



The magazine of St Mary of the Cross Parish Mordialloc & Aspendale

Issue no.25 - December 2022

*A thousand times in history
a baby has become a king.
But only once in history
did a King become a baby.*



Wishing all a happy and holy Christmas

St Mary of the Cross Parish, Mordialloc & Aspendale

St Brigid's Church: 520 Main Street, Mordialloc

St Louis de Montfort's Church & Parish Centre: 37 Dolphin Street, Aspendale

Parish Office: 9580 7981



St Mary of the Cross
Catholic Parish
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE



SUNDAY MASS

6pm Saturday Vigil St Louis'
8am Sunday St Brigid's
9.30am Sunday St Louis'
11am Sunday St Brigid's
RECONCILIATION
Friday 12 noon St Brigid's
Saturday 5.30pm St Louis'

WEEKDAY MASS

9.15am Monday St Louis'
(Communion Service)
9.15am Tuesday St Louis'
10am Wednesday St Brigid's
9.15am Thursday St Louis'
11.30am Friday St Brigid's

PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Jekot
Assistant Priest: Fr Ignatius Tan
Parish Leadership Team:
Fr Andrew, Fr Ignatius, Trish Angliss,
Berna Wake
Parish Coordinator: Ann Fitzgerald
Baptism Coordinator: Deb Poynton

Keep in touch



<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/mordialloc-aspendale>



Catholic Mass with Fr Andrew. 6pm Saturday &
8am Sunday Masses are livestreamed



<https://www.facebook.com/catholicparishmordiallocaspendale>



mordiallocaspendale@cam.org

From the Editor

Our parish has incredible people who embrace our parish mission to **Love God, Love Others & Make Disciples**. In 2022 we launched **"Watch & Share"** sessions including THE SEARCH, which strengthens one of our core parish mission anchors to **Grow Deeper** in our faith & as a community of belonging. Our new monthly **"Praise & Worship"** nights allow all to show our love for our Lord in scripture & song. Praise & Worship nights will re-commence on 17 February 2023 & then every 3rd Friday of the month. **Kidz Zone** on the 4th weekend of the month during the 6pm & 9.30am masses, offers children aged 4-10 years the chance to know & learn more about Jesus, whilst parents can be fully present in the liturgical celebration.

We have been blessed to welcome many new parishioners in 2022 & for that we give thanks to the Holy Spirit who is in our midst.

Read on for more news & stories about our wonderful parish. Thank you to all who have generously contributed articles.

Peace & blessings, **Berna Wake**

**St Mary of the Cross Parish acknowledges that we gather, pray, and live together
on the land of the Bunnurong people of the Kulin Nation**



“Discipleship at St Mary of the Cross is a personal conscious decision to follow Jesus in faith, knowledge, prayer and identify one’s God-given gifts.”

I won't say a thing about the weather and as someone who despises winter, I'm not happy! Anyway, my rant is over and onto happier things. How good has it been to survive a whole year without lockdown!

Our church has been open for mass and parishioners have gradually returned to a regular routine of gathering for Eucharist. Some people are yet to come back and continue to view the mass on YouTube with an average of 80 views per mass. That's at least 160 people watching the weekend mass which includes people beyond our parish. This facility will continue and be enhanced as it has proven to be a worthwhile service and a great opportunity for reaching out to many.

Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) have been focusing on the Discipleship Foundation (which you can read more about in this edition of Blessings on page 9) and coming to a definition has taken quite a bit of reflecting.

We have defined it as such:

Discipleship at St Mary of the Cross Parish is a personal conscious decision to follow Jesus in faith, knowledge, prayer and identify one's God-given gifts. The discipleship journey involves helping each other become more like Jesus in our thoughts, feelings, and actions.

I feel that we have come to an accurate summary of who we are as disciples and what that entails. It calls us to see our responding to Jesus as an active participation in parish life whereby we are all called to promote the Good News via how we present ourselves at all times. Our presence at mass is crucial for our spiritual nourishment along with our welcoming of others. I feel that we are living our discipleship definition faithfully yet always wanting to “tweak” it even more.

At Christmas time, we are invited to enter the stable of Christ's love in our hearts. At Christmas masses, we will hear the first Christmas story that reminds us of God's insatiable desire to be close to us. He has SEARCHED for us, and we are invited to respond with a YES to His love. God enters the messiness of our lives and celebrates who we are. Each and every one of us! God doesn't have favourites!

On behalf of the Parish Leadership Team (Ignatius, Berna & Trish) I would like to extend Christmas blessings to you and your families. I pray that your family gatherings will be extra special and times of joy. May we journey together into 2023 confident of our Discipleship and be strengthened in faith.

Wesołych Świąt!

Shalom,

**Fr Andrew Jekot
Parish Priest
St Mary of the Cross Parish,
Mordialloc & Aspendale**



Grow Deeper

Children growing in faith

We have just completed another busy year for the Catechist Classes.

