



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

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

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 18 January 2026

Readings for Year A Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 Acts 10: 34-38 Matthew 3: 13-17



*“... he is the Chosen
One of God”*

We know from verse 6 of this chapter that John the Baptist was sent by God. Thus his witness is to be believed. The words in today's Gospel from John the Baptist are for all who read or hear it. So, they are for us, today.

Who is Jesus? Some people at the time of writing of the Gospel thought he was just a Jewish teacher. The witness of John the Baptist says that Jesus is much more than that. Jesus goes beyond what people think or expect. The Gospel tells us that Jesus was sent by God and 'takes away the sin of the world'. He is the Son of God. The Holy Spirit is with him.

As we begin Ordinary Time, these statements remind us what we believe. These statements are part of the leap of faith - a leap that we are each encouraged to take, daily.

Patrick Jurd
Parishioner



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News and Announcements

Thank you

Thank you to all who assisted on the day and the many who attended (over 300) to farewell Fr Andrew and Fr Huy last Saturday. It was a joyous celebration filled with love and of course some sadness. As new chapters begin for both priests we keep them in our hearts and prayers.

Welcome to Fr Michael Kong our new Parish Priest

Please give a warm St Mary of the Cross welcome to our new Parish Priest, Fr Michael Kong.

To help Fr Michael with our names, we will be using our name tags for the next 4 weekends as he has a lot of names to learn. Make your self known to him, but please be mindful he needs to get to the next mass on Sunday morning.

Welcome to John Field our new Parish Leadership Team member



We welcome John Field to our Parish Leadership Team from 20 January 2026. The PLT (Fr Michael, Trish Angliss, Berna Wake and John Field) are co-responsible with Fr Michael for leading the implementation of the parish mission, strategies and actions, together with the operational aspects of the parish, particularly with the planning and execution of the Weekend Experience which is one of our four core focus areas that underpin our Parish Mission to Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples.



Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family - **Lyla and Mateo**.

*God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take,
he guides you on your way.*

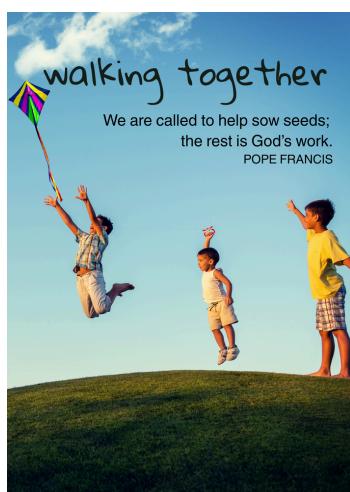
Pilgrimage to South Korea with Father Michael

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



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. A journey that with the help of the Holy Spirit will lead them closer to Jesus. 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>

Pope proclaims Franciscan Jubilee Year

Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a "Special Year of St Francis" to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. This Franciscan Jubilee Year was inaugurated on January 10 with a decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See. During this time of grace, which will extend until January 2027, the faithful are granted the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.

News and Announcements

Kidz Zone is back next weekend

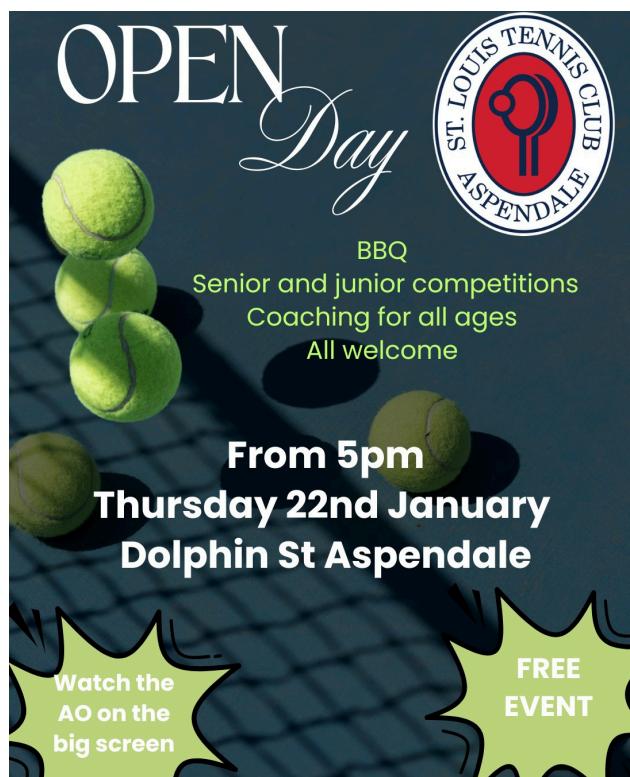
Kidz Zone is on during our 6pm, 9.30am and 11am masses next weekend (January 24/25). All children aged 5-12 are welcome to come and have fun and learn about Jesus. We would love to offer Kidz Zone more than once a month. If you can help, please contact Sangeetha at nsangeethac7@gmail.com

Prayer Ministers available next weekend

Prayer ministers will be available after each mass next weekend. If you are in need of a prayer for yourself or someone else please approach them after mass and they will pray with you.

