

Blessings

The magazine of St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish Mordialloc and Aspendale
Issue 30 April 2024



Easter Joy

Inside

Holy Week and the
Easter Vigil



Thriving
Small
Groups



Acknowledgement,
Healing and Trust



Seminary Open Day &
message from Tung Phan



And much more!

From the Editor

Parishes that are on a journey of renewal – embracing Jesus' mission to make disciples are characterised by the three V's – **vitality, vibrancy, and viability**. I am sure you will agree that our parish is increasingly becoming just this, as evidenced by the many wonderful stories in Blessings. It is not sufficient to merely have many activities, they must be intentionally assessed against their ability to reinforce our Parish Mission to Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples. Let us all continue to pray for the growth of our parish and each other in faith and love, and in particular let us pray for our Alpha which began this week and give thanks that an incredible 86 people attended.



Peace & blessings,
Berna Wake



We feel that Alpha is the next step for our parish.

It wasn't because I was waiting for the Easter Bunny to show up that I couldn't sleep Holy Saturday night but the fact that I was on such a high from the Vigil mass. The beautiful (and lengthy) liturgy incorporating the baptism of 5 adults and 5 children was such a highlight for me. The courageous response to God's calling them to this parish community was embraced by the parish community praying for them since the first week of Lent (prayer bookmarks) to the many who attended the vigil mass. Enjoy reading some more about our Neophytes (new lights) in this edition of Blessings.

The Alpha program has taken up much of the Parish Leadership Team's (PLT) meeting on a Tuesday. We feel that this is the next step for us as a parish, to deepen our relationship with Jesus and welcome people who present themselves wanting to know more about our faith. We will offer Alpha again later in the year and allow this program to be an invitational tool for Opening the Doors to Christ's Love.

This Easter season is a special time for our school children to come before the altar and receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist. Please pray for these children and their families. I am grateful to the staff at the schools and the catechist team for their enthusiasm in journeying with these children.

I am looking forward to the archbishop's pastoral visitation to the parish. Archbishop Peter Comensoli visits one parish per year from each of the 4 zones in the Archdiocese. The local bishop (Tony Ireland) visits about 9 parish's each year. Archbishop Peter will be here from Friday 19th April to Sunday 21st April. His time with us will incorporate visits to the schools, nursing home, parish office along with conducting a Parish Forum (all parishioners are welcome), dinners with Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee and celebrating all the weekend masses. I'm sure that you will make him welcome.

Another person we will welcome is Deacon George Piech Meat. George is a Permanent Deacon who was ordained in 2012 and initially appointed to St. Mary's, Dandenong. The Archbishop has now appointed him to our parish for his diaconal ministry which will include mainly assisting at the mass, preaching and celebrating baptisms. Some of you may remember him in our parish during his training in 2012. Our parish shipping container project back in 2013 supported George's hometown of Bentiu, South Sudan. Easter blessings to all,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Andrew'.

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

Lenten Retreat with Maria Forde

A blessed Lenten Retreat with the renowned Australian-Irish songwriter & musician

Over 100 parishioners attended the beautiful Lenten Retreat at St Brigid's on Saturday March 23 with Maria Forde. The morning finished with Fr Andrew and Fr Ignatius offering the gift of the penitential service of reconciliation. We asked a few of our parishioners their thoughts on the morning.



"Such a profoundly spiritual experience guided by Maria with her beautiful voice and acoustic guitar and her insights into faith. So many "takeaways" in her storytelling, particularly the parable of the prodigal son and God's unconditional love."

Thankyou St Mary of the Cross Parish for the opportunity to attend this retreat. A meaningful experience to begin Holy Week. - **Marg D**



"I attended the Lenten Retreat on Saturday 23rd and was treated to a meaningful 3 hours with Maria Forde leading us through her music and reflection of the suffering of Jesus.

The time was concluded with Reconciliation."

Thank you to Father Andrew and the leadership team for this initiative. We are so blessed in this parish." – **Rosemary G**



"This time is for you! What a gift! Three hours to sit quietly with the Lord, to pray, listen, reflect. As always, Maria Forde was a brilliant facilitator, her warmth and musical prowess a real treat. Maria's trust and honesty in sharing her own experience of Suffering, Surrender and Transformation was powerful and thought provoking. Her quotes from Richard Rohr's Breathing Under Water were

impactful. " We suffer to get well. We surrender to win. We die to live. We give it away to keep it. All in all, a wonderful entry to Holy Week and preparation for the Triduum." - **Frances N**



Bob's Knitting Group

We started our parish knitting group in July 2023.

Our aim is to make handmade beanies, scarves, jumpers/cardigans, blankets & toys for those in need. Baskets were placed in the foyer of both churches for completed items as well as donations of wool. The response has been incredible.

Our 1st goal was to make enough to donate before easter. The week before easter I filled my boot as well as the back seat with bags full of beautifully made items & set off to KOGO (knit one give one) & St Kilda Mums. (Letter of appreciation below.)



Bobs was the name of Mary McKillop's beloved pet dog.



