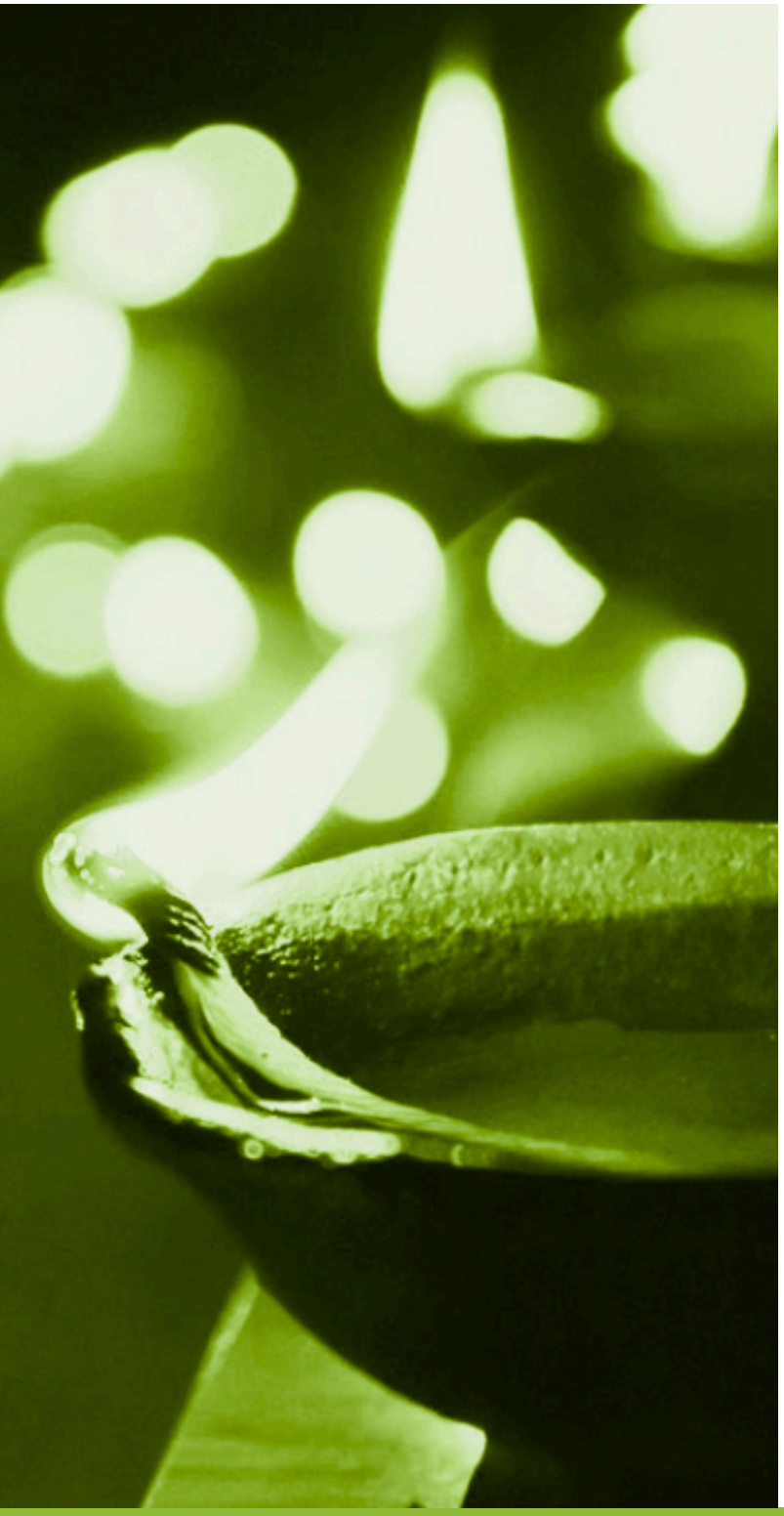
St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

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

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 8 November 2026

Readings for Year A Wisdom 6: 12-16 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18 Matthew 25: 1-13



"The wise and the foolish virgins"

This week's Gospel serves as a powerful reminder about spiritual readiness and personal responsibility. It is a lesson about staying ready for what matters most. In the story, ten bridesmaids are waiting for the groom to arrive for a big wedding party. Five are smart and bring extra oil for their lamps, but five are foolish and bring none. When the groom finally arrives late at night, only the five who were prepared get to join the celebration.

