

Blessings

Issue 31 | July 2024



St Mary of the Cross
Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Mordialloc & Aspendale

Inside



Alpha -
Transformational
and exciting



Pentecost -
Celebrating the
Church's Birthday



Archbishop's
3-day pastoral
visit



Cover image: The Siewiera Family with Fr Ignatius – marshmallow roasting after mass on Pentecost Sunday at St. Louis'.

From the Editor

Hello, I hope you enjoy reading this latest edition of our parish magazine Blessings.

Our first Alpha in over 30 years was a blessing, with so many people discussing and reflecting on their faith journey, as well as making new friends, and getting to know one another in a deeper way. The feedback received from Alpha guests was extremely positive. If you are thinking about coming to our next Alpha in September, but a bit unsure, do have a chat to someone who attended and ask them how they found it.

On these cold days, I suggest making a cuppa and settling down to read about the many happenings at St Mary of the Cross Parish.

Peace and
Blessings,
Berna Wake



Please contact me if you have a news story:
berna.wake@cam.org.au

Blessings

Our quarterly magazine featuring news and stories about our vibrant parish community, as we strive towards our mission to Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples.

Father Andrew's Word



“I pray that the Holy Spirit will touch people’s hearts to extend the Alpha invitation”

As you will read in this edition of Blessings, many pages are dedicated to our recent Alpha experience. SMOTC Alpha #1 was a risk to undertake yet the PLT (Parish Leadership Team) felt that we have prepared our parish well to receive Alpha. Personally, I thought that we would receive more people outside of the current mass attending population but in hindsight, our people were ready to experience Alpha firsthand so that in promoting the next one and personally inviting someone to the next one will be done with confidence. I pray that the Holy Spirit will touch people’s hearts to extend the invitation and for others to be open to accepting the invitation.

Many thanks to all involved in SMOTC Alpha #1 especially to Berna, Trish, Fr. Ignatius and (cheffy) Michael Jaspers.

Hosting the Archbishop for 3 days was quite taxing. The archbishop had a full schedule trying to maximize his time in the parish. The archbishop was impressed with many areas of parish life and in particular the strong connection with the school leadership teams. The PLT presented to him our *Opening the Doors to Christ’s Love* missionary approach to parish life which is in conjunction with the vision he has for parishes. Archbishop Peter was very complimentary about the community spirit here at SMOTC.

Pentecost was another great celebration along with First Eucharist masses for the school and catechist children. We now look forward to the Confirmation celebrations to take place in late July.

I have personally chosen to support ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against the Trafficking of Humans) by raising funds through a fun run. If you would like to support this appeal and spur me on in my run, then either donate online or drop off some money at the office.

<https://runmelbourne24.grassrootz.com/acrath/andrew-jekot>

Stay warm and embrace the sunshine when possible.

God Bless,

Fr. Andrew Jekot

**Fr. Andrew
Parish Priest
St Mary of the Cross, Mordialloc &
Aspendale**

Alpha April – May 2024

Having attended the Divine Renovation Australasian Conference in Sydney in February 2023, the Parish Leadership Team (PLT) decided it was time for Alpha at St Mary of the Cross.

As our last Alpha ran over 30 years ago, we had to start from scratch. We felt that if 30-50 people registered that would be a great result, however the Holy Spirit had other ideas, as 105 people registered. This was going to be a big exercise, but with prayer, the guidance of Barb Conlon from Alpha Australia, a detailed organisational and marketing plan, the commitment of our hosts and helpers and the enthusiastic support of our people, our Alpha was a huge success.



Our Alpha sessions ran over 8 consecutive weeks, each Tuesday from 6.30-8.30pm.

Each week began with a delicious dinner prepared by our chef Michael Jaspers. Teams sat in their groups and friendly chatter and laughter ensued as people got to know one another, and friendships formed. After dinner we joined in song, ahead of watching one of the 30-minute Alpha videos. Teams then discussed the video content and questions provided. At Alpha there is no judgement and no obligation to speak, unless you want to. It provides a safe, no pressure environment to share questions most of us all have about our faith.



Alpha guest feedback.

In what ways did you benefit from the Alpha course?



"Thinking about the bible and teachings of the church."

