



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time 26 July 2026

Readings for Year A 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12 Romans 8: 28-30 Matthew 13: 44-46

“He sells everything he owns and buys the field”

Because no human has seen the kingdom of heaven this is why Jesus used parables such as the ones in today's Gospel. The kingdom of heaven is for each of us, as believers. It is for us to work towards in this life, not just the next.

The parables used tell us how precious the kingdom is. Firstly, more precious than anything a person owns. Secondly, by using the example of the pearl, the kingdom is both rare and precious. So my actions can help bring the kingdom and that is something I should want with every fibre of my being.

The final parable is an extension of last week's Gospel. We are told that the kingdom will bring judgment. Yet, I am not the judge, so I am not to judge in this life. Rightly, that is left to God.

Will my choices help to bring the kingdom closer?

***Patrick Jurd
Parishioner***



m.stmaryofthecross.com



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



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

News and Announcements

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly - July 26

Each year, the Holy Father chooses a theme for World Day for grandparents and the elderly. This year the theme is taken from Isaiah 49:15 "I will never forget you". According to Vatican News, this theme is both a message of comfort and hope for grandparents and elderly people, as well as a reminder to families and communities not to forget them, but rather to recognise them as "a precious presence and a blessing" (Deborah Caste lano Lubov, Vatican News, 10 February 2026).



Heavenly Father, we lift up our grandparents and the elderly to you today. We thank you for the love and guidance they have given to us, for the stories they have shared, and for the wisdom they have imparted. We ask that you bless them with good health, joy, and peace. May they feel your loving presence in their lives and know that they are cherished and loved. Amen



Justice Action Group Activities

LAST CHANCE

Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project - Fundraising Raffle - last weekend to buy tickets
Prizes will be drawn after 11.00 am Mass on Sunday 26th July.

The raffle prizes are:

~Beautiful Handmade Throw in shades of blues and purples ~Royal Crown Derby bird ornament (\$100 value) ~Bottle of Noon Wine ~Hamper of goodies consists of Bottle of King Valley Prosecco, Hand Cream, Diffuser ~Jigsaw ~\$50.00 voucher from Bodyshop. Tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

Plastic Free July

When many people make small changes, it adds up to a big difference in our communities. Choosing to refuse single-use plastics in July (and beyond!) often leads to discovering great alternatives that can become new habits forever. This week, take your reusable cup when you buy your coffee.

Please leave your blister packs in our foyers to be taken to be recycled or return them to your local chemist

John Paul College Companion Van - Thursday 13 August

Calling for volunteers for the next JPC Companion Van. Meet at 4.30pm in St Louis carpark. Please call Sandy if you are interested. 0412 057 177. We are also calling for food for the volunteers to take along on the night - **Small tuna cans, two fruit tubs/cups, juice boxes (small prima size), noodle cups/packs, packets of sweet/savory biscuits.** Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the foyers over the next 2 weekends.

Domestic Family Violence - What can we Do?

Family violence is rarely a one-off incident, it can take many forms. Instead, it is often a repeated pattern of behaviours designed to control, intimidate and harm another person. Abuse takes many forms, and they are not mutually exclusive. While physical violence is often the most visible, other forms such as emotional, psychological and social abuse can be just as harmful. Emotional abuse is behaviour that does not demonstrate respect for someone's feelings, opinions and experiences. Psychological abuse happens when someone makes you or other people question your sanity or recollection of reality through manipulation and lying. Social abuse is behaviour that limits, controls or interferes with someone's social activities or relationships with others. For examples of each of these forms of abuse and more information, go to this [link](#) 24-hour help is available: Ring police on 000 for emergency support or 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 723) for confidential counselling and support.

Scripture and Friendship Tuesday 28 July 10am

Our Parish Scripture & Friendship group is on this coming **Tuesday 28th July** 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.

News and Announcements

WE ARE
Called
VOCATIONS EXPO

ACU Campus Ministry and Vocations Melbourne invite you to come and explore what life looks like in Catholic Religious Orders, Diocesan Priesthood, and Married life. Hear from speakers who will share what answering a call looks like, what challenges lie ahead and the many joys you find along the way.

