

Issue 32 October 2024

Blessings



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

Inside



Farewell and thank you
Father Ignatius



Our 2nd Alpha for 2024 –
Forming friendships
through faith



Welcome
Father Huy Nguyen



Celebrating the
sacrament of
confirmation

And much more!

Cover image: Fr Ignatius and Fr Andrew
celebrating the Confirmation of Jude Bailey
from St Louis' Primary School.

From the Editor

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

Once again there is so much happening
in our vibrant parish. It was a sad time to
farewell our beloved Fr Ignatius who
touched our hearts in so many ways.
We warmly welcome Fr Huy who is sure
to become a beloved member of our
parish community.

The celebration of the sacrament of
Confirmation was a Spirit-filled
experience for students from our two
schools and catechetics students.

Our second Alpha for 2024 has given so
many people the opportunity to explore
life's big questions in a safe and friendly
environment. We are delighted to
welcome many new guests.

I would love to hear from you if you have
news or a story to share for Blessings.

Please contact me at
berna.wake@cam.org.au

Peace and blessings,

Berna Wake



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

*"Lord, we call for peace upon our world
and an end to hate and destruction. Amen"*

As we embrace daylight savings with longer days to enjoy the outside, the warmer weather slowly creeping in to farewell the winter months, I feel that hope and new life is in the air. Certainly, with what is happening in our parish, I have hope in this parish community that continues to thrive in faith. This edition of Blessings is a testimony to that.

As this edition goes to print, the second main session on the Synod on Synodality is happening in Rome. Pope Francis has called upon a diverse range of people to gather in prayer to discern how our church will continue to evolve in our modern world. Pope Francis doesn't see that Christianity has to compete against the secular world but that there is mutual complementarity in both. Can our secular world listen to the voice of Jesus through our church and lead the way? Can our church listen to the ways of the modern world and see God's presence thriving outside the church? May we pray during this month of October for the Synod and its outcomes.

We have been blessed with 8 adults who have responded to the call to discern about becoming catholic. We are in the early parts of the journey leading towards the Rite of Welcome which will be held during the First weekend of Advent. More details about who our friends are then.

Our current Offering Program is an invitation for us to consider strengthening our financial support for the parish. We have our current ongoing maintenance issues but more importantly, we wish to invest in you, the people of God and your formation and faith development. Having more funds to invest in this area will be greatly appreciated.

Finally, a tinge of sadness overwhelms me when I watch the news and see all the death and destruction regarding the ongoing wars on the other side of the world. This is a harsh reality that God's Kingdom is yet to be fully realised, and our ongoing prayers are desperately needed.

*"Lord, we call for peace upon our world and
an end to hate and destruction. Amen"*

God Bless,

Fr. Andrew Jekot

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

God Bless You Fr Iggy

Farewell and thank you Father Ignatius Tan



By Berna Wake

Father Ignatius has touched our hearts in so many ways. In his short 2 years with our parish, he has stepped up to every challenge, pastorally, spiritually and faithfully. As a parish community we were able to give thanks at a lovely afternoon tea on Sunday 22 September. In a moving and heartfelt speech Fr Andrew described the many ways Fr Ignatius has grown in his priesthood, and he gave thanks for his priestly ministry in our parish. We wish Fr Ignatius every blessing in his new appointment at St Francis Xavier's Box Hill and St Clare's Box Hill North.



*My dear friends at
St Mary of the Cross Parish,*

I would like to thank God for accepting me into your community under the leadership of Father Andrew Jekot and the Parish Leadership Team (PLT). Fr Andrew is a great mentor in my priestly vocation.

There are a few outstanding impressions I have of St Mary of the Cross Parish. Firstly, all the parishioners are very warm and welcoming.

Thank you for your openness and humility in accepting my suggestions. Secondly, I witnessed the vibrancy of the community embracing the Parish Mission - Opening the Door's to Christ's Love, the willingness to come together to learn, and to share. Thirdly, there are many who contribute generously to the service of the parish in many ways, either in the liturgy, up-keeping of the church, catechesis, welcoming, flower arrangement, and much more.

St Mary of the Cross Parish is the lighthouse of the bayside area, where our sisters and brothers can experience the love and care of God's love through our beautiful community.