On the 27th of November, the first Sunday of Advent, we had our first ever (and hopefully annual) Catechist Class Thanksgiving Mass which was attended by nine Catechist Class children and their families. The children were delighted to participate in the readings and the offertory procession, bringing up the gifts.

Catechist classes are for all those children who do not attend Catholic schools. We learn about our Catholic Faith and prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation. Our Catechist Class year began on the third Tuesday in February with our Enrolment and Getting to Know You Day.



We soon started our Sacramental Programs for Eucharist and Confirmation while we learned about Lent (Ash Wednesday was week three), St Patrick, and St Joseph – six weeks in all for term one. Our Reconciliation Children were learning about Jesus, the Mass, the Sacraments, and the Church. Term two began with our celebration of Easter and the Feast of St Louis De Montfort, the Patron Saint of our Aspendale Church. In May, we got to know more about Our Lady, Mary the Mother of God. Our Sacramental Programs continued, and six children received their First Eucharist on the 12th of June with Fr Hoang at the 9.30 am Mass. (I think this was a first for Fr Hoang.)

In term three, we had only two more Confirmation lessons left before four of the children received their Confirmation at St Louis on the 26th of July. A definite highlight at the start of Term three for the children, was meeting Bishop Tony Ireland, who visited our parish on the Thursday morning prior to Confirmation. One child was away at school camp on Confirmation Day, but he was able to make his Confirmation in October with the children of St Joseph's Parish.

In August we celebrated the feast of St Mary of the Cross (Mackillop) and the Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven.

Our Reconciliation Program continued into term four and seven of our children made their First Reconciliation on the 18th of October. Parents and family members came along, and Fr Andrew and Fr Ignatius came to us at our normal class time, and we had a beautiful celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

One child was unable to attend, and she received her sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr Ignatius on the following Saturday before the 6pm Mass.

Our classes take place in the Foyer, Meeting Room, and Church at 4pm – 5pm on Tuesday afternoons during school terms.

Classes have now finished for this year, but we are looking forward to classes beginning again on the third Tuesday of February – 21st of February next year.

Elizabeth, Carmel, Jenny, and Gayle.

Scripture & Friendship Group



Grow Deeper

Journeying in faith & friendship

Our Scripture & Friendship Group enjoy
growing together on their faith journey



Our Parish Scripture and friendship group has enjoyed another wonderful year of gathering on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. We have delighted in the challenge of our gospel discussion and insights and the new friendships formed and nurtured through coming together.

Throughout the year the 'Gospels', as usual, have covered a great variety of topics that have been so relevant to our own lives - Thus the discussions and conversations have been lively, informative, sometimes challenging and always encouraging. We have loved using 'Lectio Divina' as our process to ponder and interact with the Gospel. The 'Summit Online' from the Melbourne Archdiocese has been used as our main resource to deepen our understanding of the background and context of the relevant reading.

Our time together always ends with a time of open prayer where we bring our personal prayers for loved ones/friends to the group, and one feels the support and strength as we pray for these needs. We have indeed been blessed and enriched by gathering around God's Word.

We finished our year with a delightful lunch and some prayer time and now we look forward to gathering again in 2023. Please note that this group is open to all, so keep your eye open for details in the Bulletin in early February.

Enjoying our journey as we delve into God's Word and develop friendships.

Carmel, Ann & the Scripture and Friendship group



Grow Wider

Extending Friendship

The JAG Friendship & Family Day for asylum seekers & refugees

After a 2-year enforced postponement due to Covid, it was an absolute delight to welcome so many families to our annual Friendship & Family Day in October. This year, due to the prospect of inclement weather, we held the day at St Brigid's Primary School (thanks Wendy & Jodie) it was a perfect choice and a perfect day.



Blessing of pets



Grow Wider

All creatures great & small

Blessed for the Feast of St Assisi



BLESSING OF A PET

WATCH OVER & PROTECT



Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called fish in the sea, birds in the air, and animals on the land. You inspired St Francis to call of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord God, and all your creatures. Amen.



Despite the weather, several pets came along (with their owners) for a blessing by Fr Andrew & Fr Ignatius on the steps of St Brigid's in October. The pets all received a certificate and some tasty treats (Thanks Rose McEgan). Put it in your diary for next year (7 October 2023) & invite your furry & not-so-furry family & friends.



A reflection from Fr Ignatius

Our parish warmly welcomes five candidates
for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult (RCIA) is a process of preparation for adults who wish to deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. It is a journey of exploring our human existence, the meaning of life and our relationship with God. It is a journey of our own innermost searching, questioning and reflection. It is a journey of accompaniment with a group of sisters and brothers who facilitate and share with them their own Christian living experiences. It is also a journey of companionship with the congregation of the parish of St Mary of the Cross in sharing their faith and serving each other as sisters and brothers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Who can be part of the RCIA process? This process is suitable for anyone who wants to know the Christian faith. Any non-Christians, free-thinkers, or anyone who has not been baptised; any Catholic who wants to deepen their knowledge and experience in faith, all are welcome to come and join in the enquire process when the RCIA process begins in August each year.

