



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

5th Sunday of Lent 22 March 2026

Readings for Year A Ezekiel 37: 12-14 Romans 8: 8-11 John 11: 1-45

*"I am the resurrection
and the life"*

Today's masterpiece of Johannine storytelling displays both Jesus' humanity as well as the promise of resurrection.

In this story Jesus demonstrates his compassion by engaging with both Martha and Mary in their grief over the death of their brother Lazarus. Jesus also displays his love for Lazarus in the simple phrase 'Jesus wept'. As Lent guides us towards the fullness of life at Easter, this Gospel begs the question: how can I display more compassion and empathy in my life?

The 'I am' sayings in John's Gospel speak of the ways in which Jesus is divine. In this Gospel, Jesus says he is the resurrection and the life. Jesus demonstrates this by bringing Lazarus back to life.

When Lazarus emerges from the tomb, he has burial cloths around him. Jesus says 'untie him'. As we approach Easter, what behaviours hold me back from all that God intends me to be?

Patrick Jurd
Parishioner



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER TRIDUUM

Schedule

MARCH 29 PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 2 HOLY THURSDAY - 7.30PM AT ST BRIGID'S

APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY INTER-FAITH STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 10.30AM BEESON RESERVE, EDITHVALE
THE PASSION OF CHRIST - 3.00PM AT ST BRIGID'S

APRIL 4 EASTER VIGIL - 6.30PM AT ST LOUIS'

APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY - 8.00AM AT ST BRIGID'S;
9.30AM AT ST LOUIS'; 11AM AT ST BRIGID'S

Caritas Australia - Project Compassion

In these last two weeks of Lent please do continue to remember Project Compassion. Any donation that will assist the work of Caritas is greatly appreciated. Apart from the Project Compassion boxes you can also donate by scanning the QR Code on the right, or call at 1800 024 413 or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate



FORMED - The Last Days - The Passion and Death of Christ the Lord with Jonathan Roumie

This film presentation of the theatrical production movingly recreates the final moments of Jesus' earthly ministry as a teacher through his crucifixion and death.

Go to: <https://formed.org/signup> type in St Mary of the Cross Mordialloc and Aspendale, and enter your name and email address, for free access to this and much more great content.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

We have two options for Stations of the Cross during Lent. **Monday Evenings at St Louis' at 7.30pm until 30 March**, and **Friday mornings at St Brigid's at 10.30am until 27 March**. The Stations at St Brigid's on Friday's will be followed by the Holy Rosary at 11am and mass at 11.30am.

Combined choir practice for Easter

It is not too late to join the the choir practice for all our Easter ceremonies. Practice is on **Tuesday nights from 7.30pm to 9pm at St Louis' church**. All singers and musician's welcome. Call Trish for more information 0421 604 849.

Palms for Palm Sunday and Palm crosses

Do you have some large palms that need trimming that you can donate to our parish? Please drop off at St Louis' and St Brigid's on Friday 27 March. Are you crafty? We need lots of crosses made out of palm fronds. Here is a link for how to do it. [Palm Sunday Cross](#) Please drop them off at the office.

Easter Serve Ministry Roster

We need readers for **Palm Sunday (March 29) at 9.30 and 11am masses** and also for the Triduum services. Please check the roster on the Welcome Desk if you are available to fill in the gaps. We thank you for stepping up to serve God and our parish.

Church working bee 10am to 12pm

Come along and help clean up at both churches on **Saturday 4 April** for our Easter weekend services. Cuppa and hot cross bun after.

Second Rite of Reconciliation - Thursday 26 March 7pm at St Brigid's church

Come and join us for a shared experience of repentance when you can listen to the Word of God and reflect on your life during this time of Lent and end with individual confession and absolution.

News and Announcements

Harmony Week - 16 to 22 March - Everyone Belongs



This is a wonderful time to celebrate the rich diversity of cultures that make up our Catholic community and share the message that everyone belongs. Harmony Week coincides with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Harmony Week is a celebration of our diverse identity, promoting inclusiveness, respect, and belonging for everyone, from First Nations people to our newest community members. To read and learn more please go to:

<https://www.harmony.gov.au/>

Are you missing a ring?

A gold ring was found in a money collection bag over the weekend. We're pretty sure you only meant to drop in money! Please contact the office.

Parish Pastoral Council

Please pray for our Parish Pastoral Council as they meet this weekend to discern our parish mission and priorities, that we may continue to be a welcoming, joyful, prayerful and connected community where families, youth and seniors grow closer to Christ. There will be more information on the work of the Parish Pastoral Council in the next edition of our Blessings magazine in April.

Friday Reconciliation at St Brigid's

Please note that reconciliation will be offered at 12pm, not 12.30pm on Friday at St Brigid's following the 11.30am Mass.

Prayer Ministry - March 28 and 29

Our prayer ministers will be available after all weekend masses next weekend to pray with you for your intentions.

KidzZone - March 28 and 29

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 our 6pm, 9.30am and 11am masses next weekend.

Archbishop Peter's Patrick Oration 2026

On the Feast of St Patrick (March 17), Archbishop Peter shared this year's Patrick Oration for the Archdiocese of Melbourne outlining an important new vision: **Light into the City.**

The 5-10-year Light into the City initiative will renew St Patrick's Cathedral and reimagine its precinct as the spiritual heart of Melbourne.