It has been my great privilege to work with many of you and it has been a blessing to me, to enrich my vocation, and confirm my call to be a follower of Jesus and express my vocation through my service to you all.

In the farewell tea party on the 22nd of Sep in St Brigid's school hall, when you all prayed over me, I felt like I was sent with all your blessings into my new ministries. I know there will be many new things to learn, but I know that all your prayers and blessings will always be with me.

Please drop by the parish if you are in Box Hill area.

May God bless all of you and know that I am going to miss you all.

Ignatius



God Bless You Fr Iggy



Welcome Father Huy Nguyen

The following is an extract from Melbourne Catholic (18 January 2023) a month after Father Huy's ordination to the priesthood*.

The Catholic faith has always been an integral part of Fr Huy's life. Through the support and encouragement of his mother, he became an altar server at a young age and was always involved in the 'vibrant' local parish that his family were part of back home in Vietnam—he was born in the small coastal town of Nha Trang, which means 'white house' in English, 300 kilometres north of Ho Chi Minh City.

It wasn't until the end of Year 12, however, that he seriously contemplated becoming a priest. He had completed some university entrance exams when his father suffered a stroke. This tragic event prompted Fr Huy to ask deeper questions about the meaning of life and what he was going to do in the future.

I was discerning a lot at this particular time about God's will for my life. And this sad event of my dad's stroke influenced me to do something bigger, more meaningful for my vocation. And I think after this, I decided to commit my life to the process of discernment.

Fr Huy entered the minor seminary in Vietnam, where he spent four years doing studies in English, Latin, music and liturgy in preparation for theology and philosophy studies later in the major seminary. While there, the vocations director of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne at the time, Fr Binh Le, visited Fr Huy's seminary, inviting students to attend Corpus Christi College, the regional seminary for Victoria and Tasmania located in Carlton, in Melbourne's inner north.



Fr Huy addresses the congregation at St Pat's Cathedral after his ordination. Photo courtesy of Casamento Photography.



Fr Huy with his brother priests and the Archbishop. Many readers will recognise the man on the far left as none other than Fr Vinh Do.

*To read the full story <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/fr-huy-nguyen-nurturing-faith-in-the-family-and-community#:~:text=Fr%20Huy%20Nguyen%20is%20one%20of%20three%20newly%20ordained%20priests>

'I thought, "Okay, after four years in minor seminary, I want to take a risky adventure." So, after the interviews with Fr Binh, I was chosen, and Archbishop Denis Hart sent an invitation letter, which I accepted.' Fr Huy was 23 years old when he came to Australia in 2015; he started his studies at Corpus Christi College in 2016. 'And seven years later, here I am, a priest!'

Fr Huy says that throughout his studies, and now as he prepares to enter into parish life, he has carried with him the inspiration of his parish priest and the vibrant experiences of his own parish life. 'There was always that sense of fatherhood in the priests—both my parish priest back home and in the priests of different parishes I visited on holidays during my seminary time here in Melbourne—and their sense of looking after the people, their friendliness, openness and hospitality. Those experiences have been a significant influence on my vocation and for my future ministry as well,' he says.

Coming to the table in friendship to discuss life's big questions

Alpha 2, 2024

Our 2nd Alpha series for 2024 kicked off in September and the experience is again creating deep connections as guests share, grow and learn together. Look out for new Alpha sessions in 2025.




Who will you invite?

Father Peter Matheson: Embracing a Lifelong Commitment to Lasallian Values



Fr Tony Feeney, Fr Peter Matheson, Fr Andrew Jekot and Fr Brendan Hayes.

By Brother Tony Cummins

On the 1st of July 2024, a significant event occurred for the De La Salle Brothers with the Affiliation of Father Peter Matheson whose nomination had been met with unanimous approval by the Superior General and the General Council in Rome. The ceremony of Affiliation took place in the Chapel of St. John Baptist de La Salle at St Bede's College in the presence of Peter's family members, fellow priest friends, teachers from St. Bede's and the Brothers. Fr. Andrew Jekot, P.P. celebrated the Mass and Brother Timothy Peter, Provincial, presented the document of Affiliation.

Peter completed his secondary schooling at De La Salle College, Malvern, where he was deeply influenced by several of the Brothers.