A parish member donated 50 fabric bags which have been passed onto school children as book bags.

Our next big donation, of beanies & scarves, will hopefully be by the end of June to the Dandenong Homeless Shelter.

Our knitting group is not just about folks who are able to knit or crochet. We have so many who generously donate wool, needles or patterns as well as those who donate their time.

It's a place to relax, catch-up, share, & have a cuppa.

A very big thank you to all. – **Monique Bruce**



Dear Monique and the St Mary's of the Cross Knitting Group,

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the lovely toys, beanies, jumpers, scarves, cardigans and blankets you delivered.

At KOGO we recognise and deeply appreciate the effort and skill that has gone into making them. We know that the people who receive them will feel cared for and valued in turn.

In the 20 years since we began, we have built relationships with over 375 Community Partner Organisations. These agencies distribute our finished garments and blankets to a myriad of people undergoing hardship.

The homeless, refugees, children at risk, remote indigenous communities, women in refuges and families who are struggling to make ends meet are all recipients of the wonderful items made by the KOGO community.

Again, we deeply appreciate your contribution and thank you for helping us to make the world a warmer place, one stitch at a time. –

Vicki from KOGO (Knit One, Give One)

Scripture and Friendship Group



Scripture and Friendship is a great way to explore our Sunday gospels within a small group setting. We use 'Lectio Divina' as our process and this leads to amazing and insightful discussion, learning and listening. No-one is an expert, but we have great conversations!

"I enjoy the group because it helps me understand a little about the Scriptures and also relating it to today's world." - Lucy.

We meet in a home fortnightly on Tuesdays at 10am - 'All are Welcome – Come and See' Details are in our Parish Bulletin.

"Tuesday is an oasis. It provides an atmosphere where everyone is comfortable to share and listen and learn." - Leonie.

Gathering with others from our faith community has resulted in many new friendships being formed, support shared and at the same time becoming aware of Jesus' message and purpose for us in our daily lives.

"Sharing the Word of God, learning from the Word of God. So much I never knew" - Maureen.

Another powerful aspect of the S&F group is the appreciation of praying friends. So often there are events happening in our lives that can overwhelm us or lead us to seek support from others and to know that the group is praying has been a great strength and comfort to many.

"The Spirituality and friendship group allows us to discuss the gospels in a comfortable friendly and accepting atmosphere. We learn so much from each other while developing friendships and gaining knowledge and understanding." - Tom & Jan

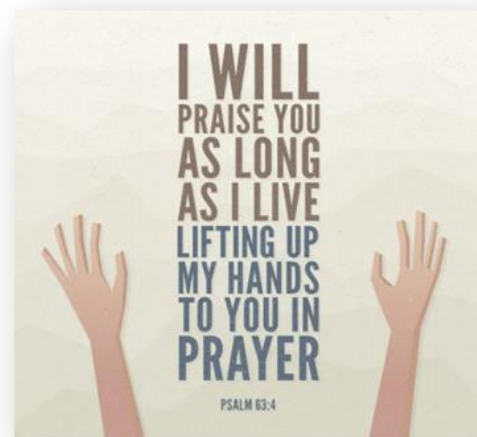
All are Welcome - Come and See. Ann and Carmel

Praise and Worship

Have you ever wondered what happens at a “Praise and Worship Evening” when you see it in our weekly Parish Bulletin on the 3rd Friday of the month?

These evenings, simply, are an opportunity for people to come together to speak from your heart to the heart of God through song and prayer. This reflects an intimate connection between you and Him, to lift your spirit, sense God’s presence, remember God’s blessing and enlist His protection.

When we gather together, we will always start our meeting with a prayer as we invoke the Holy Spirit to be with us in our meeting to praise and worship Him.



Then we will move into a time of singing songs that glorify and praise God. Through singing we will stir our hearts and affections for God as it is more than just saying his praise but glorify Him in song. In the Bible we are instructed in Psalm 147:1 “We sing praises to the Lord because it is good” Psalm 100:1-2 “God wants us to express joy” Ephesians 19 “Sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs among yourselves, singing and chanting to the Lord in your hearts”.

Some quotes from attendees:



“Just what I needed after a bad day.”



“Friendly and welcoming meeting.”



“Spiritual and uplifting music.”



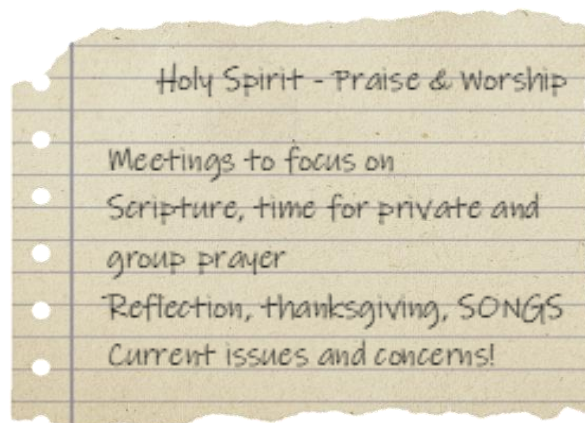
“Holy Spirit was present in our meeting.”

