



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5 July 2026

Readings for Year A Zechariah 9: 9-10 Romans 8: 9, 11-13 Matthew 11: 25-30

*"Come to me . . and
I will give you rest"*

Jesus' invitation, "Come to me," is not an escape from reality but an invitation to live differently within it. He promises rest, a light yoke, and peace in a world marked by anxiety, exhaustion, and relentless pressure.

Before offering this rest, Jesus turns to the Father in gratitude. In doing so, He reveals something essential: He alone shows us the Father, and true rest begins with knowing the Father's heart. The mysteries of the Kingdom are not revealed to the self-sufficient or the worldly wise, but to those who are humble, trusting, and receptive.

Many today carry heavy burdens: guilt, fear, broken relationships, loneliness, and the constant pressure to succeed. Our culture urges us to work harder, achieve more, and rely solely on our merits. Yet this often leaves us spiritually and emotionally weary.

Jesus offers another way. His yoke is not another burden to carry alone; it is one shared with Him. Christ does not remove every struggle, but He walks with us through them. His gentleness and humility stand in stark contrast to a world shaped by competition and fear.

This Sunday's first reading from Zechariah foretells a humble King who brings peace, not domination. The second reading from St Paul reminds us that life in the Spirit frees us from the exhausting cycle of self-reliance. Perhaps the question for our time is this: are we exhausted because life is heavy, or because we insist on carrying it alone? Christ still says, "Come to me and learn from me."

A simple daily prayer might be: *Lord, I am weary. Teach me to walk with you and find rest in your love.*

Josie Johnson
Parishioner



News and Announcements

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday Walking: Together in Christ: 40 Years on!

This year we celebrate 40 years since St Pope John Paul II spoke to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in Alice Springs, and we celebrate 50 years of NAIDOC Week.

"You are part of Australia and Australia is part of you. And the Church herself in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others." St John Paul II

The theme, **"Walking Together in Christ: 40 Years On!"**, calls us to continue the journey with humility and hope—listening deeply and walking side by side as one Body in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.



Stations of the Cross Saturday 11 July at 10am at St Louis'

St Louis Primary School has generously allowed us to display their set of Aboriginal Stations of the Cross created by the students and based on the work of John Dunn, an Olkola/Djabaguy man from Far North Queensland. On **Saturday 11 July at 10am** we will hold the Stations of the Cross followed by morning tea at St Louis'. The JAG team are planning on holding an exhibition of the original Stations of the Cross by John Dunn at St Brigid's in August this year to support Social Justice Sunday. Keep an eye on the Bulletin for updates.



JAG Meeting Wednesday 8 July via Zoom

Our JAG vision is to follow Jesus' example to hear and respond to issues of social justice including family violence, human trafficking, refugees and asylum seekers, people experiencing homelessness, First Nations people and the protection of the environment. If you have an interest in these areas, please do join our monthly meeting, which we will conduct online via Zoom this month on **7.30pm on Wednesday 8 July**.

Zoom link: <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89045622488#success>

Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project - Fundraising Raffle

The JAG team are holding a raffle which will be in the church foyers after weekend Masses on 12/19/26 July. There are four prizes. \$ 2 per ticket or 3 tickets for \$5. All money raised will be given to BASP to fund their essential work assisting refugees and people seeking asylum.

Plastic Free July

When many people make small changes, it adds up to a big difference in our communities. Choosing to refuse single-use plastics in July (and beyond!) often leads to discovering great alternatives that can become new habits forever. Please leave your blister packs in our foyers to be taken to be recycled.



Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking of Humans - Melbourne Run Fundraiser Sunday 19 July

The estimated 50 million people currently living in modern slavery globally, INCLUDING 41,000 IN AUSTRALIA, need your support. If you can help support someone in the team or the whole team on the Melbourne Run fundraiser please go to the following link grassrootz.com and follow the prompts. Every dollar raised goes directly to support ACRATH's crucial work: <https://acrath.org.au>.



This week, you are invited to partner with Catholic Mission and the Church in Malawi as we support families rebuilding after devastating floods and help children access education close to home. Through projects like St Peter's Nyamikuta Primary School, the Church is creating a place where children can learn, be nourished, and grow with dignity, regardless of their background or beliefs.

As we celebrate 100 years of World Mission Day, we are reminded by Pope Leo XIV that we are 'One in Christ, United in Mission'.

There will be a third collection this week for Catholic Mission.

To learn more about Catholic Mission and our work, please go to catholicmission.org.au/united

News and Announcements

Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family - **Angus Joseph, Mitchell Francis.**
God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take, he guides you on your way.

Thanksgiving Envelopes

Please pick up your sacrificial offering envelopes from the foyers.
Thank you for your support.

Mass for Marriage Anniversaries Sunday 12 July 2026, 11am St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne



Married couples and their families are cordially invited to join us as at St Pats Cathedral as we celebrate the gift of marriage and family. Couples who register and are celebrating the following anniversaries—5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 or 40 years and above—will receive a commemorative certificate. **Please note you must register by Tuesday 7 July.** Register at www.trybooking.com/DMQDP or scan the QR code.



Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

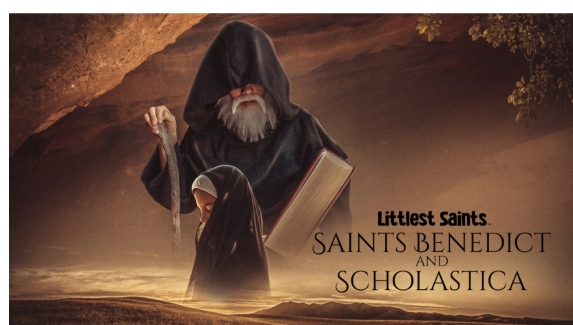
On the evening of 24 June 2026, two major earthquakes, measuring 7.2 and 7.5, struck northern Venezuela within minutes of each other. The impact was felt across the capital, Caracas, and throughout central and coastal regions. Buildings, homes and infrastructure have collapsed and been severely damaged, and there has been widespread disruption to essential services.

Rescue efforts are slow, hampered by damaged infrastructure and limited resources. More than 2,200 people are confirmed dead, with tens of thousands still missing. If you can help please do so at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/venezuela-earthquake/>

Formed - Netflix for Catholics - Featured this month

Maria Goretti: The Story of the Patroness of Modern Youth

Learn more about the holy life and martyrdom of St Maria Goretti in this moving documentary. In particular the film highlights her ultimate act of love: forgiving her murderer on her deathbed.



Great viewing for the school holidays

Sts. Benedict and Scholastica | Littlest Saints

A pair of holy twins, a cave and a group of naughty monks...this is the story of Saint Benedict and Saint Scholastica.

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.



During 2026, the Archdiocese will provide clear details regarding the purpose, process, and how this important journey for the People of God in Melbourne will unfold.

Why participation matters

Participation helps people move from being passive recipients to active disciples. This deepens faith and strengthens mission.

Synodality is not uniformity

Different cultures, communities and parishes will live synodality in different ways. Unity does not require sameness.

Synodality and hope

A synodal Church believes that renewal is possible even in difficult times. Hope is not naive optimism - it is trust in God's faithfulness.

If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod please email: Synod2026@cam.org.au

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 12 JULY 2026

11/12 July 2026	15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Isaiah 55: 10-11 Romans 8: 18-23 Matthew 13: 1-23						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Jennifer Ford	Debra Searle	Volunteer	Gail McGillivray	Susan Dornom	Julie Buick	Blessen Mathai
8.00am (M)	Frances North	Celine George	Chris McAleer	Marlene Tangso	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Tony Aloysious	Josie Johnson
9.30am (A)	Brian Martin	Gen Martin	Martin Newington	Elizabeth Newington	Mary Nayna	Anne Marsh	Volunteer
11.00am (M)	Gail Bell	Jennifer Rodrigues	Helen Rocks	Peter Hannan	Christine D'Cruz	Volunteer	Vanessa Fernandes
Counters	Group 1	Gary & Joanne Partleton	Ronald Soares				

Recently deceased: Wilma Essing (Will E, Parkdale), David Demske- (Michael Barnhoorn's Father-in-law)

Anniversaries: Eileen Hager, Marykuty Eapen, Janice Pickles, Esma Heffernan, Kevin Jennings, Bob Scardoni, Bishop John Jobst SAC, Frank Buttigieg, Minnie Joseph, Eric D'Cruze, Maisie Holbery, Dr Ron Roberts, Esther Toner, Rita Howard, Sarah Jayne McVay, Marshall Gray, Donald Waight, Frances O'Keeffe, Natividad Awa, Mary Frank, Joanne Sharpe, Joseph Bartlett (58/59 Battalion), Moya Glenister, James Holbery, Linda Lourey, Antony Wakelin, Colleen Wilson, Charles Harrison, Catherine Gavan, Natividad Marquez, Fred Marshall, Bernie Noonan, Thomas Chippet, Christina Dunmall, Dorothy Carter, Beryl Lowe, Mary Valastro, Carol Bayard, Jim Lourey, Sam Naicker, Annie Louis, Felix Babasa, Brian Fallon, John Wise.

Praying for healing and the sick: Kathie Martin, Edith Venton, Alex Kalpakoff, Mim Rodolico, Michael Albert, Angela Meo, Fr Terry Keane, Luis, Marisa, Julie Griffiths, Steve Govac, Chris Wardle, Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Rita Popley, Vasilos Garavelis, Mary Agiropoulos, Prunella Julien, Sophia Bicos, Maree Wesols, Peter Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Noleen Dunn, John Catalano, Damian Haggerty, Alasdair Hughes, Andrea Williams, Brilliant boys, Leonard Hamilton.

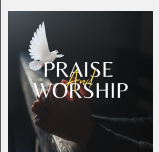
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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, 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' Tues 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 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
Deacon George 9580 7981