



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 30 August 2026

Readings for Year A Jeremiah 20: 7-9 Romans 12: 1-2 Matthew 16: 21-27

“Get behind me Satan”

In today's Gospel one can only imagine how Peter must have felt.

Jesus' initial call to Peter was “Come follow me” and in last week's Gospel Jesus called him ‘the “rock” upon which Jesus would build His Church. Yet in today's Gospel Jesus said to Peter “Get behind me Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way, but man's.”

What on earth went wrong?

Jesus had foretold again his destiny to His disciples. He must be condemned by the elders, chief priests and scribes, be put to death, suffer and die in Jerusalem and be raised up on the third day. When Peter remonstrated with Jesus that this must not happen, Jesus rebuked him.

Peter wanted Christ without the cross. He was yet to learn the true depth of meaning behind the cross, and what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. Peter and the disciples thought the cross was the end. Yet the resurrection revealed that what looked like the end was actually the beginning of something far greater.

In our lives we will face many endings, yet an ending is not necessarily the end of the story. God is not on the mountaintop watching from afar, He is in the valley walking alongside us. If we ask Him to be there He will. If we can learn not to want to always control a situation, but to release our grip and give it to God, He will bring new life, purpose, opportunities and mission fields.

Berna Wake
Parishioner



m.stmaryofthecross.com



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

News and Announcements



Social Justice Sunday 30 August

Social Justice Sunday calls Australians to action every last Sunday of August. This week-long observance, rooted in Catholic social teaching, encourages reflection on societal inequalities and inspires initiatives for a more equitable world. Learn how to participate, support vital causes, and advocate for change by going here to download more resources [Social Justice statements](#)

Social Justice Statements are an important part of the Catholic Church's mission to promote human dignity, compassion, and the common good. Each year, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference release a statement to reflect on key social and economic issues affecting our communities, grounded in Catholic Social Teaching and guided by the values of the Gospel. These statements invite Catholics to consider how their faith calls them to respond to injustice, inequality,

and suffering, helping move us beyond awareness to meaningful action through prayer, advocacy, and practical support for those most in need.

They remind us that living our faith means standing in solidarity with others, especially the vulnerable, and working together to build a more just and inclusive society. The statement challenges Catholics to respond with courage and compassion to stand alongside those in need, and to take practical steps towards building communities where hope, mercy and justice flourish.

Download the statement here [Living the Gospel PDF](#) or pick up a copy from the Welcome Desk



Season of Creation - Earthcare Gathering - A Caritas Initiative 3 and 4 September 10am to 4.30pm - Parish Meeting Room at St Louis

A national online gathering to listen deeply, reflect faithfully, and act courageously in care for all creation. It aims to bring together participants from across Australia to deepen formation and inspire practical ecological action grounded in faith. Recognising the urgent environmental challenges facing our world, this event responds to Pope Francis' call for ecological

conversion and care for our common home. The gathering aims to foster deep formation across the Catholic community in integral ecology and Catholic Social Teaching articulate a cohesive Catholic response to ecological challenge and inspire practical, faith-filled action across ministries and communities.

There are a number of keynote speakers during **Thursday 3rd September**, but you don't need to stay for the whole day. **Friday 4th September** you could join from your home computer as there are workshops that you can choose yourself, or if you are happy to go with what is running in the meeting room, please join us.

If you would like to join us in the Parish Meeting Room at St Louis, please SMS Julie Buick, our Earthcare leader on 0422 674 634. You can pick up an invitation on the Welcome Desk.

Season of Creation - 1 September to 4 October

The theme this year is "Immersion in LIVING WATER"

World Day of Prayer 1 September for the Care of Creation.

You can download Pope Leo's message below or there are also some hard copies on the Welcome Desk.

[Pope Leo's message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation](#)

Called & Gifted Charisms Workshop: Step Into the Mission God Has for You

In June, a number of our parishioners took part in the Called & Gifted workshop – an experience many described as eye-opening, encouraging, and deeply affirming. Together, they explored their charisms (the spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit) and discovered how these gifts can enrich their families, workplaces, and our parish community.

Our Archdiocese is now launching Called & Gifted on Friday evening 11/9 & Saturday 12/9. Full details:

<https://mission.melbournecatholic.org/posts/called-and-gifted-2026>

Initial planning for more workshops in our parish is underway.

If you're longing for a deeper sense of purpose... If you want a heart on fire for bringing God's love into the world... If you're curious about how the Holy Spirit has uniquely gifted you.This is the place to be.