This is my very first exposure to the RCIA process in the parish. I had been through a traditional catechesis program delivered in classroom mode when I was a youth. This traditional mode did not give me much room to search deeper spiritually. I was too young to understand many realities in the universe. I was too young to fully understand the meaning of life. I went through the searching, questioning and development processes when I grew more mature in my life. I am still learning to understand God's will every day of my life.

This RCIA experience in St Mary of the Cross parish, allows the enquirers to search deep into the human existence through the resourceful video presentation offered by The Augustine Institute's FORMED, using the seven sessions of the "THE SEARCH" video series. The SEARCH allows us to reflect on our existence from the universe's perspective, and how it extends to our human existence. The "SEARCH" presentations have given me a visual impact of how big the universe is and how minute we human beings are. How Majestic God is, and how the Majestic God focuses on us, one of the minute creatures.

I feel in awe to have the honour to have God come down to search for us. There is certainly much thinking and questioning on why God wants to do all these things for us. Why did God send His only SON? All because of the love of God. God loves all. He creates, and everything is "Good" in God's eye, including each one of us.

The RCIA process is now going into the next stage in sharing and experiencing the Word of God, sharing the Sunday gospel reading. The scriptures will help us to understand the salvation history that is destined for us all. We can all explore through the liturgies of the Church and its sacraments to fully understand the love of God for us. This journey will later explore the Lent and Easter seasons allowing our candidates and catechumens to experience the love of God in Christ's passion and resurrection.

Fr Ignatius Tan



Meet our RCIA Candidates



MANDY & FAMILY

Mandy Hammond

"I was baptised at St Mary's church in Bairnsdale and attended high school at Nagle College, Bairnsdale, so the Catholic experience is not new to me. Recently I decided I would like to complete my sacraments and continue to raise our children in the Catholic faith and community".

Nikky & Brett Hill

"Our journey to becoming Catholic began about 2 years ago when my grandmother was in her final weeks, and I began reading her many biblical



NIKKY, BRETT & FAMILY

verses at her bedside to give her comfort during those times. It was then, that I began to find peace in a very distressing time. My grandmother was very close to me throughout my life, and I spent my childhood with her as my mum worked full time in my early years. I have some of my fondest memories growing up with her. I began to reminisce about my childhood

and the many times we attended church. It was a daily/ weekly ritual, and a community that we were very much a part of. And after losing her, we have realised how important this journey is to take. So, with my own family, we have decided to take this journey together. I would like them to feel the same community spirit and share the same values that I was taught growing up, so we look forward to sharing our journey with you all."



FEODOR

Feodor Frukhtman

"I want to become a Catholic because I am drawn to the Church's rich history and tradition, and I desire to be a part of a community of believers. The Catholic faith offers me a sense of comfort, direction, and purpose, and its emphasis on social justice aligns with my own values. Additionally, I am attracted to the unique spiritual practices and sacraments of the Catholic Church. Ultimately, my decision to become a Catholic is a deeply personal one that is driven by my own individual beliefs and desires."

Jon Searle

"We moved into Aspendale after getting married in '94. One day we got a knock at the door. It was someone from St Louis, who invited us to attend mass. We did just that and I was so amazed and overjoyed because not only was it just around the corner, it was full of young families, babies crying and kids being kids. I loved it. It reminded me of my time growing up in the Congregational Church in the 70s, which formed into the Uniting Church of Australia in the 80s. My wife Cassandra is Catholic and so is our daughter, Natalie. Nat went to St. Louis Primary and then Kilbrida and has now just finished a Bachelor of Conservation and Wildlife Biology. To think, many years ago, I would carry her to mass on my shoulders. I have to admit that I have been intending to



JON

do RCIA for a few decades. So why have I waited so long? I could say I kept getting distracted by Christmas Choir Rehearsals, but to tell you the truth, I think I might have felt embarrassed by having left it so long. Nevertheless, 'better late than never', is something I must try to stop telling my-self so often."

Our Discipleship Pathway

In 2022 Our Parish Pastoral Council have undertaken seven Saturday morning workshops involving a 6-step assessment on the foundation of Discipleship. This is the 1st of the Five Foundations the PPC will assess to guide our parish on its journey to truly live our mission to Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples. The 5 Foundations are - Discipleship; Outreach; Service; Worship & Community.

Discipleship at St Mary of the Cross is a personal conscious decision to follow Jesus in faith, knowledge, prayer and identify one's God-given gifts. The discipleship journey involves helping each other become more like Jesus in our thoughts, feelings and actions.

