



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

Mordialloc and Aspendale | Bunurong Country

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE TO LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, MAKE DISCIPLES

3rd Sunday in Advent - 17 December 2023

Our readings are from Year B: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

PARISH CHURCHES

St Brigid's,
520 Main St, Mordialloc
St Louis de Montfort's,
37 Dolphin St, Aspendale

PARISH PRIEST

Fr Andrew Jekot

ASSISTANT PRIEST

Fr Ignatius Tan

PARISH COORDINATOR

Ann Fitzgerald

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr Andrew, Fr Ignatius, Trish Angliss,
Bernie Wake

BAPTISM COORDINATOR

Deb Poynton - 0403 471 931

PARISH HOUSE

03 9412 8432

PARISH OFFICE

03 9580 7981

Hours: Tue, Wed & Fri 9am - 4pm

PARISH SCHOOLS

St Brigid's, 9580 4518,
sbmord.catholic.edu.au
St Louis de Montfort's, 9580 5169,
stlouisaspendale.catholic.edu.au

EMAIL

mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

WEBSITE

m.stmaryofthecross.com

LIVE-STREAMED MASS

m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass

ONLINE BULLETIN

m.stmaryofthecross.com/news

Simply scan the QR code
with your mobile phone
and in a few easy steps
you can subscribe to
our parish bulletin.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



I don't know about you but on this Gaudete Sunday, we are to focus on joy as we plan for Christmas. Going to Costco the other day was far from joyful! Don't they know that I am a priest on a mission and they should stay clear from me with their oversized trolleys!! Joy can be part of our pre-Christmas experience if we train ourselves to see joy in our everyday life, and not just wait for Christmas because Christmas may not bring the joy that we wait for. Yes, I know, easier said than done.

Pope Francis' encyclical "*Evangelium Gaudium*" The Joy of the Gospel, speaks of that joy that we are to know about. To see it in our everyday life does require training and commitment. He calls us all to be evangelists who see light when there is darkness, hope where there is despair, faith where there is doubt. In paragraph 276 he states: "*However dark things are, goodness always re-emerges and spreads. Each day in our world beauty is born anew, it rises transformed through the storms of history. Values always tend to reappear under new guises, and human beings have arisen time after time from situations that seemed doomed. Such is the power of the resurrection, and all who evangelize are instruments of that power.*"

Finding joy in our work for peace and justice may not come easily. At times, we may wonder whether our "*crying out in the desert*" will ever yield the world we seek. As in religions rooted in mindfulness, seeking joy in each action is a practice, and the more we practise it, the easier it becomes. As it does, we are continually grounded in joy, which makes us more effective preparers of the way of the Lord.

In this last week before Christmas when joy might be out of your reach, maybe stop, and pull yourself up, and see the joy that is there in the present moment. It is there.

Shalom/Peace
Fr. Andrew

PARISH NEWS AND OTHER EVENTS

Baptism this week!

WE WELCOME INTO OUR PARISH FAMILY:

Mackenzie Rosalie

God has you in His hands on this special day. With every little step you take, He guides you on your way.

SMOTC CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE

Christmas Choir Practice is on **every Tuesday evening from 7:30pm at St Louis' Church**. This is for the Christmas Eve 8:30pm Mass at St Louis' and the Midnight Mass at St Brigids. Please contact Trish Angliss on 0421 604 849 for further details.

BLESSINGS MAGAZINE



The December edition of our Blessings magazine is available this weekend in our church foyers and online at our parish website. Catch up on all the wonderful things that have been happening in our vibrant parish.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

There will be a **special collection at all our Christmas Masses** to support the work of our local St Vincent de Paul Conferences. *Anyone needing assistance in this difficult time can call: 1800 305 330*



SECOND RITE OF RECONCILIATION

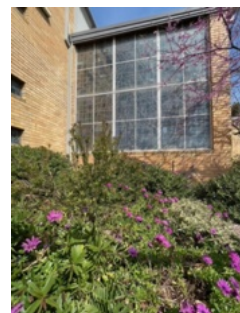
The sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered through a second rite liturgy on **Thursday 21st December at 7.30pm at St. Brigid's church**. All are welcome!