We then move into a period of reflections which could be on a piece of scripture, a word, current issues / concerns or even a picture. During this quiet time, we may be moved to speak out loud by the Holy Spirit which will encourage a deeper connection and prayer among the group. We will then join back in song and importantly give thanks to God for his blessings in our lives before having a closing prayer to continue to feel the presence of God as we go about our daily lives. We conclude with an uplifting and thankful song before we have a cuppa to conclude our session.

These evenings are spiritual and by praising God through song, prayer and reflection we focus our mind on God to strengthen our faith in Him and this allows us to combat negative thoughts – we hand ourselves over to Him with all blessings and challenges.

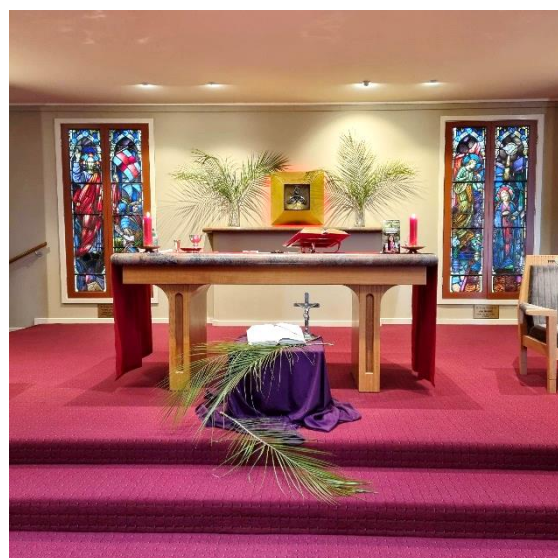
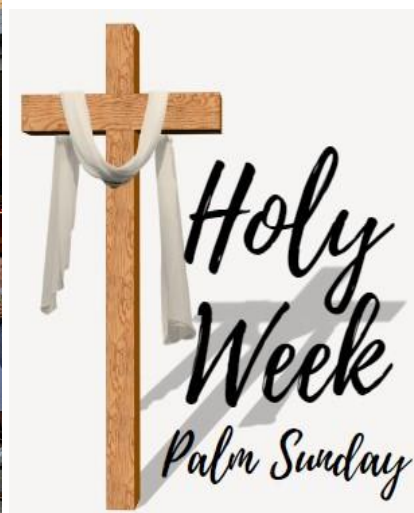
Come along to our next meeting and say hello.

Ann Furlong



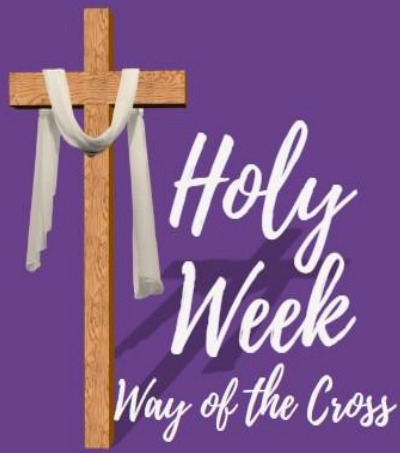
Our Parish Pastoral Council member Bob Ward had something on his mind early one morning, at 5am and was moved to get up and write it down. So became our first Praise & Worship Night in October 2022. Thank you, Bob, and thank you Holy Spirit!

Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem



To serve rather than to be served

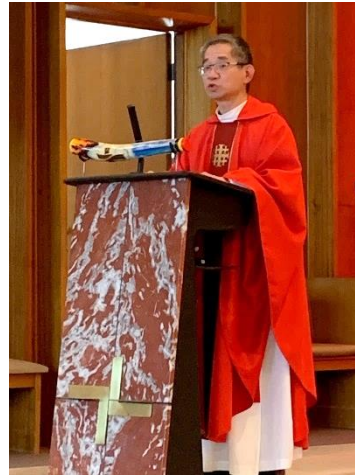
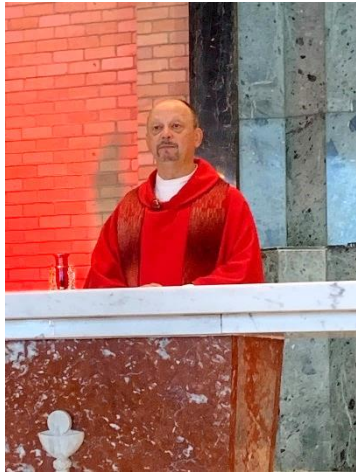




Re-tracing Christ's footsteps



The victory of love over hatred



Vigil Mass of the Resurrection



He
is
Risen



Vigil Mass of the Resurrection



Shining Christ's love we welcome our new Neophytes (New Lights) into the Catholic family on Holy Saturday Night.

The many months of preparation for our catechumens, Tanya Stefanec, Gary Young, Kate Keltie, and Sarah and James Barr culminated in this night celebrating the resurrection of Jesus.



Meet our Neophytes (New Lights)

We asked our five Neophytes why were they embarking on this journey into the Catholic faith and what their reflections and experiences have been so far?