Here's our plan for discipleship to help people grow deeper in their faith. Please reach out to our Parish Leadership Team and Parish Pastoral Council to get involved and learn more.

Worship

The weekend Mass is the heart of our community life. Weekly Eucharist unites, nourishes, inspires & empowers us to be our best. Also, giving thanks & glory to our Lord is offered in our Prayer Group, Holy Rosary & Adoration, our Praise & Worship Nights & Retreats.

Small Groups

We learn in rows but we grow in groups. A small group culture helps us to build stronger relationships with each other as we learn our individual faith journey's and grow as followers of Jesus. We offer a Scripture & Friendship Group, Advent & Lenten Groups & encourage new avenues.

Service/Outreach

Living out our mission as Christ's body by contributing our time and gifting to the life of the parish & our outreach to our local community. Our Serve Ministries provide opportunities for all to use their gifts for & alongside others.

Community Growth

Watch & Share events, e.g., THE SEARCH, Presence. The invitation to join together to listen & learn from experts & each other in faith formation, exploring life & Christianity as a parish community.



**St Mary of the Cross
Catholic Parish**
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE



Servant Leadership

Care Serve Ministers to Residential Care

Bringing the love of Christ

There are many facets of **Care Serve Ministers** in our parish, and we are indeed very fortunate to have them.

I like to think of it as the 'Holy Spirit' working within our community which is the result of our hard-working Clergy, the Parish Leadership Team, Serve Ministers, and those of you who pray for the growth of the Spirit within our Parish.

To join our Residential Care, Serve Ministry one must be fully vaccinated (4 shots), had a flu shot, and a police check. In addition, one must be registered with the residence they attend, and each time - do a 'RAT test,' a temperature check, wear a mask, register, and sanitise.



These rules help to ensure the most vulnerable are protected. The four residential care homes that we attend have been colour coded to make it easier for rosters so that serve ministers do not attend another residence outside their colour zone.

Elly Kaye (Purple) - Parkdale House (Green) - Bayside (Blue) - Nixon House (Red).

Serve Ministers go in pairs. Some of the residents in these communities never see another visitor and they look forward to these special visitors bringing with them the "Body of Christ," and news of our Parish (weekly Bulletin). They come with their gentle, generous manner once a month.

A great opportunity for residents and staff, is the Anointings and Special Blessings in Lent and Advent. These are special times that include as many residents as possible who wish to attend regardless of their denomination. It is wonderful to see our bi-lingual volunteers speak with residents in their native tongue as many people in their remaining years revert to their first language. The staff are very obliging and helpful as they take the serve ministers to the rooms of those who are living out their lives bedridden or unable to attend functions outside their rooms

Continue to pray for the Serve Ministers in our community for their stamina, commitment, and generosity of spirit.

Marie Seddon



Grow Deeper

Do this in memory of me

Our Parish Retreat Day on Saturday 26th November was a great way to take time out to reflect on our own personal journeys with God and our place and calling in community. The day was beautifully led by Jacqui Giuliano from the Melbourne Archdiocese *Proclaim* Office for Mission Renewal. We were guided through different forms of prayer to reflect and think deeply on passages of scripture.

Jacqui used 'Lectio Divina', 'Imaginative Contemplation', and 'Visual Contemplation' prayer modes. These forms of prayer encouraged us to think differently and engage with all our senses as we reflected on passages of scripture.

The times of quiet/ silent contemplation or using visual creative art modes was challenging BUT oh so rewarding as we allowed ourselves to **"be"** in these times of private silence. From the gentle guiding through these prayer modes, to the silence, to the sharing over coffee and lunch breaks, the day was an absolute delight. I'm sure we could all see in each other a gentle peace and Spirit of God that we felt as the day drew to a close with a time of music/ worship and open prayer.

Definitely 'a must' to put in your calendar for next year!
Thanks to Jacqui who led us so gently but powerfully, and to our PLT for giving us the opportunity to experience these very enriching forms of prayer.
Carmel Barker





Grow Deeper

Do this in memory of me

Participant Reflections



"On Saturday 26th November I was lucky to be one of a group of parishioners to join Ms. Jacqui Giuliano from the Archdiocesan Proclaim Office leading our Retreat Day at St Brigid's Church. What a gift to spend 6 hours in preparation for the season of Advent. Time to reflect on discipleship and connect. The first reading had me searching with awe on my walk to the beach.

With the next session, the reading and songs focussed on the Living Eucharist nourishing ourselves, serving others and allowing others to serve me. I focused on a gift to myself and used my beach collection with the creative materials Jacqui had set up to create my Mandala/Collage (see left).

*We had a lovely lunch and chat time together and finished reflecting on a visual image and reading challenging us to open our door to God's light. The whole day was such a special gift at this busy time of year. **"Julie Buick***

"I had never attended an all-day retreat before but was looking forward to the day.