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING

This sacrament of Healing will be offered at the weekday masses on **Wednesday 20th December 10am St. Brigid's and Thursday 21st December 9.15am St. Louis'**. Please contact the parish office if transport is required. All are welcome!

ST BRIGID'S GARDEN CHRISTMAS TIDY-UP MONDAY 18 DECEMBER

The gardening team has already had two well attended working bees preparing the garden for Christmas and this will be our final tidy-up. The Presbytery has also received some attention. We want Christmas visitors to see a vibrant well cared for Church. Usual start time of 9am finishing with morning tea, you are most welcome to join us.



COLUMBAN CALENDARS & SVDP CHRISTMAS CARDS

The 2024 Columban Calendars & SVDP Christmas Cards are now available from the Piety stalls after the weekend Masses. Calendars are \$10 & Christmas Cards are \$3.50 per pack.



ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

There will be a **third collection at all Masses this weekend** in support of the Bishops Advent appeal. Following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia, The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine. Your generous support will benefit Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation

in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; Food packages for people in need; and Shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at: www.catholic.au



Please note the Parish Office will be closed over Christmas and reopen 30 January 2024. Urgent calls will still be attended to. Thank you for understanding!

PARISH NEWS AND OTHER EVENTS



CHRISTMAS EVE 6PM MASS AT ST LOUIS' SCHOOL OVAL

Calling all angels, shepherds, Mary, Joseph and kings! Children are encouraged to come dressed in nativity costumes. Please BYO chairs, picnic blankets and sunscreen. Please be mindful that it is not appropriate to consume food or drinks other than water at this sacred event. Your understanding is sincerely valued.

If your child would like to be involved in the 6pm Christmas Eve mass either reading or Prayers of the Faithful, or the offertory procession please contact the parish office mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL

The alarming escalation of violence in Gaza is leaving people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Your support is needed now. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online www.caritas.org.au/gaza or phone 1800 024 413.

PRAYER FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Land is once again struck by violence, hatred, and death.

Lord, look with mercy upon the land that was your earthly home.

Receive the deceased into your presence. Comfort those who mourn, are wounded or forced to flee. Be close to all who are full of fear and despair.

You are our peace and light of the nations, put an end to the spiral of terror and suffering in the Holy Land and in the whole Middle East. Let peace and justice flourish at the holy sites. You are our refuge. Let the people be safe in your love. Have mercy on us and on our time. Amen

Please pick up a prayer card for peace in the middle east from the church foyers



Christmas Mass Times

CHRISTMAS EVE

6pm Mass at St Louis' School Oval

8.30pm Mass in St Louis' Church

Midnight Mass in St Brigid's Church

CHRISTMAS DAY

8.30am Mass in St Louis' Church

10.30am Mass in St Brigid's Church



MASS TIMES

WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

- Tue 26th Dec Mass is cancelled,
- Wed 27th Dec 10am Mass at St. Brigid's,
- Thu 28th Dec 9.15am Mass at St. Louis',
- Fri 29th Dec 11.30am Mass at St. Brigid's,
- Mon 1st Jan 2024 10am Mass at St. Brigid's,
- Tue 2nd Jan normal weekday Mass timetable resumes with 9.15am Mass at St Louis'.

THANK YOU FROM CATHOLIC MISSION

Catholic Mission thanks the parish of St Mary of the Cross for your support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal. Your generosity has empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses, allowing them to spread the message of hope and love within their local communities. Your contribution of \$727.00 has been most gratefully received. Through your partnership with Catholic Mission, Sr. Carolina in Timor-Leste can continue providing life-saving treatment and essential resources for health, education and well-being. Your gift not only transforms individual lives but also fuels mission programs globally, reaching out to those in dire need.



If you know of anyone who needs prayers
or a pastoral visit
please contact the Parish Office. 

