

Blessings



The magazine of St Mary of the Cross Parish Mordialloc & Aspendale

Issue no. 26 – April 2023



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Welcome to our April 2023 issue!

St Mary of the Cross Parish, Mordialloc & Aspendale

St Brigid's Church: 520 Main Street, Mordialloc

St Louis de Montfort's Church & Parish Centre: 37 Dolphin Street, Aspendale

Parish Office: 9580 7981 Email: mordiallocaspendale@cam.org



**St Mary of the Cross
Catholic Parish**

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

SUNDAY MASS

6pm Saturday Vigil St Louis'

8am Sunday St Brigid's

9.30am Sunday St Louis'

11am Sunday St Brigid's

RECONCILIATION

Friday 12 noon St Brigid's

Saturday 5.30pm St Louis'

WEEKDAY MASS

9.15am Monday St Louis'

(Communion Service)

9.15am Tuesday St Louis'

10am Wednesday St Brigid's

9.15am Thursday St Louis'

11.30am Friday St Brigid's

PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Jekot

Assistant Priest: Fr Ignatius Tan

Parish Leadership Team:

Fr Andrew, Fr Ignatius, Trish Angliss,
Berna Wake

Parish Coordinator: Ann Fitzgerald

Baptism Coordinator: Deb Poynton

Join via livestream Catholic Mass with Fr Andrew & Fr Ignatius, 6pm Saturday & 8am Sunday on [YouTube](#)
Stay up to date with us on [Facebook](#), our [Parish Website](#) and by subscribing to our [Digital Bulletin](#)



A delighted Jon Searle receives the Oil of Chrism from Fr Andrew at our Easter Vigil. Peter Waltho is Jon's sponsor.

From the Editor

Our parish was blessed to be able to open our doors and welcome so many people to all our Holy Week celebrations, especially our standing-room only Good Friday Liturgy. It is wonderful to see people celebrating as family and community. I hope I have been able to capture the solemnity, joy, and beauty of these occasions in the photos and stories throughout.

A highlight for our Parish Leadership Team was attending the Divine Renovation Conference in Sydney in February. It was inspiring and confirming of our parish mission to Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples and one was left with no doubt that the Holy Spirit was within our midst. Many wonderful Spirit-filled things are happening in our parish, and it is my pleasure and honour to capture many of these in the pages of Blessings.

I would love to hear from you if you have a story to share about our parish and her people. Do reach out.

Peace & blessings,

Berna Wake

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 Bunnurong People of the Kulin Nation, and pay our respect to Elders, past, present, and emerging.



“May these new Neophytes (new lights) continue to shine Christ’s light to us all.”

You are about to read a very special edition of Blessings! Lots of articles, reflections, information, and pictures that all capture how wonderful and vibrant this parish is. I continue to be amazed at the level of dedication by so many people contributing to this parish.

Personally, I felt the liturgy on Holy Saturday night to be so, so special. Not having received any adults into the church in the past years meant that this mass was already going to be a highlight. Having journeyed with these remarkable 5 adults who have courageously chosen to be full members of the catholic church is truly inspiring and a cause for reflection for us all why we continue to be part of this faith tradition. Their witness is so powerful. May these Neophytes (new lights) continue to shine Christ’s light to us all.

I would like to personally thank Fr Ignatius for his passion and dedication, especially at this, his first Holy Week as a priest.

Now that we are well and truly into this Easter season, we are in the season of the Holy Spirit.

For the newly baptized, they have received the Holy Spirit, for the rest of us baptized members of the church our confirmation and recommitment to the faith is like a re-release of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Partaking in *The Wild Goose* seminar is an opportunity for many to learn more about the Holy Spirit and how She can support our Christian journey. If you haven’t been able to attend, then can I invite you to take some time to watch this series from the comfort of your own homes.

The Wild Goose

The Easter journey is leading us to the great celebration of Pentecost and boy have we got a special weekend ready for you! The masses are going to be enhanced with extra decorations, live music, sumptuous hospitality, opportunities to have a photo taken in our special Holy Spirit photo booth and grab a toasted marshmallow cooked on the Holy Spirit fire! **Don’t forget to wear something red!**

My sabbatical that was planned for 2021 is now about to happen. I will be taking my 3-month sabbatical starting in July and attaching my annual leave in October. I will return to parish life in late October. My sabbatical will be a “smorgasbord” of elements incorporating a retreat experience at the St. Joseph’s centre in Baulkham Hills, NSW titled “A visitor at the Well”, the Portuguese Camino from Porto to Santiago de Compostella, visiting sacred sites throughout Spain and Portugal including Fatima, a four-week course in Rome on the Scriptural theology of Mary. I am looking forward to being nourished with this opportunity after my 25 years of priesthood. I know that the parish will be in great hands under the guidance of the Parish Leadership Team.