Jacqui Giuliano led us through times of music, prayer and scripture and then provided images related to the scripture to help in our reflection time. I particularly liked having an image to help refocus when my mind strayed away.

For our first quiet time I chose to use creative expression and so created a mandala (see right) helped by the instruction sheet provided. I really enjoyed using this as a meditation and time of quiet and reflection. It was very calming and peaceful."

Trish Angliss



Baptisms

We welcome & pray for children recently baptised & their families

Whoever welcomes a child in my name
welcomes me (Luke 9:46-48)

Ignatius Theodore Viney son of Evan Viney and Mae Deveson
Henry William, James Leonard, Angus Brady Bishop sons of Tom Bishop and Kate Healey
Elliott James Worthy son of Colin and Sheena Worthy
Sebastian Maxwell Butler son of Shaun Butler and Holly Dingle
Max Kenneth McCartney son of Matthew & Courtney McCartney
Romain Gabriel Edwards son of Jean-Paul Edwards and Rebecca Carr
Mackenzie Oliver Irvine son of Reid and Sally Irvine
Darcy Samuel Hall son of Lee and Britt Hall
Patrick Joseph Dias son of Malinda and Hayley Dias
Molly Marie Hayes daughter of Matthew and Meg Hayes
Pia Rae Trump daughter of Phil Trump and Jessica Anwyl
Eilish Grace McNally daughter of Peter McNally and Martina Cleere
Sophie Helen Castles daughter of Jessica Castles
Allie Hazel Desira daughter of Joe and Rebecca Desira
Luca Tomas and Mia Valentina Ferri children of Richie and Elissa Ferri
Jacques-Francois Lawrence Worsnop son of Edward and Natalie-Veronique Worsnop
Victor Michael John Lolis son of Konstantinos and Kathleen Lolis
Charlie May Simpson daughter of Ben and Melinda Simpson
Adeline Grace Tracey daughter of Robert and Charlotte Tracey
Darcy Ella Cowden daughter of Ethan Cowden and Georgia Carey
Joseph Alexander Cauchi son of Daniel Cauchi and Kim Lamden
Amelia Ann Fabrizio daughter of Andrew Fabrizio and Katheleen Pistone
Lorenzo Rico Jones son of Robert Jones and Sara Gazale
Arthur Anthony Ezerins son of Adam and Laura Ezerens
Harvey Joe Moran son of Ash Moran and Rachael Joachim
Lennox Eli Gains son of Jayden Gains and May Bronts
Willa Thomas Jackman Grieve son of Tom and Caroline Grieve
Bailey Joshua and Zach William Cousins sons of Aaron Cousins and Kim Pender
Charlotte Anne Houston daughter of Anthony and Carly Houston
Isabella Anna and Jack William Jenkins children of Andrew and Leela Jenkins
Flynn David and Ruby Louise McNally children of Matthew and Abbie McNally
Harry Lewis Pritchard son of Doug and Dominique Pritchard
Finn Mark and Jack Timothy Zeigler sons of Jamie and Kate Ziegler
Amy Anne O'Brien daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth O'Brien
Bella Laura Scafidi daughter of Andrew Scafidi and Kate Solomon

From Fr Ignatius

My pastoral experience at St Mary of the Cross



My assignment to St Mary of the Cross Mordialloc and Aspendale Parish began on the 17th of August 2022. It is my great privilege to have Fr. Andrew as my mentor. He is caring and very willing to share and teach me as a new priest. Andrew's generosity and openness to people, has motivated me to grow in personality in opening myself for others.

I had a great privilege to work in Our Lady of the Way (LOW) Kingsbury for a month prior to my posting to St Mary of the Cross (SMOTC). In LOW, I was able to celebrate mass every day and baptism and funeral masses and services every week. It was a good transition allowing me to learn and deal with daily work and with parishioners. God has blessed me with the all the love and care from the parishioners and parish priest in-charge. I was able to collaborate with them very well and have learnt so much as a newly ordained priest.

During one of my pastoral placements to the parish, the Parish Priest introduced me to the congregation and said: "All the parishioners can be part of the formation and training of a seminarian." Indeed, it applies to a new priest who can learn and train by the parishioners too. I am truly fortunate that wherever I go, the parishioners are very welcoming and friendly, certainly it includes all our sisters and brothers at SMOTC.

I thank you all sisters and brothers for your care and encouragement given to me. I really appreciate the feedback given to me after the mass. It has been a journey to learn and to experience community love. All of you help me to grow with confidence and willingness to serve every day. The warmth and vibrancy of the community encourages me to step out my comfort zone, encouraging me to develop and allowing me to learn from mistakes.

I am impressed with the serving spirit our community offers. There are many serve ministries in the parish allowing our community to take part. Many sisters and brothers offer their time and effort in the care ministry with communion service and visiting the aged care home and the sick.

