



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

The Ascension of the Lord 17 May 2026

Readings for Year A Acts 1: 1-11 Ephesians 1: 17-23 Matthew 28: 16-20



“I am with you always”

This weekend we celebrate The Ascension of the Lord, where the risen Jesus meets His disciples and entrusts them with a mission that reaches far beyond that moment: “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations.” This is not simply a task for the first disciples, but a living call for the whole Church. It reminds us that faith is never meant to be kept to ourselves; it is a gift to be shared.

To make disciples is more than teaching or instructing. It is about witnessing through our words, actions, and relationship, the love and truth of Christ. We are invited to walk with others, helping them encounter Jesus in a personal and transformative way. In our daily lives, we participate in this mission whenever we act with compassion, integrity, justice and hope. Jesus does not send us alone. His promise, “I am with you always,” reassures us that our efforts are sustained by His presence. Even when we feel uncertain or inadequate, His grace equips us.

As members of the Church, we are both disciples and disciple-makers. Our mission is to build a community where faith is lived, nurtured, and shared so that all may come to know the enduring love of God.

Marylene Douglas
Parishioner



News and Announcements

Next weekend is Pentecost Sunday

Please come wearing your best **RED** attire to help our parish celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.



Year 6 Confirmation commitment next weekend

Our Year 6 children from St Brigid's and St Louis' will be attending next weekend's masses with their families, to make their final commitment before receiving the sacrament of Confirmation in August. So please make them welcome and share a cuppa and a chat with them after Mass. Please keep them all in your prayers.

New Parishioner Morning Tea Saturday 23 May



Are you a new or relatively new parishioner?

You are invited to come along to a morning tea **on Saturday 23 May, 10am to 11am** in the foyer of our church at St Louis' (37

Dolphin Street, Aspendale). Our Parish Leadership Team, and other members of the Parish Pastoral Council would love to say hello. You will get to meet other new parishioners and learn a little more about your new parish. Please let us know you will be joining us by signing up at the Welcome Desk.

SAVE THE DATE

Special Eucharistic Ministers meeting Wed 27 May 11.45am

Fr Michael would like to invite all our Eucharistic Ministers who take Communion to the housebound, sick, elderly and Aged Care to please come along to a meeting on **Wednesday 27 May at 11.45am at St Louis' church**. Fr Michael would like to get to know you all and give information on how he would like you to collect the Eucharist. The meeting will be followed by sandwiches and a cuppa. Please let Marie (0411 352 084) or the Office (9580 7981) know if you will be attending.

Mother's Day Cake Stall - Thanks everybody

Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners last weekend, our cake stall raised over \$1500 for BASP. This money will be going directly to help a local refugee family with schooling for their children. And it's not too late to put further donations into the JAG jars at each church. Thanks again.



Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family -

Poppy Anne, Layla Ivy, Scarlett Harper, Evie Mae, Isla Jean, Brooks Timothy

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

Caritas Australia Lebanon Emergency Appeal

The situation in Lebanon remains extremely fragile, and civilians urgently need humanitarian support. More than 2,000 people have been killed and over 1.1 million people displaced nationwide, including more than 390,000 children. Our partners Caritas Lebanon continue to deliver emergency food, water, shelter and health support across the country, maintaining humanitarian convoys to hard-to-reach areas in southern Lebanon. Stand with the people of Lebanon today. Learn more or make a donation today at www.caritas.org.au/lebanon or via the QR code.



FORMED - St Rita of Cascia

St Rita of Cascia. A very popular saint who lived in Italy in the 14th Century. Famous as the saint of hopeless situations, St Rita dealt with many difficult and tragic moments in her life.

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.

Laudatio Si' week 17 - 24 May From Hope to Action

Laudatio Si' Week is an annual global Catholic celebration marking the anniversary of Pope Francis' 2015 Encyclical **Laudato Si' (Praise be to you)** on 'Care for Our Common Home'. It promotes ecological conversion through prayer, reflection and concrete action, encouraging communities to address climate change, consumerism and the cries of the poor.

We are asking for one action in one week from the ideas list as part of a Global Catholic Response. Your Parish Earthcare Team www.caritas.org.au/catholic-earthcare

Ideas for Laudatio Si' Week

- Turn off unnecessary lighting
- Support your local charity winter appeal.
- Buy food from local producers
- Read a chapter from *Laudato Si'* or *Laudate Deum*



Catholic
Earthcare
CARITAS AUSTRALIA



AUSTRALIAN
CATHOLIC
SOCIAL JUSTICE
COUNCIL

News and Announcements

First Eucharist masses this weekend for St Louis' Year 4's

Please keep in your prayers our St Louis' children who will receive the Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time on Sunday afternoon.

National Volunteer Week 18-24 May



National Volunteer Week stands as the biggest yearly tribute to volunteering across Australia. It honors the invaluable efforts of countless volunteers nationwide, and inspires people everywhere to explore how sharing their time and skills can foster belonging, meaning, and thriving communities. Our own Parish is a wonderful example of volunteers at work. Your generosity, compassion and willingness to serve is so valued and appreciated.

Next Weekend

Cuppa and Name Tag Sunday, please collect a name tag on your way into mass and remember to drop it in the box on your way out.