Shalom,

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

Parish Renewal Conference to 'make disciples'



The Divine Renovation Australasia conference held in Sydney in February welcomed over 600 clergy and lay Catholic leaders from Australia and New Zealand, including the St Mary of the Cross Parish Leadership Team.

With the theme *Called to More*, the 2023 the conference focused on the renewal of parishes to heed Jesus' call to evangelise and make disciples (cf. Matthew 28:19), and thus fulfill the Church's missionary mandate. This is of course our own Parish Mission to Love God, Love Others & Make Disciples. Organised by Divine Renovation Ministry in partnership with the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, the conference took place from February 10-12 at St Declan's Parish and Marist Catholic College in the Sydney suburb of Penshurst.

With the promise of being inspired, connected, and equipped to move the parish from maintenance to mission, the conference certainly delivered. It included a diverse group of speakers, including Divine Renovation founder and best-selling author Fr James Mallon, as well as presentations and workshops from speakers, including Fr. Chris Ryan MGL, Daniel Ang (Sydney Archdiocese), members of the St Declan's Parish Leadership Team among many others, on the topics of evangelisation and creating an invitational and missionary church. It was a great opportunity to connect with other parish leaders and hear inspiring stories of parishes that have seen transformation by prioritising mission. Each of the 3 days began with the celebration of Mass and I can honestly say that these were transformative experiences with powerful homilies and music of uplifting praise and worship. The Conference left a lasting impression on me and re-affirmed that our parish mission is definitely on the right track. **Berna Wake**



BERNA WAKE, FR ANDREW, TRISH ANGLISS & FR IGNATIUS

To meet Fr James Mallon on our first night in Sydney was the beginning of a wonderful weekend of highlights. As your Musical Director, the singing was of course one of my favourite parts of each day. To be led by a wonderful group of musicians and then to have everyone join in the singing was so joyful and prayerful. You will be hearing some new music that we heard and loved at the Conference over the next few months. There were insightful and inspiring Keynote speeches by leaders from both here and overseas with workshops that were held on many different subjects over 2 days. Your Parish Leadership Team (PLT) spread themselves around to try and absorb the most we could in the short time we had at the Conference.

I attended 3 workshops. The first one was on small groups, something we have been adopting in our parish watch and share presentations (THE SEARCH, Presence & The Wild Goose). The next workshop was on the Sunday experience which gave me great confidence that we are heading in the right direction. Hopefully we are making this experience more meaningful for you all. My final workshop was on empowering our youth. This is an area where we need a lot of help. I gained some insight and ideas, and we are in the early stages of exploring ways to move forward. I have never experienced a weekend like this before. We learnt so much, met so many people, put faces to names and heard some wonderful stories that can only inspire us to keep moving forward on our Opening the Doors pathway. Thanks to the parish for giving us the opportunity to attend the DR Conference. **Trish Angliss**

Divine Renovation AUSNZ Conference



FR JAMES MALLON ADDRESSES THE TOPIC OF THE CASE FOR MISSION

What an amazing opportunity to come together with other parishes from around Australia, New Zealand and even South America to reflect on parish renewal.

What I got most out of the 3-day conference was the affirmation that this is the way forward for parishes and that we at St. Mary of the Cross are well on the way. In his Keynote address, Fr. James Mallon (Author of Divine Renovation) used the image of the Lost Sheep for parish renewal. If we just look after the parish then yes, we cater for the 99 sheep who are in the fold but let's not do that at the expense of the 1 sheep who has strayed. We, as a missionary parish need to always reach out for the 1 lost sheep, that is, the other Catholics not engaged in parish life or those who may become potential Catholics.

Other workshops that I attended included 'Practical Evangelisation'. I was a bit apprehensive about this one because of the "E" word. I had nothing to worry about because basically this session was about the power of story. When we witness to one another through the telling of our faith story then we are most effective evangelisers. To always check in with the Lord and ask: "What is it that you want of me today?" Preaching on Purpose workshop gave me some practical hints regarding structuring homilies that include my story and connecting it with your story. God's story comes into it leading us to a challenge that we are invited into the week.

The few days away lifted my spirits through the beautiful masses and prayer services. All the priests had a special blessing given by all the others present. **Fr Andrew Jekot**

pg. 5 Blessings April 2023



The hospitality of the welcomers at St Declan's parish who hosted the conference was fantastic. They were so warm and very welcoming. They engaged with visitors and were so eager to share their renewal experience as a good example of a missionary parish.

The first Keynote talk given by Fr James Mallon set the pace on "What is Mission"? Jesus asks his apostles "Go and make disciples of all the nations." All of us who are baptised are anointed to "incorporate into Christ who is anointed priest, prophet, and king" (CCC, 1241). We have a common priesthood to serve one another just as Jesus served in washing his disciple's feet. We are prophets to proclaim, to evangelise, to be a witness to our Lord Jesus. We are called to be king, to be empowered with the servant-leadership to build up community as a united Church.



