



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 24 August 2025

Readings for Year C Isaiah 66: 18-21 Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13 Luke 13: 22-30

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the 1950 Pastoral Letter on Immigration Under the Southern Cross: A Journey of Faith and Unity

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the release of On Immigration, the Pastoral Letter issued by the Australian Archbishops and Bishops in 1950, offering a timely opportunity for us today to reflect on our attitudes towards those seeking a new home in our country. The bishops called for “great generosity” and “true unselfishness” to be the “guiding lights” for Catholics as they assisted the new settlers to build a home “beneath the Southern Cross”.

Their words remain just as applicable to us today. Once again, our nation serves as a sanctuary and refuge for thousands seeking a new life—whether fleeing hardships in their homelands or pursuing the opportunities, freedom, and prosperity that Australia offers, and we are called again to extend the hand of welcome to migrants; “patience, kindness, sympathy and practical help must be rendered to all unfailingly and in God’s Name”.

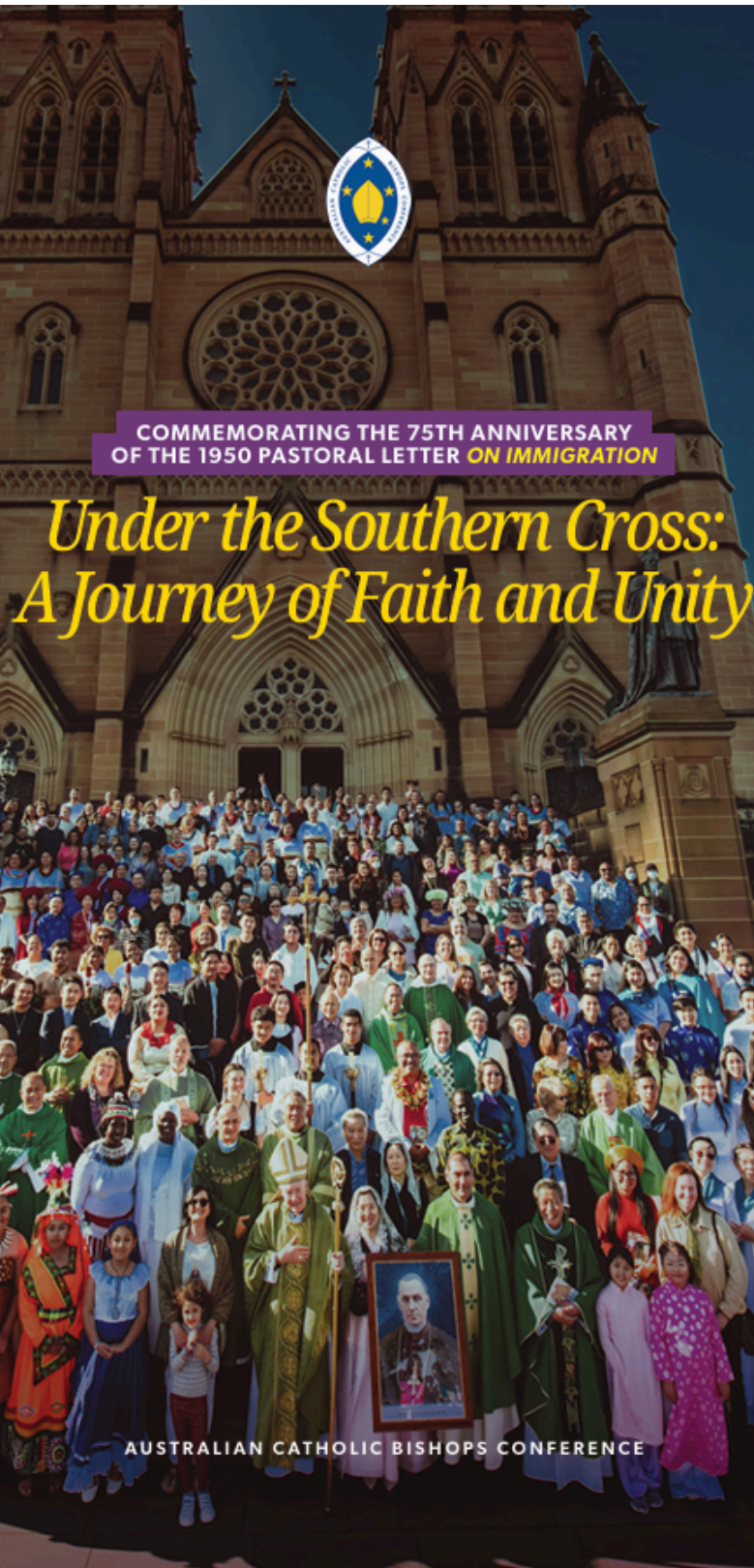
Unfortunately, the lived experience of migrants in Australia has not always been a positive one. Despite significant progress in fostering a multicultural society, racism still persists among some of us who view others as being ‘different’ or ‘other’ within our nation. And in today’s political climate, as conflicts from abroad spill into our own nation, we are witnessing growing tensions, division, and unrest, which are threatening the harmony of our communities.