Having gained his matriculation, he entered Corpus Christi College, Werribee, to study for the priesthood and was ordained in 1970. His future close association with Religious Education began in 1973 with his appointment as Assistant Director of Religious Education in the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

While pursuing doctoral studies in Rome from 1979-82, Peter maintained close contact with the Brothers by serving as Chaplain during the summer at St. Cassian's Retreat Centre in Kintbury, U.K.

On his return to Melbourne, Peter served as head from 1982-93 of the Religious Education Department of Mercy Teachers' College, Ascot Vale.

Since then, as Parish Priest and in retirement, his commitment to the Lasallian mission has remained steadfast, evident through his active involvement at St. Bede's College and his profound interest in Lasallian spirituality and pedagogy. In their proposal for Peter's Affiliation, the Brothers of the Mentone Community highlighted his exceptional dedication and contribution to the Lasallian community. Noteworthy among his attributes is his remarkable ability to internalise the gospel message and impart it to others with clarity and relevance.

Peter's support for the Lasallian mission encompasses various facets, including his provision of pastoral care through sacramental ministries, retreat facilitation and spiritual guidance, as well as his fraternal support for the Brothers which reflects his enduring commitment to their values and ethos.

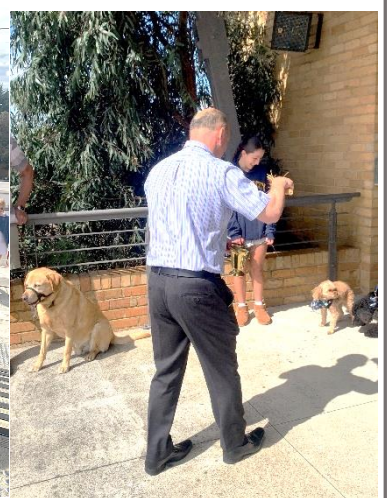
Fr Peter Matheson's Affiliation with the De La Salle Brothers stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to the Lasallian mission and his invaluable contributions to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Brothers).

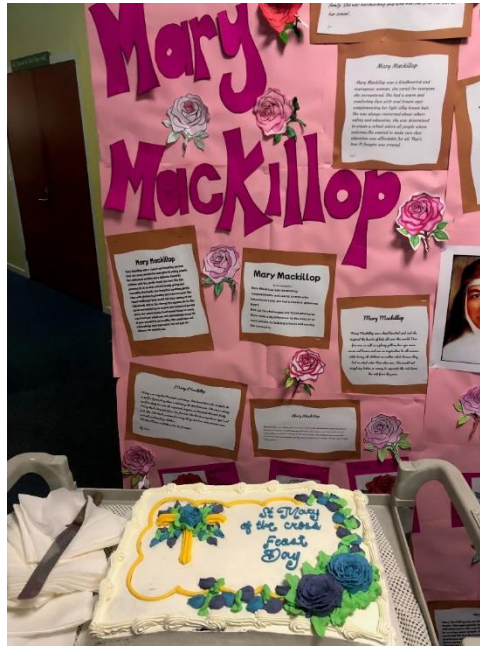
With this formal recognition, the Lasallian community celebrates Fr Peter's enduring legacy and looks forward to continuing collaboration with him in the spirit of Faith, Service and Community.

Annual Blessing of Pets

Community

On a bright sunny October 6, the day after the Feast of St Assisi we were delighted to welcome 17 furry four-legged friends - Marlo, Gracie, Jobe, B.J., Reggie, Ruby, Roxy, Elvis, Jamie, Frankie, Poco, Millie, Tiger, Kiko, Chewie, Koko and Miela for a special blessing.





Mary MacKillop Feast Day - August



70th wedding anniversary of Vince and Jess Costanzo – July 2024.



Vinnies Aspendale "Let's do Footy" Lunch - September



Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible

Grow Deeper



The small group that grew from Alpha. Clockwise from back left - Emily, Lesley, Edward, Rachele and Marcella.

By Emily Wisniewski

"Do you know the difference between a Protestant and a Catholic Bible?" asked my friend a Capuchin Franciscan friar. It was the beginnings of a dad joke. "It's missing some books?". I replied smugly. "It's also smelly from the armpit sweat it collects from being carried everywhere and read! Do you read your Bible?"

It was a good question. I love my Bible, but it wasn't collecting my armpit sweat.