RECENTLY DECEASED

John Kerr (Highett), Br Christian Moe FSC

ANNIVERSARIES

Gladys Kennedy, Thomas Aspery, Lorna Woodhead, David Whelan, Cath Cuffley, Sebastian D'Imperio, Joseph Pompei, Gilbert D'Cruz, Julian Murphy, Francis Lebler, Craig Blair, Emily Aquilina-Saliba, David Porter, Quinston Lucas, Maria Ruzyla, Dorothy Wilma Kellow, Fr Desmond Cameron, Brett Drinan, Gerardine Kerlin, Richard Rebeiro, Albert Rodrigues, Marilyn Schneider-Loos, Frank Garlick, Salvatore Aparo, Edward Dunn, Margot Poynton, Nuno Vaz Serrg, Nuno da mata Vaz Serra, Mariano B. Sumayao, Sean Passagne, Ed Riordan, Brian Murphy, Anne Sleeth, Nicholas Morillion, Gordon Adrian Wagstaff, James O'Donnell, Edmond O'Sullivan, Mary Tancheff, Margaret Smith

HEALING PRAYERS ASKED FOR

Fernanda Barbarino, Peter Hopkins, Naldi Junaldi, Kath Kidd, Thomas Jacobs, Serge Nayna, Olive Rankin, Pam Ulbricks, Sally McGloin, Eugene Roberts, Peter Waltho, Rita Popley, Judy Callmac, Sophia Bicos, Ian Hughes, Gerard Augustine, Sr Anita Le Clercq, Christine Wagstaff, John Nicholson, Brenda Cortese, Philip Maynes, Graham Owen, Sam Finocchiaro, Michael Bell, Julie Griffith, Serena Zienau, Josephine Wood, Nellie Julian, Michelle Ives, Minnie Joseph, Darren Rankin, Danielle Spencer, Paul Morillion, Fili Schumacker, Valerie O'Hara, Pam Lane, Beverley Plant

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 6pm Mass (St Louis')
Sunday: 8am Mass (St Brigid's)
Sunday: 9.30am Mass (St Louis')
Sunday: 11am Mass (St Brigid's)

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday: 9.15am Communion Service (St Louis')
Tuesday: 9.15am Mass (St Louis')
Wednesday: 10am Mass (St Brigid's)
Thursday: 9.15am Mass (St Louis')
Friday: 11.30am Mass (St Brigid's)

RECONCILIATION

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

KIDZ ZONE

4th Weekend of the month

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Friday: 10.30am at St Brigid's

PRAYER GROUP AND ADORATION

1st Saturday of the Month: 4.30pm to 5.30pm at St Louis'

PRAISE & WORSHIP NIGHT

3rd Friday of the Month: 7.30 to 8.30pm alternating church each month

Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults in our community.

All Parish volunteers require a current Working With Children Check and completion of the Safeguarding Essentials training. Copies of the policy are available on our Parish Website and at our Parish Office. For any concerns please contact our Child Safeguarding Team:

Fr Andrew Jekot ... 03 9412 8432	Joe Corda ... 0407 354 568
Fr Ignatius Tan ... 03 9412 8432	Joanne Partleton ... 0413 133 184
Trish Angliss ... 0421 604 849	Robyn Worsnop ... 0412 814 592
Louise Breslin ... 0415 963 799	

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS' ROSTER

4th Sunday in Advent - Our readings are from Year B: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16, Romans 16:25-27, Luke 1:26-38

23rd & 24th Dec	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Sacristan
6pm (A)	Marie Seddon	Carmel Barker	Marie Medlicott	Sonia Williams	Gail McGillivray	Julie Buick	Marg Deveson	Ann Furlong
8.00am (M)	Joan Healy	Barry Wheeler	Stephen Pooley	John Guthrie	Jack Meyer	Robyn Worsnop	Odette Budge	Pamela Shanley
9.30am (A)	Brian Martin	Gen Martin	Alison Krishnadas	Ron Schneider-Loos	N/A	Carmel Smith	Patricia Le Brocq	Tony Allday
11:00am (M)	Peter Hannan	Lucy Cameron	Jaun Wilson	Donna Cardamone	Gail Bell	Christine D'Cruze	Les D'Cruze	Glenice Laughlan

Counters

Group 4 Bernadette & Geoff Terrell, Susan Dornom

If you are unavailable on your rostered day please arrange a replacement and contact the Parish Office on 9580 7981 to inform us of the change.



Our Parish acknowledges that we gather, pray and live on the land of the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation, and pay our respect to Elders, past, present and emerging.