And yet the bishops’ message from 1950 continues to echo across the decades, reminding us once again of the eternal call to welcome Jesus in welcoming the stranger. “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.” (Matthew 25:40)

To read the document:

<https://s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/acbcwebsite/Articles/Documents/ACB/C/75th%20Pastoral%20Letter%20-%20ACMRO%20FINAL.pdf>

Source: Catholic Australia



m.stmaryofthecross.com



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



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

News and Announcements

Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family the following children: **Liam Phillip, Lucas Edward, Ted Harry.** God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take, he guides you on your way.



St Brigid's Gardening Group

We made progress last Monday, but there are still weeds hiding, the fountain needs cleaning and there is an area where some planting is required. We will meet at **8.30am (or when you can get there) on Wednesday 27 August** finishing off with morning tea. New faces are always welcome

Scripture and Friendship Group

Our next Scripture and Friendship group will meet on Tuesday, 26 August at Ann's home, 47 Gothic Road, Aspendale. We begin at 10am and will finish with a cuppa about 11am. This group is open for anyone - we discuss the coming Sunday's Gospel, sharing our thoughts, questions or just listening. A great way to meet people in our Parish. For any queries contact Ann on 0425 712 741 or Carmel 0425 773 608.

Prayer ministry

Prayer Ministry is the practice of two or more people praying with you for a particular intention. We will have prayer teams available after Mass next weekend (30/31 August) to pray for any intention that you have at this time. The prayer team will gently guide you, all you need to do is to present yourself and open your heart to God! Father will announce the Prayer Ministry teams at the end of Mass.



Year 3 Reconciliation Commitment Masses

We welcome and pray for the Year 3 St Louis' and St Brigid's children, accompanied by their parents, who are attending our masses at St Louis and St Brigid's this weekend. May the Holy Spirit watch over them on their educational and spiritual journey. Please join them after mass for a cuppa and cake served by the parents.

The Archbishop's Campaign August 2025

The 2025 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Donations can be made via the QR code, via the campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends.

Laudato si: 2000 Years in the Making THIS THURSDAY 28 AUGUST 7PM

2025 is the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato si - 'care for our common home'. Come along to **St Louis' Church on Thursday 28 August from 7.00 to 8.30pm** to learn, discuss and reflect upon the richness of this encyclical. Presented by Patrick Jurd. All welcome.

Cuppa and Name Tag Sunday - This Weekend

Please pick up your name tag on the way into mass and drop off the name tags in the box on the way out after mass. Please stay for a cuppa. This small gesture helps us to get to know each other better and strengthens the bonds within our Parish family.

Kidz Zone - This Weekend

Our youngest children (5-12 years) sing, play and use their imagination to hear stories about Jesus and begin what we pray is a relationship with their lifelong friend Jesus. Kidz Zone is on during all masses except 8am.

SAINTS

Feast of Saint Monica

Dr. Tim Gray & Dr. John Sehorn

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Feast of Saint Monica | Catholic Saints

Throughout her life, St. Monica constantly prayed for the conversion of Augustine, her beloved son. In a moment of desperation, she even asked for the bishop's help. In response, he said, "the son of those tears surely will not perish." Truly, as this bishop remarked, Monica's tearful prayers helped build her son into the Doctor of Grace. In this video, join Dr. Gray and Dr. Sehorn as they discuss this great Saint.

Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



News and Announcements



Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement - Serving homeless people with mental ill-health

This year's Social Justice Statement calls us to follow the example of Jesus, who always noticed, listened to, and cared for those on the edge of society. Just as Jesus healed the blind man Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52), we are called to see and respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers living in hardship. There are some printed copies of the statement in the church foyers.

You can also access the Bishops Social Justice Action Statement at: <https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2025/08/06/signs-of-hope-on-the-edge-social-justice-statement-2025-2026/>

70th Happy Birthday

Wishing Tony Allday a very happy birthday. May God continue to bless you in many ways.



Sacrament of Reconciliation - Journeying Together

Our new program for the sacrament of reconciliation for children from government schools is underway, which involves children and parents journeying together. Please hold in your prayers Maree and Lenny, James and Lachlan and Peter and Casey. If you know of any families looking to receive the sacraments for their children attending government schools, in 2026 please contact the parish office.



Do you have time to volunteer for a couple of hours a week?

There are many charitable organisations within our community that are always looking for volunteers. St Vincent de Paul have Aspendale & Mordialloc Chapters. You can help out with food deliveries

or volunteer at the Chelsea Heights store. Contact Joanne 0413 133 184 or Robyn 0412 814 592.

Matt's Place - St Chad's in Chelsea and St Matthew's in Cheltenham serve up a 2-course lunch to those who are homeless, struggling or lonely, every Tuesday. email: parishadmin@longbeachanglicans.org.au

Pantry 5000 at St Aidan's in Carrum - provide ongoing and emergency food relief support to people in our area every Wednesday. Most of the food provided is rescued.

email: parishadmin@longbeachanglicans.org.au

Parkdale Pantry - a food rescue service that is based at St Aidan's in Robert Street, Parkdale. Markets are held 3 or 4 times a week that are open to everyone. Cupboards are constantly stocked that are always accessible. The bread that our Parish receives each week is organised through Parkdale Pantry. Please see their Facebook Page for more information.

Our Village - formerly St Kilda Mum's, are always looking for volunteers to help sort out donations. If you are a handy man, there are prams and cots etc. that often need repairs. You can also drop off donations. They are at 14 Winterton Rd, Clayton VIC 3168 1300 789 509.

Caritas Australia launches urgent pledge as restrictions further threaten aid delivery in Gaza.

New restrictive conditions for international NGOs (INGOs) operating in Gaza are due to come into effect on 9th September that require them to breach the safety and security of their staff or face deregistration. While this does not affect Caritas, as they use local partners on the ground, Caritas is encouraging us all to speak up for other INGOs as this will likely further hinder critical humanitarian assistance reaching Palestinians.

Caritas need as many pledges as possible by **31 August** so they can be presented to the Australian Foreign Minister's office on **1st Sept**.

In addition to signing the pledge, Caritas Australia is offering a range of resources and actions for Catholics and all Australians who wish to stand in solidarity with the people of Gaza. These include:

Writing to your MP using Caritas Australia's letter-writing guide to advocate for peace and humanitarian access.

Praying in solidarity, with downloadable prayer resources for parishes, schools, and homes.

Lighting a candle in remembrance or sharing a simple meal as a symbolic act of solidarity.

Donating to provide urgent food, water, shelter, and medical support.

To sign the pledge and explore all the ways to act, visit:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/act/gaza>

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 31 AUGUST 2025

30/31 Aug 25	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Sirach 3: 17-20, 28-29 Hebrews 12: 18-19, 22-24 Luke 14: 1, 7-14							
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Prayer Ministers
6pm (A)	Julie Buick	Ann Brennan	Marg De Vries	Gail McGillivray	Julius Lau	Jan Hughes	Tom Hughes	Bernie Stuart Ann Furlong
8.00am (M)	Graham Jones	Chris McAleer	Joan Healy	Jane Standish	Stephen Pooley	Carole Guthrie	John Guthrie	Conni Nichols Jack Meyer
9.30am (A)	Phillip Morris	Volunteer	Felice Cortese	Elizabeth Newington	Maureen Wraight	Joe Corda	Niko Tovia	Jon Searle Mary Nayna
11.00am (M)	Jennifer Rodrigues	Mark Carrazzo	Peter Hannan	Louise Breslin	Gail Bell	Christine D'Cruze	Les D'Cruze	Nicky Winters Ellen Young
Counters 5	Aileen Dynes	Anthony & Julie Barnhoorn						

Recently deceased: Daniel Paul Rodis (Mordialloc).