"The Bible is the best book I've ever read!" said one of my small group members at Alpha. We had just watched the Alpha episode "Why and how do I read the bible?" and we too wanted to read it more, but didn't know how.

So, we set forth on the journey of Dr. Jeff Cavin's *Unlocking the Mysteries of the Bible*, an 8-part study series where Dr. Cavin led us on the journey of Salvation History through the 14 narrative books of the Bible.

"I can feel God speak to me directly through all the characters in the Bible, it's written for me."

"I've felt like I've learnt more in 8 weeks than I have in the last 50 years!"

Every Tuesday we huddled in the Upper Room with our bibles and our bible timeline charts to obtain the keys to unlock the mystery of the Bible - not just how to read it but the understanding that it's our book - the book of the Catholic Church. We compiled it, we read from it every day at mass, it forms the basis of our liturgy and our teachings, and it's our God speaking to us, seeking a relationship with us.

"I've felt like I've learnt more in 8 weeks than I have in the last 50 years!", "I feel like I've accomplished something this year by reading my Bible!", "I can feel God speak to me directly through all the characters in the Bible, it's written for me.", "The course was amazing - I feel so motivated to read my Bible now!". The testimonies of our small group members speak for themselves - in the words of Dr. Jeff Cavin: "Get a Bible, get away, and get together with God!"

If you too would like to set off on a journey through Salvation History - please get in touch with the PLT to express your interest in future studies.

Sacraments

The Sacrament of Confirmation

It has been a joyous family time for children in our schools and catechesis program celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation. Our beautiful St Brigid's church glowed with the presence and joy of the Holy Spirit in our midst. We give thanks to Bishop Tony Ireland for his stewardship.



On Your Confirmation

*May the Father
always watch over you,
May the Son ever bless you,
And may the Spirit
always guide you.
Amen.*



Clockwise from top left: Marcus with his sponsor Marc & Bishop Tony; Alex and Family with Fr Andrew; Finn with Bishop Tony; Luca with Fr Andrew; Samuel with Bishop Tony.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

Sacraments



Top from left to right: Chloe and Family; Jude and Family; Ana with Bishop Tony; Jack with Bishop Tony; Our Catechetics Class with Team Leader Elizabeth, Fr Ignatius, Bishop Tony and Fr Andrew; Kirra with Bishop Tony.

By Jodie Marziano

Term 3 began with the beautiful celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with our Regional Bishop Tony Ireland. Bishop Tony commended the children for their reverence, participation and visible preparation.

Our key concept for this term has been Justice focusing on Catholic Social Teaching principles particularly those of subsidiarity, solidarity and participation. Our Year 3-6 students looked at Pope Francis' encyclical 'Fratelli Tutti', as part of their work in this space, with our Foundation and 1/2 students discussed the difference between fairness and equity and making good choices.

We celebrated Grandparents and Grandfriends Day on the Feast of St Joachim and St Anne beginning with a beautiful liturgy led by our Year 5 students and followed up with an Olympic Kahootz and the creation of family shields that are displayed in our office foyer. Our liturgy included reflections written by the children- here is one written by Max.

"Grandparents mean a key to life, not because of money or gifts, but because of how valuable they are to us when giving us the happiness and extra love we need."

We also celebrated the Feast of Mary of the Cross with a prayer liturgy led by our Year 4's and the Feast of the Assumption with Mass at school led by Father Ignatius with parishioners joining us.

Our Foundation students celebrated 100 days at school, dressing up as elderly people - we weren't sure whether some had come to the wrong place and instead should have been at Mercy Nixon House. Mordialloc Preschool visited us. They loved experiencing PMP and making flying superheroes.

We celebrated Book Week this term with our staff reflecting the theme- 'Reading is Magic' with the Harry Potter theme. The Olympics were celebrated in classrooms with research into different events, countries and related Maths activities, concluding with a mini-Olympic day led by our Sports Captains.

Our Foundation, 1/2 and Year 3 students experienced 'camping activities' by staying at school after 3.15 and participating in fun group activities before going home. Our Year 4 students also spent one night at Peninsula Outdoor Camp.



We are looking forward to celebrating the creativity of our students in the Biannual Art Show in the first week of Term 4 and our Year 3's are busy preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Term 3 News

St Louis' Primary School



By Carmel Stutterd

This term we celebrated Naidoc Week with the whole school taking part in St Louis' Little Long Walk and a smoking ceremony.