Gary Young

I took this RCIA journey due to the unconditional support and sense of family from my colleagues at St. Louis. In 2001 I became a Christian, I grew up in the Salvation Army church which set my faith foundations, a wonderful time in my faith journey. In 2021, I hit a crossroads in my faith but God kept revealing himself to me in my job at St. Louis.

The entire team has taken care of myself and the other RCIA candidates. From my perspective having faith for 23 years,

God assisted in deepening aspects of my faith in areas I was familiar with. Particularly the team has assisted me in developing my knowledge of specific Catholic rituals/traditions and the sacred reasons behind it. I would like to thank the staff at St. Louis showing me Christ through their unconditional support as it was the catalyst in making my decision in starting my Catholic journey. There is always a reason for everything, God's timing is always perfect and always intentional as He is perfect.



Kate Keltie

I'm seeking a better understanding of Jesus and a closer relationship to God. I took up this journey after being really unwell and started seeking answers to a lot of questions about life, the world we live in and my own spirituality. Every question I've had has been answered so far and lead me to have more questions. It's been a fascinating journey along a path I will be on forever.

It's been a pretty special journey alongside some lovely people. It's been really nice to share different ideas and learn together. I'm looking forward to the future and deepening my faith within myself and the community.



Tanya Stefanec

After working within a Catholic community for the last 15 years I have many times questioned going through the journey of joining the church. As someone who has chosen to embrace Catholicism later in life, I was on a search for deeper meaning, spiritual fulfillment, and a sense of belonging within a faith community. Going on this journey later in life has allowed me to draw upon learnings and understandings of life experience that comes with age.

This has allowed me to bring a deeper appreciation for the complexities of life and a willingness to wrestle with difficult questions. In any journey of faith, there are moments of doubt, struggle, and uncertainty. At times I have grappled with theological concepts that challenge my understanding and beliefs. Yet, it is precisely in these moments of struggle that I find the greatest opportunity for growth and transformation. As I continue on this path, I am filled with gratitude for the blessings and experiences that have come my way and the opportunity to build a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God.



Meet our Neophytes (New Lights)



Sarah and James Barr

As parents of five young children, our decision to embark on this journey of joining the Catholic Church was driven by a deep desire to nurture our family's spiritual foundation. We sought a community where faith could be central to our lives, guiding and strengthening us through life's joys and challenges. After joining the catholic community through the children's schooling, we knew that this next step was the right one for our family.



Throughout our RCIA journey, we've been profoundly moved by the warmth and support of our fellow seekers and mentors. Our faith isn't just about personal belief; it's about building connections within our family and community, rooted in love and shared values. This journey has not only enriched our own lives but the lives of our children too. It has opened our hearts to the power of faith, and we are grateful for the experience.



Our 2024 Paschal Candle was again designed by our very talented parishioner Michelle Campbell. Here Michelle explains the inspiration behind the design.

"Inspired by our churches stunning stained glass windows. The design includes all the meaningful Paschal symbols: Cross, Alpha and Omega, grains of incense, light, fire, and the year.

Jesus' omnipresence is our guiding light through life to eternity.

May this year's Paschal candle shine rightly through all your hearts."

Michelle Campbell





Snapshots



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Marj & Kevin Reed 60th Wedding Anniversary



Jack Guthrie's 80th



Tom Hughes 80th



Jessie Costanzo's 90th



Fr Andrew's 60th



Fr Andrew's 60th



Fr Andrew's 60th

Acknowledgement, Healing & Trust

“Never see an evil without doing something about it.” St Mary of the Cross Mackillop

Recently a discussion was held amongst the Parish Leadership Team to review how we as a Parish can acknowledge the historical abuse and coverups throughout our Church's history.

The Pope recently gathered with the Pontifical Commission to continue the Church's efforts to be fully committed to the prevention of abuse. Its firm condemnation, the provision of compassionate care for victims, as well as an ongoing commitment to be a welcoming and safe place for all.

Well, how can we address the “elephant in the room?” You may remember the first step we took was holding a healing liturgy, however this took place some time ago, so, what acknowledgment and healing has transpired to help us move forward since then?

Recently, the Parish website was updated to state all the Priests who have served in our Parish. An introduction and prayer has also been provided for the child safety website. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. All parishioners are committed to ensure the protection of minors and the vulnerable amongst our community in accordance with our child safety protocols. I encourage each of you to revisit the website and read the guidelines. If you have any concerns about any child safety issue, please contact one of our Parish Safeguarding Team Members.

Our liturgy team are also including a monthly intention with a prayer of the faithful for ongoing prayers for healing and commitment of all who serve.

May each of us walk with the courage of Mary MacKillop - “Never see an evil without doing something about it.”



Let us pray:

Dear Jesus,

As we commit ourselves to child safety, we hold in our hearts all those who suffered abuse (sexual, physical and emotional) - the loss of innocence and trust that has resulted in insurmountable pain, shame, loss of dignity and self-worth to each of the survivors and their loved ones.

We ask for healing.

Deepen our faith and commitment and courage to follow you as Mary MacKillop did.

