



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Jekot, Assistant Priest: Fr Huy Nguyen,
Deacon: George Piech-Meat

Second Sunday of Advent 7 December 2025

Readings for Year A Isaiah 11: 1-10 Romans 15: 4-9 Matthew 3: 1-12

*"Prepare a way
for the Lord"*

The Gospel, Matthew 3:1-12, presents us with the appearance and preaching of John the Baptist. John's message, 'Prepare a way for the Lord', virtually states the theme of the entire season of Advent.

Every year, as we celebrate the Nativity, we celebrate once again the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person.

Pope Leo implores us to remember that we are called to help manifest the kingdom of God through prayer, word and action and bring it to others, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalised. If we are to accept this reality and live it out, we need to remind ourselves this Advent to prepare the way for the Lord to be present in and through us every day of our lives.

Jodie Marziano
St Brigid's Deputy Principal
RE Leader and Learning and Teaching Leader



News and Announcements

Farewell & Thank You



Fr Andrew & Fr Huy will be leaving our parish to take up new appointments on 12 January, 2026. You have both been a blessing to us all in so many ways. Your friendship, teachings, and guidance will always be held close to our hearts. May God continue to bless you both.

If you would like to contribute a personal gift for Fr Andrew and Fr Huy please place in the envelopes & leave in the box on the Welcome Desk.

Please join us for a farewell afternoon tea for Fr Andrew and Fr Huy on Saturday 10 January from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at St Brigid's Primary School Hall.

Nicene Creed

On the first Sunday of each month, we recite the Nicene Creed which recently celebrated it's 1700-year anniversary. If you would like to know more about the history of the Nicene Creed, here is a summary from the Sandhurst Diocese:

<https://cam-parishwebfiles-public.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/0012w00000LOj67AAD%2FNicene-CREED-I-Believe-Final-2272.pdf>

St Mary of the Cross Prayer Group

Our final Holy Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration is this weekend at 4.30pm on Saturday 6 December at St Louis' Church. Our final Adoration for the year will be on **Monday night 8 December at 7.30pm at St Louis' church.** We will resume our meetings in February 2026.



Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family

**Giselle Ruby, Ayvah Maree Everleigh,
Josephine Fiona Imelda, Gianna Marie.**

God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take, he guides you on your way.

St Brigid's Gardening Group

We want the garden to look it's best for Christmas so on **Monday 8 December** we will be doing a general tidy up. Please join us from **8.30am** for a couple of hours finishing with morning tea.



Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to Patrick Larkin and Millie Champion (former St Brigid's Primary School students) who are to be married this weekend at St Augustine's church in Melbourne. May the Lord bless you with a long and happy life together.

Advent Prepare the Way How to Advent on Formed

In **How to Advent**, you will discover the rich traditions that mark this season and how they aid us in preparing our hearts for the birth of the child Jesus at Christmas.

Guided by priests, religious, professors, and a charismatic host, you will gain practical tips and spiritual reflection on the practices of the Advent calendar, Advent wreath, Jesse tree, and nativity scene. To access the short 12-15 minute weekly videos at Formed. If you are already a subscriber go to <https://app.formed.org/app/collections/1452578>. If you are yet to subscribe to our parish subscription (free of charge to you) go to formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Christmas Choir practice Tuesday nights from 7.30pm at St Louis' Church

Choir practice has started for all of our Christmas masses. All singers and musicians are welcome. Contact Trish for more information 0421 604 849.

Masses of Anointing

Tuesday 16 December 9.15am at St Louis' and Wednesday 17 December 10am at St Brigid's. Anointing will be offered at both of these weekday Masses.

First Rite of Reconciliation

Wednesday 17 December at 7pm at both St Louis' and St Brigid's.

Chelsea & District Inter-church Council Christmas Carols



Ecumenical Service
Sunday 14 December
4.00 - 5.30pm

LF Payne Hall, Station St Chelsea.
All Welcome.



Come and experience hope, joy and a warm welcome as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We encourage all to invite family and friends to join us at one of our Christmas services.

Christmas Eve 24th December (Wednesday)

St Louis' School Grounds

Christmas Eve Mass 6pm

Christmas Carols start from 5.30pm

Outdoor Mass

Bring camp chairs/rugs

**St Louis' Church Christmas Eve Mass
8.30pm**

Christmas Carols start from 8pm

St Brigid's Church Midnight Mass - 12am

Christmas Carols start from 11.30pm



Christmas Day

25th December (Thursday)

St Louis' Church 8.30am

St Brigid's Church 10.30am

New Years Day

1st January (Thursday)

St Louis' Church 10am

Christmas Serve Ministers Roster

We aim to create a joyous welcome for all. If you can assist as a reader/commentator, welcomer or special minister during the Christmas services, please sign-up at the Welcome Desk.

