



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

4th Sunday of Lent 15 March 2026

Readings for Year A 1 Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13 Ephesians 5: 8-14 John 9: 1-41

"I am the light of the world, says the Lord, Who ever follows me will have the light of life"

This week gives us the wonderful story of the man born blind in John's Gospel, who is cured by Jesus. The Pharisees firstly do not believe that Jesus is from God for he does not keep the Sabbath. And secondly, they do not believe the man was born blind and question his parents on whether he is actually their son, and if he was born blind.

We have the remarkable contrast of the man born blind (we do not know his name), who was overjoyed at having sight been given to him. Imagine seeing a flower, or a bird, or new born baby, or even the face of Jesus for the first time and wanting to share this experience with everyone. And on the other hand, we have the Jews looking for any reason not to believe that the man was cured. Jesus was not from God, or in fact the man was not blind.

A word on the Pool of Siloam where the man washed the paste (a paste made from spittle and dirt) from his eyes. The Pool of Siloam was where the Jews drew water during the feast of Tabernacles to symbolize the waters of blessings. Indeed, the man was blessed by Jesus and blessed by the water, yet the Jews had their eyes firmly shut to the miracle before their eyes. May our eyes be opened in the remaining weeks of Lent. May we walk with the man born blind who moved from physical blindness to physical sight and even to spiritual enlightenment, and not like the Pharisees and Jews who moved from physical sight to spiritual darkness and unbelief.

Michael Barker
Parishioner



News and Announcements

Year 4 children First Eucharist Commitment masses

This weekend we are joined by our Year 4 children from St Louis' and St Brigid's 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 this week to meet and welcome the families.

Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family - Michael Connor; Poppy Anne; Theodore Maurice; and Goldie Karen Dawn. God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take he guides you on your way.

Please collect your Thanksgiving Envelopes from the foyer

Envelopes are in boxes in the foyer, please collect yours to save on postage. Thank you for your commitment to our parish.

Men's Fellowship Group

All men of the parish are invited to attend our next meeting scheduled for **Thursday 19 March 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.

Praise and Worship Night

Everyone is invited to join in a joyful, uplifting and worshipful time with Jesus through music mixed with some scripture and time for prayer and praise. The focus is building a one-on-one, love relationship with Christ. Come along, bring a friend and feel the power of the Holy Spirit **Friday 20 March from 7.30-8.30pm at St Brigid's Church**. Cuppa afterwards.

Installation of Fr Michael Kong as Parish Priest on Sunday 22 March 11am Mass at St Brigid's and Welcome Luncheon

"Everyone is warmly invited to the Installation Mass followed by a simple lunch after mass from 12.15pm in the grounds of the Parish House. This gathering is not only for me personally, but also to mark a new beginning for our parish and to express gratitude for the gift of all who are involved in creating our vibrant community" - **Fr Michael**
Please sign up at the Welcome Desk if you are attending the luncheon to assist us with catering.

Earthcare

Earthcare is a Catholic initiative sponsored by Caritas Australia and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Our parish Earthcare team are committed to creating awareness and action on environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and the need to live sustainably, as well as raising awareness on First Nations People. The team have compiled a short video highlighting their 2025 actions. You can view it at:

<https://vimeo.com/1171616624#t=0>

Justice Action Group News

Choose your Easter chocolate responsibly

Choose chocolate free from labour exploitation this Easter.

Check the Chocolate Scorecard:

www.chocolatescorecard.com

Rainforest Alliance & Fairtrade labels mean the chocolate is made with social, economic, and environmental care.

www.acrath.org.au

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

Our friends at BASP are asking for our assistance this Lent to help refugees and migrants in need. From next weekend and for the next 3 weeks please help with: 100gm jars coffee; Black tea bags (50 or 100); 500ml dish washing liquid; 1kg box laundry detergent; 1litre liquid laundry detergent; Spray & wipe/nifti cleaner; Long life milk 1litre Full Cream; Sweet biscuits; Small cans tuna; Sardines; 1kg pack sugar; 1kg pack plain flour; Coconut milk. Collection boxes in the church foyers.

Frankston Winter Shelter Can you help?

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



May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.
May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.
May peace and plenty bless your world, with joy that long endures.
May all life's passing seasons, bring the best to you and yours!



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



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).

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



Life was hard for Manaini and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education

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 Trials of St Patrick

The Trials of St Patrick, a powerful journey through hardship, loss, mercy and forgiveness. This captivating story comes to life, stirring the imagination and sparking inspiration. 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 - 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT - 22ND MARCH 2026

21/22 March 2026	5th Sunday in Lent (Year A)		Ezekiel 37: 12-14	Romans 8: 8-11	John 11: 1-45	NAME BADGES & CUPPA	
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Carmel Barker	Marg De Vries	Gail McGillivray	Julius Lau	Sonia Williams	Monique Bruce	Berna Wake
8.00am (M)	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Chris McAleer	Jack Meyer	Carole Guthrie	Jack Guthrie	Tony Aloysious	Josie Johnson
9.30am (A)	Brian Martin	Gen Martin	Felice Cortese	Martin Newington	Elizabeth Newington	Eddie Joseph	Blessen Mathai
11.00am (M)	Jennifer Rodrigues	Mark Carazzo	Helen Rocks	Louise Breslin	Philippa Pecora	Vanessa Fernandes	Volunteer
Counters	Group 5	Bern & Geoff Terrell	Susan Dornom				

Recently deceased: Palma Vintaloro, Patrick Hyland (Mordialloc), John McVeigh.

Anniversaries: Connie Mellan, Hilda Hunter, Venderando Costanzo, Eileen Geary, Anne Blakeney, Chris Byrne, Fred Greenwell, Peg Smith, Esme Gailey, Jessie Rebello, Beverley Mills, Frank Sweeney, Patrick James Keane, Lisa Malone, Amal Basry, Kathleen McNicholas, Michelle Cevac, Fr Ernie Smith, Verna Crane, Betty Teasdale, Antonino Indriolo, Michael Goss, Alan Stoppa, Jaison Antony, Anthony (Tony) Medlicott, Jim Stynes, Stacey MacInnes, Peg Weaver, Marie Dorian, Vivian Morillion, Gabrielle O'Donnell.

Praying for healing and the sick: Chris Doran, Ruben David, Vasilos Garavelis, Mary Agiropoulos, Luis, Marisa, Rita Popley, Prunella Julien, 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



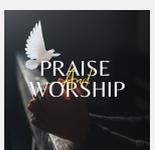
Children's Liturgy

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.