For all who work with children and the vulnerable, our clergy and Parishioners, to be totally committed to safeguarding and the continued education of child protective behaviours.

St Paul said, "Love bears all things" - May love bring healing and continue to grow and deepen our Church. For We, are the Church.

We open our hearts and love to you, dear

Jesus.

Amen

Marg Deveson

Thank you from Tung Phan

Dear home parish and greetings to everyone

I would like to send warm greetings to everyone at St. Mary of the Cross Mordialloc and Aspendale Parish, who have welcomed and prayed for me with open arms and warm hearts throughout the years. I want to thank you all, and especially to each active member of the PLT (Parish Leadership Team).

I joined the Corpus Christi seminary on 4th 1st Sunday of Lent. The seminarian life is extremely new with a lot of activities with brothers and formators; and three diverse study units in this semester that I have never experienced before. Currently, I am balancing this new life, and have a schedule that explicitly details activities and classes on each day. I believe it will help me to get through in terms of managing time in a better and efficient way. There was a joy after I had designed my schedule and put it on a large paper board, glued it to the wall near my desk yesterday.

So many emotions, affections, generosity I have received from everyone during various masses in the last days before I embarked, and lovely words of spiritual encouragement from the recent visit to the seminary of some parishioners to the "Family and Friend Mass and Picnic" who visited on behalf of the parish. Once again, I am sincerely thankful for your love and presence, and I know that I cannot thank you enough for your big hearts.

The path I am walking is a long one, a journey to discern God's call, and I desperately need your prayers, please help me with your intercessions. For my part, at the small chapel located inside the seminary, during daily prayers, adoration, meditation, and rosary I always include my prayer whispering with all the names that I can remember and with all the faces when I am unable to remember the names. Please let me know if one of you needs my prayers. My contact number is 0460967574, please text me via this number, and so I know the detailed content of request.

I miss everyone dearly and wish everyone a very holy week of grace. I am looking forward to seeing everyone again soon.

**God bless,
Tung Phan**

P.S I have my new desktop, enough clothes, and very decent room.



From left to right: Fr. Cameron Forbes (Rector, Corpus Christi College), Mathews Noble, Joseph Maag, Rohan Prince, Patrick Harris, Tung Phan, Chinh Tran, Luke Kennedy, Fr. Dishan Candappa (Vocations Director), Luke Emslie, Fr. Anil Mascarenhas (Assistant Vocations Director). (Photo courtesy of Corpus Christi College)

Meet Peter Riordan

The Riordan Family have been in the parish for over 40 years. With Peter Riordan's recent retirement, he agreed to a short story for our readers.



Family

Peter has been married to Deirdre for 40 years, they have two children - Patrick and Lucy. Patrick is married to Jess, and they have a daughter Hazel and live in Bonbeach. Lucy and Simon live in St Kilda. My mum - Patsy Riordan - who lives in Aspendale - is also a parishioner.

What is your connection to the parish?

Peter and Deirdre have been in the Parish for 40 years since first married - children went to St Louis school from 1992 till 2003 - family involved in lots of parish and school activities over those forty years - Peter was Chairperson of St Louis School Board 1999-2000.

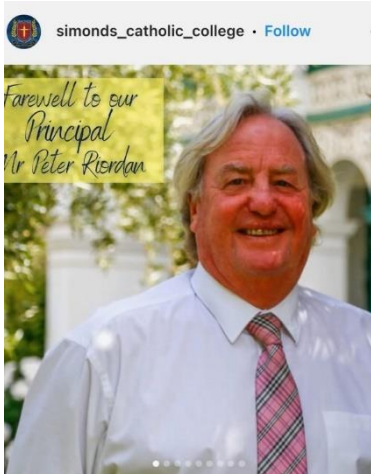
Timeline of Career

Peter began teaching in 1981 and finished in 2023.

81-1999 St Bede's College

2000-2012 De La Salle College

2013-2023 Simonds Catholic College



Highlights

I was very fortunate to have thoroughly enjoyed my working life and as a result there were many highlights for me - I will mention just a few:

Returning to St Bede's for 19 years as a teacher after being a student there for 8 years was a great experience.

Then moving over to De La Salle Malvern for 13 years where I was Deputy Principal and also Principal for 3 terms gave me a great opportunity to test my leadership skills.

Then the last 11 years working in a very low socioeconomic, highly multicultural school in the inner city as the principal was extremely rewarding.

The real highlight is being given the opportunity and privilege of working so closely with so many families to help students achieve the best possible outcomes for themselves.

As a result, the long and lasting relationships you build with staff, students and their families can be quite extraordinary.

For me - being able to develop my teaching and leadership skills in Catholic education and having that enjoyment of going to school each day and working with positive young people and really committed staff has been an absolute highlight. Working with and observing families working through many different and sometimes difficult issues has been incredibly inspiring for me.

Challenges

I think there will always be challenges within education.

But challenges are not new to just this generation of students. My parents' generation probably despaired as to how different our education was to theirs - as did their parents before them. I think the challenge is to accept change and embrace the really positive aspects of those changes.