"I am more open to the Holy Spirit."

"Has made me think more about my faith."

"Enabled me to pray more, to be close to God and feel more involved."

"Community, friendship, support, prayer and deeper experience of faith, and how to strengthen it and spread the Good News!"

"Learned a lot of really how God comes to our aid."

"I feel it made me experience the Holy Spirit entering my life."



Alpha guest feedback.

What did you enjoy most about Alpha?



"The whole concept of having groups together, discussions, the videos."

"Mixing with people some of whom I didn't previously know."

"Talking about God."

"Hearing other people's opinions."

"Companionship."

"Safe environment to share your views."

"No pressure, relaxed atmosphere."

"The way it was supported and presented."

"I really enjoyed the course; it brought me closer to Jesus."

"The sharing of faith to help build community."



Alpha April – May 2024

A key part of the Alpha experience is the Holy Spirit Day. Our Saturday morning began with a beautiful mass. The day entailed watching 3 Alpha videos centred on the Holy Spirit, a time for silent contemplation, the opportunity to be prayed over with our prayer teams and of course friendship and food.



Alpha guest feedback.

How did you find the Holy Spirit Day?

*"Very relaxing and calming day."
"Peaceful and thought provoking."
"Very special."
"Just wonderful."*

"This was the first time I really felt the Holy Spirit come into my life and heart."

"It was awe inspiring and filled me with pure love and closeness to God."





Everyone has Questions

Everyone should give themselves the opportunity to explore life and faith, ask the big questions, and share their points of view in an open and friendly environment. **Alpha can be that place for you!** Come and explore life, faith and meaning.

Our next Parish Alpha starts on Tuesday 3 September from 6.30-8.30pm. It will continue every Tuesday night until 22 October. We will advise the venue location closer to the time.

Pray and think about who you would like to invite, a friend, family member, maybe someone who has been away from church or a relationship with God for a long time.

Invitation cards and registration details will be available early August.

We're saving a seat for you!



Ed: "He's welcome at our parish 😊"

Divine Renovation Workshop

Equipped for Mission Answering the call to 'Go Make Disciples'

On Saturday 13 April, 6 St Mary of the Cross parishioners, Carmel Barker, Ellen Young, Jon Searle, Ann Furlong, Fr Ignatius and Berna Wake attended a Divine Renovation Ministry Workshop at Our Lady Help of Christians in Narre Warren. The speakers included Dan O'Rourke President of Divine Renovation and Barb Conlon, Catholic Engagement Specialist Alpha Australia. Here are some reflections...

Ann Furlong

Meeting at St Louis Church we were all excited for the day ahead as Berna was to be our nominated driver for the DR workshop "Go make disciples". Upon arrival at OLHC we walked together with the other attendees ready for the day ahead that started with mass. When I walked into the church, I was amazed with the simplicity but impactful presentation, with the altar supported by a rock, it brought to mind in Matthew "Christ designates Peter as the "rock" upon which Christ's church will be built."

Following mass, we then went into the hall, and we started the day in song and prayers. The day was thought provoking as we focused on the Alpha program and then in the afternoon on how to reach the youth in our community. The sessions were insightful. As a group we need to "Go make disciples" and reach all areas of our community including our youth to grow and continue the mission of Jesus.

We concluded our day with exposition of the blessed sacrament and reflective prayer. It helped me focus my thoughts on how I can be a disciple through my everyday actions. For every small ripple in the sea, big waves can grow and with this in mind I am moving forward with small humble steps as a disciple of Jesus.

Jon Searle

Tomasz Juszcak's talk on "How to engage our youth" was insightful. Tomasz highlighted the importance of honesty and authenticity, noting that pretence is easily recognized. He emphasised that sharing honest and humble personal experiences, doubts, and fears resonates more than recited doctrine or societal expectations. Tomasz also noted that youth accept challenges, particularly difficult ones that have spiritual and moral significance. He shared a powerful example from a youth retreat where an hour of Eucharistic adoration initially met with complaints but ended up being one of the most valued experiences by the end of the retreat.