The delayed arrival of the bridegroom reminds us that waiting is part of the Christian journey. It is easy to be enthusiastic at the beginning, but true discipleship requires endurance. This reading challenges us to look inward and ask: Is my lamp filled today? We are called to live actively and intentionally, ensuring that our hearts remain ready to greet Christ whenever He arrives.

Being a Christian is like a long-distance race, not a quick sprint. It takes practice to keep your lamp filled. This story asks us a simple question: Are you putting in the daily effort to stay close to God? By making good choices, praying regularly, doing good deeds and following Christ's example, you keep your lamp burning bright and ready for whatever comes next.

Marylene Douglas
Parishioner

News and Announcements

Men's Fellowship Group

Next monthly meeting is on Thursday 19th November 7.30pm at St Louis Church. All men welcome.
Our Christmas gathering and last social get together for 2026 will be on Friday 4th December, 7pm at Chelsea Inn (Chinese), 232 Wells Road, Chelsea Heights. BYO Drinks.
All men of the parish & school community welcome. Please confirm your attendance by email to ajallday@optusnet.com.au or text 0411 075 631 by Monday 30th November.

St Brigid's Gardening Group Working Bee

Spring working bee on **Monday 9th November.**
Usual 8.30am start or whenever you can make it, finishing with morning tea at about 10.30am.
Come and join us in making the Church garden attractive with fellow parishioners.

Justice Action Group

If you would like to follow in Mary MacKillop's footsteps and "see a need and do something about it" you are very welcome to join our Justice Action Group. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7.30-9pm at St Louis'. Our next meeting is **Wednesday 11 November.**

Parish Office Update – Baptism and Funeral Enquiries

As our parish office is currently without administrative staff, responses to parish enquiries and requests may take longer than usual. We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding while we work towards appointing a new parish administrator.
In the meantime, please refer to the following contacts for enquiries regarding baptisms and funerals.

Funeral Church Bookings

For enquiries about using our churches for funeral services, including arranging a suitable date and time, please contact the relevant sacristan:

- St Brigid's Church, Mordialloc: Glenice — glenicelaughlin@gmail.com
- St Louis de Montfort's Church, Aspendale: Susan — susandornom@gmail.com

Baptism Enquiries

For all enquiries regarding the Sacrament of Baptism, please contact our Baptism Coordinator, Deb, at debannp64@gmail.com.
For all other parish enquiries, please email the parish office. Fr Michael will respond as soon as practicable. Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation during this transition.

2026 Advent Small Groups.

Please sign up for one of our Advent groups at the Welcome Desk. There are 6 options - day, night and also on Zoom. Pick your group and your leader will contact you. The groups look forward to the upcoming Sunday's Gospel, so the groups will begin meeting on the week starting 23 November, before the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

Your Thanksgiving envelopes are ready for collection in the foyers. Please pick them up over the next 2 weeks to save on postage.

Columban Calendars and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards

Now available in both our Church Piety Stalls.
Columban Calendars are $10 and Christmas Cards are $4 for a pack of 5 cards.

Purchase a Caritas Australia Global Gift this Christmas

With Caritas Australia's Global Gifts, you can give a meaningful Christmas card that helps create lasting change for vulnerable communities around the world. Whether you're shopping for family, friends or colleagues, you'll find a gift that continues to make a real difference long after Christmas Day. Each Global Gift card you buy helps make the world a little better every day. Your gift can change lives by putting food on a family's table or helping a young girl stay in school. Give a gift this Christmas that reflects the true spirit of giving and makes a lasting impact.
Browse the full range of Global Gifts via the QR code or:
https://www.caritas.org.au/global-gifts

News and Announcements

Month of the Holy Souls



Throughout the month of November, the Church invites the faithful to pray in a special way for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. St Paul encourages us not to be uninformed about those who have fallen asleep, “that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope... For the Lord himself will descend from heaven... and the dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16). Our prayers, Masses, almsgiving, and acts of penance offered for the departed are a true act of charity.

Our memorial book will be on display throughout November and also our sandboxes will remain in place for those who wish to light a candle for those who have died after mass. There are paper slips to fill out in the foyer if you would like a loved one to be added to the book or anniversary list.

