



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 13 September 2026

Readings for Year A Eccles 27:30 - 28:7 Romans 14: 7-9 Matthew 18: 21-35

Parish Ministry Groups – Growing Together in Service

As you may know, our parish is blessed to have more than 20 ministry and volunteer groups serving our parish community in many different ways.

As we move forward, our aim is to maintain and support our existing ministry groups while also encouraging greater participation and involvement across our parish community. We hope that those who are already serving will continue to share their gifts generously, while also providing opportunities for parishioners who are not currently involved in a group to learn more, discover where they may be able to contribute, and become more actively involved in parish life.

Over the coming weeks, we will therefore introduce our various ministry groups through the parish bulletin, giving everyone an opportunity to learn more about the different ministries and the important work they do within our community.

Where possible, I would also like to invite each group to come together to share their experiences, reflect on what has been happening in their ministry, and discuss how we might continue to grow and move forward together.

Groups that already have regular meetings are encouraged to continue with their existing arrangements, and I will do my best to participate according to their schedules.

For groups that have not had regular meetings, I will help organise an opportunity for members to come together. Details of the meeting date, time and location will be communicated through the group's email and the parish bulletin, with the hope that as many members as possible will have the opportunity to participate and share their ideas.

This is an opportunity for us to appreciate the wonderful service that is already taking place, strengthen our existing ministries, and encourage new participation as we continue building our parish community together.

Once again, I sincerely thank you for your continued interest, love and service to our parish. Please continue to keep our parish community and our ongoing journey in your prayers. Thank you. God bless.

Fr Michael Kong



m.stmaryofthecross.com



m.stmaryofthecross.com/facebook



[catholicmassstmaryofthecross](https://www.youtube.com/catholicmassstmaryofthecross)

News and Announcements

Child Safeguarding Sunday 13 September - "Love Protects"



The 2026 theme "Love Protects" recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love.

When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel.

"'Love Protects' reminds us that genuine love is demonstrated through action," said chair of the Bishops Commission for Professional Standards and

Safeguarding, Bishop Greg Bennet. "Safeguarding is an essential part of our mission and ministry. It calls each of us to be attentive, accountable and committed to ensuring that every person can participate in the life of the Church safely and with confidence."

Safeguarding Sunday also provides an opportunity to acknowledge the work of clergy, staff, volunteers and safeguarding leaders who work to foster cultures of safety and trust throughout church communities. Their dedication strengthens the Church's commitment to preventing harm, responding appropriately to concerns and promoting the dignity of every person.

Season of Creation 1 September to 4 October



Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator, and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. As followers of Christ from around the globe, we share a

common call to care for Creation. We are co-creatures and part of all that God has made. Our well-being is interwoven with the well-being of the Earth. We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it with us.

This year's theme, "Living Water", explores Ezekiel 47:9 and 12 as a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Set amid exile and loss, the image of living water flowing from God's sanctuary reveals divine healing that renews land, water, biodiversity, and human responsibility towards the whole creation.

The symbol depicts water flowing from the Temple of God - at first a tiny stream that grows deeper, and deeper and as it does so, it brings life to dead areas and restores fertility to damaged or barren ecosystems. Through living water comes healing; but in order to receive new life, we too must step into the water and also become part of God's river of life, taking part in the healing of creation.

World Youth Day, Seoul 2027

The young Church of Melbourne is going to World Youth Day! From 3–8 August 2027, young Catholics from around the world will gather in Seoul, South Korea, with Pope Leo XVI for this international celebration of faith, friendship and the universal Church. The theme is 'Take courage! I have overcome the world.' (John 16:33). The Archdiocese of Melbourne is offering three pilgrimage options to Seoul, giving young people the opportunity to encounter Christ, experience the vibrant universal Church and make life-long memories.

Caritas Australia: Nepal Floods Appeal

Communities in northern Nepal are facing a humanitarian crisis after devastating flash floods swept through the Rasuwa District on 26 August. Over 1,000 people have lost their lives, many remain missing, and thousands of families have been affected. Homes, roads, bridges, schools and essential infrastructure have been destroyed, leaving vulnerable communities in urgent need of support. Caritas Australia is working with Caritas Nepal and local partners to provide lifesaving assistance, including emergency shelter, food, safe drinking water, healthcare and protection support for affected families.

Together, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal. To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call 1800 024 413.

News and Announcements

SAVE THE DATE



Aspendale's St Vincent de Paul Conference invites you to: Let's Do Footy Lunch

on **Tuesday 15th September**, 12pm-2pm, in St Louis' Church Foyer.

Enjoy a special Footy themed Lunch with a fun Footy Quiz and Spot Prizes. All are welcome. Cost is a donation to St Vincent de Paul's Assist a Student Program.

Please sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Desk. Transport can be arranged if necessary.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Information Night

**Thursday 8 October at 7.30pm
at St Louis Church, Aspendale**

If you or someone you know is beginning to explore the Catholic faith or asking deeper questions about God, you are welcome to attend.

For more information contact: mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

St Brigid's Gardening Group

There will be a working bee on Wednesday 16 September starting at 8.30am and finishing around 10am. Morning tea will follow. We look forward to seeing you there. Newcomers welcome.

Cuppa weekend

Please join us for a cuppa after mass this weekend. Stay for a chat and catch up with your fellow parishioners or meet someone new.

