



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Jekot, Assistant Priest: Fr Huy Nguyen,
Deacon: George Piech-Meat

Third Sunday of Advent 14 December 2025

Readings for Year A Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2



*"Happy is the man who
does not lose
faith in me"*

This week's gospel shows John the Baptist, once so confident in Jesus, now struggling with doubt as he sits in prison. Jesus responds not with rebuke but with reassurance, pointing to the signs of God's healing and mercy happening around him. "...the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor: and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me."

This moment speaks strongly to life today. We, too, can find ourselves overwhelmed by uncertainty when plans fall apart, when suffering feels senseless, or when God seems silent. Yet Jesus' answer reminds us to look again at the quiet evidence of grace- people caring for one another, moments of healing, small acts of hope that break through darkness. In the third week of Advent, we focus on Joy, not a shallow happiness, but a deep, steady confidence that God is at work even when we cannot see the full picture. John's story encourages us to seek this kind of joy, trusting that God's promises are unfolding, that light is growing, and that Christ continues to bring new life into our world.

Marylene Douglas
St Louis RE Leader
and Lead Learner



m.stmaryofthecross.com



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



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

News and Announcements

Farewell & Thank You



Fr Andrew & Fr Huy will be leaving our parish to take up new appointments on 12 January, 2026. You have both been a blessing to us all in so many ways. Your friendship, teachings, and guidance will always be held close to our hearts. May God continue to bless you both.

If you would like to contribute a personal gift for Fr Andrew and Fr Huy please place in the envelopes & leave in the box on the Welcome Desk.

Please join us for a farewell afternoon tea for Fr Andrew and Fr Huy on Saturday 10 January from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at St Brigid's Primary School Hall.

Sign up sheets are on the Welcome Desk. Please let us know if you are coming along for catering purposes

Please note Tuesday 16 December is a school mass

Tuesday 16 December 9.15am mass will no longer be an anointing mass as it is the end of year school mass to be held in the school hall.

Thursday 18 December 9.15am mass, is now the anointing mass at St Louis.



Join us for a cuppa

after all our masses this weekend. Bring a plate to share. You might meet someone new or catch up with an old friend.

Funeral arrangements for John Nicholson

John's funeral will be on Tuesday 16 December at St Brigid's church. Rosary will be at 11am followed by a Requiem mass at 11.30am. All are welcome to stay for refreshments in the foyer. Private cremation.

Thank you

A sincere thank you to Fr Andrew, Fr Huy, Berna, Trish, Ann Fitzgerald and all our wonderful parishioners for their condolences, care, concern and love for our family on the sudden passing of John. We are truly blessed.
Love Deb, Katherine and Daniel Poynton.



Happy Birthday Jim Dawkins

Happy 90th birthday Jim. Best wishes on reaching this milestone. May the Holy Spirit continue to watch over you and keep you in good health.

Advent *Prepare the Way* **How to Advent on Formed**

In **How to Advent**, you will discover the rich traditions that mark this season and how they aid us in preparing our hearts for the birth of the child Jesus at Christmas.

Guided by priests, religious, professors, and a charismatic host, you will gain practical tips and spiritual reflection on the practices of the Advent calendar, Advent wreath, Jesse tree, and nativity scene. To access the short 12-15 minute weekly videos at Formed. If

you are already a subscriber go to

<https://app.formed.org/app/collections/1452578>. If you are yet

to subscribe to our parish subscription (free of charge to you) go to **formed.org/signup** and select our parish.

Christmas Choir practice Tuesday nights from 7.30pm at St Louis' Church

Choir practice has started for all of our Christmas masses. All singers and musicians are welcome.

Contact Trish for more information
0421 604 849.

Masses of Anointing

Wednesday 17 December 10am at St Brigid's and **now Thursday 18**

December 9.15am at St Louis.

(Tuesday 16 December 9.15am is a school mass in the hall)

Anointing will be offered at both of these weekday Masses.

First Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday 17 December at 7pm at both St Louis' and St Brigid's.

Chelsea & District Inter-church Council Christmas Carols



Ecumenical Service
Sunday 14 December
4.00 - 5.30pm

LF Payne Hall, Station St Chelsea.
All Welcome.



Come and experience hope, joy and a warm welcome as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We encourage all to invite family and friends to join us at one of our Christmas services.

Christmas Eve 24th December (Wednesday)

St Louis' School Grounds

Christmas Eve Mass 6pm

Christmas Carols start from 5.30pm

Outdoor Mass

Bring camp chairs/rugs

**St Louis' Church Christmas Eve Mass
8.30pm**

Christmas Carols start from 8pm

St Brigid's Church Midnight Mass - 12am

Christmas Carols start from 11.30pm

Vinnies

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers: Thank you to everyone for the generous donations left under the Christmas trees in both our Churches. Our two St Vincent de Paul Conferences will use these donations to make up hampers and deliver to needy families in this area for Christmas.



Christmas Day

25th December (Thursday)

St Louis' Church 8.30am

St Brigid's Church 10.30am

New Years Day

1st January (Thursday)

St Louis' Church 10am

Christmas Serve Ministers Roster

We aim to create a joyous welcome for all. If you can assist as a reader/commentator, welcomer or special minister during the Christmas services, please sign-up at the Welcome Desk.

There will be a special collection at all our Christmas masses to support our local St Vincent de Paul conferences.

Anyone needing assistance from St Vincent de Paul in this difficult time can call: 1800 305 330

Thank You: Thank you to everyone who attended the recent St Vincent de Paul's 'Let's Do Christmas Lunch' especially the magnificent singers in St Louis de Montfort's School Choir. It was a very enjoyable event and your generous donations will help cover the cost of our Christmas Hampers.

