



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time 25 October 2026

Readings for Year A Exodus 22: 20-26 1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10 Matthew 22: 34-40

"The Greatest Commandment"

In Matthew's Gospel today the question of the chief commandment of the law, comes as another hostile attempt to put Jesus to the test. The Sadducees had been silenced by Jesus, so a Pharisee, in this instance a lawyer, puts the question to him.

Faced with the question concerning the greatest commandment of the law, Jesus brings together two commandments already found in the scriptures of Israel, and sails through the 'trick' question put to him. The command to love God with all one's heart and soul and mind comes from Deuteronomy. It was a command every Israelite was to recite each morning on rising.

The second command to 'love one's neighbour as oneself', occurs in Leviticus. To love God with all one's heart and soul and mind is to love whom God loves, especially the vulnerable and the poor.

Who is one's neighbour? And what does it mean to love one's neighbour as oneself? Primarily it would be putting oneself in your neighbour's shoes, and asking how would I like to be treated in their situation. In other words, take the trouble to find out what their desires might be. If we can do this, we will in fact love as Jesus loved.

Michael Barker
Parishioner



News and Announcements

Pray for Pope Leo XIV

The Pope recently underwent surgery for lung cancer at Gemelli Hospital and is expected to stay there for a week. There has been a great outpouring of love from around the world.

We pray for his continued swift recovery as he has already returned to his duties in good health. May the Holy Spirit watch over the Holy Father at this time.

We welcome our Primary School children from Years 1 & 2 to St Brigid's this weekend at 11am and from Year 2 to St Louis for their Family Masses at 6pm and 9.30am.

Enjoy the music, participation and joy of the children.

Please welcome them to our parish mass and stay and have a chat and a cuppa.

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 **Lenny, Lyla, Natalie and Mateo** 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 and stay and have a chat and a cuppa.



NEXT 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 will have the opportunity to light a candle for someone who has died at the end of Mass. Our Remembrance Book will also be on display.

Please fill out a form that you will find in the foyer and place in the box so that their name can be added to the book.

Knights of the Southern Cross – Melbourne Cup Fundraiser

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.

Scripture and Friendship Group Tuesday 27 October

Our Parish Scripture & Friendship group is on this coming Tuesday 27 October at Ann's home, 47 Gothic Road Aspendale. We begin at 10am and will finish at about 11am for a cuppa.

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

Farewell to our Parish Coordinator Ann Fitzgerald

After 10 wonderful years of dedicated service in the parish office, Ann Fitzgerald has made the difficult decision to move on from her role at SMOTC. Ann has truly loved her position and, over the years has formed many beautiful friendships and special connections within our parish community. This decision was not an easy one for her, and she will be greatly missed by everyone who has had the pleasure of knowing and working with her. The front office simply won't be the same without her warm presence, friendly smile, and dedication to our parish.

From the entire SMOTC community, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Ann for her care and commitment.

World Teacher's Day Friday 30 October



On Friday 30 October we are inviting everyone to Shine a light on Australia's teachers who inspire, support, and empower our children and young people every single day.

From lightbulb moments to helping someone find their way, teachers make a difference in ways big and small. This World Teachers' Day, we're putting that impact in the spotlight.

By celebrating our teachers and showing your appreciation, we can help create a supportive and encouraging environment that allows them to thrive and continue making a positive impact on the minds and futures of our children and young people.

We pray for our teachers at St Louis' and St Brigid's that the Holy Spirit may continue to guide them on their journey of educating our children.

News and Announcements

Month of the Rosary



October is dedicated in the Catholic Church as the Month of the Most Holy Rosary, with October 7 celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary earlier in the week. Pope Leo has urged Catholics worldwide to pray the daily Rosary throughout October, to seek the Virgin Mary's intercession for an end to global conflicts and for world peace. Pope Leo emphasised that the millions of "Hail Marys" offered globally must be accompanied by good deeds, love, and daily acts of reconciliation.

Parish Pilgrimage at 9am on Saturday 31st October

Join us as we culminate the Month of the Rosary with a peaceful morning at **Our Lady of La Vang Shrine, 225 Hutton Road, Keysborough VIC 3225.**

We will begin with the Rosary followed by Holy Mass, celebrated by Fr. Michael.

Please feel free to bring a small plate to share for morning tea after mass. We look forward to praying, meditating and growing together with each of you.