Australian Catholics Magazine Winter Edition now available

Collect a copy from the church foyer. Once you have read it please return for others to read.

Or go online to read it here: [Australian Catholics](#)

menALIVE Weekend - Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st May



This is a National Catholic Ministry for Men which was founded out of a response to a great need in the hearts and lives of men, and a great need in the life of the Catholic Church.

The men of our Parish are invited to register to attend this seminar to help them become an active force of renewal in the community and the church.

The Catholic parishes of St Mary's Greensborough, St Thomas the Apostle Greensborough North and Sacred Heart Diamond Creek, are hosting this menALIVE weekend. **Saturday 30 May 8:00am to 9:00pm & Sunday 31 May 8:00am to 1:30pm. Cost is \$50** which includes lunch and refreshments on both days and dinner on Saturday.

For more information and to register, please go to [menALIVE](#)

Or call Melwyn D'Mello on 0408 832 885

Food for Friends



Are you able to cook a meal for our freezers at St Louis' and St Brigid's? Stocks are getting low. Containers and labels for ingredients are available to be picked up from both churches. Or do you know someone who could benefit from our Food for Friends that is struggling or in need of assistance?

Please let Ann Brennan know on 0425 712 741.



Building the Synodal Way Together

Preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026 are now underway. A synodal gathering is focused on pastoral renewal and can result in decrees or pastoral plans that guide the diocese in its planning.

In our parish we will pray together the Synod Prayer that the Holy Spirit will guide conversations and action.

Synodality and Bishops

Bishops remain shepherds and teachers of the faith. Synodality does not weaken their authority; rather it enriches their ministry by grounding leadership in prayerful listening and communal discernment. A bishop who listens walks more closely with his people, as Christ the Good Shepherd does.

Synodality and priests

For priests, synodality is not an added burden but a way of exercising ministry in communion. When priests foster listening and participation, parishes become more alive, missionary and joyful. the priest presides at the Eucharist, but the whole community contributes to the Church's mission.

Synodality and laity

Synodality affirms that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of all the baptised. Lay people are not simply helpers of clergy; they are active disciples called to witness to Christ in families, workplaces and society. A synodal Church takes this vocation seriously.

If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod please email:

Synod2026@cam.org.au

NEW YOUTH GROUP @ ST PATS!

6:00-7:30PM
SUNDAY 24TH MAY

Contact Emily for more information
emwisnie@gmail.com

* FOOD
* FORMATION
* FRIENDSHIP
* PRAYER

* FOR TEENS (YR 7- YR 12)

ST PATRICK'S
MENTONE PARISH
CENTRE



NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - PENTECOST SUNDAY - 24TH MAY 2026

23/24 May 2026	Pentecost Sunday (Year A) Genesis 11: 1-9 Romans 8: 22-27 John 7: 22-27			CUPPA WEEKEND			
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Year 6 Reader	Year 6 Reader	Carmel Barker	Volunteer	Gail McGillivray	John Bainbridge	Blessen Mathai
8.00am (M)	Joan Healy	Frances North	Chris McAleer	Stephen Pooley	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Tony Aloysious	Josie Johnson
9.30am (A)	Year 6 Reader	Year 6 Reader	Martin Newington	Maureen Wraight	Felice Cortese	Berna Wake	Niko Tovia
11.00am (M)	Year 6 Reader	Year 6 Reader	Helen Rocks	Gail Bell	Louise Breslin	Vanessa Fernandes	Volunteer
Counters	Group 4	Geoff & Bern Terrell	Susan Dornom				

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Kathleen Noonan, Daniel Bennett, Claudio Cavalli, Geraldine Brunner, Evelyn Laragy, David Graham, Patricia O'Sullivan, Tony Drinan, Peter Fergus, Zoe McDonald, Meleisea Leugamata, Meleisea Si'u, Colin Spencer, Eileen (Gay) Cahir, Bill Poynton, Bruno Prochilo, Annette Corda, Anne Marie Dennis, Maria Luxton, Justin Bidgood-Kerlin, Grace Summerton, Monica Pickles, Ted Munro, John Greenwell, Chris Harper, Rose Harper, Olive Maguire, John Pompei, Don Newcombe, Giuliana Forlin, Patrick O'Brien, Bill Perry, Carl Perry, Emily Perry, Les Perry, Winston Perry, Frank Rankin, Mary D'Rozario, Mireille Martin, Brian Cuffley, Michael Van Staveren

Praying for healing and the sick: Julie Griffiths, Steve Govac, Chris Wardle, Len Scott, Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Vasilos Garavelis, Mary Agiroponlos, Luis, Marisa, Rita Popley, Prunella Julien, Sophia Bicos, Maree Wesols, Jeffrey Sellar, Noleen Dunn, John Catalano, Damian Haggerty, Alasdair Hughes, Harry Donohue, Stephen Hopkins, Andrea Williams, Brilliant boys, Stephen Oldboldstone.

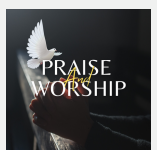
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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, 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

Our Parish acknowledges that we gather, pray and live on the land of the Bunorong 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: catholicmasstmaryofthecross

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
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Denise 0412 926 752