



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

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time 17 August 2025

Readings for Year C Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10 Hebrews 12: 1-4 Luke 12: 49-53

"I have come to bring fire to the earth"

To ancient Jews, fire symbolised the unapproachable purity of God. The Book of Exodus describes the billowing of smoke as God descended to Mt Sinai. No one dared approach for fear of being vaporised in its consuming heat. Yet the search for holiness held an irresistible attraction. Remember also in the scriptures when God spoke to Moses through the burning bush that actually wasn't burnt. Moses was reminded that he was standing on holy ground, an acknowledgement of his own holiness. This beautiful imagery offered to us through our scriptures reminds us that like Moses' theophany of the bush burning yet not being consumed, that we too are invited to burn with God's holy presence and remain unharmed, for God does not desire to destroy but to draw us closer. This experience of burning with God's presence is only intolerable to those who resist this invitation.

Maybe in this context when we read that line of the gospel whereby Jesus says "I have come to bring fire and I wish it were blazing already" isn't meant to terrify and drum the fear of God into the people. Jesus came to save – not to destroy. Here we hear of a vision that God has for his world to have his love, his way of life spreading like wildfire across the earth. A fire that only has positive effects including the way fires spread due to the wind that carries them. It is the Holy Spirit that is the wind or momentum that can take the wildfire of God's love across many terrains and hearts.

Fr Andrew Jekot
Parish Priest



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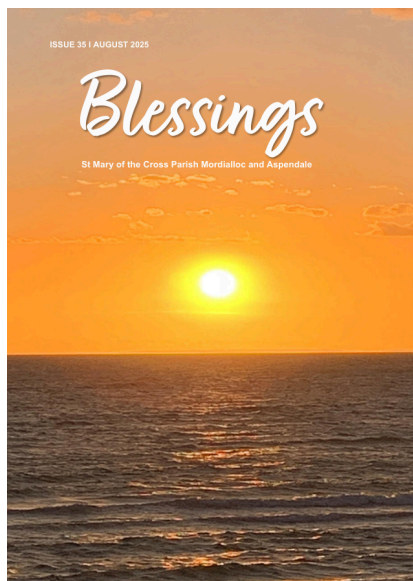


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News and Announcements



Blessings Parish Magazine

Stories of our community available this weekend.

- Volunteering at BASP.
- Personal encounter with the Glowrey legacy.
- Pentecost and Confirmation Celebrations.
- Welcoming the Arnaout family and much more.

Clergy Conference

Please note that all weekday masses this week will be replaced by **Communion Services** as both Fr Andrew and Fr Huy are away at a Clergy Conference.

Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family the following children :

Charlie David, Cooper Jay, Charli Winter, Freddie Jay

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



90th

Happy Birthday

to Brenda Sinhidge who turned 90 last week. May God continue to bless you with his love and grant you good health for many more years to come



Year 1 Level Masses

We welcome and pray for the Year 1 St Louis' children, accompanied by their parents, who are attending our masses at St Louis this weekend. May the Holy Spirit watch over them on their educational and spiritual journey. Please join them after mass for a cuppa and cake served by the parents



The Archbishop's Campaign August 2025

The 2025 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Donations can be made via the QR code, via the campaign

campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends.

Men's Fellowship

Our Men's Fellowship group will gather on **Thursday 21 August** at 7.30pm at St. Louis Church. Come along into this safe space to talk about faith and enjoy some new friendships. New members are very welcome.

St Brigid's Gardening Group

Our next get together is on **Monday 18th August from 10.30am**. A change of routine from our usual 8.30am start. Usual tidy up and some pruning to do. All are welcome.

Longbeach Luncheon 20 August

All parishioners are invited to join us for a lunch amongst parishioners and friends. The August luncheon will be on **20 August from 12:30 to 2:30** at the Riviera Hotel Nepean Highway Seaford. If you need a lift just contact Keith or Pat (see below). For Bookings contact Pat on 0448-866-020 or Keith on 0417-350-733. Alternatively leave a message on 9772-7292.



formed™
Forming Catholics for *Life*.

The Queen Mother | Lectio: Mary | Episode 4

Mary serves as our Queen Mother. What does that mean? Join Dr. Brant Pitre as he explores the scriptural roots of this title.

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



News and Announcements

Nappy Drive

During August, JAG is collecting disposable nappies for families living in difficult situations; families escaping domestic violence, asylum seekers and families facing housing and food insecurity. At present there is a huge demand for nappy sizes for children aged six months to five years (sizes 2,3,4,5,6 and larger). Opened or unopened packs will be gratefully accepted. Boxes for donations will be in the church foyers over the next three weeks. Any queries contact Maree 0407376505.

Cuppa and Name Tag Sunday - Next Weekend

Please pick up your name tag on the way into mass next weekend. Parishioners are invited to drop off the name tags in the box on the way out after mass. This small gesture helps us to get to know each other better and strengthens the bonds within our Parish family. As it is cuppa weekend next weekend please feel free to bring a plate to share.

