



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

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 7 September 2025

Readings for Year C Wisdom 9: 13-18 Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Luke 14: 25-33



*"The cost of discipleship
is our cross to carry"*

In this passage, Jesus challenges the crowd to consider the true cost of discipleship. He says that anyone who wants to follow Him must "hate" even family and life itself. Not in the literal sense, but meaning that nothing should come before Him, not even our closest relationships or personal desires.

Jesus delivers this series of devastating body-blows for anyone who is looking for easy discipleship.

Through two short parables, Jesus encourages us to count the cost before committing, just like someone building a tower or a king going to war. Being His disciple isn't about comfort or convenience; it's about sacrifice and full commitment.

"Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

Following Jesus means carrying our cross daily, letting go of anything that stands in the way of fully living for Him. It's not easy, but it's worth everything.

Carmel Stutterd
Principal, St Louis' Primary School



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News and Announcements



Grow Deeper and Wider in Faith in a Small Group

Small Groups are a key part of our parish vision to grow wider and deeper in our faith and community connectedness. Small groups are an easy way to participate in your personal faith journey with others who offer support, friendship and acceptance. If you are ready to journey with others, consider coming along.

Men's Fellowship

Our Men's Group support one another in their relationship with Christ. In a confidential, safe and caring environment the group help each other to navigate the responsibilities of life, deepening friendships and growing in faith. Our next get together will be on **Thursday 18 September at St Louis from 7.30pm**. All are welcome.

Scripture & Friendship

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. Our next gathering is on **Tuesday 9th September**. Please note the change of Venue: **Carmel's home, 31 Inlet Street Aspendale**. We begin at 10am and will finish at about 11am for a cuppa. For any queries contact Ann on 0425 712 741 or Carmel 0425 773 608.



Justice Action Group

Our JAG team are a group of parishioners concerned about local injustices including the plight of asylum seekers and refugees, the need for sustainable living, trafficking of women and children, First Nations awareness and understanding, domestic violence and homelessness. Our next monthly meeting is **Wednesday 10 September 7.30-9pm at St Louis' Aspendale**. New members are very welcome.

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project Annual Parish Grocery Drive

Our JAG team and parishioners are strong supporters of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP), who provide hospitality, practical support and advocacy for many refugees and people seeking asylum, many of whom experience daily trauma and uncertain futures. During this month we are asking parishioners if you can, to donate food items that will go directly to the many people BASP assist. Specifically, these are the items: **750 ml olive or vegetable oil; 100g jars coffee; sweet biscuits; medium size tuna in oil; 2 min. noodles and foil**. BASP would also appreciate shopping vouchers or cash as they try to give extra support to people over the Christmas season. There will be boxes in the church foyers where you can place these items.

Let's Do Footy Lunch

Please join us on **Tuesday 16 September 12 to 2pm in the St Louis' Church foyer**. Enjoy a special Footy themed lunch with a fun footy quiz and spot prizes. Cost is a donation to St Vincent de Paul's Assist a Student Program.

All are welcome. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

MARY

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dr. Tim Gray & Dr. John Sehorn

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Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In this episode, Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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



News and Announcements



Baptism Celebrations this Sunday

We welcome the following children into our parish family: **Effie Adele and Aidan David**
*God has you in his hands on this special day.
With every step you take, He guides you on your way.*

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Families Journeying Together

The three families who have been preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation will join the 9.30am Mass at St Louis' this Sunday ahead of receiving the sacrament on Tuesday 9 September at 5pm at St Louis' Church. Please pray for Lenny, Lachlan, Casey and their families as they receive this special gift.

Praise and Worship Night

Everyone is invited to join in a joyful, uplifting and worshipful time with Jesus, through music, scripture and prayer. Come along, bring a friend and feel the power of the Holy Spirit. Our next gathering is **Friday 19 September from 7.30-8.30pm at St Louis' Church.**



Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. This year's theme is "Peace with Creation", inspired by Isaiah 32:14-18.

Saint Francis of Assisi's Canticle of the Creatures calls the Earth our sister and mother. How can Mother Earth nurture us if we fail to contemplate, learn from, and love her? Ignoring our interconnectedness undermines this vital relationship. Creation is God's sacred gift, entrusted to our care.

In 2015 Pope Francis gifted the world a bold and beautiful vision for our common home - the world, entitled **Laudato si**, which addressed climate change and our responsibility to care for our environment. Our parishioner Patrick Jurd recently gave an excellent presentation "**Laudati si - 2000 Years in the Making.**" You can watch Patrick's presentation [here](#)



Happy Birthday to Gail Bell

Congratulations Gail on the occasion of your 80th birthday. May the Holy Spirit watch over you and continue to help you on your journey to good health. Wishing you every best wish for the year ahead.

Parish archives

The parish has some archived history that requires some sorting. Do you have some spare time and are interested in our history? The Kingston Council are also available to assist with this project. Please contact Fr. Andrew.

To all Dad's and Fatherly Figures

A special prayer

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice. We pray for our own fathers who have supported and challenged us; may they continue to lead in strong and gentle ways.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice.

We remember fathers, grandfathers and great grandfathers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love.

May God bless them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS - 14 SEPTEMBER 2025

13/14 Sept 25	Exaltation of the Holy Cross Year C Numbers 21: 4-9 Philippians 2: 6-11 John 3: 13-17						CUPPA WEEKEND
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Michael Barker	Ann Furlong	Carmel Barker	Gail McGillivray	Julius Lau	Annette Brilliant	Ann Brennan
8.00am (M)	Paula Rodrigues	Celine George	Jane Standish	Joan Healy	Jack Guthrie	Jack Meyer	Carole Guthrie
9.30am (A)	Niko Tovia	Gerard Wagstaff	Felice Cortese	Mary Nayna	Elizabeth Newington	Berna Wake	Edward Joseph
11.00am (M)	Mark Carrazzo	Dianne Wain	Louise Breslin	Peter Hannan	Helen Rocks	Christiane Jonas	Vanessa Fernandes
Counters 2	Helen and Kelvin Rocks		Mary Nayna				

Recently deceased: Robin Beaman (Mordialloc), Barbara Child's (Martin's mother), Conor Grace (Brian and Carmel Grace's grandson), May Warrener (Aspendale).

Anniversaries: Frederick Summerton - Fr Peter Nelson - Fr Tom White - Eileen Hannan - Blossom Baldery - Maureen Reidy - Trish Hone - Beryl D'Sylva - Roma Kampf - Letetia Sheehan - Vincenta Vella - Maureen Cuskelly Robert Reid - Nicholas Rainsford - John Martin - Morris Joseph - Mary Coen - Ken Raphael - Dirk Senn - Fr Michael Quigley - June Rosina Phippen - Ethel Cecilia Coghlan - Joseph D'Rozario - Don Byrnes - Denise McMahon - James Doran (snr) - Freda Fernandez - Fr Peter Murray - Kurt Wessel - Filippina Gazzo - Tom Velten - Sr Anne Boyd - Julien Mendonça - Sheila Popley - Gordon Teasdale.

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

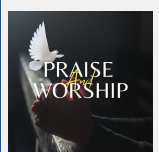
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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