Ellen Young

I went with a totally open mind and had no expectations. I was wonderfully surprised by the number of people who were thirsting for more of the Holy Spirit. I felt that was just the start of so much more to come to Australia. All those who attended the conference would have left feeling blessed, wanting to do more and that the Alpha Course and the seeds it sows in people leaves them alive, wanting to engage and become proactive in their walk in faith.



CARMEL BARKER AND ELLEN YOUNG



ELLEN YOUNG AND ANN FURLONG



TOMASZ JUSZCZAK FROM DIVINE RENOVATION MINISTRY



BARB CONLON FROM ALPHA AUSTRALIA

Welcome

Catechesis Class First Eucharist



It was wonderful to see our catechist class receive their First Eucharist on Sunday 23rd June at the 9.30am mass. These children have been on a journey over the past 2 terms of learning, sharing and discovering the mystery and power of our Eucharist. The children enjoyed discussing gospel stories and wondering about the messages Jesus was telling his followers and us today.

It was an amazing journey to be part of with this group as they became more articulate at sharing their feelings and excitement about preparing to receive Jesus for the first time.

Their radiant smiles reflect the awe and wonder of receiving Jesus for the first time. May we too reflect on this amazing gift that we can receive each time we come to mass or have communion brought to us at home.
Elizabeth, Jenny, Gayle & Carmel
SMOTC Catechesis Leaders

New Parishioner Welcome Morning



It was a joy to meet and welcome several new parishioners at our welcome morning, held at the parish house on Saturday 11 May.

It is always interesting to hear the stories of how people have found the parish, and we are grateful that they have made St Mary of the Cross Parish their new 'home.'

Our next New Parishioner Welcome Morning will be on Saturday 16 November from 10-11.30am at the Parish House. If you are new to the parish or looking to get more connected, please mark this date in your diary. We would love to have a cuppa with you!

Our Parish Celebrations



***Happy Birthday to Bernie Hambridge
on his 95th birthday.***



***Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary to
Anita and Frank Lee.***



***April Wedding Congratulations to
Brenton Annand and Nicole D'Souza.***



***Baptism of Issac Derek. Son of Natasha
and Andrew Duncan. Alison is the only child of
Alison and Krish Krishnadas.***

Our Pentecost Celebrations



Our 2024 Catechesis Class.



Graham Harrison with his grandson Ethan.



***Pentecost Sunday Baptisms. Kerrin and Sean Crowder.
Alicia and Steven Jamieson.
Kerrin and Steve are siblings and Carmel Jamieson's
children.***

pg. 11 Blessings July 2024



Pentecost celebrations at St. Louis'.

Pastoral Visit of Archbishop Peter

Three-day pastoral visit of Melbourne Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli

An opportunity for our parish community to share & get to know our archbishop

Students & Teachers

Meeting the Schools Faith Development Team (Teaching Staff & Clergy) and students at St Brigid's.



Dinner at the Parish House

Members of the Finance Team, Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Leadership Team enjoyed lively discussion and delicious home-prepared food. Dinner was preceded by a presentation and discussion with the archbishop and PLT on our parish renewal journey.



Aged Care

A visit to Mercy Place Nixon in Mordialloc to meet with residents and staff.

Pastoral Visit of Archbishop Peter

Parish Forum

Over 60 parishioners attended the Saturday morning forum at St Brigid's on Saturday 20 April. The archbishop said it was the largest gathering he had experienced at a parish forum such as this. The archbishop asked us all 2

questions before taking our questions.

"Where do you find Christ in others in this parish? And 'In 10 years', time, what will our parish be like, and what role will I play in making it like that?"

People responded that they find Christ in each other, in the care and friendship shown, the welcoming nature of our parish, in our priests and homilies and in the celebration of Mass and sharing of the Eucharist.

In response to the second question, responses included:

"That we will be known as the most welcoming parish and people will come to be a part of that." Other answers included, continuing to grow as we are, that we would be a magnet for other parishes and that we will attract ever younger people.

Parishioner questions to the archbishop covered topics such as, the female diaconate, Pope Francis' Synod on Synodality, and the timing for the implementation for a Melbourne Diocesan Council.

The archbishop concluded by saying he felt "that there was something happening here (in our parish), and that there were green shoots."



Mass Celebrations

Archbishop Peter celebrated at all our weekend masses. Seen here with Fr Andrew and Deacon George at St. Louis'.



