



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong
Deacon: George Piech-Meat

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time 15 February 2026

Readings for Year A Sirach 15: 15-20 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10 Matthew 5: 17-37



“I say this to you....”

Matthew's Gospel continues to show Jesus as the fulfilment of the Jewish scriptures. While reassuring to the first listeners to the Gospel, Matthew shows us today that disciples of Jesus must do more than a minimum.

It is hopefully not too challenging for us to not kill another person - but Jesus urges us to control our anger which can give rise to murder. Another of the commandments states not to commit adultery - but Jesus urges us to control our lust, rather than be slaves to it.

These and the other teachings of Jesus are as challenging now as they were two thousand years ago. Let us each take time to reflect how my life might need to change to follow these teachings of Jesus.

The early Christians were assured that the Jewish law would not 'pass away'. May we be living proof that the teachings of Jesus are their fulfilment.

**Patrick Jurd
Parishioner**



m.stmaryofthecross.com



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News and Announcements



A reminder that Lent is early this year

Lent is a season of preparation for Easter, mirroring Jesus' forty days in the desert and also anticipating his passion, death, and triumphant resurrection.

Ash Wednesday 18 February.

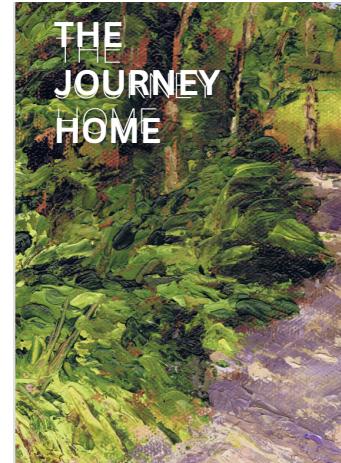
10am Mass at St Brigid's and 7pm Mass at St Louis.

Lenten Small Groups

With Ash Wednesday approaching, there's still time to join a parish Small Group for a meaningful Lenten journey in conversation with fellow parishioners. Many have found these groups to be a rich and supportive way to prepare for Easter.

Thanks to you, our current groups are full with nearly 70 participants, and due to continued interest, we're offering **two additional** online options on **Wednesday or Friday evenings.**

We warmly invite you to join us by signing up at the Welcome Desk today, or call Anne on 0417 033 399.



Stations of the Cross during Lent

Our Parish is lucky enough to have 2 options for Stations of the Cross during Lent.

Monday Evenings at St Louis at 7.30pm starting on 23 February until 30 March.

Friday mornings at St Brigid's at 10.30am starting on 20 February until 27 March. This will be followed by the Holy Rosary at 11am and mass at 11.30am.

Pilgrimage to Our lady of Ta Pinu Shrine on Saturday 7 March 9am to 12pm

Our Wings of Faith study group led by Tony and Josie have booked Our Lady of Ta Pinu Shrine for a Lenten gathering and prayerful walk through the Stations of the Cross.

Holy Mass will follow the Stations, celebrated by Fr Michael.

After Mass, we will share a light breakfast together. Please feel free to bring a small plate to share.

The address for the Lenten gathering is:

Our Lady of Ta Pinu Shrine, 15 Flanagan Drive, Merrimurra (Bacchus Marsh)

Please use the QR code to register your name and number attending.

For enquiries contact 0456 000 317. Sign-up sheets are also on the Welcome Desks.



Good News

Our 9.30am and 11am masses on Sunday 22 February have been reinstated as we have managed to find supply priests for those masses.

Foundation (Prep) mass 10.30am in St Louis School Hall Sunday 22 February.

If you are able, please come along and join the new school families and welcome them into our community. It's an opportunity to show our great community spirit. Everyone is welcome to join our school families for a snack after mass. The school gates will close at 12.30pm

Name Tag Sunday & Prayer Ministry next weekend

Please pick up your name tag on the way into mass next weekend. Please drop your name tag in the box on the way out after mass. Next weekend is a cuppa one, please feel free to bring a plate to share.

Prayer Ministers will also be available after each mass to pray with you for any intention.

Serve Ministry Roster for May to August.

Please let Ann in the office know your availability during this time so she can finalise the roster.

Also, the Easter roster from Palm Sunday (for extra readers) to Easter Sunday is on the Welcome Desk for you to fill in your available times. Thanks.

News and Announcements



50th Happy Birthday Caroline

Happy 50th birthday to Caroline Razga on 12 February! May God continue to watch over you and protect you.



60th Happy 60th wedding anniversary to Liz and John Chapman

May the Holy Spirit look upon you at this time and shower blessings upon you both.

