



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



Third Sunday of Lent 23 March 2025

Readings for Year C Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12 Luke 13: 1-9



*It may bear fruit next year; if not,
you can cut it down*

Imagine you have a small plant in a pot at home. You water it, put it in the sun, and take care of it. But after a long time, it still doesn't grow any flowers or fruit. How would you feel? Would you want to throw it away?

In this week's Gospel, Jesus tells a story about a man who had a fig tree that wasn't growing any fruit. He wanted to cut it down, but the gardener asked him to wait one more year. The gardener promised to take extra care of the tree by giving it good soil and water, hoping it would finally grow fruit.

Jesus is like the kind gardener in the story. He gives us time to grow in kindness, love, and faith. Sometimes, we make mistakes or forget to be good, but Jesus is patient with us. He wants to help us change and become better people.

We can all grow good "fruit" in our hearts by being kind, sharing, praying and practicing forgiveness, just like Jesus forgives us.

Tanya Stefanec
*St Louis School Deputy Principal
Wellbeing Leader*



m.stmaryofthecross.com



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News and Announcements

PPC Commissioning

This weekend is the commissioning of your Parish Pastoral Council at all of our masses. Our new PPC members are Ann Furlong, Marylene Douglas, Anne and John Field, Lesley-Anne Bailey and Phil Hills along with those staying on for a further term - Jon Searle, Rob Ward and Nicole Mielczarek. The PLT of Fr Andrew, Fr Huy, Berna Wake and Trish Angliss are also part of the team. May the Holy Spirit guide them as they meet to plan for the year ahead. Please keep them in your prayers.

We also wish to thank our retiring members, Niko Tovia, John Bainbridge, Mary Nayna and Graham Harrison for their invaluable service in their time on the PPC.



We farewell Joan Pobjoy

this weekend from our Parish. Joan has been here from the very beginnings of St Brigid's and St Louis' and is soon moving to residential care in Mentone. Her family are joining her at our 6pm Mass on Saturday night for a special blessing. We pray that she settles well into her new accommodation and that the Holy Spirit watches over her, as indeed Joan has watched over and prayed for many members of our Parish. You will be missed Joan.

St Bede's College Mission Action Day (MAD)

is a special day when the whole school community puts our faith into action. Your support, via the **Mycause QR code link**, will contribute to our goal to improve the needs of schools and communities in great need.

Since 2005, our MAD fundraising has contributed just over one million dollars to projects in Catholic and Lasallian schools in Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

The outcomes of these projects provides students with: Clean drinking water, safety from life-threatening disease, safe, secure and comfortable classrooms, more inclusive education, especially for female student, safer, cleaner bathroom facilities, improved wellbeing for students and better places to learn and play.

Donate Here



CRISP Update



Our local **CRISP** group (Community Refugee Integration & Settlement Pilot) have been busy fundraising with a view to being able to support a Refugee Family during their first year in Australia. Look out for more fundraising coming up.

The Australian Government announced recently that this program will now be a "permanent and valued feature within Australia's overall humanitarian program". Community sponsorship has, and will continue to have, a positive impact on both refugees and community groups, transforming lives and building stronger communities.

Our own group **NEPEAN WIND** (Nepean Welcoming Immigrants and Newcomers with Dignity) has now been matched with an Arabic speaking family of five. Two of the children are school aged and the third a preschooler. The earliest for their arrival will be 5th May. This is a busy and exciting time for us and between now and then we will

get to know them a little and prepare for their arrival. Finding suitable accommodation will be our biggest challenge. More exciting news is that our group has now been given Charity Status, so any donations will be tax deductible. We ask for your prayers for our group NEPEAN WIND, that we may be guided in the decisions we make and the support we give. If you would like to become involved, or help in any way, we would be most grateful. Contact John Bainbridge for more info: jgb095@aussiebb.com.au



Baptism Celebrations this Sunday at St Louis'

We welcome into our parish family: **Klara Anne, Roman Kenneth, Sofie Elizabeth, Xavier Ignac.** God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take, He guides you on your way.

Breda Cooney

Congratulations to Breda on reaching her 100th birthday on 28 March. May the Lord watch over her and keep her in good health so that she may continue to live independently.





The Season of Lent at St Mary of the Cross Parish

“Be praised, my Lord, for brother wind and the air and clouds, clear skies and all weathers by which you give sustenance to your creatures.”

Let ‘Laudato Si’, Pope Francis’ encyclical on care for creation be your guiding star this Lent.

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Will be held on Monday evenings at St Louis’ church from 7.30 to 8pm. Stations will start on the 10 March and go through to 7 April. They will also be held on Friday mornings at St Brigid’s church at 11.00am, Holy Rosary at 10.30am.