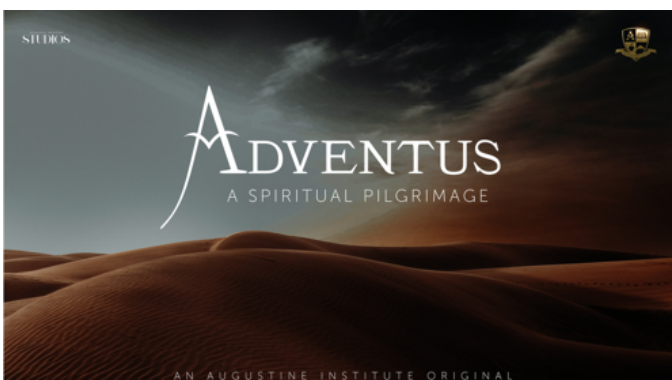


Let the Heart Listen 2026

Program Focus: Let the Heart Listen is grounded in the practice of contemplative listening learning to respond with heart to yourself, others, and to God. Through this experience, you will develop the capacity to listen deeply and compassionately, becoming more present to the sacred in everyday life.

Program Details: Format: 12 x Tuesdays (In Person only) Dates: 17th February 2026 – 19th May 2026. The program will run again from July – October 2026 on Thursday Evenings (Online only).

See here for more details: [Let the Heart Listen Program](#) | [Heart of Life](#)



formed™ Adventus: Spiritual Pilgrimage

This Advent, make a spiritual pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Uncover the beauty of the place where Christ was born, preparing your heart for Christ's coming so you can enter more deeply into this season.

Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 21 DECEMBER 2025

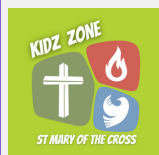
20/21 Dec 2025	3rd Sunday of Advent Readings (Yr A) Isaiah 7: 10-14 Romans 1: 1-7 Matthew 1: 18-24						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Ann Furlong	Patrick Jurd	Sonia Williams	Julius Lau	Marg De Vries	Annette Brilliant	John Bainbridge
8.00am (M)	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Frances North	Carole Guthrie	Jack Guthrie	Jack Meyer	Joey Virginie	Angela Meo
9.30am (A)	Brian Martin	Gen Martin	Martin Newington	Maureen Wraight	Ron Schneider-Loos	Niko Tovia	Anne Marsh
11.00am (M)	Peter Hannan	Paula Rodrigues	Juan Wilson	Peter Wain	Gail Bell	Robyn Worsnop	MaryAnn Farren
Counters	Group 2	Helen & Kelvin Rocks	Mary Nayna				

Recently deceased: John Nicholson (Mordialloc), John Wilkinson (Aspendale)- brother of Joanne Partleton).

Anniversaries: Robert Slattery, Ernest Goss, Frank Waltho, Jack Riordan, Gwen Mary Coghlan, Bill Bristow, Doris Genovese, John Kerr, Pauline Swartz, Roy Glenister, Camillo Costanzo, Jack Guthrie, Vera Corda, Ross Pickles, John William Ryan Snr, Bill Seymour, Frank Cleary, John May, Martha Peries, Henry Rech, Carmel Cantwell, Fred Rosenbrock, Michael Smith, Bill Bateson, Ivy Bateson, Michael Bateson, Dot Cartmar, Pasqualina Costanzo, Gladys Kennedy, Thomas Aspery, Lorna Woodhead, David Whelan, Cath Cuffley, Sebastian D'Imperio, Joseph Pompei, Patricia Carrazzo, Golbert D'Cruz, Julian Murphy, Francis Lebler, Craig Blair, Richard Rebeiro, Emily Aquilina-Saliba, David Porter, Quinston Lucas, Maria Ruzyla, Dorothy Wilma Kellow, Fr Desmond Cameron, Brett Drinan, Gerardine Kerlin, Albert Rodrigues, Marilyn Schneider-Loos, Frank Garlick, Salvatore Aparo, Edward Dunn, German Alberto Mansilla, Nuno da mata Vaz Serra, Margot Poynton, Nuno Vaz Serra, Beverley Plant, Bob Licciardo.

Praying for healing and the sick: Deborah Joseph, Carmelo Nasello, Stephen Hopkins, Mary Farren, Harry Donohue, Ann Muir, Lina DiGiovine, Alex Bennett, John Davis, Chris Doran, Chris Wardle, Peter Waltho, Janice Gillette, Michelle Parker, Greg Hayes, Sue Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Alasdair Hughes, Sophia Bicos, Fr Terry Kean, Kees Meyer, Andrea Williams, Brian Smith, Michelle Burne, Rosemary Hall, Michelle Ives, Graham Owen, Norreen Spies, Craige Ross, Virginia O'Toole.

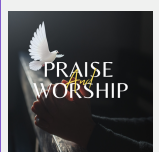
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



Children's Liturgy
5 - 12-year-olds.
4th weekend of the month. All masses except 8am.



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 Bunurong 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.

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:
m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St Louis Monday's 7.30 - 8.30pm

RECONCILIATION

St Brigid's Friday's 12pm
St Louis Saturday's 5.30pm

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr Andrew, Fr Huy, Trish Angliss, Berna Wake

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 Andrew Jekot 03 9580 7981
Fr Huy Nguyen 03 9580 7981
Trish 0421 604 849
Louise 0415 963 799
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Denise 0412 926 752