FR SIMON LOBO FROM ST BENEDICT'S HALIFAX CA PRESENTS ON EVANGELISATION

All sisters and brothers who offer themselves in service to Jesus and the Church, should be empowered to be a minister and leader, and not simply a volunteer.

A minister has a commitment in offering themselves to God. All ministers are to carry Jesus with them wherever they meet others.

There were many good examples of renewing parishes how they opened their hearts and minds to the Holy Spirit and let God transform hearts just like the early church. We too as a diverse parish, need to empower our sisters and brothers to serve and to build up our community. We hope to engage more sisters and brothers to share their relationship and their journey they have had with Jesus. **Fr Ignatius Tan**

Photo Acknowledgements: Alejandro Fdez. – Cotta Andrade & Nellie Doueihy (DR Australasia)

Lenten Reflection with Maria Forde

Our parish was given an incredible gift to meet and experience the renowned Australian-Irish songwriter



The talented Maria Forde led us on a beautiful Lenten Reflection on Friday 3 March at St Louis' Church. Using scripture, ritual, music, and conversation Maria's warm and engaging style explored the meaning of Lent and ways in which we could meaningfully enter into the Lenten experience more fully. We discussed the meaning of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. Maria's passion, humour, warmth, and gorgeous voice made this an evening to remember.



Lenten Retreat and Penitential Service

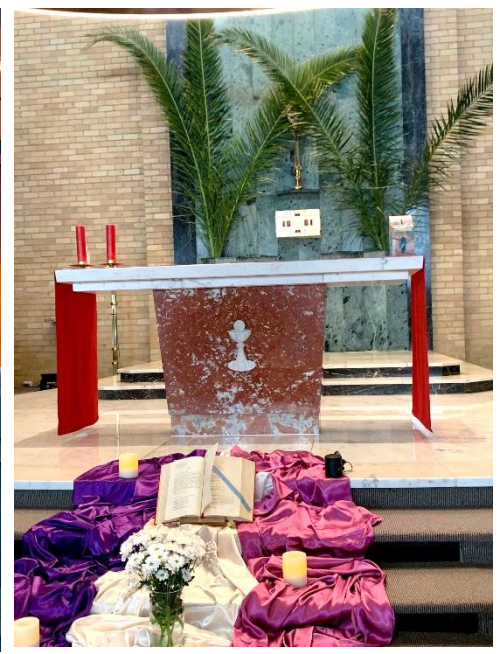
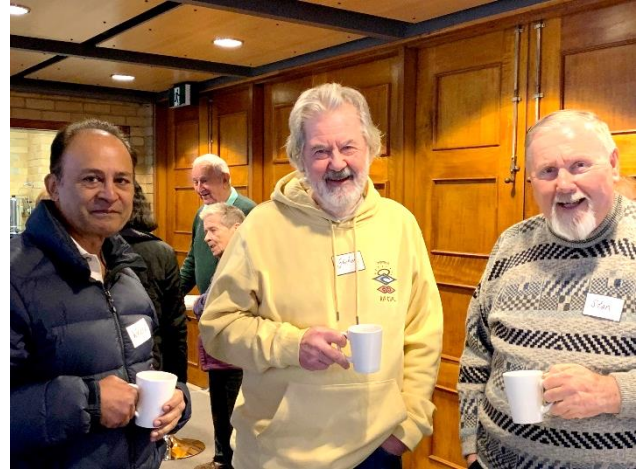


Taking a pause to prepare for Holy Week and Easter

We give thanks to Mary Ryan from the Melbourne Archdiocese Proclaim Office for leading us beautifully in our Lenten Retreat at St Brigid's on 1st April.

Mary used the Lectio Divina approach, which took upcoming liturgies from Holy Week, reflecting on the Word, listening to the Lord speaking through the text and allowing a word or phrase that speaks to you to remain with you.

Accompanied by music and prayer it was a peaceful, blessed half-day together, which concluded with Fathers Andrew and Ignatius offering the gift of the penitential service of reconciliation.



Palm Sunday Walk – Justice for Refugees



On Sunday 2nd April members of our Justice Action Group joined with our friends from BASP (Brigidine Asylum seekers Project) and hundreds of concerned people at the Melbourne Palm Sunday rally to demand the federal government give permanent visas for refugees stuck in limbo.

Protesters in Sydney, Canberra and Melbourne held placards reading, "Permanent visas for all" and "10 years too long" and accusing the government of "using refugees as political prisoners".

Advocates lauded the government's decision in February to grant permanent residency visas to 19,000 asylum seekers on temporary protection visas, according to the Refugee Council of Australia.

But they said it had left about 12,000 other refugees and asylum seekers who were rejected under the previous government's fast-track process on bridging or expired visas. There is still much more compassion needed to treat all fairly.



If issues of social justice interest you, please consider joining our Parish Justice Action Group.

