



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 September 2026

Readings for Year A Ezekial 33: 7-9 Romans 13: 8-10 Matthew 18: 15-20



*“Where 2 or 3 gather in my name,
I shall be there”*

The theme uniting today's readings seems to be the responsibility members of a community have for the moral well-being of others. It gives some charter for what would subsequently be called 'fraternal correction' – something clearly requiring much sensitivity. Religious history is rife with examples of institutionalised violence in the name of establishing and preserving righteousness. The Gospel, Matt 18:15-20, is a brief extract from the Fourth Discourse of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel, the one regulating life within the community of the Church.

In a way that is perhaps particularly comforting at the present time, the discourse recognises that the Church is not a community of the perfect. Allowance has to be made – and structures set in place – for dealing with moral lapses, dissensions and other failings that inevitably occur in a community still 'on the way' to the perfection of the Kingdom. The community of Israel had structures in place for correcting and disciplining errant members. The procedure enjoined here reflects those structures (esp. Lev 19:17-18 ['you shall reprove your neighbour ... you shall love your neighbour as yourself']; Deut 19:15 [requirement of at least two witnesses]) but with the added sense of the Church as the family of God. The instruction to first try sorting a problem out in private, with a carefully staged progression of increasingly public procedures if that proves unsuccessful, is designed to preserve the dignity of the errant person. 'Going public', so to speak, is a last resort.

The goal is not simply to win, but to 'win back your brother or sister', that is, to reach an outcome in a way that will enhance everyone's sense of being a respected and valued member of the 'family'. If, despite all, the process fails, then there is nothing to be done but 'to treat (the person) like a pagan or a tax collector', that is, to regard them as outside the community (like pagans) or as in the position of those who have set themselves outside the community (tax collectors). Here is a place where Matthew's Gospel, for all its ultimate sense of a mission to the nations and stress upon Jesus' celebration of God's mercy in company with tax collectors and sinners, preserves the language of the Jewish scribal community.

Australian Catholics



m.stmaryofthecross.com



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

News and Announcements



Happy Father's Day!

Today, we give thanks for the gift of fathers and for the love, wisdom, and strength they share with their families. May God bless all fathers, grandfathers, and father figures, and reward them for their faithful love and care. May St Joseph, the loving father and protector of Jesus and Mary, be their guide and inspiration always.

Congratulations!

These are the people who will be baptised in our parish this weekend: Lachlan Graham, Grace Roslyn, Esmay Mary, Isaac James, Sophie Anne. We warmly congratulate them and rejoice with them as they begin this beautiful journey of faith.

Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

National Child Protection Week 6 – 12 September 2026

Preventing child abuse and neglect is everyone's business, and we all have a role to play. NAPCAN has created practical, evidence-based resources to help people understand what they can do to support the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Scripture & Friendship

Our Parish Scripture & Friendship group is on this coming Tuesday 8th September 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 0425773608

Eucharistic Adoration: Monday 7th September

Eucharistic Adoration at St Louis Church is cancelled for this Monday evening.

It will be back on next week.

St Vincent de Paul will be using St Louis Church to hold a Strategic Plan Roadshow at 7pm for all the members of the Southern Region.

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.

Called and Gifted Discernment Process

Begins with the Called and Gifted Workshop, Friday 11 September, 6pm-9pm and Saturday 12 September, 9am-4pm at Catholic Leadership Centre

Parishes and communities are invited to send two to five people to join the Called and Gifted Discernment Process, created by Sherry Weddell's Catherine of Siena Institute. This three-month journey includes a workshop, interview and small group sessions.

Help your community discover the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to them and discern how they can work for the mission of the Church.

Cost \$95 per person. Participants must have the endorsement of their Parish Priest before registering.

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 with tear off pledge cards or online donations are the most secure via the QR code on the brochures that 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 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)

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

Venue: St Louis Church, 37 Dolphin Street, Aspendale

Date: Thursday, 8 October 2026 at 7:30pm

Contact: mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

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.

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 - 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.

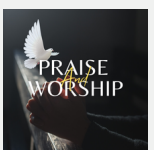
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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