For more than 125 years, the Cathedral has been a place of prayer, encounter, and belonging for generations of Catholics. It is also a treasured landmark for the wider community.

Light into the City will help ensure this sacred place continues to shine as a beacon of faith, hope and welcome for all who come to the heart of our city.

To find out more please visit: www.lightintothecity.org.au



Justice Action
Group

Choose your Easter chocolate responsibly

Choose chocolate free from labour exploitation this Easter.

Check the Chocolate Scorecard:

www.chocolatescorecard.com

Rainforest Alliance & Fairtrade labels mean the chocolate is made with social, economic, and environmental care.

www.acrath.org.au

Brigidine Asylum Seekers

Our friends at BASP are asking for our assistance this Lent to help refugees and migrants in need. From next weekend and for the next 3 weeks please help with:

100gm jars coffee; Black tea bags (50 or 100); 500ml dish washing liquid; 1kg box laundry detergent; 1 litre liquid laundry detergent; Spray & wipe/nifti cleaner; Long life milk 1 litre Full Cream; Sweet biscuits; Small cans tuna; Sardines; 1kg pack sugar; 1kg pack plain flour; Coconut milk.

Collection boxes in the church foyers.

Earthcare

Earthcare is a Catholic initiative sponsored by Caritas Australia and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. Our parish Earthcare team are committed to creating awareness and action on environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and the need to live sustainably, as well as raising awareness on First Nations People. The team have compiled a short video highlighting their 2025 actions. You can view it at:

<https://vimeo.com/1171616624#t=0>

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - PALM SUNDAY - 29TH MARCH 2026

28/29 March 26	Palm Sunday Year A Isaiah 50: 4-7 Philippians 2: 6-11 Matthew 26: 24 – 27: 66							
	Reader	Reader	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomers
6pm (A)	Bernie Stuart	Ann Furlong	Carmel Barker	Marie Seddon	Julius Lau	Gail McGillivray	Michael Barker	Annette Brilliant Ann Brennan
8.00am (M)	Tony Aloysious	Paula Rodrigues	Joan Healy	Frances North	Jane Standish	Jack Guthrie	Marlene Tangso	Angela Mao Jack Meyer
9.30am (A)	Niko Tovia	Volunteer	Irene Crowe	Lisa Tuke	Mary Nayna	Ann Furlong	Felice Cortese	Maureen Wraight Anne Marsh
11.00am (M)	Mark Carazzo	Helen Rocks	Volunteer	Peter Hannan	Gail Bell	Juan Wilson	Peter Wain	Vanessa Fernandes Robyn Worsnop
Counters 1	Gary & Joanne Partleton Prayer Ministers 6pm Berna Wake Ron Soares Carmel Barker 8am Josie Johnson Tony Aloysious 9.30am Teresa Basile Brenda O'Leary 11am Ellen Young Nicole Mielczarek							

Recently deceased: Concettina Favola (Mordialloc), Carmen Lucia de Alcantara.

Anniversaries: Clotilde and Joao Martin, Thomas Raines, Richard Thorne, Charles Judd, Faye Marshall, Gordon McCarthy, Ted Burke, Laurie Mattea, Jim Laws, Bevan Porter, Jennifer Crawford, Hygino Soares, Margaret Barnett, W/O Gordon Parker RAAF, Grazia Basile, John Langer, Nello Fabris, John Nelson, Jim Cevec, Leonard Dockrill, Philippe Laval, Pat Direen, Zoltan Korom, Hector Jones, Veronica Wagstaff, Frank Patterson, Mary Rebeschini, John Gazzo, Kunjammai Peruvanmuzhi, Kevin Laws, Maria Rutigliano, Br Maurice Nicholson, Ann Fernandez, Ken Bramich, Mary (May) Bell, Marsha Anderson, Thomas Hogan, Kathleen Crowe, Marie-Noelle Russie, Paul Camerino, Tressy Frank.

Praying for healing and the sick: Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Vasilos Garavelis, Mary Agiropoulos, Luis, Marisa, Rita Popley, Prunella Julien, Kim Power, Maree Wesols, Sophia Bicos, Jeffrey Sellar, Peter Waltho, Damian Haggerty, Noleen Dunn, Therese Lee, Alasdair Hughes, Harry Donohue, Stephen Hopkins, Stephen Oldboldstone, Brilliant boys, John Catalano, Andrea Williams.

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:
[catholicmassstmaryofthecross](https://catholicmassstmaryofthecross.org.au)

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND HOLY ROSARY

St Brigid's every Fri 10.30am
St Louis' 1st Sat of the month 4.30pm
St Louis' every Mon night 7.30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St Louis' Monday's 7.30 - 8.30pm

RECONCILIATION

St Brigid's Fri after 11.30am Mass
St Louis' Sat 5.30pm before Mass

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr Michael, Trish Angliss, Berna Wake, John Field

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

CHILD SAFEGUARDING TEAM:

Fr Michael Kong 9580 7981
Trish 0421 604 849
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Denise 0412 926 752

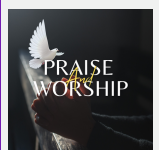
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



Children's Liturgy
5 - 12-year-olds.
4th weekend of the month. 6pm, 9:30am and 11am



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



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

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

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

Baptism Coordinator
Debbie Poynton 0403 471 931

Our Parish acknowledges that we gather, pray and live on the land of the 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.