The Footy Day/ Have a Ball Day is an annual highlight and the Indigenous community that receive the 120 balls donated are always very grateful.

We had 2 year 5 students initiate a community service activity. The two students organised 4 art sessions at lunch time for any students in the school to attend. They made 32 cards, some saying 'Hello' and some saying, 'We are thinking of you'. On Friday the 2 students visited the Blue Cross Chelsea manor and gave the residents these cards. The residents were absolutely thrilled, and the students were invited to visit again at Christmas and deliver Christmas cards.



Mrs Douglas went on a pilgrimage from Portland to Penola during the school holidays. She is following the footsteps of Saint Mary MacKillop of the Cross. Mr Young will be participating on a MACS Lead pilgrimage to visit the holy sites in Rome, Siena and Assisi. Both teachers will come back to school with a renewed faith and passion for teaching and leading our students and staff in our faith journey.

St Louis finished Term 3 with learning conferences and parents enjoyed sharing their child's learning.

Deepening our knowledge of the Gospel of John

By Berna Wake

The Gospel according to John is quite different in character from the three synoptic gospels. It is highly literary and symbolic.

Over three Thursday night sessions in August/September, parishioner and ex St Bede's teacher Patrick Jurd shared his extraordinary knowledge on John's Gospel with many parishioners eager to deepen their understanding.

Patrick promised a discussion that would involve our head, heart and hands. In reviewing various extracts, Patrick challenged us to step into the shoes of those who were there with Jesus and imagine the sights, sounds and emotions. The graphic symbolism of John's Gospel came to life.

Patrick provided us with incredible insights that brought John's words to life, explaining that John's Gospel never uses a noun, only verbs, extolling the virtues of doing good works. "Mass is good, but we are supposed to be doing something (with our lives to be more Christ-like.)"

The prologue of John's Gospel proclaims Jesus as the pre-existent and incarnate Word of God who has revealed the Father to us. The Word is God.

No question from the audience (and there were plenty of them!) was too much for Patrick and he deftly handled each and every one comprehensively and respectfully.

We give thanks to Patrick for generously sharing his expertise with such insight and passion. He has agreed to hold more talks in 2025. Look out for details closer to the time. You will not want to miss them.



Prologue to John's Gospel

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.



Sharing the love of Christ with others

Servant Leadership

By Vanessa Fernandes

Lucy Cameron and I have been volunteering since 2023 at The Frankston Winter Shelter, Peninsula City Church based in Frankston.

The Frankston Winter Shelter is a combined project of the Frankston churches coming together in unity to support the vulnerable in the local community.

The initiative operates from June to August, providing much-needed respite and assistance, with local churches including Peninsula City Church, Gateway, St Anne's, St Paul's and St Luke's working together to provide venues, volunteers and donations. It runs for thirteen weeks providing crisis accommodation for up to 10 people experiencing homelessness in the city of Frankston. Frankston Winter Shelter provides a lifeline to those experiencing homelessness.

Frankston Winter Shelter aims to offer a bed, a warm meal and safe place for the night across Monday through to Friday each week through the winter months.

A full day of training was provided for all volunteers before the commencement of the program, and two further condensed training sessions were offered as new volunteers joined throughout the project. Volunteers are pooled across a range of churches, which also include churches not able to supply a building. Not all people feel comfortable working with guests, but are happy to volunteer time in setting up beds, packing up, preparing meals, laundering sheets, driving the trailer to the next church etc.

Guests arrive at 5.30 pm and stay until 8:30 am the next morning.



Cooking with volunteers from other churches.



Vanessa: For me, it has been a rewarding experience cooking together in a team of 5 volunteers, committed to helping people suffering homelessness. Friendships were formed coming together every week for the same purpose. It is so heart-warming to hear from guests when we sit to eat together, how much they appreciate a cooked meal rather than opening cans for every meal.

A meal, activities and shelter are provided with breakfast the next morning. A bus is used to collect guests from a pickup point in the Young St carpark.

Lucy and Vanessa are members of our parish Justice Action Group. They volunteer once a week, every week from 5.00pm. They help along with 3 others, to prepare meals for all the guests and volunteers for that night. The volunteers sit and have meals together with the guests, creating a family atmosphere.



