at 11.30am.

Can you spare 10 seconds a day? A Challenge for Lent

10 seconds, 14 words, every day during Lent.

There are 86400 seconds in a day.

Could we spend 10 of them asking God these 14 words of the ACORN Prayer?

'Lord, today, is there someone You want me to connect with, outside the church?'

We can then listen, love them and find out what God is doing in their life.

Our small steps could have a big impact.

Will you join in during Lent? Let's see what God can do.

'It is so simple and yet so exciting; God is putting us in the path of those who are calling out to Him'

How to do the challenge

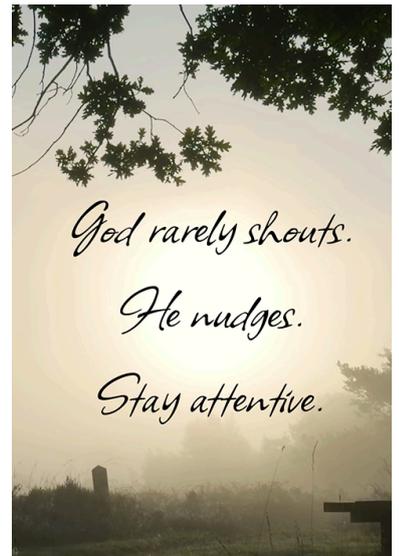
Begin each day with the ACORN prayer.

Reflect briefly on the daily prompt. These are available every day on our

Parish Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishmordiallocaspendale>

Look for one intentional opportunity to connect, encourage or invite.

Share testimonies weekly with each other or in your small group to build momentum.



Pilgrimage to Our lady of Ta Pinu Shrine on Saturday 7 March 9am to 10.30am

Our Wings of Faith study group led by Tony Aloysius and Josie Johnson have booked Our Lady of Ta Pinu Shrine for a Lenten gathering and prayerful walk through the Stations of the Cross. Holy Mass will follow the Stations, celebrated by Fr Michael. After Mass, we will share a light breakfast together. Please feel free to bring a small plate to share. The address for the Lenten gathering is:

Our Lady of Ta Pinu Shrine, 15 Flanagan Drive, Merrimu (Bacchus Marsh)

Please use the QR code to register your name and number attending. For enquiries contact 0456 000 317. Sign-up sheets are also on the Welcome Desks. Carpooling is an option so that more parishioners may be able to join the pilgrimage.

Please let Tony and Josie know if you have room in your car for any extra passengers.



News and Announcements



First Sunday of Lent 21–22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



UNITE 
AGAINST
POVERTY
this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

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

Combined choir practice for Easter

Please join us for choir practice for all our Easter ceremonies. Practice is on Tuesday nights from 7.30pm to 9pm at St Louis church. All singers and musicians welcome.

Call Trish for more information 0421 604 849

Name Tag Sunday & Prayer Ministry this weekend

Please pick up your name tag on the way into mass this weekend. Please drop your name tag in the box on the way out after mass.

Prayer Ministers will also be available after each mass to pray with you for any intention.

Serve Ministry Roster for May to August.

Please let Ann in the office know your availability during this time so she can finalise the roster.

Also, the Easter roster from Palm Sunday (for extra readers) to Easter Sunday is on the Welcome Desk for you to fill in your available times. Thanks.

Kidz Zone - this weekend 21/22 February

Our youngest children (5-12 years) sing, play and use their imagination to hear stories about Jesus and begin what we pray is a relationship with their lifelong friend Jesus. Kidz Zone is on during our 6pm, 9.30am and 11am masses.



Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family **Austen Joseph, Lucas Murphy, Mila Jean, Noah Patrick.**
God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take, he guides you on your way.

WARNING - Please be alert to a scam that some parishioners have received via text message that purports to come from Fr Michael asking you to purchase Apple voucher cards for ladies with cancer. Please DO NOT REPLY to the message and report it as a scam.

Funeral Service for Michael Hurst (R.I.P.)

The Memorial Service will be held at St Bede's School Hall at 2pm on Friday 27 February.



Formed - Catholic videos, audio, books. It's like Netflix for Catholics

There are a range of excellent resources on FORMED, and we have purchased a subscription for all our parishioners.



Foretold - trailer

From the beginning, God had a plan to save man from sin. With Jesus, that plan was fulfilled. But he also has a specific plan for you. Watch Foretold to rediscover God's providential love for you

For access, go to: <https://formed.org/signup>

Search for St Mary of the Cross Mordialloc and Aspendale.