School News!

Term 2 began with a bang - swimming for our Foundation to Year 4 students, a visit from the Archbishop, First Eucharist, Anzac Day and the opening of our new playground by local member, Tim Richardson - all in the first three weeks!

Our key concept for this term has been Stewardship, focusing on Biological Science. Foundation to Year 2 has been focused on living things and had the great fortune to have five baby kittens (rabbits) and their Mum (Emily) come to stay at school. The children observed how the kittens changed and investigated what they needed to keep them healthy.



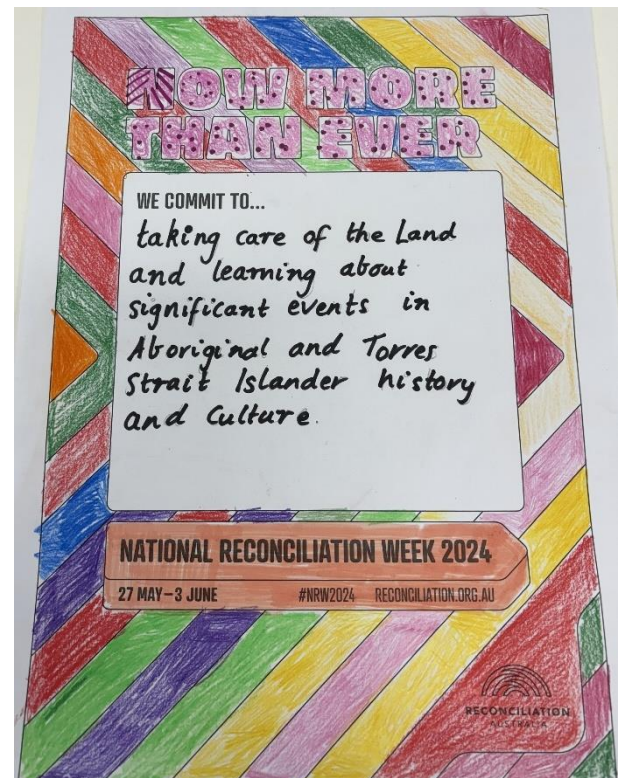
Our Year 3/4's planted seedlings and seeds in garden beds and an air garden, keeping diaries of their observations. They are hoping to harvest from the air garden soon!

Our Year 5/6 students are exploring different biomes and animals' adaptability and sustainable actions they can take as stewards of creation. In response to the Kingston Council's Wipe-out Waste incursion and their work on Pope Francis' encyclical 'Laudato Si', our Year 3-6 students had a 'Clean up Mordialloc Beach' excursion.



We celebrated Mother's Day and commemorated National Reconciliation Week with liturgy and each class committed to Reconciliation. Our Foundation students celebrated Prayer in Pyjamas and Mordialloc Preschool visited us. They loved experiencing PMP, seeing the rabbits and playing with the Bee-Bots. Our Year 6's are busy preparing for Confirmation which they will receive in the first week of Term 3.

*By Jodie Marziano Deputy Principal
St. Brigid's Primary School*



St. Louis' Primary School

This term has been an exciting and enriching time for all.

All of our classes commenced an exploration of History. This included Learning ranging from the family and community history, the diversity and longevity of Australia's first peoples to Australia as a Nation. Several excursions have occurred including visits to the Museum, a walking tour of Melbourne and a Create it and Make it Toy incursion. As always Mathematics and Literacy continue to be a focus.

School News!



We continue to celebrate significant events at St Louis. This term we recognised our St Louis Feast Day and Reconciliation Week. During Reconciliation week we celebrated the Little Long Walk. The walk was a great way to gather together and educate the whole school community about our First Nations People and Cultures. We had many special guests joining us this year including Jenaya Serra from the Michael Long Foundation and Uncle Josh who spoke about the land on which we walk and provided a smoking ceremony for the community.



At St Louis we 'Through Christ: Dare to love, Dare to learn, Dare to Lead.' Our Catholic Identity is a significant part of our education journey for our students. We celebrated a number of liturgies together including our school Feast Day Mass and a whole school Mass for the 'Feast of the Sacred Heart.' A lot of food items were collected and donated to St Vincent de Paul.

