



BRUNSWICK MORELAND CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Incorporating the Parishes of St Fidelis' (Moreland), St Joseph's (West Brunswick), St Ambrose's, and Our Lady Help of Christians (Brunswick & Brunswick East)

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Sunday, 14 June 2026

THE MASS COUNTS!

"There are lies, damned lies and statistics," so the saying goes. So, what are we to make of the figures for the Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community Mass Count? The Italian Mass at St Fidelis dropped by 50% according to the statistics. That can sound alarming. The reality is that there were only 40 people at that Mass in May 2025, and it went to a monthly Mass until it finally came to an end with a group of 20 people in June this year. I have written more about that particular Mass inside the newsletter.

Other statistics are probably more meaningful. We do have many Masses in multiple locations for a small number of Mass attendees. An average of 670 people attended weekend Mass across May at eight different Mass times in four locations. That is an average of 83 people per Mass. However, it is not evenly spread. Our smallest congregation is now at 6.00 pm at St Fidelis with an average of 45 people (down from 72 in 2025). Our largest congregation was also at St Fidelis at 11.00 am Sunday with an average of 125. This was followed closely by St Ambrose with an average of 123 each Sunday, and St Joseph's with an average of 118 on a Sunday evening at 5.00 pm. (A full summary is provided below.)

Females continue to outnumber males in the statistics with 56.9% female and 43.1% male attendees across our parishes. And while the largest age group is over 70—totaling 34.8% of the Mass going population—there was also 34.1% between 50 and 69, 16.3% between 30–49, and 7.7% between 18–29. Our smallest group was 7% aged between 0–17 years old.

What does this mean for us?

Our Mass count offers us a gentle but honest picture of our parish today. While around 670 people gather each weekend, our community is spread across many Masses, with some strong and others struggling. We are also an ageing congregation, with fewer younger families and children present. These are not signs of failure, but of change. They invite us to come together more intentionally, to strengthen our shared worship, and to look outward in mission. As we move toward Emmaus Parish, we are called to build a more united, vibrant and welcoming community for the future.

Fr Brendan

Weekly Average Attendance by Mass

11.00 am Sunday Mass St Fidelis': 125

10.30 am Sunday Mass at St Ambrose's: 123

5.00 pm Sunday Mass at St Joseph's: 118

9.00 am Sunday Mass at St Joseph's: 114

5.00 pm Vigil Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians: 66

9.00 am Sunday Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians: 54

6.00 pm Vigil Mass St Fidelis': 45

9.30 am Italian Mass St Fidelis': 25

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Exodus 19:2-6

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp.

Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."' "

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 99:2-3. 5. R. v.3

**(R.) We are his people:
the sheep of his flock.**

1. Cry with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**
2. Know that he, the Lord, is God.
He made us, we belong to him,
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R.)**
3. Indeed, how good is the Lord,
eternal his merciful love.
He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

SECOND READING

Romans 5:6-11

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mark 1:15

Alleluia, alleluia!
The kingdom of God is near;
repent and believe the Good News!

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:36 – 10:8

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.' He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: 'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

BMCC AMALGAMATION—EMMAUS PARISH

EMMAUS PRAYER

Lord Jesus,
you walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus
when their hearts were uncertain
and their hope unclear.

Walk with us now, as we journey together as the
Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community.

Open our ears to listen deeply, our hearts to trust
your presence, and our minds

to understand where you are leading us.
As we discern the call to become one parish,
help us recognise you in our shared stories,
in prayerful conversation,
and in the breaking of the bread.

Give us courage to let go of what has been,
grace to honour all that has shaped us,
and hope to embrace the future
you are unfolding among us.

May your Spirit unite us in mission, so that,
journeying together, we may bear witness
to your love and justice in our world.

We ask this in your name.

Amen.

THE 9.30AM ITALIAN MASS AT ST FIDELIS CONCLUDES WITH GRATITUDE

We extend our sincere thanks to all who have supported and participated in the 9.30 am Italian Mass at St Fidelis over so many years. Your faith, devotion and commitment have been a valued part of our parish life, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has helped sustain this special celebration for the Italian community. A particular thanks is due to John De Amicis who has coordinated this Mass for many years. As attendance has now declined to around 20 people, the decision has been made that this Mass will no longer continue. We offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have been part of its long and faithful history. As our new Emmaus Parish takes shape we hope to be able to gather together on some occasions and celebrate Mass in Italian from time to time. It is important to honour and maintain this great tradition across our parishes.