For enquiries or reservations, please contact: **Marcella Reiter 0402 569 295 or Anne Field on 0417 033 399**



News and Announcements

Archbishops Campaign 2026

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2026 campaign. Every gift, large or small is greatly appreciated. If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. Envelopes are available or online donations are the most secure for cash or tear off pledge cards that can be completed and be placed into the collection baskets. Brochures with more information can be found in the foyer.

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 welcome.

Cost is a donation to St Vincent de Paul's Assist a Student Program.

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

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>

Welcome to our Year 3 Children for their Reconciliation Commitment masses

Year 3 children are attending from both St Brigid's and St Louis' this weekend for their Reconciliation Commitment masses. Please make them welcome and join them for a cuppa and chat after mass.

New Serve Ministry Roster

The new serve ministry roster for our weekend masses has been emailed out through the week and hard copies are available on the Welcome Desks. Please make sure you try and find a replacement if you are unable to fulfill your roster duty. The phone numbers for your fellow ministers are at the back of your roster.

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.

Amen App

The **Amen app** is a free Catholic prayer app provided by Formed that inspires your daily conversation with God through faithful meditations, nourishing Scriptures, and relaxing sleep sounds. See what users are saying about the Amen app here [Amen app reviews](#)

From daily Mass readings to the dramatized Bible, from traditional Catholic prayers to sleep stories and meditations, there is something for everyone.

Get the Amen App for free: amenapp.org/pray



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 - 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 5 & 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

5/6 Sept 26	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Ezekiel 33: 7-9 Romans 13: 8-10 Matthew 18: 15-20						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Ann Brennan	Patrick Jurd	Sonia Williams	Adrienne Kennedy	Gail McGillivray	Volunteer	Annette Brilliant
8.00am (M)	Angela Meo	Tony Aloysius	Stephen Pooley	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Carole Guthrie	Wence Rodrigues	Paula Rodrigues
9.30am (A)	Brenda O'Leary	Phillip Morris	Elizabeth Newington	Martin Newington	Ron Schneider-Loos	Ann Marsh	Rosemary Miller
11.00am (M)	Adam Whatmore	Peter Hannan	Christine D'Cruze	Philippa Pecora	Louise Breslin	Helen Rocks	Vanessa Fernandes
Counters	Group 4	Bern & Geoff Terrell	Susan Dornom				

Recently deceased:

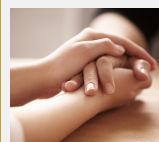
Anniversaries: Br Bill Lebler, Bronislaw Zukowski, Mary Carlon, Clare Brennan, Kathrine Fernandes, Phylis Laughlin, Ernesto Leme, Maurice Dowd, Dennis Bell, Roger Parfait, John Michael Malone, Mary Baldock, Tom Drenen, Moira Waight, Tony (Antonio) Del Prete, Frances D'Argent, Aloysius Demonte, May Demonte, Sr Mary Imeldine, A.C., Sr Mary Silvaria, A.C., Dennis Tamplin, Jack Wraight, Ray Dickinson, Anacleto Gutierrez, Kerry Smith, Claire Wright, Baiona Pereira, Margaret Hamilton, Drago Tkalcovic, Terry Duus, Giordano Godeassi, Alojz Rep Helen Cleary, Kathleen Healy, Vilanilathu Kunjumon, Francis O'Reilly, Ken Balm, John Wood, Ronald James Coghlan, Sr Marita O'Connell, Bruce Thurgood, Giuliana Gismondi, Henry Mellan, Eileen O'Brien, William Amor, Albert Taylor, Margaret Roberts, Robin Beaman, Dorothy O'Keeffe, Antonietta La Sala, Ricardo Vilca, Megan Tomasetti (Levvey), Yvonne Lazaroo, Nicholas Castenetto, Patricia Daly, Chiara Maria Childs, Daniel P Farren, Benita Schneider-Loos, Joseph Rochford, Sebastiana Musumeci, Gillian Dalton, Les Woodhead, Jose Mari Manahan, Sr Susan Shannon, Allison Burch, Vittorio Paterno, Charles Barkley, Maria Merlino, Bernard Bourke, Charles Nichols, Julien Pigeot, Evan Jenkins, Margaret Jenkins, Venera Barbagallo, Eveleigh Vickers.

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, Andrea Williams, Marisa.

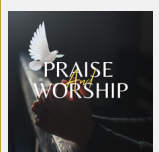
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Louis' Mon 9.15am Communion Service,
St Louis' Tues 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 Fri after 11.30am Mass
St Louis' Sat 5.30pm before 6pm Mass

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
Robyn 0412 814 592
Deacon George 9580 7981