St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong
Deacon: George Piech-Meat
Palm Sunday 29 March 2026

Readings for Year A Isaiah 50: 4-7 Philippians 2: 6-11 Matthew 26: 14 - 27: 44

"Can we stay awake?"

In today's Gospel, we are drawn into the deeply human and profoundly sacred moments of Jesus' Passion. Around the table at the Last Supper, in the anguish of Gethsemane, and in the betrayal by Judas, we encounter a Saviour who fully enters into suffering, fear, and abandonment. Jesus does not turn away from these experiences, instead, He embraces them with trust in the Father.

Peter's denial reminds us of our own weakness and the times we fail to stand firm in faith. Yet, even in betrayal and denial, there is the quiet presence of mercy. Jesus knows the hearts of His disciples and remains steadfast in love.

This Gospel invites us to reflect on our own response to Christ. Are we willing to stay awake with Him in moments of struggle, or do we turn away in fear or comfort? As we journey toward Holy Week, we are called to walk closely with Jesus, to sit with Him in His suffering, and to recognise the depth of His love.

In these moments, we find both challenge and hope- that even in our brokenness, Christ remains faithful, offering us forgiveness and new life.

Marylene Douglas
Parishioner

News and Announcements

Join us on Palm Sunday - We are Stronger Together

You are warmly invited to join the 2026 Palm Sunday Walk for Justice, Respect and Kindness. Palm Sunday has been a moment for people to publicly witness peace and social justice for all. In that same spirit, we come together again in 2026 to call for communities where every person feels safe, respected and valued – especially those seeking asylum.
Sr Brigid Arthur csb has been a very active member of the organising committee of the Melbourne Walk, and urges everyone to come along to demonstrate solidarity and advocate for change in our policies and processes.

Event Details:

Sunday 29 March 2026
1.00 pm – Gather on Princes Bridge (near Flinders Street Station) with banners and placards.
1.30 pm – Walk to Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr.
2.00 – 3.30 pm – Speakers and music at Lower Terrace, Birrarung Marr.
PLEASE NOTE: Several members of our JAG team will attend the walk. All are very welcome to join. We will meet on **Aspendale Station at 12.25pm on Sunday 29 March.**

Chrism Mass Tuesday 31 March at St Patrick's 10am

Fr Michael will be attending this mass to receive the cathecuman oils. All are welcome to attend. Due to the Chrism Mass, **9.15am Mass at St Louis will be cancelled on that day and be replaced with a Communion service.**
There will be no 9.15am mass on Thursday 2 April (Holy Thursday).

Fr Michael's holiday

Fr Michael will be away after Easter until 24 April while leading his Pilgrimage in Korea. During that time Friday and weekend masses will be as normal, but Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday masses will be replaced with Communion Services.

New Serve Ministry Roster

The new roster has been sent out. Please check and let Ann in the office if she needs to make any changes. There are also hard copies available on the Welcome Desk.

Are you missing a ring?

A gold ring was found in a money collection bag. We're pretty sure you only meant to drop in money!
Please contact the office if you believe it is your ring.

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.

St Louis Garden Working Bee Monday 30 March 10am

Join us for a clean up of our garden for Easter from 10am. Please bring your own tools.

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

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

Holy Week Roster

2-4 April 26	TRIDUUM ROSTER							
	Reader	Gospel Narrator	Gospel Solo	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomers
HOLY THURSDAY	Paula Rodrigues			Tony Aloysious	Ann Furlong	Jack Meyer	Carmel Barker	Berna Wake Monique Bruce
Washing of the feet	Melwyn D'Mello	Irene Crowe Patrick Jurd	Deb Poynton Allan Davis	Glenice Laughlin	Kristian Tangso	Olga Lobianco	Robyn Worsnop	Connie Nichols Tony Aloysious
GOOD FRIDAY	Helen Healy	Paula Rodrigues	Melwyn D'Mello	Ann Furlong	Jack Meyer	Marlene Tangso	Peter Wain	Robyn, Vanessa Berna, Monique
EASTER VIGIL	Ann Furlong			Kristian Tangso	Gail McGilivray	Sonia Williams	Carmel Barker	John Bainbridge Tom & Jan Hughes
Gospel Readers	1.Paula Rodrigues 2.Jenny Ford 3.Carmel Barker 4.Kristian Tangso 5.Elizabeth Newington 6.Tony Aloysious 7.Helen Rocks							

This Weekend - March 28 and 29

Prayer Ministry

Our prayer ministers will be available at all masses this weekend to pray with you for your intentions. Fr Michael will announce the prayer ministry after Mass. Please feel free to come forward.

KidzZone

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 this weekend.

FORMED - Triduum: A Spiritual Pilgrimage

Cinematically walk through the locations of the Holy Week story, representing the most important days of human history. Be brought tangibly nearer to the story, the landscape and the reality of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.
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.

Caritas Australia - Project Compassion

In these days of Lent please do continue to remember Project Compassion. Any donation that will assist the work of Caritas is greatly appreciated. **Nicole Drobrohotoff,** one of our parishioners who works for Caritas, will be speaking this weekend about how your donations help here and around the world. 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

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - EASTER SUNDAY - 5TH APRIL 2026

5 April 2026	Easter Sunday (Year A) Acts 10: 34, 37-43 Colossians 3: 1-4 John 20: 1-9						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6.30pm (A) VIGIL	See	Triduum	roster	See	Triduum	roster	above
8.00am (M)	Tony Aloysious	Chris McAleer	Jack Meyer	Marlene Tangso	Joan Healy	Jack Meyer	volunteer
9.30am (A)	Ann Furlong	Joanne Partleton	Anthony Barnhoorn	Martin Newington	volunteer	Lex Miller	Rosemary Miller
11.00am (M)	Melwyn D'Mello	volunteer	volunteer	volunteer	volunteer	volunteer	Volunteer
Counters	Group 2	Helen & Kelvin Rocks	Mary Nayna				

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Ken Bramich, Pat Direen, Kathleen Crowe, Paul Camerino, Kevin Laws, Anna Iacono, George Clark, Peter Dennis, Ponamma Thomas, ChrisBainbridge, Kevin Michael Ryan, Chris Rafter, John Robert Payne, Dorothy Torney, Margaret Malone, Aime Zara, Angela D'Amelio, Hazel Sweeney, Guiseppe Aparo, Alice Madden, Francis Colin Butler, Denis Castenetto, Patrick Madden, Denis Govinder, Alycia O'Keefe, Michael Van Staveren, Margaret (Peggie) Pashley, Lina D'Avola, Erwin Roschutz, Gesualdo (Gerry) Inguanti , Jesus Manahan, Baltazar Caday, Sr. Nicole Petersen, Gwain Walker, Janina Drozdz, Damian West, Kingsley Anthonisz (Snr), Dianne Marchant, Sr Justine Power, Christopher Lee Eng Chye, Sydney Haag, Lance Forkgen.

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

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, Fr Michael can visit you when available, for a conversation or to arrange support if needed. 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.

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

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

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 Fri after 11.30am Mass
St Louis'Sat 5.30pm before 6pm 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