

ISSUE 35 | AUGUST 2025



**St Mary of the Cross
Catholic Parish**
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Blessings

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CULTURE OF INVITATION

And much more



From the Editor

Another big issue of Blessings with many stories and photos celebrating our vibrant parish. I hope you will be inspired by the stories of faith, love and community spirit. In our previous edition

we awaited the announcement of a new pope. Pope Leo XIV has already demonstrated that he will carry on Pope Francis' legacy leading us with courage, conviction, love and mercy. May we also live by these values in our own lives.

Peace and blessings,

Berna Wake

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Blessings

Our quarterly parish magazine is where we share stories about the wonderful people and activities in our parish, as we journey together in our mission to Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples. If you have a story about our people and parish, please do contact me at berna.wake@cam.org.au

Father Andrew's Word



It was a couple of Sunday night's ago as I was catching up with family for dinner that my nephew's girlfriend mentioned that she was involved with the Jehovah's witness church. I asked her to share a bit more about that experience which then led to a robust conversation about the Catholic church and my role as a priest. It was a very respectful conversation that involved 6 young people in their 20's and very insightful into how they perceive the catholic church. I felt prompted (by the Holy Spirit) to ask the initial question which led to something far deeper.

Learning more about the culture of invitation is what Michael Harvey has invited all of us to embrace. Read about his visit in this edition and the opportunity to be involved with small groups.

The sacrament of Confirmation is always a highlight for the parish and one whereby this year the regional bishop led the celebration and then the local parish priest (me) did the other. Bishop Anthony Ireland's last celebration of confirmation was held at St. Brigid's church on 26th July. He then delegated authority to me to celebrate 2 more confirmations the following Sunday as Bishop Tony was preparing to head to the South Island to become the next Archbishop of Hobart.

Having heard Bishop Tony's homily, the week before assisted me with some thoughts for my experience as presider for confirmation.

I was fortunate enough to head to Tassie early this week for his installation. It was a great celebration of the catholic church in Tasmania and for the community overall. Archbishop Tony revealed that his ancestor (great, great grandfather) was sent from England to Van Dieman's land as a 13yo convict for petty larceny (Pickpocketing). He felt that his appointment to the Archdiocese of Hobart was to redeem the Ireland name (and forge a strong connection with the state)!

May we remember that we are spiritual descendants of the Apostles and through the sacrament of confirmation, guided by the Holy Spirit, to be messengers of the Good News to all.

God Bless,

Fr. Andrew Jekot
Parish Priest
St Mary of the Cross Parish,
Mordialloc & Aspendale

St Mary of the Cross Feast Day 8 August



Mary was born in Victoria to Scottish immigrants. She was the eldest of eight children and spent her early years working to support her family. At the age of 24 she dedicated her life to God and took on the name "Mary of the Cross".

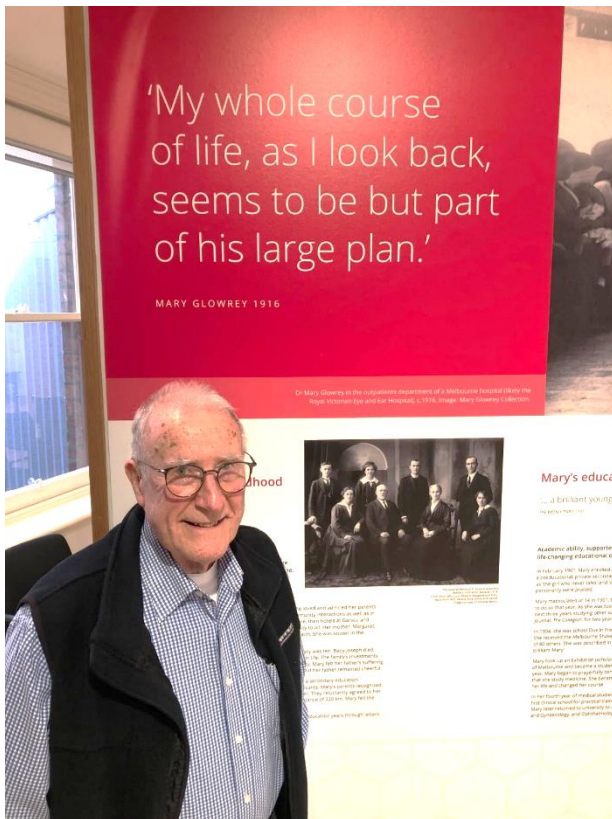
Along with Fr Julian Tenison Woods, Mary opened a school in a disused stable in Penola, South Australia. Her vision was to provide education for underprivileged children. Many other women came to join her there, and Mary and Julian founded Australia's first religious order: the Sisters of St Joseph.