We meet monthly on the second Wednesday* of the month from 7.30-9pm and new members are always welcome.

**The 9 May JAG meeting will be held at St Brigid's in The Upper Room*



Palm Sunday

Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem



Holy Thursday

Serve rather than be served



Good Friday

Stations of the Cross



Inter-Church Good Friday Service

Parishioners from St Mary of the Cross joined with other faith communities for the Chelsea & District Inter-church Good Friday Service of The Way of the Cross, held every year on Good Friday morning at Beeson Reserve, Edithvale. Despite a cool morning, the rain held off until the very last moment. Tracing the final footsteps of Jesus on his way to the crucifixion is always a very moving experience.



St Louis School Students Aboriginal Stations of the Cross

Our talented St Louis' school students created the 14 Aboriginal Stations of the Cross which have been on display at our St Louis' Church. The children followed the design commissioned by the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry of Victoria, which were imagined, dreamed, and painted by John Dunn, an Olkola/Djabaguy man from Far North Queensland.

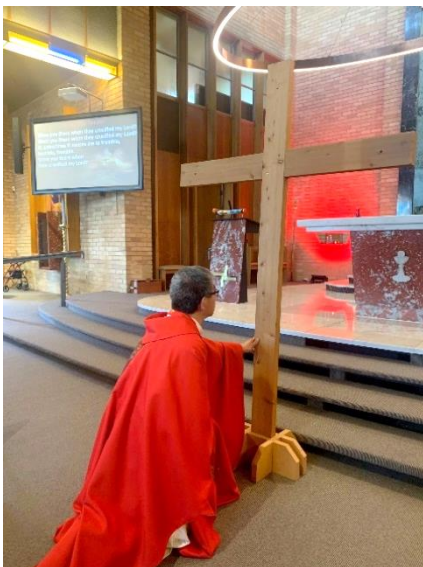
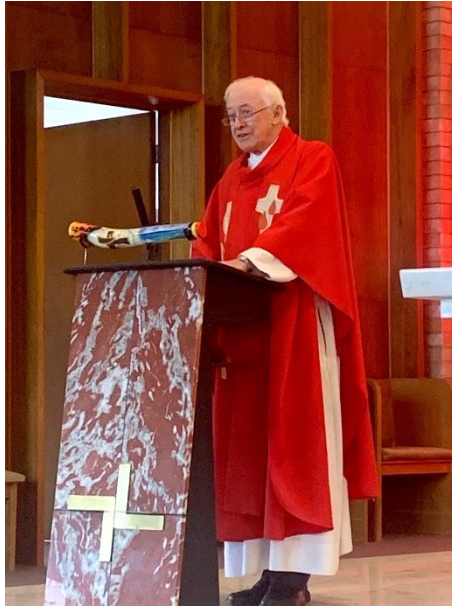


Good Friday

Passion of our Lord



The victory of love over hatred...



Holy Saturday

Vigil Mass of the Resurrection

Received into our parish community on Holy Saturday night

The many months of preparation for our catechumens, Mandy Hammond, Feodor Frukhtman, Jon Searle and Nikki and Brett Hill culminated in this night celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.



Liturgy of Fire and Light

The community light the fire together from the Paschal candle remembering our Lord Jesus who brings the presence of light and love forever to each of us.



Liturgy of the Word

The recounting of the outstanding deeds of the history of salvation, from the Old and New Testaments, capturing the tremendous mysteries being celebrated on this most holy of holy nights.



Holy Saturday

Vigil Mass of the Resurrection



Liturgy of Baptism

Christ's Passover and ours were given full expression when baptismal water was blessed in the font and the baptism of Brett and Nikki and Feodor took place, together with their respective children Matthew, Alexander, Rose, Mikayla, Ava, and Jake.

Fathers Andrew and Ignatius then blessed the entire congregation with baptismal water. This was followed with the laying of hands blessing for our new neophytes by the RCIA Team and then anointing with the Oil of Chrism.



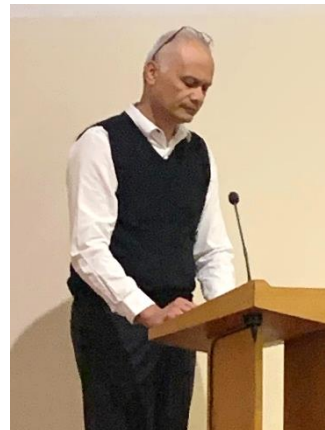
Liturgy of the Eucharist

The First Communion for our neophytes. The preciousness of so great a mystery, which is the climax of initiation and the centre of their new life as members of our Catholic faith.

Holy Saturday

Vigil Mass of the Resurrection

A blessing and joy for our community to welcome Nikki & Brett, and their children Mikayla, Ava & Jake, Feodor & his children Matthew, Alexander & Rose, together with Mandy Hammond & family, and Jon Searle & family



The Paschal Candle



I am truly humbled to be entrusted to create our Paschal candles. Christ's love and light shines within us, upon us and through us to others.

