



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

3rd Sunday of Lent 8 March 2026

Readings for Year A Exodus 17: 3-7 Romans 4: 1-2, 5-8 John 4: 5-42

*"She begins the journey
of faith..."*

Easter calls us to fullness of life. Our Lenten journey should help us to identify areas in our lives that hold us back from fullness of life. Despite societal attitudes of that time, today's Gospel portrays Jesus in conversation with the Samaritan woman. In all the ways that matter, Jesus knows this woman and shows her a life she did not see. She begins the journey of faith and encourages others to do so. As a result, many other Samaritans choose to follow Jesus.

It doesn't matter where we are on the faith journey. Whatever our strengths, we are disciples of Jesus. Like the Samaritan woman, we can guide others to Jesus. This Lent can I believe that Jesus forgives my past? Mother Teresa said that 'God writes straight with crooked lines'. Whatever my past, may I come to believe that my efforts at discipleship will also guide others to Jesus.

Patrick Jurd
Parishioner



News and Announcements



Parish Priest Installation of Fr Michael Kong and Welcome Luncheon

On Sunday **22 March** at our **11am Mass at St Brigid's**, our parish community is invited to celebrate a joyful and significant milestone – the official installation of Fr Michael Kong as St Mary of the Cross' Parish Priest. Very Rev Fr Andrzej Madry is the Episcopal Vicar and will preside over the ceremony and concelebrate the Mass with Fr Michael. Mass will be followed by a light luncheon in the parish house grounds for all parishioners. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk if you can attend the luncheon to assist us with catering.



JAG Meeting Wednesday 11 March 7.30 - 9pm in St Louis meeting room

The JAG vision is to follow Jesus' example to hear and respond to issues of social justice including family violence, human trafficking, refugees and asylum seekers, people experiencing homelessness, First Nations people and the protection of the environment. If you have an interest in these areas, please do come to our monthly meeting on Wednesday 11 March from 7.30-9pm at St Louis' Church. All welcome.

Year 4 children First Eucharist Commitment masses

Next weekend we will welcome our Year 4 children from St Louis and St Brigid's as they join us for their First Eucharist Commitment Masses. Please welcome the children and their families as they join our community in celebration of their children's journey. May the Holy Spirit bless and guide the children and their educators. We will be having a cuppa after the 6pm, 9.30am and 11am masses next week that will be served by the families. This will be a great opportunity to meet and welcome each other.



International Women's Day

#IWD2026 #GiveToGain

International Women's Day, Sunday 8 March

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference bishop delegate for women, Bishop Michael Morrissey, has written a pastoral letter to mark International Women's Day on Sunday, March 8. In the letter the bishop

invites the faithful to "look again at the Gospel and notice the women who surrounded Jesus throughout his life and ministry", and that in Australia today, "women continue to witness to God's care and compassion whilst carrying immense responsibility". Follow this link to read the letter in full:

<https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/pastoral-letter-on-international-womens-day/>

Parish Bulletin Mailout - Issue

We are aware that some people have not received the weekly email and link to our Parish Bulletin. This is due to an issue with the following Microsoft-managed email addresses: hotmail.com, outlook.com and live.com. The Melbourne Archdiocese IT Department are actively working to resolve this as a priority. We have advised all those affected and now have a temporary workaround so that they are all now receiving the bulletin via email. We also advise that the Parish Bulletin can be accessed via our Parish website at:

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/mordialloc-aspendale> Scroll down to Mass Times and Services.

Please collect your Thanksgiving Envelopes from the foyer

Envelopes will be in boxes in the foyer, please collect yours to save on postage. Thank you for your contribution to support the parish.



Frankston Winter Shelter - Can you help?

The Frankston Winter Shelter is a combined project of the Frankston churches coming together in unity to support the vulnerable in our local community. Frankston Winter Shelter aims to offer a bed, a warm meal and safe place for the night across Monday through to Friday each week through the winter months. The model is based on Stable One's model which aims to provide 'more than a place to stay' by offering guests a safe, caring, non-judgmental community.