Kidz Zone - Next Weekend

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 all masses next weekend (23/24 August) except 8am.

Laudato si: 2000 years in the making

2025 is the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato si* - 'care for our common home'. Come along to **St Louis' Church on Thursday 28 August from 7.00 to 8.30pm** to learn, discuss and reflect upon the richness of this encyclical. Presented by Patrick Jurd.

CARITAS Gaza Emergency Appeal

Caritas Australia, the official international aid and development agency of the Catholic Church, is working tirelessly with its overseas partners to provide urgent assistance to people displaced and affected by the war in Gaza. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues to deteriorate at an alarming rate, with severe shortages of food, water, and shelter. Caritas Jerusalem and Catholic Relief Services can continue providing aid and support to people in Gaza and the West Bank, despite restrictions. Please consider financially supporting the people of Gaza through Caritas via this link:

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/>

Save the Rossdale Green Space

Rossdale Golf Club seeks to rezone its golf course from "Special-Use" to "Residential" and potentially sell to developers who plan to build 700 to 1,000 medium to high-density dwellings. The impact of this change is enormous for residents. Join local residents fighting to protect our community and environment.



Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement 2025-2026



Australia is facing a deepening crisis. Over 273,000 people sought help from homelessness services last year, many also struggling with mental illness. Services are overstretched and many people are left without care, shelter, or hope. Many who are homeless also live with serious mental health challenges. Services are overwhelmed, and too many people are left without the help they desperately need.

This year's Social Justice Statement calls us to follow the example of Jesus, who always noticed, listened to, and cared for those on the edge of society. Just as Jesus healed the blind man Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52), we are called to see and respond to the needs of our sisters and brothers living in hardship.

The statement shares powerful stories of real people.

You can access the Bishops Social Justice Action Statement at:

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/2025/08/06/signs-of-hope-on-the-edge-social-justice-statement-2025-2026/>

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 24 AUGUST 2025

23/24 Aug 25	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C Isaiah 66: 18-21 Hebrews 12: 5-7 Luke 13: 22-30 CUPPA WEEKEND						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Year 3 Reader	Year 3 Reader	Sonia Williams	Michael Barker	Marie Medicott	Berna Wake	Ann Brennan
8.00am (M)	Joan Healy	Frances North	Chris McAleer	John Guthrie	Jack Meyer	Odette Budge	Angela Meo
9.30am (A)	Year 3 Reader	Year 3 Reader	Ron Schneider-Loos	Maureen Wraight	Mary Nayna	Lex Miller	Rosemary Miller
11.00am (M)	Year 3 Reader	Year 3 Reader	Christine D'Cruze	Juan Wilson	Volunteer	Paula Rodrigues	Wence Rodrigues
Counters 4	Bernadette & Geoff Terrell		Susan Dornom				

Recently deceased: Cathy Dimitriou (Grandmother - Baba - of Dianne Wain)

Anniversaries: James Maguire - Domenica Demaio - Josie Macnaughtan - Maria Marinho - Fred Berthun - Doris O'Brien - George Goodier - Peter Barasits - Mary Bibby - Margaret Nelan - Phyllis Laughlin - Jo Wakeham Patrick White - David Lavery - Don Ferguson - Alice Barkley - Paolo Laria - Cecil Rowe - Annie Drenen - Jose De La Luz Amaya - Vera Phillips - Joaquim Rovira Reixach - Christopher Jones - Clare Brennan - Bernadette Munro - Francesco (Frank) Finnocchairo - Jan Smith - Phil Cain - Patricia Sayers - Donald Milne - Lorna Coyne - Margaret Scarrott - Antonia Bautista - Janet White - Robert O'Kane - Elvis Ricky Thurgood - Joseph Ellul - Angelo Stoppa - Margaret Fallon - Joseph Chan - Pat Crowe - Maria Tesoriero John (Jack) Wilkinson - Hector Bibby - Don Sutherland - Br Bill Lebler - Bronislaw Zukowski - Mary Carlon - Marie O'Dea.

Praying for healing and the sick: Chris Doran, Chris Wardle, Ann Muir, John Nicholson, Peter Waltho, Janice Gillette, Michelle Parker, Greg Hayes, Sue Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Alasdair Hughes, Sophia Bicos, Patsy Riordan, Fr Terry Kean, May Warrenner, Andrea Williams, Brian Smith, Michelle Burne, Rosemary Hall, Michelle Ives, Kees Meyer, Graham Owen, Norreen Spies, Nancy Maxfield, Craige Ross, Virginia O'Toole.

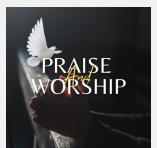
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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.

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

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

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:
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

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 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 9412 8432
Fr Huy Nguyen 03 9412 8432
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