



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time 12 July 2026

Readings for Year A Isaiah 55: 10-11 Romans 8: 18-23 Matthew 13: 1-9



“A sower went out to sow ”

Like any good teacher, Jesus uses pictures – or parables. Ever heard the one about the elephant and the wasp? Or electricity like a toy train going round a room?

Anyway, for the next three weeks we have some of these pictures, to show us what Jesus is trying to do. This first one is rather sad. Whatever he does seems to fail: seed pecked up by birds, scorched by the sun, choked by thistles.

What are my pecking birds, my scorching sun, my choking thistles which annihilate the seed Jesus sows in me? Different for every one of us. But some, just a little, of the seed bears a fantastic harvest.

There must be something I can show to the Lord with pride and gratitude: ‘Look, this is the seed you gave me; it has grown, developed, and here is your harvest’.

Jesus, too, reflected on his mission to establish his Father’s sovereignty on earth. Jesus, too, got depressed and wondered if he was getting anywhere. It was only when he had failed utterly, alone, deserted and tortured, that his perseverance won the crown.

Jesus doesn’t want the successful. He wants the failures as his followers – and that is where the harvest lies.

**Henry Wansbrough
Universalis**



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 beginning this weekend and continuing each weekend 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. Please leave your blister packs in our foyers to be taken to be recycled.



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.

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking of Humans - Melbourne Run Fundraiser Sunday 19 July

The estimated 50 million people currently living in modern slavery globally, INCLUDING 41,000 IN AUSTRALIA, need your support. If you can help support someone in the team or the whole team on the Melbourne Run fundraiser please go to the following link grassrootz.com and follow the prompts. Every dollar raised goes directly to support ACRATH's crucial work: <https://acrath.org.au>.



Catholic Mission sincerely thanks the parish community of St Mary of the Cross, Aspendale and Mordialloc, for your generous support of this year's Propagation of the Faith Appeal.

As the Pope's official mission agency, Catholic Mission is deeply grateful for your partnership in bringing hope to children and families in Kampira, Malawi, where, together with the local Church, we are helping build a new primary school for communities rebuilding after Cyclone Ana. Thank you for your generosity, your prayers, and for living this year's World Mission theme, "One in Christ, United in Mission." May God continue to bless you and your parish community abundantly.

To learn more about Catholic Mission and our work, please go to catholicmission.org.au/united

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 link belows if you would like more information.

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

Parish Groups

Scripture & Friendship - Tuesday 14 July @ 10am

Our Parish Scripture & Friendship group is on this coming Tuesday 14th July at Ann's home, **47 Gothic Road Aspendale**. We begin at 10am and will finish at about 11am for a cuppa. This group is open for anyone - we discuss the coming Sunday's Gospel, sharing our thoughts, questions or just listening. A great way to meet people in our Parish.

For any queries contact Ann on 0425 712 741 or Carmel 0425773608.

Praise and Worship Friday 17 July 7.30pm at St Louis' Church *Peace Be With You – A Heart of Thanksgiving*

Join us for a 60-minute Praise & Worship gathering as we pause, give thanks, and rest in Christ's peace. A simple, uplifting time of music, prayer, and gratitude. All are welcome.

Men's Fellowship Group

Men of the parish are all invited to attend our next meeting scheduled for **Thursday 16 July 7.30pm at St Louis' Church Meeting room**. Come along into this safe space to talk about faith and enjoy some new friendships. New members are very welcome.

Masses for Marriage Anniversaries This Weekend

Fr Michael will bless all married couples who attend our masses over the weekend. May the Holy Spirit continue to watch over you and your families.



Thanksgiving Envelopes

Please pick up your sacrificial offering envelopes from the foyers. Thank you for your support.



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 - Saint Bonaventure of Italy

A Franciscan cardinal-bishop and contemporary of St Thomas Aquinas, St Bonaventure is an excellent example of saintly humility. Known as the "Seraphic Doctor", he loved God above all else.

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.melbournesynd.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 first two theme papers.

Formation and Participation and Missionary Leadership.

The theme paper exploring **Young Discipleship** will follow next week.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 19 JULY 2026

18/19 July 2026

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Wisdom 12: 13, 16-19 Romans 8: 26-27 Matthew 13: 24-43

	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Debra Searle	Julie Buick	Bernie Stuart	Carmel Barker	Sonia Williams	Berna Wake	Ann Brennan
8.00am (M)	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Chris McAleer	Jack Meyer	Jack Guthrie	Stephen Pooley	Joan Healy	Volunteer
9.30am (A)	Brenda O'Leary	Ann Furlong	Maureen Wraight	Ron Schneider-Loos	Mary Nayna	Lex Miller	Volunteer
11.00am (M)	Melwyn D'Mello	Mark Carazzo	Louise Breslin	Gail Bell	Christine D'Cruz	Volunteer	Helen Rocks
Counters	Group 2	Helen & Kelvin Rocks	Mary Nayna				

Recently deceased: Alex Kalpakoff (Father-in-law of Ann Fitzgerald), Brenda Monk (grandmother of Kristian Tangso's partner Damian Monk).

Anniversaries: Irene Sheehan, Alfio Musumeci, Eilene Hannan, Barbara Fernandez, Wesley Lazarus, Mary Violet McVeigh, P.K. Johnson, Arthur Edwards, Angelina Fernandes, Lois McMahon, Dorothy Taylor, Dorreen Dunn, Laurie George, Elvis Rodrigues, Nelle Rafter, Nina Dowker, Yvette Parfait, Raphael D'Silva, Liz Jones, Carmel Furlong, Molly Raines, Iolanda Cardamone, Keith Williams, Rodney Laughlin, Dominco Vinci, Eileen Walsh, Rocco Rodolico, Albert O'Kane, Lorraine Curtain, Joseph Norman, Vittorio Iacobucci, Biagia Zampataro, Denis Bowdern, Maree Velten, Alfio Licciardino, Keith Sowden, Angelina Drummond, Rosina Hauser.

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.

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

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
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Deacon George 9580 7981

Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



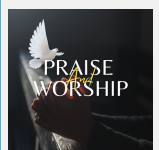
Children's Liturgy

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.