Many others are involved in our liturgy ministry serving in the liturgical celebration with music, reading, commentator, sacristan, altar display & flower arrangement, adoration, praise & worship, and Kidz Zone. There are many sisters and brothers involved in outreach ministry, such as Vinnies and the JAG team, helping those who are marginalised.

Thank you to our sisters and brothers in teaching me to grow my passion in pastoral needs, the way you offer help in all the ministries allows me work with you easily. We are looking forward for more people to come forward to get involved in the various ministries, to make our community even more vibrant in reaching out to all in need with no discrimination.

Fr Ignatius Tan



Ordination of Vinh Do

Congratulations Vinh Do on your recent
ordination to the priesthood



On Saturday 19 November 2022, three new priests and three new transitional deacons were ordained for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne in a joyful Ordination Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral.

In his greeting and introduction, Archbishop Peter A Comensoli commented on how good it was to see the cathedral so full of people for the ordinations of Fr Huy Nguyen, Fr Vinh Do and Fr An Le to the priesthood, and of Rev Thomas Christie, Rev Tien Tran and Rev Peter (Ngoc) Nguyen to the transitional diaconate.



Photo acknowledgment courtesy of
Melbourne Catholic

Photo Gallery



**WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS TO CRAIG MURRAY & MELANIE DE SOUZA
WHO WERE MARRIED ON 22 OCTOBER 2022**



HE'S A NATURAL



**CONGRATULATIONS EDDIE & SUE DUHAU - 60TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY 1 DECEMBER 2022**



**CATCHING UP BEFORE WATCHING
PRESENCE: THE MYSTERY OF THE
EUCCHARIST OCTOBER 2022**

Photo Gallery



RENEWAL OF WEDDING VOWS OCTOBER 2022



ADVENT SMALL GROUP REFLECTION DECEMBER 2022



LITURGICAL SERVE MINISTRY FORMATION DECEMBER 2022

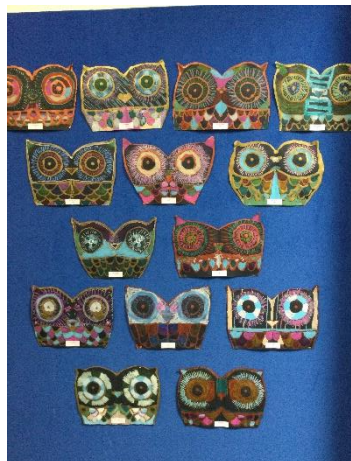


IN CASE THERE WAS EVER ANY DOUBT :)

St Brigid's Primary School

What a busy Term Four we have had at St Brigid's Primary school with fun, engaging and cooperative activities.

The term began with our St Brigid's Art Show. The children were very proud to share their artwork with the community and Mrs Kimball was a very proud art teacher! The conversations and the reconnection between staff and families at this event was lovely to see especially as we had not been together like that for such a long time.



Our Year Six Sports Leaders organised a fun footy morning to coincide with our Walkathon. They planned this day to raise money to buy new sports equipment. We are very proud of their initiative. We also participated in the school's Tabloid Sports ably led by Miss Richards, the Sports leaders and some Year Five students. Blue House were the winners on the day with Yellow House winning the Spirit award.

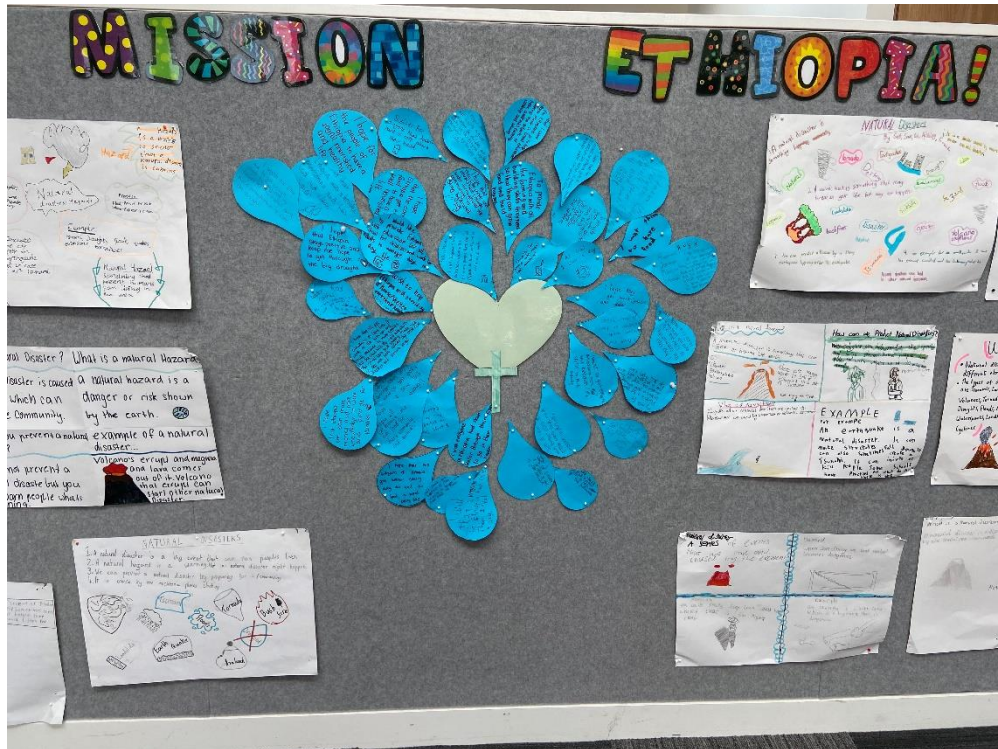
The Year Four students experienced their first overnight camp, spending the night in the city. They explored some of the many sites our city has to offer including ACMI, the Shrine and the Queen Victoria Market.