Justice Action Group

**16 Days of Prayer against gender-based violence
23 Nov to 10 Dec 2025**

A faith-based communications campaign to build a faithful church response to gender-based violence. In conjunction with ACRATH, The Anglican Church of Australia and Respect Victoria this campaign aims to highlight the plight of victims of domestic violence. We want to help build communities where women are safe and equal. It all starts with respect. Our own Parish has been working hard to bring this issue to our attention, with a forum earlier in the year as well as a recent Bystander Training session. See our Facebook Page for daily posts.

m.stmaryofthecross.com/facebook

**JAG Christmas Breakup
Wednesday 10 December**

All JAG members are invited to join our Christmas breakup at the St Louis' Tennis Club from 6.30 - 8.00pm. Please let Helen know if you are coming at: **helenrocks@yahoo.com.au**

Vinnies

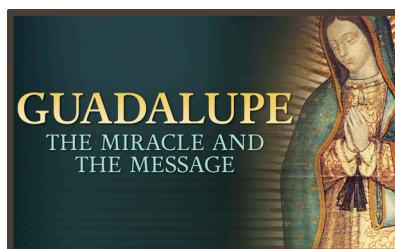
Christmas Trees are now up in our Churches.

You are invited to place donations of non-perishable food items suitable for Christmas hampers under the tree. You can pick up a list of suggested items from the Church Foyer. *Vouchers and Cash Donations are also welcome.* Our two St Vincent de Paul conferences will use these donations to make up hampers to distribute to needy families in this area. Conferences like to deliver the hampers early so it would be helpful if donations arrived by **Sunday 14th December.** *Anyone needing assistance from St Vincent de Paul in this difficult time can call: 1800 305 330.*

Calendars & Christmas Cards:

2026 Columban Calendars and St Vincent de Paul Christmas Cards are now available from the Piety stalls after all weekend Masses. 2026 Columban Calendars are \$10 each & Christmas Cards are \$3.50 per pack (5 cards in a pack).

This week on Formed



Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit **formed.org/signup** and select our parish.

formed™

Enjoy this film that walks us through our Mother's miraculous appearance to Juan Diego, an encounter that has influenced the conversion of millions.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 14 DECEMBER 2025

13/14 Dec 2025	3rd Sunday of Advent Readings (Yr A) Isaiah 35: 1-6, 10 James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2 CUPPA WEEKEND						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Bernie Stuart	Michael Barker	Carmel Barker	Julius Lau	Marg De Vries	Ann Brennan	Julie Buick
8.00am (M)	Jane Standish	Paula Rodrigues	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Chris McAleer	Stephen Pooley	Jack Guthrie	Carole Guthrie
9.30am (A)	Maureen Wraight	Brenda O'Leary	Ron Schneider-Loos	Felice Cortese	Ann Furlong	Gail Ryan	Rosemary Miller
11.00am (M)	Volunteer	Melwyn D'Mello	Volunteer	Philippa Pecora	Peter Hannan	Robyn Worsnop	Helen Rocks
Counters	Group 1	Gary & Joanne Partleton	Ron Soares				

Recently deceased: Father Michael Leonard Shadbolt PE.

Anniversaries: Conor Hughes, Rita O'Brien, Bonnie Wilkinson, Fr Pat Laws, Angelo Cortese, Peter Youl, William Fitzgerald, Tony Bova, Marino Lacson, Jose Carlos Ibanez, Thomas Mathai, Frank Logan, Fr Jim English, Florence O'Donnell, Guiseppe Miano, Edward Dziadek, Jane Morillion, Marjorie Ryan, Gloria Caleo, Rendel Roberts, Tony Labonté, Eugene Bowles, Tony McNicholas, Gladys Craig, Carmenu Dimech, Peter Soulsby, Merie Jaspers, Lawrence Keil, Tess Lanigan, Rosario Messina, Mary Morris, John Beable, Frank Pierera, Maria Teresa Costanzo, Peter Toner Snr, Sr Dorothy Renton, Warren Ithier, Ian Ryan, Adrian Jones, Rita O'Farrell.

Praying for healing and the sick: Deborah Joseph, Carmelo Nasello, Stephen Hopkins, Mary Farren, Harry Donohue, Ann Muir, Lina DiGiovine, Alex Bennett, John Davis, Chris Doran, Chris Wardle, John Nicholson, Peter Waltho, Janice Gillette, Michelle Parker, Greg Hayes, Sue Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Alasdair Hughes, Sophia Bicos, Fr Terry Kean, Kees Meyer, Andrea Williams, Brian Smith, Michelle Burne, Rosemary Hall, Michelle Ives, Graham Owen, Norreen Spies, Craige Ross, Virginia O'Toole.

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:

m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Louis Mon 9.15am Communion Service, St Louis Tuesday 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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St Louis Monday's 7.30 - 8.30pm

RECONCILIATION

St Brigid's Friday's 12pm
St Louis Saturday's 5.30pm

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr Andrew, Fr Huy, Trish Angliss, Berna Wake

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 Andrew Jekot 03 9580 7981
Fr Huy Nguyen 03 9580 7981
Trish 0421 604 849
Louise 0415 963 799
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Denise 0412 926 752

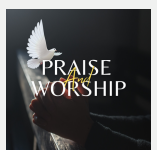
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



Children's Liturgy
5 - 12-year-olds.
4th weekend of the month. All masses except 8am.



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.