Our Year 4's received their Sacrament of Eucharist, and our Year 6 students are well on their way to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. This includes their Reflection Day in the city where they visited St Patrick's Cathedral, the Synagogue and the Mary MacKillop Centre.



In Term Two we highlighted the mothers and special friends in our community. This included the annual Mother's Day Breakfast and a Mother's Day Mass. This was widely attended and a beautiful celebration for all. There were many tears shed when our beautiful school choir sang to the community.

Our involvement in sport continues to be a highlight at St Louis. This has included the athletic carnival and the cross country at its different levels.



Our Year 6's have also been involved in Friday sport which has led to a number of teams moving through to the Division Competitions. The Lightning Premiership for our Year 6's and a few Year 5 representatives was also played.

We continue to provide all students with opportunities to flourish across a wide and varied range of experiences which helps to develop the whole child.

Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome children and families who have had children baptised recently.

Cooper Heath Edkins son of Steven & Madeleine

Jackson John Bliesner son of James & Roxanne

Gracie Rose & Ivy Charlotte Beverley daughters of Casey & Emma

Isla Bhey Schiano daughter of Jordan & Jess

Harper Pia Sibley daughter of Paul & Natalie

Kobe Musembi Nekea son of Joseph & Jessica Nekea

Amity Mabel and Ezra Myles Fink children of Tyler & Larissa

Zofia Cecilia & Heidi Claudia Soeding daughters of Adam & Katharine

Thomas William Jamieson son of Steven & Alicia

Isla Grace Crowder daughter of Sean & Kerrin

Margot June Dousha daughter of Daniel & Rebecca

Elidy Stella Barnhoorn daughter of Michael & Cayla

Isaac Derek Duncan son of Andrew & Natasha

Loic Paul Thiry-Dredge son of Joshua & Anais

Sofia Florence Scafidi daughter of Andrew & Kate

Rhett Lucas Sarcevic son of Daniel & Sarah

Cleo Mary Montgomery daughter of Benjamin & Anna

Ruby Sue Kight daughter of Tim & Lauren

Estelle Mary Agnello daughter of Leigh & Caroline

Zander Peter De Propertis son of Anthony & Amy

Rafael Philipe Cardoso-Ferreira son of Ruben & Vania



*God has you in his hands, with every
step you take, he guides you on his way.*

Vinnies Aspendale Mother's Day High-Tea



In Memoriam

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

~Amen~



Myrtle Strange.
28.5.1927 – 21.4.2024.
Myrtle's funeral
was held at St. Louis'
on 30.4.2024.



Gesualdo (Gerry) Inguanti.
12.8.1930 – 1.4.2024.
Gerry's funeral
was held at St. Brigid's
on 18.4.2024.



Kingsley Anthonisz (Snr).
10.3.1945 – 1.4.2024.
Kingsley's funeral
was held at St. Louis'
on 10.4.2024.



Phyl (Filippina) Giarrusso.
4.10.1929 – 11.4.2024.
Phyl's funeral
was held at St. Brigid's
on 23.4.2024.



Marina Ferrer.
15.8.1935 – 25.4.2024.
Marina's funeral
was held at St. Brigid's
on 2.5.2024.



Stella Mary Freis.
28.6.1940 – 11.5.2024.
Stella's funeral
was held at St. Brigid's
on 26.6.2024.



Annemarie Dennis.
20.11.1963 – 19.5.2024.
Annemarie's funeral
was held at St. Louis'
on 28.5.2024.



John Laughlin.
12.6.1943 – 9.6.2024.
John's funeral
was held at St. Brigid's
on 18.6.2024.



Let Justice Flow Like Water Highlights from our Justice Action Group

Protection of the environment



MORDIALLOC/ASPENDALE from Julie

Taking Action to Respond to the Call of Laudato Si'

10 Things You Can Do

- Reduce your energy consumption by switching off lights, appliances and computers when not in use.
- Use products made from recycled materials such as toilet paper and printer paper.
- If your supermarket food receipts in local funds, ask it to stop supporting coal and oil projects.
- Use biodegradable detergent in your kitchen and laundry.
- Buy Fairtrade certified products such as coffee, tea and chocolate.
- Grow native plants suitable for your locality in your garden.
- Get involved in Clean Up Australia Day on the 1st Sunday in March.
- Be aware of how much food you throw away and make a conscious effort to reduce food waste.
- Don't buy fruit and vegetables which are pre-wrapped in plastic.