We are so deeply loved and precious to him, his eternal love endures. The Paschal candle is truly special in its symbolism.

Light:

Christ is the light of the world. Shines through the darkness and illuminates our path.

Alpha and Omega:

Christ is the beginning and the end of all things.

Fire:

Represents Christ's resurrection.

Cross:

The path we must take to reach our Father.

Grains of incense:

The five wounds of Christ.

Year:

Reminds us of Christ's love here and now.

The Paschal candle is lit for all masses and sacraments from the start of our journey in faith at our Baptism, through to our funeral, as we begin our eternal life.

Thank you for the opportunity to volunteer and gift my time to our Parish to create these Paschal Candles with love ♥

May God bless you and may his eternal light shine through all your hearts, always.

With love

Michelle Campbell



Outdoor Preps Mass

On Sunday February 19th, Fr Andrew's birthday, the preps from St Brigid's and St Louis de Montfort's gathered with their families and teachers for a special outdoor Mass at Braeside Park. We were blessed with beautiful weather as Fr Andrew celebrated the Eucharist in the presence of a huge congregation. At the end of Mass, the preps were treated to a slice of Fr Andrew's birthday cake! **Louise Breslin**



We welcome & pray for children recently baptised & their families



Hugh Peter Madafferi son of Daniel and Emma Madafferi

Alyssa Beth and Sienna Grace Chiumello daughters of Clinton and Karla Chiumello

Sienna Angelina Childs daughter of Nicholas and Bianca Childs

Zara Nicole Devenish daughter of Oliver Devenish and Nicole Mouritz

Charlie Michael Juliff son of Aaron and Elise Fisher

Eliza May Barrie daughter of James and Brittanie Barrie

Lachlan Stuart Fullerton son of James and Tammy Fullerton

Max Riley Carroll son of Anthony and Kristy Carroll

Georgia Catherine Brereton daughter of Glenn and Kylie Brereton

Maddison Elizabeth Olson daughter of Aodhan and Hayley Olson

Sienna Mae Payet daughter of Paul and Samantha Payet

Matilda Irene Whitehouse daughter of Colin and Beth Whitehouse

Jessica Rose and Matilda Cate Leeds daughters of Rob and Anne Leeds

Ella Daisy and Liam Patrick Hewett children of Brett and Sarah Hewett

Tia Sydel Neriah Keyser daughter of Yohan Keyser and Sachini Weerasekara

Henry Thomas and Angus Robert Martyn sons of Andrew and Clare Martyn

Charlie Michael Massoud son of Jarred and Jessica Massoud

Imogen Hazel Bartlett daughter of Benjamin and Melissa Bartlett

Edward Mark Toolis son of Michael Toolis and Lauren Martinelli

Mikayla Rose, Ava Jade and Jake William Hill children of Brett and Nicole Hill

Sunny Cabral Araujo daughter of Lino Araujo and Tatiana Dos Santos Cabral

Finn Samuel and Matilda Maree Wilson children of Mathew Wilson and Erin Smith

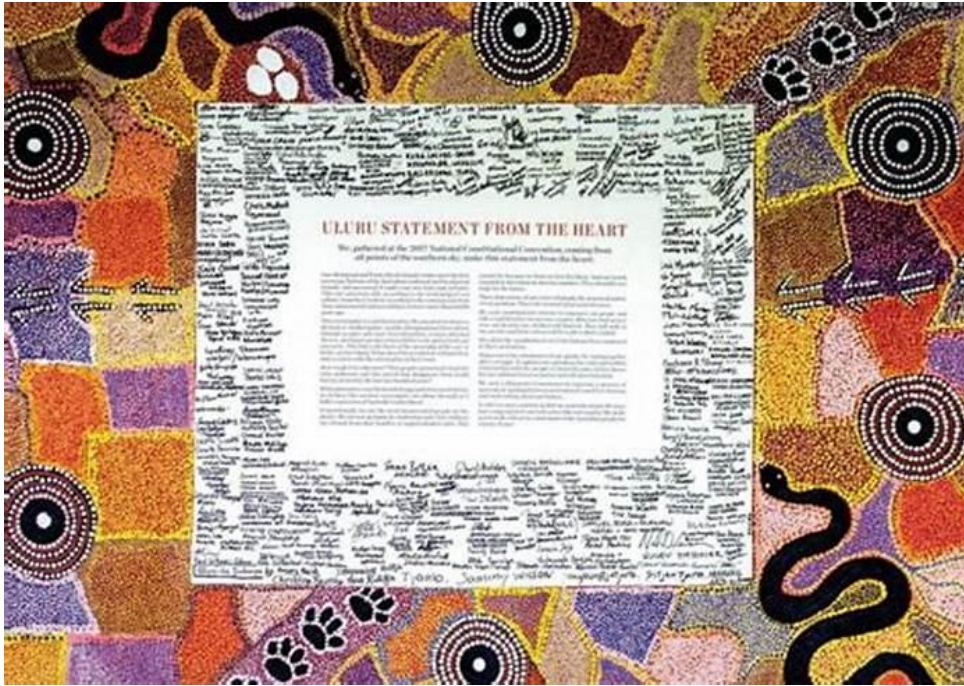
Blaise Pamela and Lorenzo Guiseppe Garrubba children of Stefan and Elise Garrubba