The Gospel of Matthew presented by Patrick Jurd

Thanks so much Patrick for 3 wonderful sessions on Matthew's gospel. We learnt historical facts, geographical facts, local facts about our stained glass windows and most importantly about the important messages we can receive from reading all the Gospels.

Men's Fellowship is back on Thursday 19 February

Men of the parish are all invited to attend our next meeting scheduled for **Thursday 19 February at 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

Please come along to our Praise and Worship night next **Friday 20 February at 7.30pm** at our church at **St Louis**. Be filled with the Holy Spirit through scripture, song and prayer. All are welcome.

Kidz Zone - Next weekend 21/22 February

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.



formed™ Formed - Catholic videos, audio, books. It's like Netflix for Catholics

There are a range of excellent resources on FORMED, and we have purchased a subscription for all our parishioners.



What Catholics Believe About Lent: Fasting, Ashes and 40 Days Explained

Join Fr Scott Bailey as he answers some of the internets most asked questions about Lent

For access, go to: <https://formed.org/signup>

Search for St Mary of the Cross Mordialloc and Aspendale.

Enter your name and email address.

Accompanying children and families in sacrament preparation

Our parish offers sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation for baptised catholic children from non-catholic schools and others who request the Catholic Sacraments for their children.

Our sacramental programs are designed as a journey of accompaniment for children and their parents to take together, gently guided by our facilitators.

Generally, the length of the programs are 6 weeks, beginning with a parent's dinner. In 2026 we will begin with Reconciliation beginning on the **28th of April**. First Eucharist and Confirmation will follow later in the year. All sessions occur on Tuesday afternoons from 4-5pm at St Louis de Montfort - 37 Dolphin St Aspendale. If you have family and friends with children who may be interested, please register interest at this link: <https://forms.gle/yJuqKFVWorgVeT7TA>



Project Compassion Sunday

14–15 of February 2026

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generosity this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate
Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.

21/22 Feb 26	1st Sunday of Lent Year A Genesis 2: 7-9, 3: 1-7 Romans 5: 12-19 Matthew 4: 1-11							CUPPA & NAME BADGES
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Prayer Ministers
6pm (A)	Julie Barnhoorn	Debra Searle	Anthony Barnhoorn	Michael Barker	Ann Furlong	Danny Carey	Carmel Barker	Bernie Stuart Ann Brennan
8.00am (M)	Celine George	Paula Rodrigues	Jack Guthrie	Chris McAleer	Marlene Tangso	Josie Johnson	Tony Aloysius	Connie Nicols Jack Meyer
9.30am (A)	Phillip Morris	Brenda O'Leary	Ron Schneider-Loos	Felice Cortese	Volunteer	Eddie Joseph	Gail Ryan	Jon Searle Mary Nayna
11.00am (M)	Melwyn D'Mello	Adam Whatmore	Christine D'Cruze	Juan Wilson	Helen Rocks	Ellen Young	Robyn Worsnop	Nicole Mielczarek Nicky Winter
Counters	Group 1	Joanne & Gary Partleton	Ronald Soares					

Recently deceased: Michael Zakic (Mordialloc), Michael Hurst (Mordialloc), Vanessa Crowhurst, Carmelo (Cam) Nasello (brother of Philippa Pecora).

Anniversaries: Jarmila Moravick, Catherine Varney, Jean O'Toole, Cyril Nunn, Betty Pike, Robert Whitehouse, Alex Nott, Stan Davies, Dorothy Rodriguez, Nan Plant, Marlene de Qudros, Patricia Atkins, Ron Jackson, Nicola Corda, Bob Barker, Arlene Roberts, Jean France Hennequin, Elizabeth Durham, Brian Tobin, Greg Riordan, Phyllis Cain, William Monaghan, Ronald Wintle, Carmen Maré, Fortunata Cortese, Trilby De Hoedt, Kevin Franklin, Donna Cardamone, Antonio Tenace, William Wilson, Mary Irene Graham, Marie Berg, Josef Laude, Lily Lebler, Nicole Strickland, Domnick O'Donnell, John (Jack) Mooney, Bernice Marshall, Brian Denman, Peter Hughes, Doris Lavery, Lucia Tenace.

Healing & Sick List Refresh - Please note we have refreshed this list. If you would like your loved one to be on the list, please email the parish office.

Praying for healing and the sick: Pat Hyland, Kim Power, Maree Wesols, Carol Dickinson, Sophia Bicos, Jeffrey Sellar, Damian Haggerty, Noleen Dunn, Therese Lee, Alasdair Hughes, Harry Donohue, Stephen Hopkins, Stephen Oldboldstone, Brilliant boys, John Catalano, Andrea Williams.

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 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

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

EUCARISTIC 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

EUCARISTIC 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