



# St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 February 2026**

Readings for Year A Zephaniah 2: 3, 3: 12-13 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 Matthew 5: 1-12

*"Blessed be  
the peacemakers"*

The Beatitudes (or blessings) are powerful - and after two thousand years they remain countercultural. They 'go against the grain'. Current world events give the Beatitudes an enduring currency. Heaven knows we need true peacemakers - both for the conflicts around the world but also to resist the urge to be outraged by the latest media report. Peacemakers keep talking with family and friends, rather than cut people off.

We also dearly need the merciful - as an antidote to the judgment that seems to float freely. The clean of heart are not weighed down by all of life's distractions so they have the clarity to see God: whether it is the person in front of them or the beauty of nature.

We would each do well to take the advice of one of our RCIA candidates: read the Beatitudes each morning as our daily reminder of how Jesus wants us to behave.

**Patrick Jurd  
Parishioner**



[m.stmaryofthecross.com](http://m.stmaryofthecross.com)



[m.stmaryofthecross.com/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/m.stmaryofthecross.com)



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



# 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 Retreat Saturday 14 February 9am to 12pm at St Brigid's church

An opportunity for a peaceful and prayerful time of reflection led by **Jacqui Giuliano from the Melbourne Archdiocese Proclaim Office.** Jacqui will lead us into Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten Season. **Sign up sheet on the Welcome Desk.**

### Lenten Small Groups

We warmly invite you to join one of our upcoming Lenten small groups, a six-week program of reflection and discussion entitled ***The Journey Home***. The Journey Home reminds us that Lent is not merely a period of sacrifice or reflection; it is a pilgrimage. Our Lenten Small Groups aim to draw us together as companions on the road, renewed in faith and strengthened in love, as we follow Jesus towards the promise of our true home.

Groups will be available in person or via Zoom, making it easy for everyone to take part.

**Sign up sheets are on the Welcome Desks.** Please consider joining a group for a wonderful experience of journeying together through Lent with a small group.

### Please Note

Our Monday Communion Service at **St Louis'** will resume on **2 February** at 9.15am.

11.30am Mass and 12.30pm Reconciliation on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February at St Brigid's** will be replaced with a Communion Service due to Fr Michael's unavailability.

**Monday night Eucharistic Adoration** starts back Monday, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February 7:30 – 8:30pm at St Louis.

**Holy Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration** at St Louis' resumes on Saturday 7 February from 4.30-5.30pm. Join our prayer team for a quiet time of adoration and Holy Rosary. This is followed by the opportunity for Reconciliation and then our Saturday Vigil Mass at 6pm.

### St Brigid's Gardening Group

Working Bee this Monday 2 February starting at 8.30am or when you can get there. Finishes with morning tea. A range of tasks including cleaning the water feature and general tidying. Come along and join us

### Pilgrimage to South Korea with Father Michael

#### Begins on Wednesday 8 April - 11 days/ 10 nights

Walk the path of the early Korean martyrs and saints as we journey from the cradle of Korean Catholicism in Seoul to the southern shores of Busan. Through shrines, sacred villages, monasteries and modern memorials, we will encounter the profound story of a Church built on the blood of martyrs and the resilience of faith through persecution, war, and renewal.

Fr Michael will be happy to chat if you are interested or follow the link or QR Code for more details. **Wonders of South Korea**

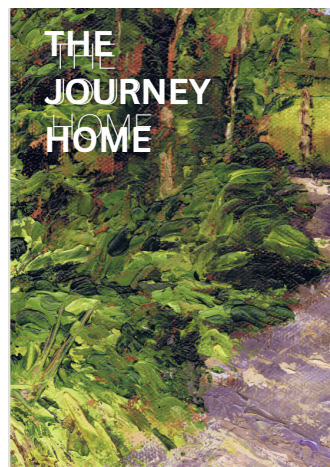


### Scripture & Friendship

The Scripture & Friendship Group will gather for catchup/coffee/prayer on next **Tuesday, 3rd February 10am-11am** at Ann's home - 47 Gothic Road Aspendale. Ann 0425712741 Carmel 0425773608

Our normal gatherings and reflection on the gospel will recommence after Easter.

For the next couple of months, we strongly encourage you to join one of the numerous 'Lenten' groups that our Parish will be offering. See above.



# News and Announcements



## Happy Birthday Vo Johnson

A very happy 80th birthday to Vo Johnson on Sunday 1 February! May God continue to watch over you and protect you and send his blessings and love down upon you.

## GROW DEEPER IN FAITH

### Parish Talk - The Gospel of Matthew presented by Patrick Jurd - All invited.

Patrick's first session last Tuesday was informative and entertaining. If you can make it, you are warmly invited to join the second and third sessions on **3 and 10 February from 7.30-8.30pm at St Brigid's**. Each session helps to better understand the Gospel of Matthew and may also foster your faith and suggest how you might better live it.

### St Brigid's Gardening Group

Working Bee this **Monday 2 February starting at 8.30am** or when you can get there. Finishes with morning tea. A range of tasks including cleaning the water feature, general tidy up and hand watering. Come along and join us.