Vogliamo dire un grazie di cuore a tutti quelli che, per tanti anni, hanno partecipato e sostenuto la Santa Messa domenicale in italiano delle 9.30 a St Fidelis. La vostra fede, la vostra preghiera e la vostra presenza fedele sono state molto importanti per la vita della nostra parrocchia. Siamo davvero riconoscenti a tutti coloro che hanno aiutato a mantenere viva questa bella tradizione per la comunità italiana. Un grazie speciale va a John De Amicis, che per tanti anni ha seguito e coordinato questa Messa con tanta generosità e impegno. Adesso però la partecipazione è scesa a circa 20 persone, e per questo è stata presa la decisione di non continuare più questa Messa. È una decisione che ci dispiace, ma vogliamo soprattutto ricordare con gratitudine tutto il bene che questa celebrazione ha portato a tante persone e famiglie nel corso degli anni. Mentre la nuova Parrocchia Emmaus prende forma, speriamo che ci saranno ancora alcune occasioni per ritrovarci insieme e celebrare la Santa Messa in italiano. È bello e importante custodire questa grande tradizione nelle nostre parrocchie.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY WINTER APPEAL 2026

This weekend, our Brunswick Moreland Catholic community supports the St Vincent de Paul Winter Appeal. A special collection will be taken up at all Masses on this weekend to assist individuals and families in need this winter. Your donation helps provide food vouchers, essential support, and practical assistance through St Vinnies services. Please give generously to support those experiencing hardship in our community. Donations can also be made at <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/winter-appeal> or by calling 131812.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION THIS WEEKEND

This weekend we celebrate First Holy Communion with the children of the Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community.

We congratulate the children receiving the Eucharist for the first time, a special milestone in their faith journey. Children from St Fidelis', Our Lady Help of Christians, St Joseph's, and the Parish Sacramental Program will receive First Holy Communion this weekend. We thank the teachers, catechists, and school communities for their support and preparation. Please keep these children and their families in your prayers as they come to the Lord's Table for the first time.

Following the 9am Mass at St Joseph's this weekend, parishioners are invited to stay and enjoy hospitality, a cuppa and morning tea.

THREE WINTER NIGHTS WITH MATTHEW

We were delighted to welcome over 30 people to our second session on Tuesday 9 June, which was very well attended. Thank you to all who came and helped make it such a meaningful evening. The series continues on with the final session on Tuesday 16 June – Praying Matthew's Gospel

Time: 7.30 pm – 8.45 pm

Venue: Luby Centre, St Ambrose's

HOSPITALITY AFTER MASS

Next Sunday, 21 June, hospitality will be held at St Fidelis' following the 11am Mass. All are welcome to stay and share in fellowship.

SAVE THE DATE -

READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS TRAINING & FORMATION NIGHT

The Education in Faith and Worship Committees are planning a Ministry Formation Night on Thursday, 9 July at 7pm in St Ambrose's Luby Centre. All new and experienced Readers and Eucharistic Ministers are invited to attend this Formation Evening. The session will provide an opportunity for both new and current ministers to deepen their understanding of these important ministries and receive practical updates. Invitations will be sent to all Eucharistic Ministers and Readers via email soon.

BMCC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The following Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community meetings and events will take place:

Thursday 18 June – 7pm, St Ambrose's Luby Centre

- Outreach Committee
- Hospitality and Welcome Committee

BAPTISMS

The Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community joyfully celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism for **Chiara Raine Grosso** and **George Gregory McWhirter** at St Fidelis' Church this Sunday, 14 June.