Please register using the QR code or sign up on the sheets at the welcome Desk and let us know if you need help with transport. For more information call 0456 000 317



Mass Intentions in Rome

In the first week of November, Fr Michael will be visiting Rome to attend an AI Forum.

During his visit, he will offer a Mass at the Basilica of St Mary Major for your special prayer intentions.

If you have a prayer intention you would like Fr Michael to offer, please write it down and hand it to sacristans at either church.

All intentions will be collected and taken to Rome when Fr Michael departs on 1st November.

Thank you, and please keep Fr Michael in your prayers during his time away.

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

National Water Week 19 to 25 October

National Water Week makes a splash across Australia each year by inspiring communities and organisations to work together on water issues and future fixes.

National Water Week reminds everyone that water must be used wisely – and celebrates water innovation and achievements supporting Australia's sustainable future.

Highly recommended is a new visionary documentary **"How to Live on Earth"** presented by Benedict Cumberbatch that addresses the environmental challenges we face and our connection to nature.

It is now available to view on uTube - [How to Live on Earth](#)

Refugee family looking for work

Do you have any work for a local refugee family living in Bonbeach and being supported by BASP.

The husband and wife are career professionals but are unable to practice in this country.

They will take any kind of work to support their family - cleaning, gardening, maintenance etc.

Please contact John Meyer if you can help 0418 597 750.



What Catholics believe about Halloween - All Saints, All Souls

Is Halloween a pagan holiday or is it deeply Christian? The Catholic roots of Halloween are explained and also its connection to All Saints and All Souls Day, and how Catholics can celebrate faithfully. Learn why Halloween is a time to reflect on death, rejoice in Christ's victory over sin, and pray for the communion of saints - on earth and in heaven.

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 - 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 31 OCT/1 NOV 26

31 Oct/1 Nov 26	31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Readings (Year A) Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14 1 John 3: 1-3 Matthew 5: 1-12							
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Prayer Ministers
6pm (A)	Julie Buick	Joanne Partleton	Sonia Williams	Anthony Barnhoorn	Michael Barker	Jan Hughes	Tom Hughes	Carmel Barker Ann Brennan
8.00am (M)	Angela Meo	Tony Aloysious	Joan Healy	Chris McAleer	Carole Guthrie	Wence Rodrigues	Paula Rodrigues	Connie Nichols Jack Meyer
9.30am (A)	Phillip Morris	Brenda O'Leary	Felice Cortese	Elizabeth Newington	Martin Newington	Maureen Wraight	Anne Marsh	Jon Searle Felice Cortese
11.00am (M)	Peter Hannan	Jennifer Rodrigues	Gail Bell	Christine D'Cruze	Philippa Pecora	Robyn Worsnop	Volunteer	Nicky Winters Ellen Young
Counters	Group 2	Mary Nayna						

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Severino Lacson, Benny Pereira, Ron Hinksman, Jacob Jayabalan, Linda Peralta, Fr Tony Guelen, Vincenzo Renzella, Norah Beer, Dominic Fernandes, Grace Fernandes, John Ryan, Susannah Beeby Sinclair, Wendy Murren, George Kampf, Joe Pecora, Elsie Eddington, Babuji P.Y., Fermina Praddads Quilala, Mary Lamb, Julie Van de Garde, Lynette Gedling, Jack Eddington, Norina Castenetto, Stephen Eley, Yvonne Schneider-Loos, Elizabeth Ryan, Kenneth Balm, Bill Mellan, Derek Fernandez, Angela Angelone, Kevin Fernandez, Marie Cassidy, Lyell Renton, Glenda De Palo, Marie Elda Silarsah, Kathleen Cleary, Damien Jackson, Andy McManus, Maria Zagami, Irene Wilson, Joyce Newcombe.

Praying for healing and the sick: Maureen McKeown, Jan Mitula, Steve Osboldstone, Maree Wiltshire, Sammy Dahalid, Kathie Martin, Mim Rodolico, Michael Albert, Fr Terry Keane, Luis, Julie Griffiths, Rita Popley, Steve Govac, Chris Wardle, Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Vasilos Garavelis, Sophia Bicos, 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



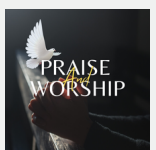
Children's Liturgy

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

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](http://catholicmassstmaryofthecross.com.au)

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND HOLY ROSARY

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

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 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

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.