It runs for thirteen weeks providing crisis accommodation for up to 10 people experiencing homelessness in the city of Frankston. Volunteers are needed in the following areas: Drive a minibus; Collect food; Set up beds; Chat with guests over dinner; Stay half the night to supervise sleep area. Shift times vary from Monday - Saturday. New volunteers are able to apply at frankstonws@gmail.com or please scan the QR code. **Please apply by 21 March, 2026.** More details on the Welcome Desk.



News and Announcements

Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne - 4 to 6 December 2026



On this, the third Sunday of Lent, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a **Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne**. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing Pope Francis' vision of a 'listening Church' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern: 1. young discipleship 2. missionary leadership 3. formation and participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of **4-6 December 2026**. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026. In the synodal Church 'the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions (ITC 68) for mission' (Final Document, §87).

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Our seven catechumens- Holly, Sinead, Cathy, Peter, Jason, Adam and Antonia and our candidate Anthony are joining us at our 6pm and 8am masses up until Easter. To introduce you to our friends we have created a prayer bookmark, please take one home and keep them in your prayers while they are on this journey.

The
Season
of
Lent

Caritas Australia - Project Compassion

Please collect your Project Compassion boxes in the church foyers. You can also donate by scanning the QR Code, call at 1800 024 413 or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate



Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

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

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 musician's welcome. Call Trish for more information 0421 604 849.

FORMED - The Passion of Christ - In Light of the Holy Shroud of Turin

The Holy Shroud of Turin was called the greatest relic of Christendom by Pope John Paul II. Here we will see new scientific and medial evidence. 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.

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

10 seconds, 14 words, every day during Lent. 'Lord, today, is there someone You want me to connect with, outside the church?' The challenge is to begin each day with this prayer and be open to the Lord planting a name on your heart. Daily prompts are posted every day on our Parish Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishmordiallocaspendale>

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT - 15TH MARCH 2026

14/15 March 2026	4th Sunday in Lent (Year A) Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 Ephesians 5: 8-14 John 9: 1-41						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Debra Searle	Julius Lau	Carmel Barker	Michael Barker	Bernie Stuart	Julie Buick	Annette Brilliant
8.00am (M)	Paula Rodrigues	Celine George	Chris McAleer	Marlene Tangso	Joan Healy	Odette Budge	Angela Meo
9.30am (A)	Brenda O'Leary	Niko Tovia	Felice Cortese	Martin Newington	Maureen Wraight	Mary Nayna	Mary Smith
11.00am (M)	Gail Bell	Melwyn D'Mello	Helen Rocks	Christine D'Cruze	Peter Wain	Vanessa Fernandes	Ellen Young
Counters	Group 4	Aileen Dynes	Julie & Anthony Barnhoorn				

Recently deceased: Therese Lee (Richfield), Margaret Hogan.

Anniversaries: Martin Crosbie, Lesley Reyneke, Luca Auditore, Celiia Balm, Stephen Mardling, Fr Jim Flanagan, Fr Hugh McGrath, Eilish Sterling, Emmanuel Sterling, Martin Sterling, Albert Ryan, Kathleen Hudson, Betty Nunn, Isa Maria Ibanez, Joseph Genovese, Trevor Hall, George Jeeves, Marge Rosevear, Bob Temple, Michael Wood, William McVeigh, Peter Rodgers, Fr Denis White, John Calleja, George Pearson, Brian Waldron, Bill Medlicott, Jack Renton, Theo Jaspers, Carmel Dickinson, Lyn Brunbery, Harold Kennan, Linda Se Hin Son, William Aldridge, Therese Enzinger, Timothy John O'Dea, George Pugsley, Jack Quinn, Patrick Brady, Eugene Cleary, Percy Gregory, Tom Casey, Michael Peril, Br Kevin Moloney, Elma Fraser, Tise Tago, Christopher Parker.

Praying for healing and the sick: Vasilos Garavelis, Mary Agiropoulos, Luis, Marisa, Rita Popley, Prunella Julien, Pat Hyland, Kim Power, Maree Wesols, Sophia Bicos, Jeffrey Sellar, Damian Haggerty, Noleen Dunn, Therese Lee, Alasdair Hughes, Harry Donohue, Peter Waltho, Stephen Hopkins, 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)

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



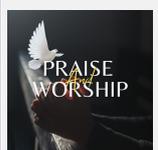
Children's Liturgy

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.