SATURDAY 1 AUGUST
9AM-1PM
GREG CRAVEN CENTRE,
LEVEL 7, ST TERESA OF KOLKATA BUILDING,
ACU MELBOURNE



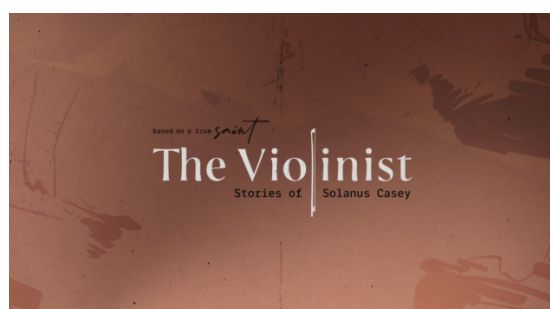
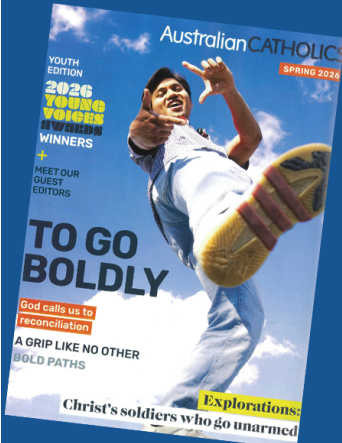
with Archbishop Peter Comensoli



Free event
Book via - trybooking.com/DNKHK

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Formed - The Violinist - Stories of Solanus Casey

The film showcases the remarkable ability of Solanus to inspire others, share heartwarming anecdotes about his modest lifestyle and passion for playing the violin.

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.



The website: Melbourne.Synod.2026.Melbourne.Catholic is regularly updated with new information, so do please keep checking for updates.

Melbourne Synod 2026 – Theme Paper Release

The Synod theme papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination—trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal, and deeper communion. The suggested reflection process is a ‘Conversation in the Spirit’ or a Spiritual Conversation. This method is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. Different from a discussion, it is an attentive listening process that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us.

Click on the links below to read the three theme papers.

Formation and Participation and
Missionary Leadership and
Young Discipleship

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 1 & 2 AUGUST 2026

1/2 August 2026	18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Isaiah 55: 1-3 Romans 8: 35, 37-39 Matthew 14: 13-21						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Bernie Stuart	Marg De Vries	Gail McGillivray	Anthony Barnhoorn	Volunteer	Jan Hughes	Tom Hughes
8.00am (M)	Tony Aloysious	Celine George	Joan Healy	Marlene Tangso	Chris McAleer	Jack Guthrie	Odette Budge
9.30am (A)	Phillip Morris	Helen Healy	Martin Newington	Ron Schneider-Loos	Mary Nayna	Rosemary Miller	Anne Marsh
11.00am (M)	Jennifer Rodrigues	Dianne Wain	Peter Wain	Helen Rocks	Philippa Pecora	Volunteer	Vanessa Fernandes
Counters	Group 4	Bern & Geoff Terrell	Susan Dornom				

Recently deceased: Marjorie Browne (mother of Kathryn Ryan, Aspendale).

Anniversaries: Josephine D'Cunha, Bill White, Maria Pitinga, Issa Rizk, Edna Ansalde, Andrew Burns, Bobby Mills, Tom Mills, Kerry Pipkorn, Paul Buick, Jean Halloran, Tom Enright, Bill Wilkins, Alan Seddon, Alma McElroy, Jack McElroy, Della Dalton, Danielle Gassin, Anne Pinder, Johnny Williams, Joseph Genovese, Deidre Hunter, Jack Murphy, Brian Bellamy, Herbet Cumberbatch, Queenie Lucas, Norah Dornom, Francis (Frank) Denman, Jack Brennan, Teresa Healy, Florina Fernandes, Hans Matse, Filomena Camerino, Fred Hamilton, Anne Green, Jack Heffernan, May Heffernan, Maria Licciardo, Jim Kearney, Marie Wilson, K. Alexander, Joan Cox O'Donoghue, Apolonio Gutierrez, Ted Headland, Kunjamma Mathai, Taylor Sutton, Angelo Vieceli, Marianna Costantino, Maria Di Trocchio, Ivan Trbusic, Dawn Musster, Raymond John Martin, Rene O'Connor, Fr Frank McGauley.

Praying for healing and the sick: Sammy Dahalid, Kathie Martin, Edith Venton, Marisa, Mim Rodolico, Michael Albert, Fr Terry Keane, Luis, Julie Griffiths, Steve Govac, Chris Wardle, Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Rita Popley, Vasilos Garavelis, Sophia Bicos, Mary Agiropoulos, Prunella Julien, Maree Wesols, Peter Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Noleen Dunn, John Catalano, Damian Haggerty, Alasdair Hughes, Andrea Williams, Brilliant boys, Leonard Hamilton.

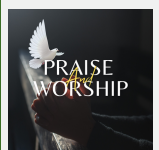
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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