Anniversaries: Kathrine Fernandes - Phylis Laughlin - Ernesto Leme - Maurice Dowd - Roger Parfait - John Michael Malone - Mary Baldock - Tom Drenen - Tony (Antonio) Del Prete - Frances D'Argent - John Wood - Aloysius Demonte - May Demonte - Sr Mary Imeldine, A.C. - Terry Duus - Sr Mary Silvaria, A.C. - Dennis Tamplin - Jack Wraight - Moira Waight - Ray Dickinson - Anacleto Gutierrez - Kerry Smith - Claire Wright - Ken Balm - Margaret Hamilton - Drago Tkalcevic - Baiona Pereira - Giordano Godeassi - Helen Cleary - Kathleen Healy - Dennis Bell - Vilanilathu Kunjumon - Francis O'Reilly - Ronald James Coghlan - Sr Marita O'Connell - Bruce Thurgood - Giuliana Gismondi - Henry Mellan - Eileen O'Brien - William Amor - Margaret Roberts - Albert Taylor - Dorothy O'Keeffe - Antonietta La Sala - Ricardo Vilca.

Praying for healing and the sick: Chris Doran, Chris Wardle, Ann Muir, John Nicholson, Peter Waltho, Janice Gillette, Michelle Parker, Greg Hayes, Sue Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Alasdair Hughes, Sophia Bicos, Patsy Riordan, Fr Terry Kean, May Warrener, Andrea Williams, Brian Smith, Michelle Burne, Rosemary Hall, Michelle Ives, Kees Meyer, Graham Owen, Norreen Spies, Nancy Maxfield, Craige Ross, Virginia O'Toole.

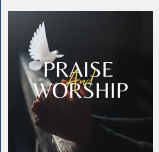
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



Children's Liturgy
5 - 12-year-olds.
4th weekend of the month. All masses except 8am.



Prayer Ministry
Intercessory prayer.
Last weekend of the month - all masses.



Praise & Worship
3rd Friday of month
7.30 - 8.30pm.
Alternates between each church.

Pastoral care

If you would like a pastoral visit, Helen is available to drop by for a chat or to organise some help if required. Please contact the office at mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

Baptism Coordinator

Debbie Poynton 0403 471 931

Contact us

Parish Office: 03 9580 7981
OPEN Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday's 9am to 4.30pm
Parish Coordinator: Ann Fitzgerald
mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au
Parish House: 03 9412 8432

Our Parish acknowledges that we gather, pray and live on the land of the Bunurong People of the Kulin nation, and pay our respects to Elders, past, present and emerging. We recognise their continued connection to Country, and we thank them for their role in caring for, and maintaining Country and waterways, over thousands of generations.

WEEKEND MASSES

St Louis Saturday 6pm
St Brigid's Sunday 8am
St Louis Sunday 9.30am
St Brigid's Sunday 11am
Our 6pm Saturday Vigil & 8am Sunday Masses are live streamed and can be accessed at:
m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Louis Mon 9.15am Communion Service, St Louis Tuesday 9.15am, St Brigid's Wed 10am, St Louis Thurs 9.15am, St Brigid's Fri 11.30am

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND HOLY ROSARY

St Brigid's every Fri 10.30am
St Louis 1st Sat of the month 4.30pm

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

St Louis Monday's 7.30 - 8.30pm

RECONCILIATION

St Brigid's Friday's 12pm
St Louis Saturday's 5.30pm

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr Andrew, Fr Huy, Trish Angliss, Berna Wake

Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people & adults at risk in our community.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING TEAM:

Fr Andrew Jekot 03 9412 8432
Fr Huy Nguyen 03 9412 8432
Trish 0421 604 849
Louise 0415 963 799
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Denise 0412 926 752