Sharing a meal with the guests.

Lucy: For me it was the friendship and getting to speak to the guests and how very organized the whole program was. To be a part of something that can help the guests in their time of hardship. Also sitting with the guests while we all have a meal together and to listen to their stories and to be part of something that can help other people that are suffering. It was a privilege to be part of the program.

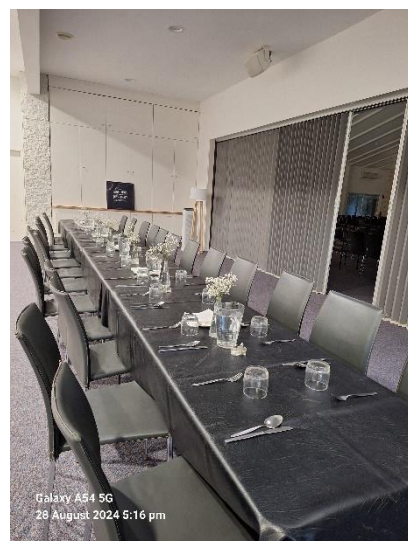


Table set up for dinner.



*We welcome into our parish family, children recently
baptised and their families*

Henry Phillip & Karl Julius Egen sons of Chris & Robin

Ollie Paul & Isla Marie Johnstone children of Charles & Hannah

Charlie Mark Wapling son of Ben & Katherine

Xavier Cooper Simpson son of Ben & Melinda

Samuel Anthony Saunders son of Hamish & Kate

Charlie Jones & Sonny Peter Macaulay sons of Sam & Eleanor

Violet Mae & Tyler Jackson Hewitt children of Jackson & Amy

Aaron Zhang son of Hong Yan

Levi William & Amelia Pearl Shaw children of Clinton & Sarah

Albert Anthony Goodman son of Daniel & Erin

Milana Jayne Barker daughter of Dylan & Kristy Barker

Mya Willow Kelman daughter of Simon & Jovana

Logan Matthew & Lily Maree Norton children of Mark & Lauren

Grace Charlotte Rolfe daughter of Tim & Samantha

Ruby Louise Parulski daughter of Joseph & Emma

Rose Evelyn Tyrer daughter of Sam & Emilia

Eloise Claire Jones daughter of Michael & Kate

Selena Camila Jones daughter of Robert & Sara

Olivia Jane & Georgia Ann Irvine daughters of Reid & Sally

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



In Memoriam

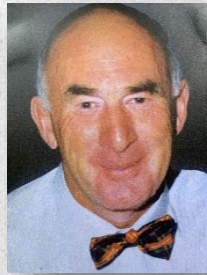
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



Mary Kathleen (Kath) Tafia
29.9.1937 – 5.6.2024.
Kath's funeral was held at St Louis' on 19.6.2024.



Pearl Waters
19.10.1932 – 8.6.2024.
Pearl's funeral was held at St Brigid's on 20.6.2024.



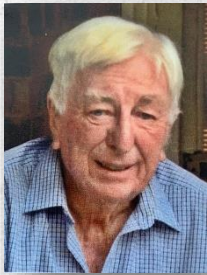
Ross Kent
19.3.1942 – 20.6.2024.
Ross's funeral was held at Gateway Grant on 28.6.2024.



Mary (Molly) Creaney
13.11.1933 – 24.6.2024.
Molly's funeral was held at St Brigid's on 9.7.2024.



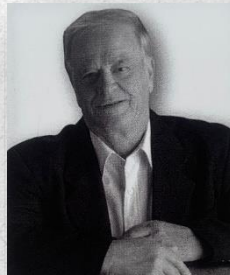
Pamela Ulbrick
21.4.1950 – 20.7.2024.
Pamela's funeral was held at the Boyd Chapel Springvale on 1.8.2024.



Francis Denman
6.12.1935 – 28.7.2024.
Francis' funeral was held at St. Brigid's on 8.8.2024.



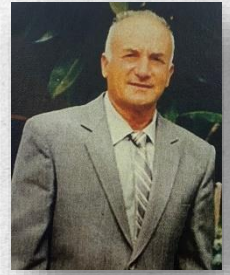
Lynette Snellgrove
5.12.1943 – 1.8.2024.
Lynette's funeral was held at Bunurong Memorial Park on 13.8.2024.