Family Accompaniment - Tuesday 27 October 2026 7.30pm-8.30pm

Join Drs Byron and Francine Pirola, founders of Smart Loving, as they share practical insights into what makes relationships flourish. During this online webinar, you will discover how understanding your spouse's unique needs can strengthen communication, deepen emotional connection and help you avoid common relationship pitfalls. <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1632534>

Refugee family looking for work

Do you have any work for a local refugee family living in Bonbeach and being supported by BASP? The husband and wife are career professionals but are unable to practice in this country. They will take any kind of work to support their family - cleaning, gardening, maintenance etc.

Please contact John Meyer if you can help 0418 597 750.

Who gets to go to the Melbourne Synod?

Over the weekend of 4-6 December, representatives from throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne will come together to pray, discern, discuss important matters, and make decisions to help shape our shared mission and ministry.

Attendance at the Synod is guided by Canon 463 and includes clergy, religious and lay representatives. In Melbourne, the Synod will comprise approximately 180 Members. Sixty (60) lay Members, comprising fifteen (15) representatives from each region, will be selected through a parish nomination process to participate in the Synod.

In the meantime, the invitation to gather as friends and family to participate in the consultation process is ongoing. Information can be accessed via: <https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026>



formed
Forming Catholics for Life.

Mother Teresa - No Greater Love

This is a soaring tribute to a spiritual icon, a powerful witness of authentic Christian charity, and a guidepost for all who seek hope in our turbulent times. This film reveals her singular vision to serve Christ in the poor, and continues to be realised through Missionaries of Charity today.

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.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 19/20 SEPTEMBER 2026

19/20 Sept 26	25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Isaish 55: 6-9 Philippians 1: 20-24, 27 Matthew 20: 1-16						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Carmel Barker	Marie Seddon	Bernie Stuart	Adrienne Kennedy	Michael Barker	Tom Hughes	Jan Hughes
8.00am (M)	Chris McAleer	Angela Meo	Jack Meyer	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Carole Guthrie	John Guthrie	Odette Budge
9.30am (A)	Irene Crowe	Maureen Wraight	Elizabeth Newington	Martin Newington	Felice Cortese	Edward Joseph	Niko Toia
11.00am (M)	Gail Bell	Mark Carazzo	Peter Wain	Peter Hannan	Juan Wilson	Patricia Chaves	Vanessa Fernandes
Counters	Group 2	Mary Nayna	Volunteer				

Recently deceased: Michael D'Mello - brother of Melwyn,
Gerald Stutterd - brother of Carmel

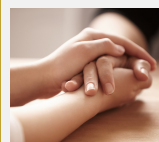
Anniversaries: Bernard Cleary, Linda Jamieson, Marcella Doran, Dr Janos Bogнар, Clara Dundon, Jack Lanaway, Kathleen Mary Doherty, Margaret Dow, Alan Brereton, Lena Saccio, Conor Grace, Agnes Bugden, Curtis Drenen, Terence Partleton, George D'Cunha, Marc Licciardo, P.J. Thomas, Frederick Summerton, Dr Peter Nelson, Fr Tom White, Eileen Hannan, Blossom Baldery, Maureen Reidy, Trish Hone, Beryl D'Sylva, Roma Kampf, Letetia Sheehan, Vincenta Vella, Maureen Cuskelly, Robert Reid, Nicholas Rainsford, John Martin, Morris Joseph, Ken Raphael, Dirk Senn, Fr Michael Quigley, June Rosina Phippen, Ethel Cecilia Coghlan, Joseph D'Rozario, Don Byrnes, Denise McMahon, Stanley Amos Wagstaff, Megan O'Keeffe, Fr Luke Newington OFM, Mary D'Souza, Pat MacDonald, Carmel Kennan, Kathleen Richards, Mary Coen, May Warrenner, James Doran(snr), Freda Fernandez, Fr Peter Murray, Kurt Wessel, Filippina Gazzo, Tom Velten, Sr Anne Boyd, Julien Mendonça, Sheila Popley, Gordon Teasdale, William Blackie, Anthony Purcell, Dea Thomson, Kevin Worfolk, Leonarda Costanzo, Bridget Gallagher, Janos Pastor, Ribomapil Concon, Maureen Payton, Ellis Melder, Donna Cardamone

Praying for healing and the sick: Maureen McKeown, Steve Osboldstone, Maree Wiltshire, Sammy Dahalid, Kathie Martin, Edith Venton, Jan Mitula Mim Rodolico, Michael Albert, Fr Terry Keane, Luis, Julie Griffiths, Rita Popley, Steve Govac, Chris Wardle, Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Vasilos Garavelis, Sophia Bicos, Mary Agiropoulos, Prunella Julien, Maree Wesols, Peter Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Noleen Dunn, Brilliant boys, John Catalano, Damian Haggerty, Alasdair Hughes, Marisa, Andrea Williams .

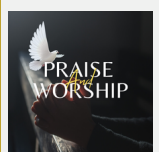
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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, 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.

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](http://catholicmassstmaryofthecross.com.au)

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Louis' Mon 9.15am Communion Service,
St Louis' Tue 9.15am,
St Brigid's Wed 10am,
St Louis' Thur 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

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
Deacon George 9580 7981
Trish 0421 604 849
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Robyn 0412 814 592