Victoria Elizabeth Wawszczak daughter of Eddie and Lauren Wawszczak

Landon John Sarcevic son of Daniel and Sarah Sarcevic

Frederick William and Rosie Ferraro Payne children of James and Julie Payne

The Voice: Catholic Considerations



AN IMAGE FROM THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART. PLEASE REVIEW THE POSTER IN OUR CHURCH FOYERS OR ONLINE AT [HOME - ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART](#)

Reproduced with permission by the author, Sr Antonia Curtis OSB, and Catholic Outlook News from the Diocese of Parramatta, 16 April 2023.

A VOICE SAID, “CRY OUT.” AND I SAID, “WHAT SHALL I CRY?” – ISAIAH 40:1

Scripture abounds with pleas from God calling on us to cry out; to challenge injustice; to hear the voices of the poor, the powerless, and the weak.

As Christians, we cannot ignore these voices. Jesus was, and still is, constantly asking people to listen, to hear, to reach out, to live justly. And so, in Australia now, at this moment, we need to question ourselves honestly as to how well we listen to the voices on the margins of our Church, and especially to our Indigenous brothers and sisters whose cry is: ‘Give us a Voice’. But also:

“WHAT ABORIGINAL PEOPLE ASK IS THAT THE MODERN WORLD NOW MAKES THE SACRIFICES NECESSARY TO GIVE US A REAL FUTURE...TO LET US BREATHE, TO LET US BE FREE.... LET US BE WHO WE ARE – ABORIGINAL PEOPLE IN A MODERN WORLD – AND BE PROUD OF US.

ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE ARE HERE WITH OUR SONGS, OUR CEREMONIES, OUR LAND, OUR LANGUAGE AND OUR PEOPLE – OUR FULL IDENTITY. WHAT A GIFT THIS IS THAT WE CAN GIVE YOU, IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT US IN A MEANINGFUL WAY.” – ‘ROM WATANGU’: GALARRWUY YUNUPINGU, THE MONTHLY, JULY 2016.

The Uluru Statement from the Heart calls for a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

In an upcoming national referendum, we will all be asked to listen and respond to this call. The Voice would ensure that the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are heard by lawmakers and could help Parliament enact better and more effective laws. Will we give them a voice?

Pope Francis, marking the 50th anniversary of the Synod of Bishops, said to us:

“THE WORLD NEEDS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TO WITNESS TO THAT CHRISTIAN VISION OF COMMUNITY, PARTICIPATION, SOLIDARITY AND JOINT RESPONSIBILITY. IN TOO MANY COUNTRIES POWER IS IN THE HANDS OF JUST A FEW PEOPLE, THE DIGNITY OF MANY IS DENIED AND AUTHORITY IS ABUSED.”

The Voice: Catholic Considerations



Perhaps we could ask ourselves whether we are up to this challenge. Are we capable of softening our hearts and opening our ears to hear the voice calling from Uluru? Are we afraid of the consequences for our Church, our country? Are we afraid of telling and hearing the truth? These are serious questions, and they require of us the courage to allow ourselves to be challenged.

For:

“AUSTRALIA HAS A DARK HISTORY, AND WE NEED TO RECOGNISE THAT AND OWN IT. WE ALSO NEED TO RECOGNISE THAT THE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES OF AUSTRALIA HAVE A UNIQUE AND INHERENT CONNECTION TO, AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR, COUNTRY UNDER THEIR LAW AND CUSTOM.” – DR. ED WENSING, CENTRE FOR ABORIGINAL ECONOMIC POLICY RESEARCH AT THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

Pope Francis asks: “Are we good at listening? How good is the ‘hearing’ of our heart? Do we allow people to express themselves?”

“LISTEN TO THE WORLD, TO THE CHALLENGES AND CHANGES THAT IT SETS BEFORE US. LET US NOT SOUNDPROOF OUR HEARTS; LET US NOT REMAIN BARRICADED IN OUR CERTAINTIES. SO OFTEN OUR CERTAINTIES CAN MAKE US CLOSED. LET US LISTEN TO ONE ANOTHER.” – 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS

The Australian Catholic Bishops, on the recommendation of their key Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander advisers, have endorsed the Uluru Statement from the Heart informed by the words of Pope St John Paul II, who in a visit to Alice Springs in 1986, said to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples: “You must not be allowed to disappear... Your songs, your stories, your paintings, your dances, your languages, must never be lost.”

