



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

The Baptism of the Lord 11 January 2026

Readings for Year A Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7 Acts 10: 34-38 Matthew 3: 13-17



"Love is the Key"

Most stories are divided into many chapters. The story of my priesthood began at my baptism followed by a further recommitment to following Jesus' way. The ministry of priesthood chapters began at Sacred Heart, Croydon for 2 years followed by 11 years at St. Peter Julian Eymard, Mooroolbark and now 15 years at St. Mary of Cross, Mordialloc and Aspendale ends this chapter this weekend. Before I begin the new chapter at Our Lady of All Nations, Flemington and Kensington, I take time to reflect in thanksgiving for these last 15 years.

I pray in thanks for all of you who have been part of this chapter. It has been a privilege to walk with you and share precious moments together. My heart is full of joy as I look back and see how this community has deepened its love for Jesus.

The biggest blessing that I have received is knowing that your own baptism commitment is being lived out in this parish. On this Feast of the Lord's Baptism, together we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us to bring about the Kingdom of God. Love is the key.

Peace and blessings always,

Fr. Andrew



m.stmaryofthecross.com



[m.stmaryofthecross.com/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/m.stmaryofthecross.com)



[m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass](https://www.youtube.com/m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass)

Prayer of Thanks

Thank you, Fr Andrew and Fr Huy, for your compassion, understanding, approachability and sense of humour that have warmed and touched many hearts at St Mary of the Cross and beyond. Thank you for your spiritual guidance, your support and friendship.

Your homilies have been a source of comfort and inspiration. Thank you for sharing your faith and love with us. You have shown us through your words and actions that we are known and loved by Jesus.

For all the times you've been there, from baptisms, funerals and weddings, and in many moments of need, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Your legacy will continue to live in our parish. You will never be forgotten.

We are forever grateful for your service and dedication to the parish and to Andrew especially, for your many years of shepherding this community.

As you start this new journey may you continue to inspire and touch the lives of those around you with the message of Jesus' love, compassion and peace.

May God's love and blessings be with you always.

Amen.

*He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him
as you have helped His people and continue to do so.*

HEBREWS 6:10



News and Announcements



Accompanying children and families in sacrament preparation

Our parish offers sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation for baptised catholic children from non-catholic schools and others who request the Catholic Sacraments for their children.

Our sacramental programs are designed as a journey of accompaniment for children and their parents to take together, gently guided by our facilitators. A journey that with the help of the Holy Spirit will lead them closer to Jesus. Generally, the length of the programs are 6 weeks, beginning with a parent's dinner. The 2026 dates and details will be advised in due course once you register. The programs involve the child and at least one parent and generally occur over a 6-week period. All sessions occur on Tuesday afternoons from 4-5pm at St Louis de Montfort - 37 Dolphin St Aspendale. If you have family and friends with children who may be interested, please register interest at this link: <https://forms.gle/yJuqKFVWorgVeT7TA>

Foundations of Faith - A journey through the Catechism of the Catholic Church

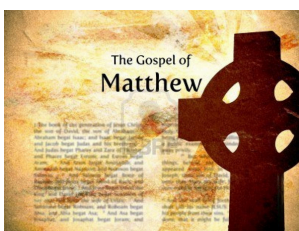
Why do we have saints? Why do we pray? Do we need baptism for salvation? Can only Catholics go to heaven? We all have questions about our faith, and sometimes it's hard to know where to find the answers. The Catechism of the Catholic Church seeks to answer one key question - **What do Catholics believe?** There is a small group planning to begin this journey to study the teaching of the Catholic Church and how to live them in your everyday life. Whether you are a new explorer to the faith or wanting to go deeper in your knowledge - come and join us.

Where: in the **Upper Room at St Brigid's** (some online sessions via Google Meets)
BYO snacks. When: **Tuesday nights at 6.45pm from 3 February** to early August (with some breaks) Join by contacting Emily Wisniewski emwisnie@gmail.com or by signing up at the Welcome Desk or scan the **QR code for more details**.