I believe one of our biggest challenges in Catholic education is in attracting the right people to look at teaching as a career. We know that currently there are quite severe teacher shortages - with the flow on effect of that being a shortage of aspiring and highly capable leaders in Catholic schools.

I think social media, compliance/OHS issues, gaming addiction and Artificial Intelligence (AI) will continue to provide further challenges for school communities in the next few years.

Retirement

I am greatly looking forward to having a bit more time for myself rather than the long school days. Already Deirdre and I have enjoyed a couple of holidays away together this year and more travel/trips are planned in the years to come.

I have found myself in a good routine of a walk into Mordialloc along the beach most mornings - and will continue to enjoy plenty of fishing, golf, tennis, bike riding and the occasional SUP when the wind stops blowing! I have also found time to do some reading for pleasure (rather than work related reading) and am also mentoring a couple of younger Principals in the Archdiocese

Looking forward to retirement in this beautiful part of Melbourne.

With thanks to Pauline Parker for organising this story.

Our Music Ministry



Holy Thursday Choir

Valerie Suhr plays once a month at our 11am mass with a dedicated group of singers. Tim Steele and Karina Chaves came forward 12 months ago and generously offered to help us out when Valerie was not playing. Karina plays the keyboard, and Tim plays the guitar and leads the singing. They have introduced several new songs into our repertoire and receive many compliments and thanks from our parishioners.

Our music ministry cannot thank enough the past contributions of Barry Simms (RIP) Giulie Waddell and May Warrener. Barry was our MD for many years, Giulie our organist at 11am mass and May played at 9.30am mass. Giulie and May are both now retired after many years of dedicated service. Many thanks to you both.

We always welcome new singers and musicians. Please contact me – we would love to have you join this rewarding ministry.

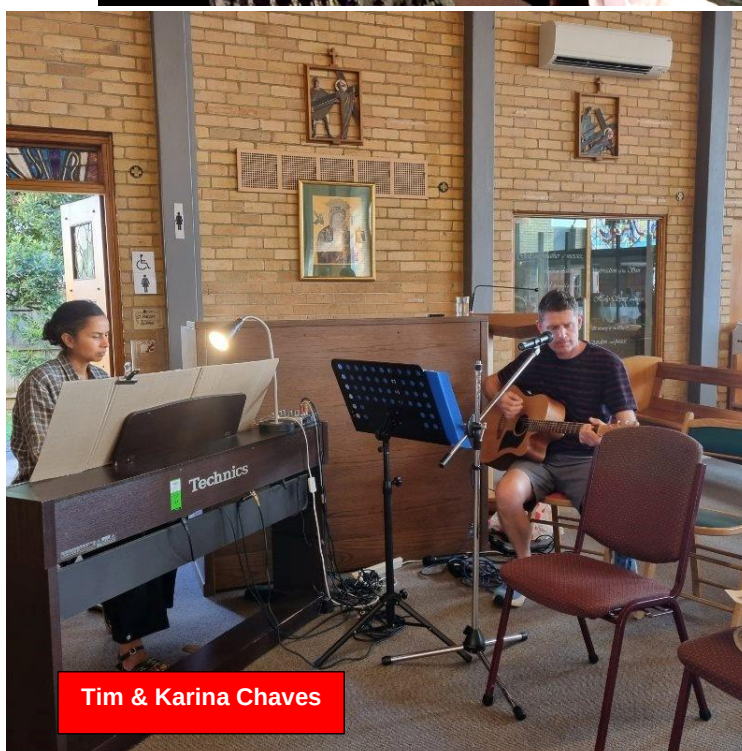
Musical Director
Trish Angliss
0421 604 849

Our choir have just had a wonderfully busy time singing for all the Holy Week celebrations. After practicing for a couple of months, with singers from St Louis and St Brigid's combining, I'm sure you will agree they were amazing.

We love to have live music at our masses but for now we don't have enough musicians available to cover every mass, so recorded music is provided. I play at 9.30am mass and occasionally at 8am as well. There are parishioners at both masses, who are part of our combined choir who happily step up to sing.



Easter Vigil Choir



Tim & Karina Chaves

Sacrament of Baptism

We welcome children and families who have had children baptised this year.

Madeleine Arno Wood daughter of Thomson & Katherine
Barney Joseph O'Kane son of Jonathan & Hannah
Sophie Olivia McLaren daughter of Jamie & Nikki
Maddison Orifici daughter of David & Rebecca
Alira Mae & Mila Grace Gent daughters of Mitch & Hayley
Anastasia Iraina Sikei daughter of Joseph & Marie
Louie Eamonn Angelini son of Kieran & Maggie
Memphis November Wainwright son of Aaron & Charlotte
Sienna Sidney-Anne Bean daughter of Damien & Natalie
Ewan Ross and Bowie James Fraser sons of Joel & Courtney
Harry James, Rose Sarah, Florence May, Sienna Noelle
and Isabella Daisy Barr children of James & Sarah
William Christopher Toolis son of Michael & Lauren
Xavier Lorenzo Favaloro son of Anthony & Jade
Oliver Phillip Longmuir son of James & Stephanie



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

Prayer Ministry

Can we pray for you?