The Plenary Council in Australia has also made positive commitments for the Catholic Church to endorse the Uluru Statement from the Heart; to accept our responsibility for the part played by the Church in the harms Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have suffered; and to commit to continuing to work toward recognition, Reconciliation and justice.

Can we individually commit to moving out from our comfort zones and embrace something new; to humbly accept that there are things we can learn from our Indigenous brothers and sisters?

Collectively we must consider how to come to terms with unresolved and legitimate grievances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples arising from colonisation and its ongoing consequences.

‘CONSOLE MY PEOPLE, CONSOLE THEM’ SAYS YOUR GOD. ‘PREPARE IN THE WILDERNESS A WAY FOR YAHWEH. MAKE A STRAIGHT HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD ACROSS THE DESERT.’ – ISAIAH 40:3-4

Find out about The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice at the Australian Government website voice.niaa.gov.au

Sr Antonia Curtis OSB is a Benedictine Sister at Jamberoo Abbey, NSW. She recently conducted an online retreat on Aboriginal Spirituality with Theresa Ardler of the Dahrawal Nation. You can access the course, Sacred Connections at www.jamberooabbey.org.au

St Brigid's Primary School

The students at St Brigid's Primary School celebrated Harmony Week creating beautiful artwork with loving messages for us all



Synodality as a Mission



SR NATHALIE BECQUART WITH ARCHBISHOP PETER COMENSOLI

Sister Nathalie Becquart XMCJ is a French religious sister with the Congregation of Xavières. In May 2019 Pope Francis appointed her Consultor to the Synod of Bishops, and in 2021 he appointed her Undersecretary of the Synod of Bishops, making her the first woman to hold this position in the Vatican and the first woman to be granted voting rights in the Synod of Bishops.

Sr Nathalie, was born in Fontainebleau in 1969, and previously worked in leadership roles in youth ministry in France and was heavily involved in the preparation and staging of the Synod on Youth in 2018.

Fr Ignatius, Kristian Tangso and I were delighted to attend a presentation at the Catholic Leadership Centre for a presentation by Sr Nathalie Becquart on 31 January.

The theme of the morning was 'journeying together' as the Church—an opportunity to discuss the meaning and relevance of synodality for the local and global Church.

Sr Nathalie emphasised that the only way to understand synodality was in the context of mission, explaining that synodality and evangelisation are simply 'two faces of the same coin'.

The current synod, the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (referred to as the synod on synodality), which will conclude in 2024, is focused on the theme ***"For a synodal church: communion, participation, mission"***.

When asked how to practically apply synodality in the Archdiocese and in our local churches, Sr Nathalie said "there is not one way", but that it requires attention to culture and context. It is a big challenge, and one of the challenges is that synodality brings people together from across the cultural, political, and ecclesial spectrum. Sr Nathalie acknowledged the variety of opinions about the synod on synodality, ranging from enthusiastic to doubtful. She stressed that it is essential to embrace the challenges and tensions that may exist, and not be afraid.

"Our Church must embrace different points of view, not just the one often Euro-centric way. From the beginning we had four Gospels, written to appeal to four different communities."

In asking why we should be thinking about the topic, Sr Nathalie said there was only one reason at the end of the day:

"It is really because it's the will of God. It's a call ... Synodality is the call of the Church and I believe it's the call of God."

Quoting a document published by the International Theological Commission in 2018—*Synodality in the life and mission of the Church*—she said that the heart of synodality is the recognition that ***"the whole Church is a subject and that everyone in the Church is a subject"*** (§55). Each person, by virtue of their baptism, is called by God to be a 'protagonist' in the mission of the church, in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

"The aim of the Church is not itself" she said. "It is to be an outgoing Church that serves the people, to be a missionary Church."

Sr Nathalie's wisdom echoes our own Parish Mission to Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples. Berna Wake



The Life of St Louise de Marillac

St. Louise de Marillac was a French Catholic nun who was born on August 12, 1591. She was the illegitimate daughter of Louis de Marillac, a nobleman who refused to acknowledge her as his daughter, and as a result, she faced many challenges throughout her life. Sadly, her mother died when she was a young child, so her father sent her off to be educated by the Dominicans where her aunt lived as a nun. Louise later married a member of the French court, Antoine Le Gras. Antoine was secretary to the Queen Mother of France, but their marital happiness was short lived because of his poor health.

As a young woman, Louise travelled and socialised among both the royalty and aristocracy of France, but she was equally comfortable with the poor, no matter their desperate situations. Louise held a leadership role in the Ladies of Charity, an organisation of rich women dedicated to assisting people oppressed by poverty and disease.

After Antoine's death, Louise was inspired to work in the service of the poor and took the religious habit under Vincent de Paul. Together, they organized hospitals, orphanages, and soup kitchens throughout France, providing care and support for the sick and needy.