Enter your name and email address.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT - 1ST MARCH 2026

28 Feb/1 Mar 2026	2nd Sunday in Lent (Year A) Genesis 12: 1-4 2 Timothy 1: 8--10 Matthew 17: 1-9						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Jennifer Ford	Julie Barnhoorn	Sonia Williams	Julius Lau	Carmel Barker	Jan Hughes	Tom Hughes
8.00am (M)	Angela Mao	Tony Aloysious	Stephen Pooley	Carole Guthrie	Jack Meyer	Jack Guthrie	Jane Standish
9.30am (A)	Niko Tovia	Gerard Wagstaff	Ann Furlong	Martin Newington	Maureen Wraight	Jon Searle	Norma Taylor
11.00am (M)	Adam Whatmore	Peter Hannan	Philippa Pecora	Christine D'Cruze	Louise Breslin	Volunteer	Mary Ann Farren
Counters	Group 2	Helen & Kelvin Rocks	Mary Nayna				

Recently deceased: Christine Wagstaff (Aspendale).

Anniversaries: Peter Perazzo, Geoffrey Colwell, Robert (Bob) Dynes, Maureen Varney, Frank Shanley, Gaetano (Tom) Mollica, Alexandrina Connelly, Charles Vassallo, Brian Stanley Wagstaff, Florence Rizzo, May Comas, Judith Carboon, Alfred Moncrief, Anthony Malone, Mary Logan, Helen Grogan, John (Jack) Delahey, Barry Sims, Joan McMahon, Maureen Turley, Dawn Nam, Jean Parker, Arthur Hager, Patrick Fallon, Audrey Castleman, Victor Vellozo, Norma Smith, Christopher Walley, Dorothy Stevens, Adrian Werny, Jill Parker, Carmel McGrath, Teresa Vaizzi, Kevin Phelan, Brian Conway, Jenny Popley, K. M. Mathew, Joan Mead, Fred Sommerville, Elizabeth (Betty) Wood, Carmel White, Mirko Mesic, Monica Westgarth, Lorenzo Barbarino, Lynn Young, Percy Wilson, Antonio D'Astoli, Eng Libbis.

Healing & Sick List Refresh - Please note we have refreshed this list. If you would like your loved one to be on the list, please email the parish office.

Praying for healing and the sick: Prunella Julien, Pat Hyland, Kim Power, Maree Wesols, Carol Dickinson, Sophia Bicos, Jeffrey Sellar, Damian Haggerty, Noleen Dunn, Therese Lee, Alasdair Hughes, Harry Donohue, Stephen Hopkins, Peter Waltho, Stephen Oldboldstone, Brilliant boys, John Catalano, Andrea Williams.

WEEKEND MASSES

St Louis Saturday 6pm
St Brigid's Sunday 8am
St Louis Sunday 9.30am
St Brigid's Sunday 11am

Our 6pm Saturday Vigil & 8am Sunday Masses are live streamed and can be accessed at:
[catholicmassstmaryofthecross](https://www.catholicmassstmaryofthecross.com.au)

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Louis Mon 9.15am Communion Service,
St Louis Tuesday 9.15am,
St Brigid's Wed 10am,
St Louis Thurs 9.15am,
St Brigid's Fri 11.30am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND HOLY ROSARY

St Brigid's every Fri 10.30am
St Louis 1st Sat of the month 4.30pm
St Louis Monday night 7.30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St Louis Monday's 7.30 - 8.30pm

RECONCILIATION

St Brigid's Friday's 12.30pm
St Louis Saturday's 5.30pm

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr Michael, Trish Angliss, Berna Wake, John Field

Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people & adults at risk in our community.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING TEAM:

Fr Michael Kong 9580 7981
Trish 0421 604 849
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Denise 0412 926 752

Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



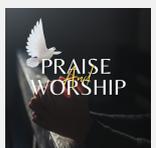
Children's Liturgy

5 - 12-year-olds.
4th weekend of the month. 6pm, 9:30am and 11am



Prayer Ministry

Intercessory prayer.
Last weekend of the month - all masses.



Praise & Worship

3rd Friday of month
7.30 - 8.30pm.
Alternates between each church.

Contact us

Parish Office: 03 9580 7981
OPEN Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday's 9am to 4.30pm
Parish Coordinator: Ann Fitzgerald
mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

Parish House: 03 9412 8432

Pastoral care

If you would like a pastoral visit, Helen is available to drop by for a chat or to organise some help if required. Please contact the office at mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

Baptism Coordinator

Debbie Poynton 0403 471 931

Our Parish acknowledges that we gather, pray and live on the land of the Bunorong People of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise their continued connection to Country, and we thank them for their role in caring for, and maintaining Country and waterways, over thousands of generations.