November Mass offering envelopes

November is the Month of the Holy Souls, a special time for us to remember and pray for our deceased family members, relatives and friends.Mass offering envelopes are available in the foyer of each church throughout November. If you would like to offer a Mass for your loved ones, please complete an envelope with your Mass intention and place it in either collection.

All intentions received will be gathered together, and after the end of November, Fr Michael will offer one Mass each day for the intentions submitted, remembering our deceased loved ones in prayer. Thank you for your generosity and for keeping the faithful departed in your prayers.

John Paul College Van

Volunteers needed for **Thursday 19 November.** Meet in the St Louis carpark and depart at 4pm.
Contact Sandy if you can help 0412 057 177

Baptisms this weekend

We welcome to our Parish family - **Roy James, Jack William, Zoe Isabelle and Levi Joshua.**
God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take, he guides you on your way.

Scripture and Friendship Group Tuesday 27 October

Our Parish Scripture & Friendship group is on this coming Tuesday 27 October at Ann's home, 47 Gothic Road Aspendale. We begin at 10am and will finish at about 11am for a cuppa.
This group is open for anyone - we discuss the coming Sunday's Gospel, sharing our thoughts, questions or just listening. A great way to meet people in our Parish.
For any queries contact Ann on 0425 712 741 or Carmel 0425 773 608



Knights of the Southern Cross – Melbourne Cup Fundraiser - Results

The Knights of the Southern Cross thanks all those who supported their fundraiser that will help to provide awards to our Year 6 students. Results are:
1st Prize: Damien Whelan
2nd Prize: Sr Mary Joseph
3rd Prize: Peter Monteith
Once again, we would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the fundraiser, and your generous support of our school students.

Faith in Action: An election guide from the Bishops of Victoria

Ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, the Bishops of Victoria have issued an election statement highlighting key issues for Catholics to consider when deciding their vote. You are invited to read the statement and prayerfully discern how your vote can contribute to the common good. There are some printed copies available in the foyer or view the statement online at: **bit.ly/StateElection2026.**



The Afterlife - Eternal Rest - Episode 2

formed™ Forming Catholics for Life

What happens after the moment of our death? Once the soul has been separated from the body, then what? What is heaven, hell and purgatory? This session looks at the truth about what awaits then human person on the other side of death.

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 - 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 15 NOV 26

14/15 Nov 26	33rd Sunday in Ord Time (Year A) Proverbs 31: 10-13,19-20,30-31 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6 Matthew 25: 14-30						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Marie Seddon	Debra Searle	Anthony Barnhoorn	Michael Barker	Marg De Vries	Gail Hamilton	Carmel Barker
8.00am (M)	Chris McAleer	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Marlene Tangso	Stephen Pooley	Jack Meyer	Joan Healy	Odette Budge
9.30am (A)	Niko Tovia	Helen Healy	Martin Newington	Maureen Wraight	Felice Cortese	Mary Nayna	Anne Marsh
11.00am (M)	Dianne Wain	Mark Carazzo	Volunteer	Peter Hannan	Juan Wilson	Vanessa Fernandes	Robyn Worsnop
Counters	Group 4	Bernadette & Geoff Terrell	Susan Dornom				

Recently deceased: Fr Brendan Lane

Anniversaries: Kathleen Reidy, David John Ford, Concetta Nasello, Jesse Villanueva, Brian Graham, Concetta Nasello, Estelita Hortaleza Camilla Allen, Richard John Payne, Angela Rech, Irene Drill, Rae Kresinger, Ligaya Parker, Ingrid Ensil, Mark Lavery, Lucy Lazaro, Anthony Borg, Dudley D'Sylva, James Doran (jnr), David Wood, Thomas Clarke, Peter Toner, Julie Williams, Elaine Barker, Leo Drill, Barbra Hunnan, Maria (Isabel) Alvarez, Kate Crosbie, Sheila Maguire, Odette Ward, Henry Decosta, Kevin Saker, Douglas Saddler, Carmel Rocke, Patrick Ryan, Concetta De Marco, Mary Brouder, Anna Fernando, John Poynton, Madaline O'Reilly

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

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

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND HOLY ROSARY
St Brigid's every Fri 10.30am
St Louis' 1st Sat of the month 4.30pm

EUCHARISTIC 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