RECENTLY DECEASED AND ANNIVERSARIES

The Brunswick Moreland Catholic Community remembers in prayer those recently deceased **Veronica Mancini** and those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time: **Francesco Merlino, Enrico D'Abrosio, Rocchina Catoggio, Leonardo Catoggio, Carmela Pancallo, Michael Jones, Assunta Lauricella, John Charlie Borrelli, Maria Caruso, Antonio Valente**

BEYOND BMCC - NEWS AND EVENTS

POPE LEO CALLS FOR PEACE AT SAGRADA FAMÍLIA

During his Apostolic Journey to Spain, Pope Leo XIV celebrated Mass at Barcelona's Sagrada Família, marking the centenary of architect Antoni Gaudí's death. He described the basilica as a "catechesis in stone, colour and light," pointing to Christ as its foundation. In his homily, the Pope strongly emphasised that true faith in Jesus is incompatible with violence. Christians, he said, cannot promote war, harm the innocent, or ignore those who suffer or flee poverty. Highlighting the Church as a living community built on Christ, he invited all believers to work actively for peace, unity, and compassion, becoming signs of hope in today's world. Read more visit: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en.html>

HISTORIC APPOINTMENT AT THE VATICAN

Pope Leo XIV has appointed Montse Alvarado, president of EWTN News, as Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication, effective 1 November 2026. She will be the first laywoman who is not a religious sister, and the youngest ever prefect of a Roman Curia dicastery. Alvarado, a Mexican-American with extensive experience in Catholic media and religious liberty communications, will succeed Paolo Ruffini. She said she receives the appointment "with deep gratitude," humility, and trust in the Lord, expressing her desire to serve the Holy Father in his new pontificate. Read more visit: <https://melbournecatholic.org/>

PASTORELLE SISTERS – 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Pastorelle Sisters (Sisters of Jesus the Good Shepherd) invite parishioners to celebrate their 70th Anniversary on Sunday 28 June at St Damian's Parish, 5 Settlement Road, Bundoora. The celebration will begin at 1pm with a Mini Concert of Joy and Gratitude, followed at 2pm by a Eucharistic Celebration and afternoon tea. This special occasion gives thanks to God for 70 years of grace, journey and ministry, and will also include the welcome of new Pauline Cooperators and the renewal of current members. RSVP (for catering purposes): 0401 356 298 or 0411 361 081.

THANKSGIVING VIA EFT

St. Joseph's Parish, West Brunswick : BSB: 083-347 Church Account: 455 199 263

St. Fidelis' Parish, Moreland: BSB: 083-347 Church Account: 665 217 159

Catholic Parish Brunswick & Brunswick East (St. Ambrose & Our Lady Help of Christians): BSB: 083 347 Church Account: 245 201 273

To support your Priests: Brunswick Moreland Presbytery Account

BSB: 083 347 Account: 664 716 706

OUR COMMITMENT TO A SAFE PARISH COMMUNITY

We hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and all vulnerable people, as a central and fundamental of our parishes. The Parish Statement of Commitment and the Reporting Process, are on display in all churches, and all Parish Policies are available, on our website.

PARISH WEBSITE

bmcatholiccommunity.org.au

PARISH OFFICE

287 Sydney Road,
Brunswick 3056

Tue-Fri 9:30am -2:30pm

Ph: 9380 1023

Email: bmcc@cam.org.au

OFFICE STAFF

Fr Brendan Reed

Parish Priest

Brendan.Reed@cam.org.au

Fr Tien Tran

Assistant Priest

Tien.Tran@cam.org.au

Enza Briganti

Parish Secretary

Enza.Briganti@cam.org.au

Jenny Di Valentino

Administrative Assistant

Jenny.divalentino@cam.au

Jemma Purdey

Safeguarding Officer

Jemma.Purdey@cam.org.au

George Thomas

Stewardship Coordinator

George.Thomas@cam.org.au

John Maulden

Facilities Manager

John.Maulden@cam.org.au

CHURCHES & MASS TIMES

Our Lady Help of Christians

49 Nicholson Street, East
Brunswick 3057

Friday 9:15am

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday 9:00am

St Ambrose's

287 Sydney Road,
Brunswick 3056

Tuesday 9:15am

Saturday 10:00am

Sunday 10:30am

St Joseph's

183 Hope Street,

West Brunswick 3055

Wednesday 9:15am

Sunday 9:00am & 5:00pm

St Fidelis'

49 Clarendon Street, Coburg 3058

Thursday 9:15am

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 11:00am

Confessions

St Ambrose's

Every Saturday at 10:30am