The Gospel of Matthew presented by Patrick Jurd - Save the Dates - 3 sessions commencing Tuesday 27th, January 7.30pm at St Brigid's

This year is Year A in the church calendar and the Sunday Gospel readings come from the Gospel of Matthew. The three sessions will help you to better understand Matthew's Gospel. The sessions may also foster your faith and suggest how you might better live it. All are welcome to come along.



St Louis Tennis Club Open Day
Haven't tried tennis before, or not played since you were a junior? Getting inspired by the AO? Come along and have a hit and meet some of our members. Our coach Trish will give you some tips. Don't have a racquet? We have plenty of spares. Our courts are out the back behind the church. Access through the gate to the left of the St Louis' church.

formedTM



St Francis De Sales - Pastor of Souls

St Francis De Sales became a hero during the Catholic Reformation for pastoral care and spiritual writings. Join Dr Chris Blum as he walks through the life of this great saint, who is celebrated on 24 January.

Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Serve Ministries - are you being called?

When we focus on helping others and honouring Christ, we soon discover that our needs are met far more deeply than we ever experienced otherwise. When you serve the parish, you serve God.

Music

Do you have a talent for singing or playing an instrument?

Audio visual operating

Do you enjoy operating cameras and creating engaging content with our Proclaim software?

Altar Flowers

Do you love flowers and arranging them, creating a beautiful altar?

Children's Liturgy

Do you enjoy celebrating the good news and love of Jesus in fun & engaging ways with children?

Sacristan

Would you love to prepare the sacred vessels, linens, books, and vestments needed for the liturgy?

Welcoming

Do you enjoy meeting and greeting people, especially guests and visitors?

Visit our [parish website](#) to find out more and contact the parish office

to express your interest at mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

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NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 25 JANUARY 2026

24/25 Jan 26	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A <i>Isaiah 8: 23-9:3 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17 Matthew 4: 12-23 CUPPA & NAME BADGES</i>							
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Prayer Ministers
6pm (A)	Marg De Vries	Carmel Barker	Sonia Williams	Michael Barker	Julius Lau	Bernie Stuart	John Bainbridge	Bob Ward Ann Furlong
8.00am (M)	Celine George	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Jack Guthrie	Jane Standish	Carole Guthrie	Odette Budge	Joey Virginie	Josie Johnson Tony Aloysious
9.30am (A)	Irene Crowe	Lisa Tuke	Martin Newington	Elizabeth Newington	Maureen Wraight	Rosemary Miller	Lex Miller	Berna Wake Felice Cortese
11.00am (M)	Jennifer Rodrigues	Mark Carrazzo	Peter Hannan	Louise Breslin	Philippa Pecora	Vanessa Fernandes	Robyn Worsnop	Nicky Winters Ellen Young
Counters	Group 2	Helen & Kelvin Rocks	Mary Nayna					

Recently deceased: Mary Lautier (sister of Tess Cassaino).

Anniversaries: Geoffrey Birch, Peter Nam, Fr John Woodcock, Maria Failla, Jane Buttigieg, Treyden Haar-Lewis, Noel D'Argent, Anthony Brennan, Joyce Dover, Peter Hopkins, Cordelia Gomez, James Burke, James Floria, Catello Ferraiuolo, Gordon Snelgrove, Luisa Salmeron, Pze Libris, James McQuillan, Luke Bien Xuan Nguyen, Angelo Francolini, John Carino, Brigida Francolini, Kevin O'Connor, Mary (Molly) Hutchinson, Trina Wilson, Phillip Hutchinson, Dorothy Smith, Jean Aldridge, Kay Rosenbrock, Thelma Mann, Annie Wright, Jamie Fennessy, Keith Porter, Gladys Sheriff, Sunanda V Galkwad, Lydia Alphonso, Donnamaree Rocks, Peter Cassidy, Peg McLaren, Michael Rowe, Brigida Solito, Stefna Solito, Gregorio Aparo, Dulcie Lazaroo, Marcella Maguire, Tommasina Arico, Judy Palmer, Tracy Finarelli, Nellie Turner, Norman Taylor, John Pedrazzini, Marie Joyce Sherlock, Ronald James Dalton, Polly Camilleri, Carmenu Franco.

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL BE REFRESHING OUR HEALING PRAYER LIST BEGINNING FEBRUARY. IF YOU WISH FOR A NAME TO REMAIN, PLEASE ADVISE ANN IN THE PARISH OFFICE.

Praying for healing and the sick: Noleen Dunn, Therese Lee, Kim Powere, 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 Walther, Janice Gillette, Michelle Parker Greg Hayes, Sue Walther, 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, Craige Ross, Virginia O'Toole.

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.

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.

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

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:

m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass

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

EUCARISTIC ADORATION AND HOLY ROSARY

St Brigid's every Fri 10.30am

St Louis 1st Sat of the month 4.30pm

EUCARISTIC 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