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

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

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

Search for St Mary of the Cross Mordialloc and Aspendale.

Enter your name and email address.

### Featured this week

#### The Presentation

The Presentation is already foreshadowing the Cross. The offering Mary makes at the Presentation in the Temple becomes manifested and reaches its fulfillment at Calvary.



### Baptism Congratulations

This weekend we welcome into our parish family

**Zac Charles**

*"May this sacred day mark the beginning of a beautiful faith journey filled with God's guidance, love, and abundant blessings"*

### 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. They are intimate encounters with Christ, not drive through transactions, or something to check off.

Generally, the length of the programs are 6 weeks, beginning with a parent's dinner. The 2026 dates and details will be advised in due course once you register. 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>



### Feast Day of Saint Brigid 1 February

St Brigid of Kildare (453AD - 524AD) was an Irish nun, abbess and founder of several convents, who is venerated as a saint. St Brigid's feast day is celebrated on February 1, the first day of spring in Ireland. Brigid was known to have a big heart, and she could never refuse the poor when they came to her door.

St Brigid is famous for her cross which is made of reeds and can be seen in houses all over Ireland, especially around her feast day. The tale goes, Brigid made a cross from rushes she found on the ground, laying beside a man who was dying. He was a Pagan, and she gave the man the cross to try and convert him to Christianity. It was popular for many homes to make their own St Brigid's cross on the eve of her feast day.



# NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 8 FEBRUARY 2026

| 7/8 Feb 2026 | 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Isaiah 58: 7-10 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 Matthew 5: 13-16 CUPPA W'END |                    |                      |                  |                    |                   |                  |
|--------------|--|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|              | Reader   | Commentator        | Special Minister     | Special Minister | Special Minister   | Welcomer          | Welcomer         |
| 6pm (A)      | Julie Buick  | Helen Healy        | Julius Lau           | Michael Barker   | Carmel Barker      | Bernie Stuart     | Ann Furlong      |
| 8.00am (M)   | Frances North  | Joan Healy         | Jane Standish        | Jack Guthrie     | Stephen Pooley     | Joey Virginie     | Odette Budge     |
| 9.30am (A)   | Lisa Tuke  | Philip Morris      | Mary Nayna           | Maureen Wraight  | Ron Schneider-Loos | Eddie Joseph      | Niko Tovia       |
| 11.00am (M)  | Peter Hannan   | Jennifer Rodrigues | Peter Wain           | Helen Rocks      | Christine D'Cruze  | Vanessa Fernandes | Christiane Jonas |
| Counters     | Group 4  | Susan Dornom       | Bern & Geoff Terrell |                  |                    |                   |                  |

**Recently deceased:** Brian Ball (Marita Brice's brother).

**Anniversaries:** Allan Goudge, Art Wilde, Norm Baker, Peter O'Reilly, Rufino Torres, Mary Whitney, Arun D'Costa, Albertine Pascal, Ken McClure, Fr Paul Power O.A.M, Lois Formani, Vittorio Giuliano, Cecil Fernandez, Maria Reiter, Paul Power, Debbie Arundel, Ann Cotter, Jack Cotter, Giuseppe Basile, Elvie Monica Doherty, Resa Williams (Dalton), Ingrid Rovira Castells, Elizabeth Wood, Anthony Archer, Stewart Gowans, Patrick Smith, Harold Leslie de Monte, Brian Enright, Lucio (Lou) Meconi, Sheila Marjorie Sladen, Alex Williams, Elizabeth Fernandez, Margaret Reid, Phyliss Grasso, Maureen Armes, Barney Kelly, Henry (Robbie) Robertson, Bill Carey, Ponamma Zachariah, Kay Cresswell, Jennifer Rix, Richard Payne, Richard Anthony Payne, Michelle Commins, Robert (Bob) John Muddyman, Ronald Aquilina, Pamela Murphy, Anne-Marie Willicott, Mary-Kate Velten, Maria Johanna Reiter.

**Healing & Sick List Refresh - Please be aware that from next week we will be refreshing this list in the bulletin. If you would like your loved on to stay on the list, please email the parish office.**

**Praying for healing and the sick:** Cam Nascello, Damian Haggerty, Noleen Dunn, Therese Lee, Kathleen Smith, Natalie Searle, Deborah Joseph, Carmelo Nasello, Stephen Hopkins, Harry Donohue, Ann Muir, Lina DiGiovine, Alex Bennett, John Davis, Chris Doran, Chris Wardle, Peter Waltho, Janice Gillette, Greg Hayes, Sue Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Alasdair Hughes, Sophia Bicos, Fr Terry Kean, Kees Meyer, Andrea Williams, Brian Smith, Michelle Burne, Rosemary Hall, Michelle Ives, Graham Owen, Norreen Spies, Craig Ross, Virginia O'Toole, Stephen Hopkins, Steve Osboldstone.

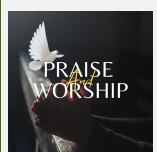
## Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



**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](mailto: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](mailto: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, (**recommences 2 February**)  
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

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St Louis Monday's 7.30 - 8.30pm

## RECONCILIATION

St Brigid's Friday's 12pm  
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