Reconciliation for Lent

The First Rite of Reconciliation will be held at **St Brigid’s church on Tuesday 15 April at 7pm.**

ACRATH Easter Chocolate Campaign

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of ACRATH’s Easter chocolate awareness campaign. In the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday on April 20, Australians will spend billions of dollars on chocolate. Much of the chocolate consumed will be produced using cocoa beans picked by children and adults in conditions that are often unsafe and restrict a child’s access to education. For more information: www.acrath.org.au



Choir practice for Easter

Is being held at St Brigid’s church on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm. We will be practicing for Lent and the Holy Week services. All are welcome. Contact Trish for more details on 0421 604 849.

Project Compassion 2025

This week we introduce **Lam** who is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code on the right, or online at caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling: 1800 024 413.



Prayer ministers - Available next weekend after all Masses

What is Prayer Ministry? It is two or more people praying with for a particular intention. Everyone is invited to take part in this opportunity. It will only be for a few minutes and the prayer team will gently guide you. All you need to do is to present yourself and open your heart to God. Father will announce the Prayer Ministry teams at the end of Mass.

Domestic Family Violence Forum

Many thanks to all who attended and helped out at our successful and very informative forum last Saturday at St Brigid’s school hall. For anyone who needs more information, there are now brochures in the church foyers from all the organisations that attended.



This Week on FORMED

The boy from Milan

You may have heard of him, the sneaker-wearing, computer-loving ‘gamer saint’ of our time. But beyond the headlines and hashtags, the real story of Carlo is something deeper, something the world desperately needs to hear. Known for his deep love of God, devotion to the Eucharist and quiet acts of charity, Carlo’s life was a testament to everyday holiness.

Access FORMED at <https://formed.org/>

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 29/30 MARCH 2025

29/30 March	Fourth Sunday of Lent Readings Year C Joshua 5: 9-12 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32							
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Prayer Ministers
6pm (A)	Lesley-Anne Bailey	Debra Searle	Marg De Vries	Anthony Barnhoorn	Bernie Stuart	Tom Hughes	Volunteer	Berna Wake Carmel Barker
8.00am (M)	Graham Jones	Angela Meo	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Joan Healy	Chris McAleer	Jane Standish	Barry Wheeler	Josie Johnson Tony Aloysious
9.30am (A)	Martin Newington	Gerard Wagstaff	Ron Schneider-Loos	Felice Cortese	Elizabeth Newington	Ann Marsh	Norma Taylor	Teresa Basile Brenda O'Leary
11.00am (M)	Adam Whatmore	Michelle Campbell	Louise Breslin	Juan Wilson	Volunteer	Wence Rodrigues	Paula Rodrigues	Nicky Winters Nicole Mielczarek
Counters	Group 4	Bern & Geoff Terrell	Susan Dornom					

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Thomas Raines - Richard Thorne - Charles Judd - Faye Marshall - Gordon McCarthy - Ted Burke - Laurie Mattea - Bevan Porter - Jennifer Crawford - Hygino Soares - Margaret Barnett - W/O Gordon Parker RAAF - Grazia Basile - John Langer - Nello Fabris - John Nelson - Jim Cevec - Leonard Dockrill - Philippe Laval - Zoltan Korom - Hector Jones - Veronica Wagstaff - Frank Patterson - Mary Rebeschini - John Gazzo - Kunjammai Peruvanmuzhi - Maria Rutigliano - Jim Laws - Br Maurice Nicholson - Ann Fernandez - Mary (May) Bell - Marsha Anderson - Thomas Hogan - Marie-Noelle Russie - Ken Bramich - Pat Direen - Kathleen Crowe - Paul Camerino - Kevin Laws.

Praying for the sick: Fr Terry Kean, Walter Young, Julie Griffiths, Naldi Junaldi, Nik Selepak, Sophia Bicos, Steve Gobac, Therese Brown, Fernanda Barbarino, John Nicholson, Peter Waltho, Sam Finnochiaro, Michelle Ives, Graham Owen, Norreen Spies, Caiden Hoare, Gail Bell, Sarah Gilbert, Brenda Cortese, Peter Baxter, Deborah Hall, Heidi Soeding, Janice Gillette, Peter Shoppe, Natalian Constanzo, Flynn, Andrea Williams, Fr Kevin Tortorelli (OFM), Joseph Michaleff, Geraldine Bennett, Charmaine Milne, Michelle Lieour, Louise Hawes, Clayton Dunn, Keith Wiltshire, Michelle Parker, Basil Van Der Merwe, Brian Smith, Brian Gleeson, Adrian Smith, Graziella Marini, Br Michael McCabe (De La Salle), Fr Patrick Flanagan, Patty Hood.

Growing in Community & Belonging at St Mary of the Cross



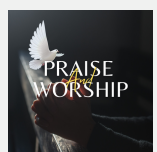
Children's Liturgy

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 - 9.5 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

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

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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND ROSARY

St Brigid's every Fri 10.30am
St Louis 1st Sat of the month 4.30pm

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
Joanne 0413 133184
Robyn 0412 814 592
Denise 0412 926 752

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.