Read a few paragraphs of Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si', each day and use it as the basis for your private prayer and reflection.

Our Local Council, City of Kingston, has developed an App for waste collection and recycling. it is called Binston and has well-coded information on recycling more than 200 types of items from acid and aerosol cans to X-rays and yoghurt pouches.

During Laudato Si week we will have the QR code available at all masses to encourage parishioners to download and start using it.

We also plan to hand out small copies of the poster "Taking Action to Respond to the Call of Laudato Si" 10 Things You Can Do - and suggest they put it on their fridge and start trying some of the actions (4 copies to an A4 Page as we don't like printing unnecessarily but find most people don't take up a link or poster in our bulletin or website)

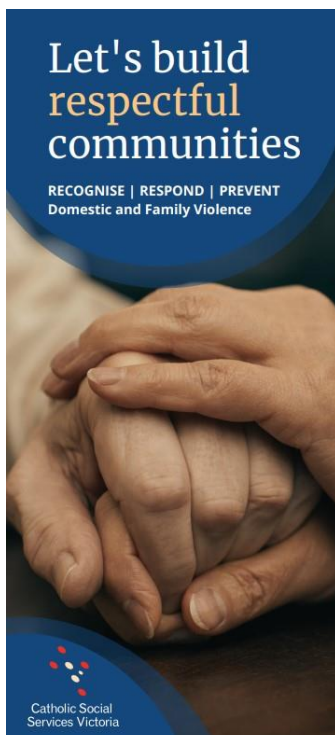
We also had lots of Warrigal greens in our community herb garden so shared it after 6 pm Mass with instructions on how to use it and make sure it is blanched or stir fried. It was a big hit !!

Founded by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Earthcare Australia promotes understanding that creation is sacred and must be protected and preserved for present and future generations.

The work of our Parish Earthcare Team has been featured in the latest edition of Catholic Earthcare's 'Inspiring Ideas' which is circulated to parishes across Australia.

Well done Julie Buick and Team.

Domestic and Family Violence



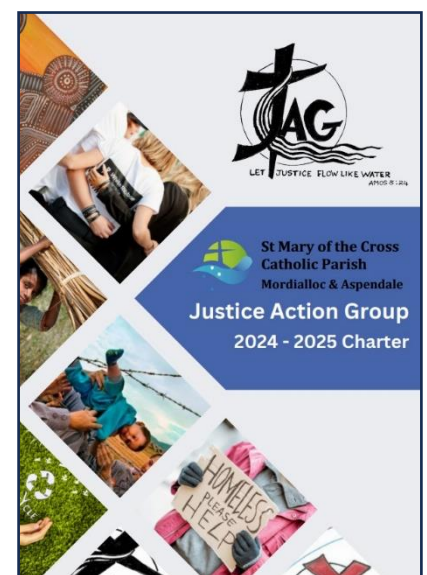
The JAG Steering Group have recently held discussions with Catholic Social Services Victoria. We are working together to provide an interactive forum for the parish community on education and awareness on the topic of domestic and family violence, which distressingly is one of the biggest social issues in Australia today.