This term each year level has focused on Earth and Space Science. They discovered that as a result of natural processes and human use of resources, the Earth is subject to change within and on its surface. They explored the ways in which humans use resources

from the Earth and the influence of human activity on the Earth and the atmosphere. We integrated Religion, connecting it to Mission Month and the work of Catholic Mission. Ethiopia was the focus due to the continuing effect of drought that means many are facing malnutrition and food insecurity. Our Year Six Liturgy and Social justice team lead the school in a Mission Month prayer and through their learning the children are hoping to raise enough money for 5 goats so that mothers will be able to provide milk which has all the right nutrients that a baby needs. To do this they are forgoing giving or receiving a Kris Kringle gift. (Though we have had to explain to some of our younger students that the goats are not coming to school!) *Continued next page.*



St Brigid's Primary School



Our Year 3 students celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They participated in a very reverent way, showing their understanding of the importance of giving and receiving forgiveness.

As we now prepare for Advent, we are celebrating in many ways. We have been learning the stories of Jesus' family through our study of the Jesse Tree. We have held our annual Christmas Food Drive for St Vincent de Paul and celebrated our inaugural Christmas Carols on Friday 9th December. We have given thanks at our End of Year Mass on Wednesday 14th December and farewelled our Year Six students at Graduation on Thursday 15th December.



We here at St Brigid's Primary School would love to take this opportunity to wish you all a fabulous Christmas. May the light of Christ bring you hope, joy, peace, and love.

St Louis' Primary School

Dear Parishioners,

All of our prayers have worked this year as we have been able to spend a full year at school.

School Production

This year we had our School production of Aladdin after a break of 4 years. It was a huge success and such a community celebration.

All of our students shone in whatever role they played. It was amazing to see their smiling faces as they performed across four evenings.



Garden Awards

St. Louis was nominated for the Victorian Schools Garden Awards (VSGA). We were the winners of the Kevin Heinze Perpetual Trophy for Victorian School Garden Excellence. We also won the State and Regional Awards for Garden Excellence. The VSGA program encourages schools to consider their outdoor spaces as an important facet for learning, acting as classrooms for hands-on education while improving student health and well-being.



We also were the winners of the State Award and Regional Garden Excellence Award. We continue to be blown away by the incredible learning and teaching opportunities achieved in our garden space.



School Review

This year we had our Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic School Review. The Reviewer was in the school for 3 days, she had plenty of rooms to visit and documentation to read. Sheridan also met with different members of the community and a number of parents shared their voice through the parent forum. It was a valuable process and provided reaffirming information about where we are at and where we need to go in the future.

Recommendations were given by the Reviewer to the school, and these will form our School Improvement Plan for the next 4 years. *Continued next page.*

St Louis' Primary School



Social Justice Action

Five Year 3 girls raised \$350 from their cupcake sale. The money has been sent to St Joseph's Rochester. St Joseph's has been severely hit by the recent floods. They are not able to be at their school site, so the P-2 classes are travelling daily to a nearby town while the Yr 3-6 classes travel to Bendigo each day. Some classrooms will be ready for the start of the new school year but the whole school will not be completed until later in the year. The principal was very emotional when she heard of the girls' efforts and was very appreciative when she spoke to them on the phone.

Four Year 5 students had a Christmas Hamper Drive and have made 50 Christmas hampers for St Vinnies to deliver to those in need. The school community supported the drive and were very generous with the items donated.

Some of our Year 6 students who work closely with Frank in the garden, sold some of our fresh produce to parishioners and the money went to Heart of Life.



Prep enrolments

We are celebrating a strong prep enrolment of 95 students for 2023

Major sporting achievements

T ball for Year 6 girls - State finalists

T 20 cricket for Year 6 boys - State finalists

RESA Park Girls AFL football - Grand Final winners

Camps

This year we have been able to go on five camps. Due to the Positive Start program from the State government, Year 5 and Year 6 students went on two camps and the Year 4's also had the opportunity to go on a camp this year as well.

