



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time 19 July 2026

Readings for Year A Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19 Romans 8: 26-27 Matthew 13: 24-30

“The Kingdom of God lies hidden around us & in our midst”

In today's Gospel the parable of the wheat and the weeds (darnel) describes the Kingdom of God, which lies hidden around us and in our midst. St John Paul II proposed this reading “contained the deepest and most illuminating core of the entire Christian message.”

Wheat and weeds grow alongside each other, in the same ground with the same sun and rain to enable them to grow. Often it is hard to discern the wheat from the weeds.

It can therefore become easy to judge others on first impressions, choosing to do so often rashly and incorrectly. It is only through patience and humility that the fruits of the wheat will be revealed at harvest time.

Such is humanity. God sows the good seeds, yet He gave us freedom as rational people to choose between good and evil.

When we listen for the Holy Spirit, he counsels us to be patient when evil seems dominant and to be less quick to judge others which often comes from our fear or our desire to control God's Kingdom and those within it. We are asked to surrender the weighty judgement to the Lord.

Jesus assures us in this parable that God will not allow evil to destroy what is good.

***Berna Wake
Parishioner***



m.stmaryofthecross.com



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



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

News and Announcements

Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project - Fundraising Raffle



The JAG team are holding a raffle which will be in the church foyers after weekend Masses until July 26. At present BASP is supporting a large number of asylum

seekers struggling to make ends meet, some have barely enough money to pay for accommodation, let alone find money for food and other necessities to keep warm in winter.

The raffle prizes are:

Beautiful Handmade Throw in shades of blues and purples.

Royal Crown Derby bird ornament, valued at \$100.

Bottle of Noon Wine.

Hamper of goodies consists of Bottle of King Valley Prosecco, Hand Cream, Diffuser, Jigsaw and \$50.00 voucher from Bodyshop. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Prizes will be drawn after 11.00 am Mass on Sunday 26th July.

Plastic Free July

When many people make small changes, it adds up to a big difference in our communities. Choosing to refuse single-use plastics in July (and beyond!) often leads to discovering great alternatives that can become new habits forever. This week, take your own containers or bag if you are picking up some takeaway for dinner. Please leave your blister packs in our foyers to be taken to be recycled or return them to your local chemist



John Paul College Companion Van - Thursday 13 August

Calling for volunteers for the next JPC Companion Van. Meet at 4.30pm in St Louis carpark.

Please call Sandy if you are interested. 0412 057 177.

We are also calling for food for the volunteers to take along on the night - **Small tuna cans, two fruit tubs/cups, juice boxes (small prima size), noodle cups/packs, packets of sweet/savory biscuits.**

Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the foyers over the next 2 weekends.

Saving Money on Home Energy Bills

The Care for Our Common Home Group of Christ Our Light Catholic Parish (Highett / Cheltenham) is holding an information session on Saving Money on Home Energy Bills on **Monday 27 July 2026 at 7pm in the Our Lady of the Assumption Church**, 9 Centre Dandenong Road, Cheltenham. Off-street parking is available at the rear of the Church.

The presenters will be Cait O'Shea and Tom Rose from Solar Savers which is a council-led program designed to help households access vetted suppliers and trusted information to make improvements to the energy efficiency of their homes. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please contact Phillip Steele 0419 311 583 if you need more information.



World Day
for Grandparents
and the Elderly
2026

Sunday 26 July 2026

"I will never forget you" Isaiah 49:15

Next weekend 26 July is World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. The weekend that is closest to the memorial day of Sts Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

We are encouraged to reach out to our grandparents and the elderly around us. Go and visit. Pick them up and bring them to Mass next weekend where Fr Michael will give them a blessing and then have a cuppa after mass. This is an opportunity to celebrate the elderly and grandparents in our community and recognise the contribution they make to all our lives.

Project Fresh Start



An opportunity is available to anyone who would like to volunteer throughout the year in further supporting those who are homeless or needing food in our community. Project Fresh start is an amazing charity that cooks and provides meals throughout the year, and they are looking for cooks to help them in the evening - particularly Monday nights. There are links below if you would like more information.

<https://projectfreshstart.org.au/> and <https://projectfreshstart.org.au/volunteering>

News and Announcements

Kidz Zone next weekend

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 next weekend. We would love to offer Kidz Zone more than once a month. If you can help, please contact Sangeetha at nsangeethac7@gmail.com

Prayer Ministry

Next weekend we will have prayer teams available after Masses to pray with you for any particular intention. Everyone is invited to take part in this opportunity. It will only be for a few minutes. The prayer team will gently guide you, all you need to do is to present yourself and open your heart to God. Father will announce the Prayer Ministry teams at the end of Mass.

Cuppa and Name Tag Sunday

Please pick up your name tag name tag on the way into mass and drop it in the box on your way out after you've enjoyed a cuppa and biscuit.

Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family - **Archie Jack, Asha May, Theodore (Teddy) Nicholas, Chloe Eileen, Madeleine Alice, Logan Robert, Millie Maree, Rose Suzanne, Cooper Lee Bailey Flynn, Hudson Aaron.**

God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take, he guides you on your way.



Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

On the evening of 24 June 2026, two major earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5, struck northern Venezuela within minutes of each other.

The impact was felt across the capital, Caracas, and throughout central and coastal regions. Buildings, homes and infrastructure have collapsed and been severely damaged, and there has been widespread disruption to essential services.

Rescue efforts are slow, hampered by damaged infrastructure and limited resources. More than 2,200 people are confirmed, dead, with tens of thousands still missing.

If you can help please do so at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/venezuela-earthquake/>



Formed - St. Mary Magdalene

Join De Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp for a discussion on the life and witness of St Mary Magdalene. Who was she and why is she a saint? Find out in this conversation.

Go to: <https://formed.org/signup> type in St Mary of the Cross Mordialloc and Aspendale, and enter your name and email address, for free access to this and much more great content.



The website: [Melbourne Synod 2026 | Melbourne Catholic](https://www.melbournesyndoc.org.au/) is regularly updated with new information, so do please keep checking for updates.

Melbourne Synod 2026 – Theme Paper Release

The Synod theme papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination—trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal, and deeper communion. The suggested reflection process is a 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a Spiritual Conversation. This method is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. Different from a discussion, it is an attentive listening process that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Click on the links below to read the three theme papers.

[Formation and Participation](#) and **[Missionary Leadership](#)** and **[Young Discipleship](#)**

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 26 JULY 2026

25/26 July 2026	17 th Sunday in Ord Time Readings (Year A) 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12 Romans 8: 28-30 Matthew 13: 44-52 CUPPA							
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Prayer Ministers
6pm (A)	Marie Seddon	Volunteer	Bernie Stuart	Carmel Barker	Michael Barker	Julie Buick	John Bainbridge	Rob Ward Ann Brennan
8.00am (M)	Joan Healy	Frances North	Stephen Pooley	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Carole Guthrie	Tony Aloysious	Josie Johnson	Josie Johnson Tony Aloysious
9.30am (A)	Ann Furlong	Brenda O'Leary	Felice Cortese	Elizabeth Newington	Maureen Wraight	Eddie Joseph	Jon Searle	Berna Wake Felice Cortese
11.00am (M)	Maree Wesols	Jennifer Rodrigues	Peter Hannan	Christine D'Cruze	Juan Wilson	Robyn Worsnop	Volunteer	Nicky Winters Ellen Young
Counters	Group 3	Deborah Joseph	Nelson Popley					

Recently deceased: Brian Grace (Aspendale), Nancy Taranto (Chelsea).

Anniversaries: Eileen Kavanagh, Eileen Maguire, Harriet Drinan, Ted McMahon, Joan Byrne, Greg Corda, Karen Murray, Ian Martine, Paddy Davey, Sr Digna Digna, A.C., Peg Hallam, Pam Ulbrick, Tessie Myles-Kellett, Anne Rosario, Jolyon Butler, Dorothy Cresswell, Dorothy Carmel Agnew, Evelyn Bibby, Debbie Egan, Jack Egan, Anne Snelgrove, Robert Panton, Rodolfo Alger, Emilio Vintaloro, Aureliya Edwards, Neil Williams, Nicholas Mercer, Aileen Rowe, Antony Saliba, Frances Morgan, Kathleen Hirst, Ramon Reed, Judith (Bobbie) Panton, Patrick Hewitson, Magherita Taranto, Antoinella Burgio, Vivette Jansz, Patricia Campbell, June Hamill.

Praying for healing and the sick: Sammy Dahalid, Kathie Martin, Edith Venton, Marisa, Mim Rodolico, Michael Albert, Fr Terry Keane, Luis, Julie Griffiths, Steve Govac, Chris Wardle, Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Rita Popley, Vasilos Garavelis, Sophia Bicos, Mary Agiropoulos, Prunella Julien, Maree Wesols, Peter Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Noleen Dunn, John Catalano, Damian Haggerty, Alasdair Hughes, Andrea Williams, Brilliant boys, Leonard Hamilton.

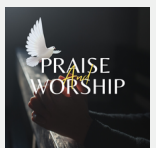
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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, we have volunteers 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:
[catholicmassstmaryofthecross](http://catholicmassstmaryofthecross.com)

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Louis' Mon 9.15am Communion Service,
St Louis' Tues 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 Fri after 11.30am Mass
St Louis' Sat 5.30pm before 6pm Mass

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
Robyn 0412 814 592
Deacon George 9580 7981