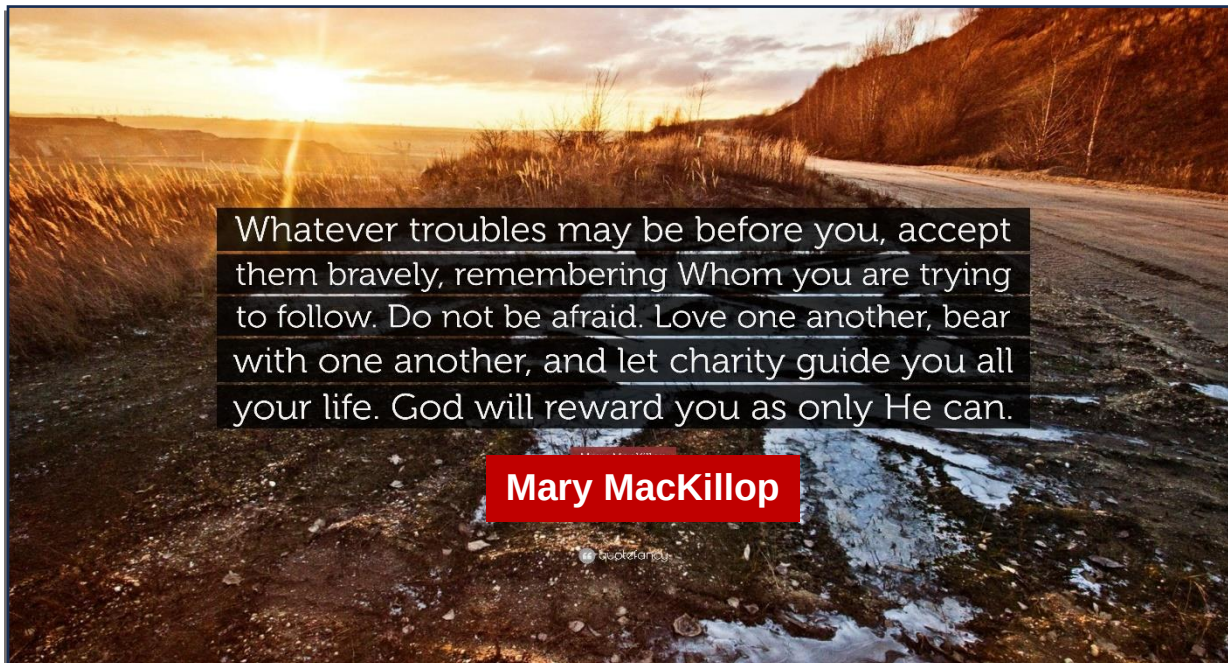
The forum will be open to all parishioners their families and friends, school families and the wider neighbouring community. Further details will be communicated via the Parish Bulletin.

In the interim, Catholic Social Services have provided us with their latest brochure "Let's build respectful communities" which includes helpful ideas on what are the signs of violence, what we can do to support someone experiencing violence and the role we can all play in creating respectful communities. You can pick up a copy in the church foyers.

Justice Action Group Charter

The latest edition of the JAG Charter 2024 -2025 is now available. The Charter details the projects which JAG are pursuing under the 6 areas of interest, which are: Treatment of refugees & people seeking asylum; Domestic & family violence & homelessness; Protection of the environment; Human Trafficking; Respect & understanding for First Nations People and Inter-Faith initiatives. Copies are available in the church foyers and on our [parish website](#). JAG meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7.30-9pm at St. Louis' and all are welcome.





Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them bravely, remembering Whom you are trying to follow. Do not be afraid. Love one another, bear with one another, and let charity guide you all your life. God will reward you as only He can.

Mary MacKillop

*Saint
Mary of
the Cross
Feast Day
8 August*



**St Mary of the Cross
Catholic Parish**
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

These are our parish Mass times. Join via livestream our 6pm Saturday and 8am Sunday Mass [here](#).

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil 6pm St Louis'
Sunday 8am St Brigid's
Sunday 9.30am St Louis'
Sunday 11am St Brigid's

WEEKDAY MASS

Mon 9.15am St Louis'
(Communion Service)
Tues, Thurs 9.15am St Louis'
Wed 10am St Brigid's
Friday 11.30am St Brigid's

St Brigid's Church: 520 Main Street, Mordialloc.
St Louis de Montfort Church & Parish Office: 37 Dolphin Street, Aspendale | mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

WELCOME!

If you are new to the parish or would like to be more connected, we would love to meet you. Please reach out to Ann in the parish office on 9580 7981 or at the email address above.

Find us on:

Facebook at: <https://m.stmaryofthecross.com/facebook>
YouTube: <https://m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass>
Website: <https://m.stmaryofthecross.com/>



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Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing, and human dignity of children, young people, and adults.

Our parish acknowledges that we gather, pray, and live on the land of the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation, and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and emerging.



St Brigid's School student artwork supporting Laudato Si' Week, Pope Francis' work on 'Care for our common home.'