



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

Mordialloc and Aspendale | Bunurong Country

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

2nd Sunday in Advent - 10 December 2023

Our readings are from Year B: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

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,
Berna 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

This week's gospel beautifully captures the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes



before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

Can you recall a time when you have had to consciously prepare yourself for what you were about to do?

How can we continue to prepare the way for the Lord?

By Wendy Sullivan - Principal St Brigid's Primary School Mordialloc

PARISH NEWS AND OTHER EVENTS

TUESDAY 12th DECEMBER 9.15am mass at St Louis' is cancelled.

This is on account of the Requiem Mass for the funeral of Rita Newton (RIP) at St Louis' Church at 10.30am.

MELBOURNE OVERSEAS MISSION (MOM)

This weekend there will be a collection for the Melbourne Overseas Mission (MOM). The MOM is a volunteer based missionary organisation with a focus on providing face to face assistance to the disadvantaged communities around the world. Thank you for your generosity.

BOBS KNITTING GROUP

The next session for the Group will be on **Friday 15 December from 10-12.30 pm at St Louis' Church meeting room**. All knitters from **St Brigid's and St Louis'** are invited, please bring a plate of food to share with your fellow knitters.



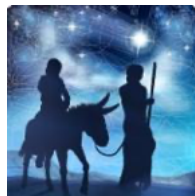
RITE OF ACCEPTANCE

We have 5 people who have responded to the call to join our parish as Catholics. We welcome **Kate Keltie, Tanya Stefanec, Gary Young, Sarah & James Barr**. They have been journeying with us the last couple of months alongside our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation) team - Tony & Josie Aloysius, Carmel Barker, Vikki Fitzgerald, Judy Lamb & Bernie Stuart. We ask for God's blessing upon them and all are invited to keep our friends in our prayers.

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 Brigid's. Please contact Trish Angliss on 0421 604 849 for further details.

CHRISTMAS SERVE MINISTRY TEAM



Christmas is an incredible opportunity to welcome guests and visitors to our parish community. Let us all offer the gifts of peace, love and joy to all this season. To make the occasion memorable we are looking for **people to volunteer as Readers, Commentators, Special Ministers, Welcomers, Sacristan's and Parking attendants across all our Christmas Masses**. Please put your name down on the clipboard at the welcome desk or email the parish on

mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au if you would like to be a part of our Christmas Serve Ministry team. **New Serve Ministers welcome.**

ST VINCENT DE PAUL THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to everyone for the generous donations left under the Christmas Trees in both our Churches. Our two St Vincent de Paul conferences will use these donations to make up hampers and deliver to needy families in this area for Christmas. Thank you also to everyone who attended the recent St Vincent de Paul's 'Let's Do Christmas Lunch' especially the magnificent singers in St Louis de Montfort's School Choir. Thanks to everyone's generosity we have been able to sponsor 3 children through [St Vincent de Paul's Assist a Student Program](#).

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!

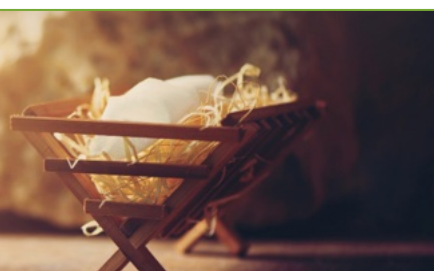


Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: 6pm St Louis' School Oval -

8.30pm St Louis' Church - Midnight Mass St Brigid's

Christmas Day: 8.30am St Louis' - 10.30am St Brigid's



PARISH NEWS AND OTHER EVENTS

Baptisms this weekend!

WE WELCOME INTO OUR PARISH FAMILY:

Mason John and Lando James

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

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.

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.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Come along for a family concert of traditional and modern Christmas carols in the beautiful and inspiring space of St Patrick's Cathedral on Sunday 17 December, 3pm. Tickets can be purchased in advance at trybooking.com/BRYBS.

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

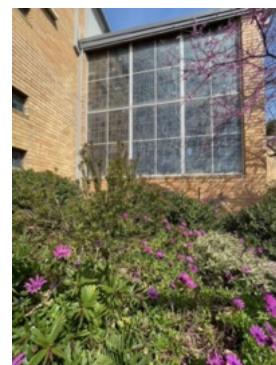
Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Land is once again struck by violence, hatred, and death.

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



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!





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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Rita Newton

ANNIVERSARIES

Tony Labonté, Eugene Bowles, Tony McNicholas, Gladys Craig, Carmenu Dimech, Peter Soulsby, Merie Jaspers, Lawrence Keil, Tess Lanigan, Rosario Messina, Mary Morris, John Beable, Maria Teresa Costanzo, Peter Toner Snr, Sr Dorothy Renton, Warren Ithier, Ian Ryan, Warren Ithier, Adrian Jones, Rita O'Farrell, Robert Slattery, Ernest Goss, Frank Waltho, Jack Riordan, Gwen Mary Coghlan, Bill Bristow, Doris Genovese, Roy Glenister, Camillo Costanzo, Jack Guthrie, Vera Corda, John William Ryan Snr, Ross Pickles, Bill Seymour, Frank Cleary, John May, Martha Peries, Henry Rech, Carmel Cantwell, Fred Rosenbrock, Michael Smith, Bill Bateson, Ivy Bateson, Michael Bateson, Dot Cartmar, Pasqualina Costanzo, Anne Hoyne

HEALING PRAYERS ASKED FOR

Fernanda Barbarino, Peter Hopkins, Naldi Junaldi, Kath Kidd, Thomas Jacobs, Julie Buick, 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

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

3rd Sunday in Advent - Our readings are from Year B: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

16th & 17th Dec	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Sacristan
6pm (A)	P Parker	Bernie Stuart	Julius Lau	Marg De Vries	Pauline Parker	Carmel Barker	Annette Brilliant	Marie Medlicott
8.00am (M)	Chris McAleer	Paula Rodrigues	Barry Wheeler	Jane Standish	Marlene Tangso	Carol Guthrie	John Guthrie	Vo Johnson
9.30am (A)	Ann Furlong	Maureen Wraight	Martin Newington	Elizabeth Newington	N/A	Rosemary Miller	Norma Taylor	Susan Dornom
11:00am (M)	Stefanie Carino	Judith Lamb	Peter Wain	Philippa Pecora	Vikki Fitzgerald	Volunteer	Helen Rocks	Glenice Laughlan
Counters	Group 3 Nelson Popley, Deborah Joseph, Joe Corda							

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.