It has been a great year and we are looking forward to a wonderful 2023. We take this opportunity to wish all the St Mary of the Cross parishioners a happy, healthy, and holy Christmas and New Year.

In memoriam



*Zorka Marinovic (70).
Zorka passed away on the
23rd September 2022.
Zorka's funeral was held
at St Brigid's on
6th October 2022.*



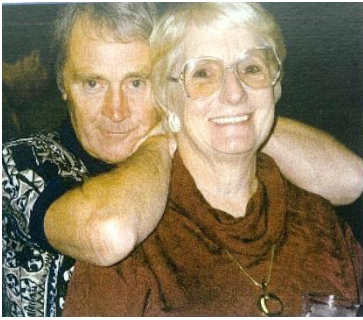
*Neil John Noonan (91).
Neil passed away on the
6th October 2022.
Neil's funeral was held
at St Brigid's on
14th October 2022.*



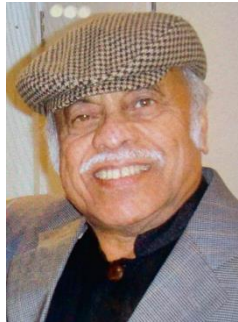
*Brian Anthony Gleeson (87).
Brian passed away on the
7th October 2022.
Brian's funeral was held at
St Brigid's on
17th October 2022.*



*James Harold Cooke (91).
James passed away on the
3rd October 2022.
James' funeral
was held at Springvale cemetery
on 18th October 2022.*



*Stanley (Stan) Keltie (94).
Stan passed away on the
22nd October 2022.
Stan's funeral
was held at St Brigid's on
2nd November 2022.*



*Canute (Trevor) Jansz (85).
Trevor passed away on the
5th November 2022.
Trevor's funeral
was held at
St Louis de Montfort's
on 16th November 2022.*



*Elisa Edulia Villar Moreno (82).
Elisa passed away on the
23rd November 2022.
Elisa's funeral
was held at St Brigid's on
2nd December 2022.*



*Judith Verleigh Trowbridge (81).
Judith passed away on the
27th November 2022.
Judith's funeral
was held at
St Louis de Montfort's
on 6th December 2022.*



*Lawrence Francis Pickett (91).
Lawrence passed away on the
30th November 2022.
Lawrence's funeral
was held at St Brigid's on
9th December 2022.*



*Valerie Agnes Troup (68).
Valerie passed away on the
29th November 2022.
Valerie's funeral
was held at St Brigid's on
8th December 2022.*



*Josephine Lindfield (87).
Josephine passed away
in Shepparton on the
8th October 2022.*



*Mary Patricia (Bonnie) Wilkinson (91).
Bonnie passed away on
6th December 2022
Bonnie's funeral was held at
St Louis de Montfort's
on 15 December 2022.*

At St Mary of the Cross Parish, Mordialloc & Aspendale we...



St Mary of the Cross
Catholic Parish
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

aspire towards our Vision:

*We are a faith community who gather to praise & worship God.
We express Christ's presence among us by reaching out to those in need with Christ's message
of love & forgiveness & the promise of justice & hope for all.*

live our Mission to:

Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples

*Our Mission is a call to faithfulness to Jesus' Great Commission to 'Go make disciples' (Matthew 28:19-20)
and his Greatest Commandment 'Love God & love your neighbour as yourself' (Mark 12:28-34)*

live by our values:

Positive Action

*Live the Gospel by word &
action to change lives & bring
people to Jesus*

Compassion

*"Never see a need without
doing something about it."
(Mary MacKillop)*

Transparency

*We are accountable to each
other in a spirit of trust,
transparency, honesty &
respect*

Our mission is anchored in four core areas:



Grow Wider

*Listen & respond to
the wider
community with
love, care, mercy &
welcoming
acceptance*



Grow Deeper

*Grow in our faith &
as a community of
belonging; living
our lives in
accordance with
Jesus' teaching*



Leadership

*Where we are all
called to serve in
our parish
ministries & wider
community*



Weekend Experience

*Exceptional
hospitality,
homilies & hymns
guided by the Holy
Spirit*

Our Prayer

*Lord, we pray to you to bless & guide us as we embark on a journey to renew our parish with
healthy growth. Speak to our hearts, open our minds. We pray to you for a new outpouring of the
Holy Spirit, igniting us with courage, passion & creativity. Help us Lord to deepen our love for you &
welcome those outside into our community. Encourage us with your love & support as we embrace
your mission & your greatest commandment. Amen.*

We invite all to:

*Embrace & participate in our mission
Celebrate the Eucharist with us each weekend
Use your gifts in our Serve Ministries
Reach out to the poor & suffering
Pray for our parish*