Parish Office reopens on Tuesday 13 January at 9am.

Weekday morning masses will be as normal with our new Parish Priest, Fr Michael. Monday Communion Services will resume on Monday 2 February.



The Gospel of Matthew presented by Patrick Jurd - Save the Dates 3 sessions commencing Tuesday 27th, January 7.30pm at St Brigid's

This year is Year A in the church calendar and the Sunday Gospel readings come from the Gospel of Matthew. The three sessions will help you to better understand Matthew's Gospel. The sessions may also foster your faith and suggest how you might better live it. All are welcome to come along.



Let the Heart Listen 2026

Program Focus: **Let the Heart Listen** is grounded in the practice of contemplative listening. Learning to respond with heart to yourself, others, and to God. Through this experience, you will develop the capacity to listen deeply & compassionately, becoming more present to the sacred in everyday life.

Program Details: Format: 12 x Tuesdays (In Person only) Dates: 17th February 2026 – 19th May 2026. The program will run again from July – October 2026 on Thursday Evenings (Online only). See here for more details: [Let the Heart Listen Program | Heart of Life](#)



Reborn - Trailer

Reborn explores the deeply personal power of Baptism, bringing to light the spiritual reality for parents and godparents, and most importantly, the child being baptised. It presents the foundation of the Church's teaching on Baptism, with a step-by-step explanation of the rite itself.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.

Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

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NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 18 JANUARY 2026

17/18 Jan 2026	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3 John 1: 29-34						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Marie Seddon	Bernie Stuart	Marg De Vries	Julius Lau	Anthony Barnhoorn	Annette Brilliant	Julie Buick
8.00am (M)	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Chris McAleer	Jack Meyer	Jane Standish	Jack Guthrie	Joey Virginie	Angela Meo
9.30am (A)	Ann Furlong	Maureen Wraight	Ron Schneider-Loos	Mary Nayna	Felice Cortese	Gail Ryan	Norma Taylor
11.00am (M)	Peter Hannan	Melwyn D'Mello	Helen Rocks	Peter Wain	Christine D'Cruze	Christiane Jonas	May Ann Farren
Counters	Group 1	Gary & Joanne Partleton	Ron Soares				

Recently deceased: John O'Connor (Mordialloc).

Anniversaries: Mani Paily, Wade Dunn, Joan Jackson, Rae McDonald, Delia (Theresa) Duffy, Peter Heffernan, Hubert Popley, Carl Erbs, Lazzaro Mattia, Aloy Peries, Orlando Sarauilli, Elaine McCormack, Patrick Noonan, Bert Watkins, Bertie D'Souza, Miroslav John, Mary Drenen, Dustin-John Popley, Marie Atherton, Merril Phillips, Jason McLaren, Margaret Doran, Maria Egan, Maurice Purcell, Michael Kiely, Bryan Angliss, Darryl Page, Cathal Murray, Richard Howe, Peter Ritchley, Karen May, Concetta Campagna, Lorraine Fordham, John Mathews, Violet Roberts, Len Weaver, Peter Arnold.

Praying for healing and the sick: Kathleen Smith, Natalie Searle, Deborah Joseph, Carmelo Nasello, Stephen Hopkins, Harry Donohue, Ann Muir, Lina DiGiovine, Alex Bennett, John Davis, Chris Doran, Chris Wardle, Peter Waltho, Janice Gillette, Michelle Parker, Greg Hayes, Sue Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Alasdair Hughes, Sophia Bicos, Fr Terry Kean, Kees Meyer, Andrea Williams, Brian Smith, Michelle Burne, Rosemary Hall, Michelle Ives, Graham Owen, Norreen Spies, Craige Ross, Virginia O'Toole.

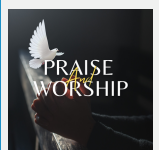
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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.

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, 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

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 9580 7981
Fr Huy Nguyen 03 9580 7981
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