St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong
Deacon: George Piech-Meat

Solemnity of All Saints 1 November 2026

Readings for Year A Apocalypse 7: 2-4, 9-14 1 John 3: 1-3 Matthew 5: 1-12



"How happy are the poor in spirit"

The Beatitudes comprise one of the most familiar and most beloved texts of the Gospel. For Matthew they act as the foundation of Jesus' mission. For Jesus, they offer a twofold message. First, they announce a present blessing. The poor in spirit – those who mourn, those who are merciful, etc – are already blessed. God has indeed favoured them. Second, the Beatitudes place a future challenge before the followers of Jesus.

The world certainly needs superheroes endowed with the spirit of the Beatitudes. It seems like we are always in need of a superhuman force to undo the failings of humanity: War, poverty, greed, indiscriminate bombing of cities and citizens – so many hurts created by human hands. But the beauty and terror of the human condition is that we are capable of both great destruction and great restoration.

The saints, whose lives we celebrate today, often lived and served their communities by lifting up those who are called "blessed" in today's Beatitudes message. We too are called to emulate these holy men and women.

What is there in our times that needs restoration in the spirit of the Beatitudes?

Chris Comas
Parishioner

News and Announcements

THIS WEEKEND (31st October & 1st November)

Mass of Remembrance for the Faithful Departed this year

Please join us as we remember and pray for all those who have passed away this year. You can honour and remember your loved ones by lighting a candle at the end of Mass. Our Remembrance Book will also be on display.

Welcome to the children receiving their First Holy Communion



Our First Communicants, along with their families and leaders will be attending our 9.30am mass at St Louis this weekend to receive their First Holy Communion.
Congratulations to **Casey and Lachlan** on their special day.
We pray that their journey may continue as they grow in their relationship with Jesus.
Please welcome the children and their families.

Fr Michael's upcoming time away

Please note that Fr Michael will be away from 2nd to 27th November for his annual leave, which will include participation in an AI Forum in Rome.
During this period, weekday Masses from Monday to Thursday will be replaced by a Holy Communion service, but the Friday Masses will take place with a visiting priest.
Our weekend Masses will continue as usual with visiting priests.

Please note

There will be a Communion Service on Monday 2 November for All Souls Day, but no Communion Service on Tuesday 3 November (Melbourne Cup Day public holiday)

Parish Office Update – Baptism and Funeral Enquiries

As our parish office is currently without administrative staff, responses to parish enquiries and requests may take longer than usual. We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding while we work towards appointing a new parish administrator.
In the meantime, please refer to the following contacts for enquiries regarding baptisms and funerals.

Funeral Church Bookings

For enquiries about using our churches for funeral services, including arranging a suitable date and time, please contact the relevant sacristan:

- St Brigid's Church, Mordialloc: Glenice — glenicelaughlin@gmail.com
- St Louis de Montfort's Church, Aspendale: Susan — susandornom@gmail.com

Baptism Enquiries

For all enquiries regarding the Sacrament of Baptism, please contact our Baptism Coordinator, Deb, at debannp64@gmail.com.
For all other parish enquiries, please email the parish office. Fr Michael will respond as soon as practicable.
Thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation during this transition.

Purchase a Caritas Australia Global Gift this Christmas

With Caritas Australia's Global Gifts, you can give a meaningful Christmas card that helps create lasting change for vulnerable communities around the world. Whether you're shopping for family, friends or colleagues, you'll find a gift that continues to make a real difference long after Christmas Day. Each Global Gift card you buy helps make the world a little better every day. Your gift can change lives by putting food on a family's table or helping a young girl stay in school. Give a gift this Christmas that reflects the true spirit of giving and makes a lasting impact.
Browse the full range of Global Gifts via the QR code or:
https://www.caritas.org.au/global-gifts

Australian Catholic summer edition now available

There are some interesting articles on the Digital Age and navigating AI.
Please take a copy home to read, but bring it back for others to read once you have finished as there are limited copies.

News and Announcements

Month of the Soul



Throughout the month of November, the Church invites the faithful to pray in a special way for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. On November 2, the Church commemorates all the faithful departed: those who have died in God's grace and friendship, but are still being purified so that they may enter the joy of heaven.
St. Paul encourages us not to be uninformed about those who have fallen asleep, "that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope... For the Lord himself will descend from heaven... and the dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16).
Our prayers, Masses, almsgiving, and acts of penance offered for the departed are a true act of charity.

November Mass offering envelopes

November is the Month of the Holy Souls, a special time for us to remember and pray for our deceased family members, relatives and friends.Mass offering envelopes are available in the foyer of each church throughout November. If you would like to offer a Mass for your loved ones, please complete an envelope with your Mass intention and place it in either collection.
All intentions received will be gathered together, and after the end of November, Fr Michael will offer one Mass each day for the intentions submitted, remembering our deceased loved ones in prayer.
Thank you for your generosity and for keeping the faithful departed in your prayers.