Ray Martin
29.7.1946 – 31.7.2024.
Ray's funeral was held at St Louis' on 13.8.2024.



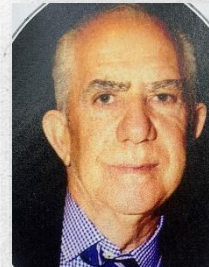
Sheila Dawson
16.10.1928 – 10.8.2024.
Sheila's funeral was held at St Brigid's on 15.8.2024.



Frank Finocchiaro
9.2.1932 – 28.7.2024.
Frank's funeral was held at St. Brigid's on 28.8.2024.



Albert Taylor
1928 – 2024.
Abert's funeral was held at St. Brigid's on 2.9.2024.



Vittorio Paterno
15.10.1942 – 31.8.2024.
Vittorio's funeral was held at St Brigid's on 10.9.2024.



Patricia (Pat) Daly
21.6.1934 – 30.8.2024.
Pat's funeral was held at St Brigid's on 11.9.2024.



Parish Pastoral Council – Moving forward with our Parish Mission

By Berna Wake

The St Mary of the Cross Mordialloc & Aspendale Parish Leadership Team and Parish Pastoral Council are committed to parish renewal that places the mission that Jesus gave the Church at the centre of who we are and what we are called to do. Our Parish Mission Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples comes directly from the original mission that Jesus gave his disciples:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded of you...and know that I am with you until the end of time.”

Matthew 28:19-20

With this in mind we have created two major tasks for the PLT and PPC together with members of our Children's Catechesis Team to pursue over the next 6-9 months.

Task One: Transforming sacrament preparation into a discipleship journey for the whole family.

Background: We have a challenge in that post receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation and the sacrament of First Eucharist there is often minimal involvement by children and their families to continue to receive these sacraments. Additionally, the sacrament of Confirmation often becomes a graduation from faith and church. This problem is evident in our schools and our catechesis programs. When programs end, and sacraments are received, the experience of faith, and engagement with the parish is largely ended for many. The opportunity to accompany people into a relationship with a loving Jesus, and an intentional life, becomes so much harder.

The Holy Spirit is inviting us to address this, asking us to have the courage and curiosity to explore a new approach that helps families not only receive the sacraments for their children but to open the door for a much deeper relationship with Jesus for the whole family. Our plan is to pilot a new family-centric approach for our Catechesis Reconciliation program in 2025.

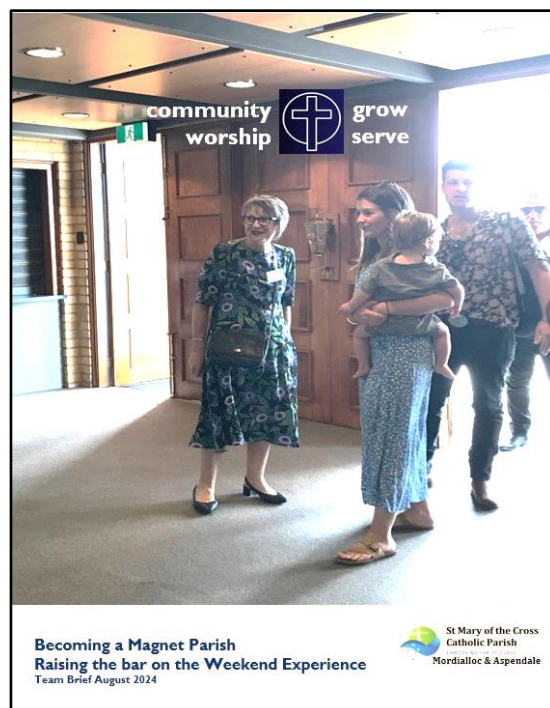
Task Two: Becoming a magnet parish – raising the bar on the weekend experience.

Background: A parish community grows by attraction, and the weekend mass, as well as the celebrations of Christmas and Easter provide the best opportunity for connecting with outsiders, the disconnected or former Catholics. The team is asked to cast vision that will result in practices and methods that create a new level of excellence in our hospitality, hymns and homilies. The follow up process for new parishioners is also part of the project

To all parishioners: If you would like to learn more about these two projects and if you have some ideas you would like to contribute we would love to hear from you. Please email me at berna.wake@cam.org.au and I will send you a copy of the project briefs.