We all have times when life feels hard and overwhelming. When our loved ones or ourselves are facing an uncertain future. We might be struggling with a physical or emotional or spiritual concern. The good news is that none of us are alone, and our parish would love to support you and your loved ones in prayer.

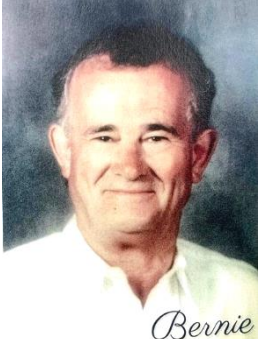
Did you know that St Mary of the Cross offers a Prayer Ministry after each of our weekend masses on the 4th weekend of the month? Prayer Ministers will remain in the church after mass and pray with you for a few minutes in a simple and respectful way for any intention that you might have.

If you would prefer to place a prayer intention anonymously, please write it and place it in the box in front of the picture of St Mary Mackillop at both churches. Our Prayer Team who meet for rosary and adoration on the 1st Saturday of the month (4.30-5.30pm) at St Louis' pray for all intentions received.

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~



Bernie

**Bernard (Joseph)
O'Reilly.**

22.7.1933 – 9.1.2024.

Bernard's funeral
was held at St Brigid's
on 19.1.2024.



**Robert (Bob)
Muddyman.**

7.11.1940 – 5.2.2024.

Bob's funeral was held
at Bunurong Memorial
Park on 15.2.2024.



Brian McKittrick.
14.4.1936 – 6.3.2024.
Brian's funeral was
held at St Brigid's on
19.3.2024.



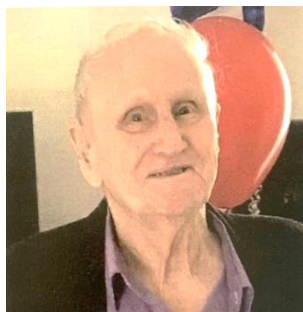
Georgina Whitfield.
29.6.1963 – 9.12.2023.
Georgina's funeral was
held at St Brigid's on
23.2.2024.



Marie Sherlock.

16.5.1943 –
23.1.2024.

Marie's funeral was
held at St Louis' on
2.2.2024.



John Hugh Vines.

9.11.1927 – 4.1.2024.

John's funeral was
held at Bunurong
Memorial
Park on 17.1.2024.



Lucio (Lou) Meconi.

3.7.1936 – 3.2.2024.

Lucio's funeral was
held at St Brigid's on
13.2.2024.



Zoltan Korom.

22.12.1939 –
25.3.2024.

Zoltan's funeral was
held at Springvale
Cemetery on 3.4.2024.



**Phillip (Bryan)
Angliss.**

6.6.1953 – 14.1.2024.

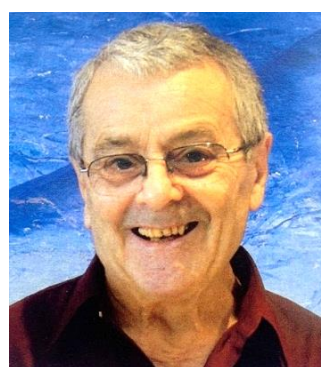
Phillip's funeral was
held at St Brigid's on
24.1.2024.



Joseph Genovese.

4.2.1937 – 9.3.2024.

Joseph's funeral was
held at St Brigid's on
22.3.2024.



Luigi (Gigi) Camillo.

17.6.1934 –
28.2.2024.

Luigi's funeral was
held at St Brigid's on
7.3.2024.



Sebastiana La Rosso.

31.3.1937 – 29.1.2024.

Sebastiano was buried
at Springvale Cemetery
on 7.2.2024.

School News!

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

What a busy term it has been at St Brigid's. Look at all the activities we have participated in these last 9 weeks!

- Beginning of Year Mass and Feast of St Brigid
- Sausage sizzle, ice creams, fairy floss and Kaboom.
- Getting to Know You sessions
- Shrove Tuesday
- Ash Wednesday Mass and liturgies
- Welcome Picnic organized by the Fundraising Team
- Project Compassion
- Foundation Mass at Braeside Park
- Year 5/6 Urban Camp
- House Cross Country
- Naplan
- Eucharist Family Activity Night and Commitment Mass
- Swimming Training and Carnival
- Harmony Day
- Holy Week Liturgies
- Easter Bonnet Parade and Raffle - just to name a few!

This year we introduced a 'Celebration of Learning'. We welcomed all families to school, with our children showcasing their learning for the term. This term the Inquiry topic was all about Community, starting in Foundation where they learned who is part of their community to Year 1/2 who explored their local community and designed a park. Year 3/4 investigated festivals and celebrations across the world with a focus on the Sacrament of Eucharist and our Year 5/6 's studied what it means to be a citizen of Australia the 3 levels of government and how this system works.

This was a wonderful event for all involved with the children proudly sharing their work with families and other students.