Mary and the Sisters were committed to serving the poor – to going to where the need was and living amongst those in need. This took Mary all over Australia to many rural areas.

Mary faced fierce opposition throughout her life, which at one point culminated in her being excommunicated. In the face of trial, Mary was a model of forgiveness, insisting no ill be spoken of those who wronged her, while also remaining resolute in her convictions.

Mary was remarkable as a strong female leader in 19th century Australia. Education in this country is what it is today thanks to her dedication and determination. *Source: Mary MacKillop Today*

A Personal Encounter with the Glowrey Legacy



John Bainbridge at the Mary Glowrey Museum

By John Bainbridge

Dr Sr Mary Glowrey's pioneering legacy—as Australia's first Sister-doctor and a dedicated medical missionary who transformed healthcare for millions in India—is inspirational. Her work continues to uplift lives long after her passing, and her cause for canonisation makes her only the second Australian to be formally considered for sainthood.

My introduction to the Glowrey family began by good fortune in the early 1970s, during the formative days of the Chelsea and District Credit Co-operative Ltd. When we decided to open a small office on Chelsea's main strip, a parishioner recommended I reach out to a gentleman living in Argyle Av. Chelsea —Harold Glowrey. He and a friend kindly agreed to help manage the office for a few days a week during its early stage. I came to enjoy Harold's company, his intellect, and our common interests led to our friendship which continued even after the opening of a full-time office in the Chelsea shopping strip. I later reconnected with him briefly before his passing at Nazareth House in East Camberwell in 1974.

Years later, when I learned that the Mary Glowrey Museum had opened in Fitzroy in 2017, I was struck by the surname and began to make inquiries. To my delight, I discovered that Harold was a younger brother of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey—a woman whose story I was only beginning to appreciate.

Visiting the museum on June 11th this year brought everything full circle. The museum staff warmly received my recollections, and one staff member even facilitated a connection with Harold's granddaughter, Louise. We've since exchanged stories—hers of fond childhood memories, mine of a gentleman whose generosity helped bring a local cooperative to life. She was deeply moved to hear firsthand about her grandfather's work and impact.

For me, discovering this familial link has been humbling. In sharing my own small intersection with the Glowrey name, I've found renewed appreciation for lives lived in quiet service, and for how even the briefest of encounters can ripple through history.

Mary Glowrey Museum

The Mary Glowrey Museum documents the life and legacy of Australian born and educated Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ (1887-1957). The museum is situated in historic Cathedral Hall at 20 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy which is on the Melbourne campus of Australian Catholic University (ACU). The Mary Glowrey Museum is open by appointment and on Open Days. Website <https://maryglowreymuseum.info/>

Contact at info@maryglowreymuseum or on (03) 9416 4674 to make a booking.

Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

Strength and Kindness

By Barb Meyer

BASP was set up in 2001 by Sr Brigid Arthur and Sr Catherine Kelly to work for a humane, just and inclusive approach for people seeking asylum in Australia. The long delays in processing applications have meant it takes many years for them to be granted permanent residency and under some class of visas they have no work rights, no access to Medicare, no accommodation and no income.

BASP provides housing, food and guidance to these vulnerable people. Many of them are still traumatised, especially those who were on Nauru and Manus Islands.

There are many sad cases, one man finally getting permanent residency after 10 years only to be diagnosed with a brain tumour with only weeks to live.

They come from a variety of countries, predominantly Iran and Sri Lanka.

Many are single men who have spent the prime of their life in detention both on Manus and in hotel detention after transferring from Manus for medical attention.

My husband John has been volunteering for the Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (BASP) for over 20 years. He helps set up accommodation for asylum seekers with furniture and household items donated by the community.

I volunteer to sort out the donations and prepare hampers to be delivered to those in need. John helps me with this.



At Christmas people are very generous and their donations allow us to make up some special hampers.

A pantry is set up in the centre at Albert Park where the donations are stored and asylum seekers can come and choose what they need.

They are very grateful for the support.



For anyone wishing to make a donation to assist BASP with their wonderful work, the Project Bank details are: Brigidine Asylum Seekers Trust Account: bsb: 083-004; a/c: 56-924-6603; NAB. Please put your name on the entry and email at contact@basp.org.au after making a donation so that a tax-deductible receipt can be sent to you.