Project One Brief: Transforming sacrament preparation into a discipleship journey for the whole family.



Project Two Brief: Becoming a Magnet Parish – Raising the bar on the weekend Experience

On the road to ending slavery

Mission



ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) runners and supporters raised over \$10,000 on 22 July at the annual Run Melbourne charity event. Spirits soared as members of the Friends of ACRATH gathered in full force, determined to raise money for ACRATH's critical initiatives, including education, awareness campaigns, advocacy, and victim-survivor support programs – all dedicated to the mission of eradicating human trafficking.

The event saw outstanding participation from various communities and organisations, including representatives from Padua College Mornington, students of Sacred Heart Girls' College (SHGC) Oakleigh, Thornbury High, Fairfield Primary. The champion fundraiser was **Father Andrew Jekot from St Mary of the Cross in Mordialloc and Aspendale**. Fr Andrew would like to thank all parishioners who supported him in the run. Well done Father Andrew!

How about we have a St Mary of the Cross Team run or walk in next year's Run Melbourne charity event?



Fr Andrew completes the run.



ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) is one of six key areas that our Justice Action Group is involved in. The other areas that we provide education, awareness and action in are - Treatment of refugees and people seeking asylum; Domestic and family violence and homelessness; Protection of the environment; Understanding and respect for First Nations People and Inter-Faith initiatives.

We are always happy to welcome new members. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7.30-9pm at St Louis'. Why not come along, we'd love to have you on board.

Upcoming Events



St Mary of the Cross Parish Justice Action Group and
Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project warmly invite you to our

Friendship Family Day

Hosting refugees & asylum seekers

**BBQ lunch, activities for children,
white elephant stall.**

12-3PM | SUNDAY OCTOBER 27
ST LOUIS' DE MONTFORT SCHOOL 37 DOLPHIN STREET ASPENDALE

BOOKINGS BY 22 OCTOBER ESSENTIAL FOR CATERING



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

New Parishioners Welcome Morning

SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER
10-11AM
PARISH HOUSE
MAIN ST, MORDIALLOC

A special welcome event for those who are new to St Mary of the Cross or have been visiting for a while but haven't formally connected with our community. It is a chance to learn more about our Parish Mission Plan, explore ways you can get involved in our Serve Ministries whilst chatting and mingling over morning tea with our Parish Leadership Team and some other parishioners. We would love to see you there!



Advent Retreat and Small Groups Coming soon





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/>



Enjoyed this read? Why not subscribe to Blessings and our weekly digital newsletter so you don't miss a thing!

[Subscribe or go to our parish website](#)



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St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

Mordialloc and Aspendale | Bunurong Country
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, MAKE DISCIPLES

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Jekot, Assistant Priest: Fr Huy Nguyen
Deacon: George Piech-Meat

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 6 October 2024
Readings for Year B: Genesis 2: 18-24 Hebrews 2: 9-11 Mark 10: 2-16



Who am I to judge?

Marriage can be a great gift and blessing through commitment to each other. When love is unconditional it is a gift to each person in the marriage - their needs are met, in love, by the other person. Marriage is a blessing to the couple but also to others in their lives who are buoyed by their loving example. A loving marriage can be a fertile place for children to grow.

I am deeply grateful for the gift and blessing of my marriage, yet I know that is not everyone's experience, including in my own family. People change, as do situations, in ways no one could possibly predict. From dark and difficult places, humans try to chart a way forward, in response to: 'what is the best and most loving thing to do?'

Our God is one of love and forgiveness, without exception.
To quote Pope Francis:
'Who am I to judge?'

Patrick Jurd
Parishioner

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.

m.stmaryofthecross.com m.stmaryofthecross.com/facebook m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass

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 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.



There is power in prayer.
When you pray, God listens.
When you pray, storms get stilled.
When you pray, doors open.
When you pray, relationships get restored.
When you pray, sicknesses get healed.
When you pray, hope gets rekindled.
When you pray, strength is renewed.
When you pray, answers come.
Don't lose faith about what you are
praying for today.
God is faithful. His answer will come at just
the right time.

Pray for peace

-Anna Bachinsky