Louise was also a gifted organizer and administrator, and she helped to establish the Daughters of Charity in 1633, an order of nuns devoted to serving the sick and poor. She wrote extensively about her experiences and insights, leaving behind a rich legacy of spiritual and practical wisdom. She always believed God was guiding her and inspiring her to continue her amazing work with the Vincentians.

Louise died on March 15th, 1660, just a few months before her dear friend Vincent de Paul.

St. Louise de Marillac was beatified in 1920 and proclaimed a saint by the Catholic Church in 1934, and her feast day is celebrated on March 15th. Today, she is remembered as a model of compassion, sensitivity, and dedication to the service of others. In 1960 Pope John XXIII proclaimed her the Patroness of Christian Social Workers.

As a child, I grew up listening to stories about St Louise. My mother was a great fan and was greatly inspired by her work and dedication to the poor. It came as no surprise to learn that I was named after St Louise!

Louise Breslin

Congratulations Wayan Jones

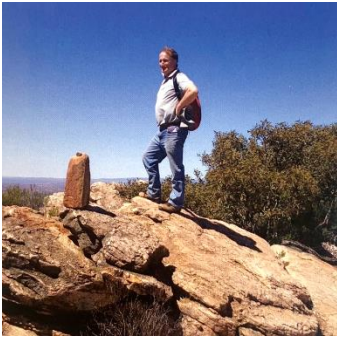


Our very own parishioner Wayan Jones was awarded in April 2023 for a wonderful 35 years working service at Monash Health.

"I am so proud to have worked at Monash for 35 years. I received my Award for Service and got this beautiful bowl. I am so thankful for my job and the people I work with."



In memoriam



Henry John Rech (69). Henry passed away on the 14th December 2022. Henry's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 29th December 2022.



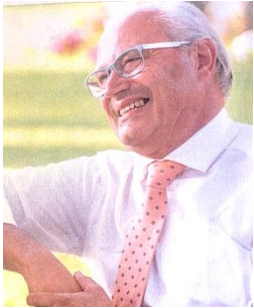
Dorothy Wilma Kellow (91). Dorothy passed away on the 18th of December 2022. Dorothy's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 30 December 2022.



Pietro Boccari (91). Pietro passed away on the 30th of December 2022. Pietro's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 11 January 2023.



Pamela Carnegie (82). Pamela passed away on the 9th January 2023. Pamela's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 20th January 2023.



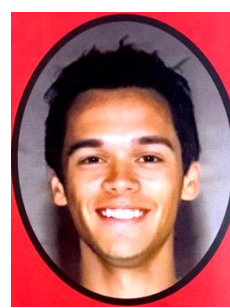
Gianni Caretti (67). Gianni passed away on the 9th of January 2023. Gianni's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 13th of January 2023.



Mary Drenen (88). Mary passed away on the 12th of January 2023. Mary's funeral was held at St Louis de Montfort's on the 17th of January 2023.



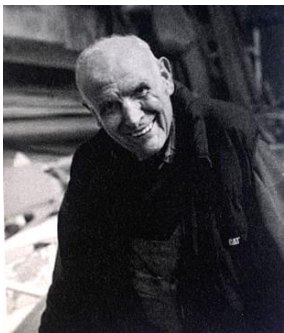
Trina Josephine Wilson (76). Trina passed away on the 21st of January 2023. Trina's funeral was held at Cheltenham Memorial Cemetery on the 31st of January 2023.



Warren Ithier (40). Warren passed away on the 12th of December 2022. Warren's funeral was held at St Andrew's South Clayton on the 21st of December 2022.



Ian Francis Ryan (87). Ian passed away on the 12th December 2022. Ian's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 28th of December 2022.



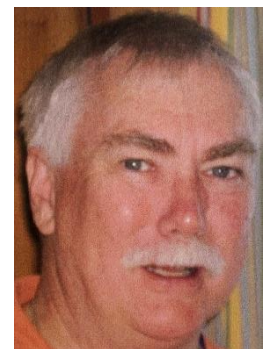
Joseph (Joe) Pompei (89). Joe passed away on the 16th December 2022. Joe's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 12th of January 2023.



Phyllis (Filippa) Grasso (88). Phyllis passed away on the 4th of February 2023. Phyllis's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 15th of February 2023.



Jim Zdravko Cevic (63). Jim passed away on the 24th of March 2023. Jim's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 4th of April 2023.



Phillip Allan Reid (69). Phillip passed away on the 11th of April 2023. Phillip's funeral was held at St Brigid's on the 14th of April 2023.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen

All welcome to our Praise & Worship Nights

3rd Friday of the month 7.30pm*

*alternating between St Louis' & St Brigid's



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

Holy Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration

1st Saturday of the month 4.30pm at
St Louis de Montfort Church



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



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