Next term will begin with a bang- swimming for our Foundation to Year 4 students and the opening of our new playground!



St Louis' Primary School

School News!

*Carmel Stutterd
Principal
St Louis' Primary School*

St Louis's started the 2024 school year with 582 students and 72 prep students.

We welcomed 3 new staff members, and all teaching positions were filled.

Our year 6 students went to Canberra in February for a 3-day camp and our Year 5 students went to camp to the Phillip Island Adventure camp.

Father Andrew celebrated the beginning of the school year with a whole school mass in the hall that included commissioning the school staff.

Our prep families joined with the Foundation families from St Brigid's, to celebrate with Father Andrew a Welcome Mass at Braeside Park. We also celebrated with Father Andrew his 60th birthday.



Ten of our Year 6 students went to St Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate Catholic Education Week with 300 other catholic schools. After the mass celebrated by Archbishop Peter Comensoli, all the students went to the Treasury Garden to listen to bands and dance.

32 students from Years 3-6 participated in the Frankston District swimming carnival and 11 students went through to the Division Swimming Carnival.

Our Year 4 students are preparing to receive their First Communion in the first few weeks of Term 2. We finished Term 1 with an Easter Bonnet parade and Prep- 2 athletics carnival. On Holy Thursday the whole school came together to remember Holy Week and to reflect on the message of Easter.



Parish Vision Morning

Thirty-five parishioners

gathered at St Louis' on Saturday 16 March to hear how our parish is tracking on our parish renewal journey and to complete the Ten Values Analysis.

The Ten Values were developed by the Divine Renovation Ministry and represent the values of vital, vibrant, and viable parishes. Each of the Ten Values have 5 questions or statements. Respondents are asked to rate each one as follows - 3=Usually 2=Sometimes 1=Rarely 0=Never, adding to a total score out of 15.

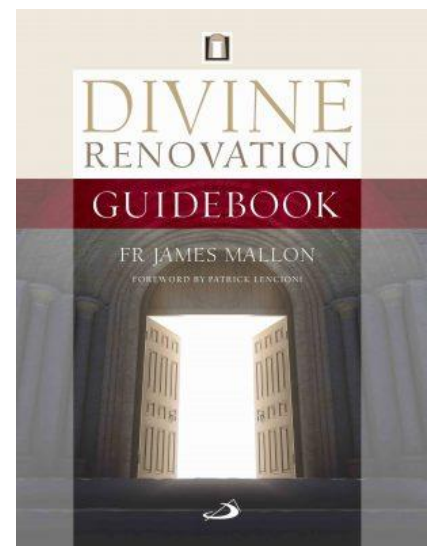
Our parish first undertook the survey in April 2022, almost one year after we began our parish renewal. It was therefore appropriate to track our progress now to ensure that we are moving in the right direction. (See the comparison table below.)

Parishioners completing the survey were also given the opportunity to comment on each of the Ten Values. The Parish Leadership Team are very grateful for the honest comments, as they give us very good direction for the continuing development and growth of our parish.

To see the full analysis results and every verbatim comment, please access at our parish website:

<https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/articles/a19OI000000EurxIAC/ten-values-analysis-march-2024>

Thank you to all who took part in the Vision Morning and if at any time you have some feedback on our parish, please don't hesitate to reach out to a member of the Parish Leadership Team. **Berna Wake**



10 Values of Vital, Vibrant and Viable Parishes St Mary of the Cross Parishioner Ratings	Rating April 2022	Rating March 2024
1. Giving Priority to the Weekend	11.3	12.6
2. Hospitality	11.2	11.1
3. Uplifting Music	9.5	10.3
4. Great Homilies	13	12.3
5. Meaningful Community	10	10.1
6. Clear Expectations	11.6	11.7
7. Strengths-Based Ministry	10.7	10.7
8. Formation of Small Communities	10.8	11.6
9. Experience of the Holy Spirit	10.1	10.7
10. An Invitational Church	11.1	9.5
Total:	10.9	11.1



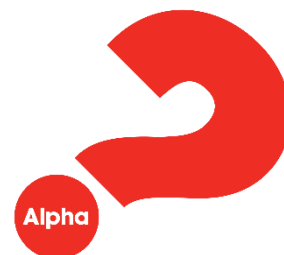
"The sad reality is that too many parishes would score a 5 or less in every single category. Be encouraged if you are scoring between a 5 and a 10 and give thanks you God for the areas where you are between a 10 or a 15."

Fr James Mallon
Divine Renovation
Ministry



Our first week of Alpha started on the 9th of April. We give thanks to the Holy Spirit with 86 people attending.

We pray for blessings, love and peace as we all journey together. Come Holy Spirit, we are here for you.



St Mary of the Cross Parish

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

ALL WELCOME!

If you are new to the parish or would like to be more connected, we would love you to come to a parish welcome morning on the **11 May** at the presbytery. Look out for more details in our Parish Bulletin. In the meantime, please ask one of our weekend Mass Welcomers for a Welcome Pack.

Find us on:

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

YouTube: <https://m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass>

Website: <https://m.stmaryofthecross.com/>



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

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



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