2026 Advent Small Groups.

Please sign up for one of our Advent groups at the Welcome Desk. There are 6 options - day, night and also on Zoom. Pick your group and your leader will contact you. The groups look forward to the upcoming Sunday's Gospel, so the groups will begin meeting on the week starting 23 November, before the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Knights of the Southern Cross – Melbourne Cup Fundraiser - last chance this weekend

The Knights of the Southern Cross are raising funds for the Year 6 Graduation Awards, supporting students from our parish primary schools as they continue their Catholic education in secondary school.
Melbourne Cup raffle tickets will be available after Masses until 1st November, at $2 per ticket.
Your generous support is greatly appreciated and will help provide these awards to our students.

Pray for all our Year 12 students

Please pray for all our Year 12 students who have started their exams this week. May the Holy Spirit help them to have clear minds and guide them to express their knowledge and help them in their anxieties. We bless their families, teachers and friends who have supported them on their journey.

Faith in Action: An election guide from the Bishops of Victoria

Ahead of the 2026 Victorian election, the Bishops of Victoria have issued an election statement highlighting key issues for Catholics to consider when deciding their vote. You are invited to read the statement and prayerfully discern how your vote can contribute to the common good. There are some printed copies available in the foyer or view the statement online at: **bit.ly/StateElection2026.**

Aid to the Church in Need - ACN

Looking for flexible work and a chance to support persecuted Christians?
ACN Australia is seeking a Diocesan Outreach Assistant to give short presentations at weekend Masses across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. This part-time role involves sharing stories of the suffering Church and helping build prayerful support within parish communities.
If you are comfortable speaking in front of others and have a heart for this mission, we would love to hear from you. For details: **www.aidtochurch.org/work**



formed
Forming Catholics for Life

The Story of Death - Eternal Rest - Episode 1
Where did death come from? What does death mean for the human person? Is it simly just part of life, or is it something else? In this first session, we discuss the story of death and God's response to it: defeating death by dying and rising from the dead.

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.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 8 NOV 26

7/8 Nov 26	32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Apocalypse 7: 2-4, 9-14 1 John 3: 1-3 Matthew 25: 1-13						CUPPA
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Volunteer	Marie Seddon	Adrienne Kennedy	Carmel Barker	Sonia Williams	Julie Buick	Bernie Stuart
8.00am (M)	Celine George	Paula Rodrigues	Chris McAleer	Carole Guthrie	Jack Meyer	Tony Aloysious	Josie Johnson
9.30am (A)	Maureen Wraight	Irene Crowe	Martin Newington	Ron Schneider-Loos	Mary Nayna	Volunteer	Aida Adriano
11.00am (M)	Adam Whatmore	Melwyn D'Mello	Peter Wain	Gail Bell	Louise Breslin	Vanessa Fernandes	Volunteer
Counters	Group 1	Gary & Joanne Partleton	Ron Soares				

Recently deceased: John Richard Alford

Anniversaries: Salvatore Finocchiaro, Tess Rankin, Marie Temple, Errol Porter, Hazel Agnes Jellis, Louise Cotegah, Brenda Dorothy Payne, John Cincotta, Elizabeth Pigeot, Mary Foster, Didier Lubin, John Wallace, Christian John Kalis, Michael James Healy (snr), Michael Popley, Frank Chatelier, Mary Popley, Irene Ryan, Rose Tueta, Daniel Abbot, Milena Fabris, Lindsay Lebler, Vincent Alfonso, Peter Quinn, Alicia Kay, Michelle Barclay, Roger Lodoiska, Albert Tueta, Luna Tueta, Sr Elizabeth Lyons, Teresa (Tess) Bell, Miriam Moloney, Chuck Spencer, Terence Gallagher, Lisette Silarsah, Barbra Hunam, Bill Halloran, Anthony Roberts, Joseph (Joe) Barnhoorn, Margot Davey, Ken Gibb, Florencio Marquez, Ryan Robertson, John Cuskelly, John Miranda, Molly Carr, Antonio Favaloro, Cecila Smith, Trevor (Canute) Jansz, Jessie Summerton, Vanda Smout, Jack Reidy, Patrick O'Neill, Kevin Osborne, Estelita Lacson-Hortaleza, Sebastian Vaz, Serge Nayna, Willie Fitzgerald, Wilfred Hall, Mary Philomena Parker, Fr Carmine Tricarico, Jo Buxton, Rita Mansfield, Elizabeth Pidoto, Susamma Oommen, Maria Zigami

Praying for healing and the sick: Maureen McKeown, Jan Mitula, Steve Osboldstone, Maree Wiltshire, Sammy Dahalid, Kathie Martin, Mim Rodollico, Michael Albert, Fr Terry Keane, Luis, Julie Griffiths, Sophia Bicos Rita Popley, Steve Govac, Chris Wardle, Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Vasilos Garavelis, , Mary Agiropoulos, Prunella Julien, Maree Wesols, Peter Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Noleen Dunn,Brilliant boys, John Catalano, Damian Haggerty, Alasdair Hughes, 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: TBA
mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

Pastoral care
If you would like a pastoral visit, we have volunteers 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.

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' Tue 9.15am
St Brigid's Wed 10am
St Louis' Thur 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

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
Deacon George 9580 7981
Trish 0421 604 849
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Robyn 0412 814 592