Pentecost Sunday

PARISH CELEBRATIONS

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)



Fr Rob Galea

by Marylene Douglas St Louis' School Vice Principal & RE Leader

On Friday 6th June, the staff from St Louis' and St Brigid's had the privilege of gathering together to pray and be inspired by a very charismatic, engaging and relevant priest, Father Rob Galea. Father Rob Galea is a Catholic priest, author, and internationally acclaimed singer-songwriter originally from Malta and now based in Bendigo, Australia. He does spend most of his time travelling the world preaching the love of God through music and prayer.

Ordained in 2010, Fr Rob is known for his passion for evangelising through music and media. He gained fame as a finalist on The X Factor Australia, which gave him a unique platform to share his faith with a wide and diverse audience. He is sometimes known as The Singing Priest. He has also authored an autobiography titled, "Breakthrough" revealing his turbulent teenage years and personal story of transformation—from a troubled teen to a devoted priest, which has been earmarked to be made into a movie.

I am not exaggerating when I say Fr Rob's prayerful music and his personal testimony touched the hearts of all staff members. He proclaimed Jesus' message of hope, purpose, and the unconditional love of God and encouraged all of us to engage more deeply with our faith. One aspect of his presentation particularly resonated with many of those present. He explained that religion is 'practices' it's the things that we do, the things that we pray, we go to mass, we follow the teachings of the church, which are all essential. But there is also a 'relationship' with Jesus.'

The apostles didn't follow a religion, they followed Jesus and without relationship, religion is dead! He gave us the analogy of a flower, the stem is religion, and the beautiful flower is the relationship- the constant chatter with Jesus, the love of Jesus. The stem is vital for the flower to grow and to help it reach it's potential, so religion is important, but it only makes sense if there is a relationship. What purpose does a stem have if not to produce an exquisite bloom?

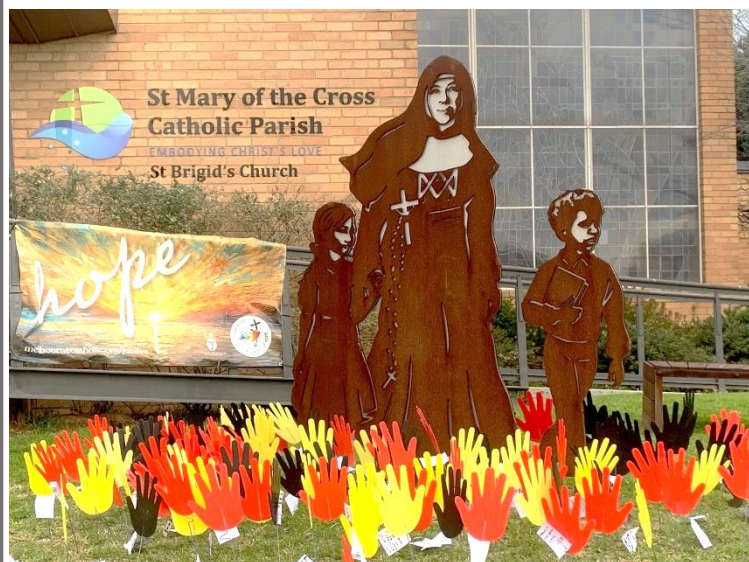
Through his ministry, Fr Rob continues to inspire others to encounter Jesus in a real, relevant and personal way, using modern media to spread timeless truths. His joy, authenticity, and creativity make him a powerful witness in today's Church. He particularly engages the youth of today through his charismatic approach and his involvement in numerous Catholic Youth Festivals, his work with the poor and needy around the world and his online presence. I highly recommend following him on his Instagram account, or watching his YouTube videos, his faith really is inspiring!



Celebrating NAIDOC Week

SEA OF HANDS

NAIDOC (National Aboriginies and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week 2025 celebrated 50 years of Indigenous voices, culture and resilience. Our parish supported The Sea of Hands on our church lawns during July. The Sea of Hands is a powerful symbol of solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia, representing the movement for reconciliation and Indigenous rights. Parishioners were invited to write messages of support for our First Nations People. It was beautiful to read these messages which mirrored Christ's love for all.



Camino De Santiago

Fr Huy Nguyen shares his reflections on his recent Camino Pilgrimage



The Way of St. James, also known as the Camino de Santiago, is a world-famous pilgrimage route in Spain. For hundreds of years, countless people from Europe and beyond have walked this path in the footsteps of St. James.

In early July this year, I was blessed to join 13 other pilgrims on this life-changing pilgrimage. Our group comprised 14 people from diverse backgrounds, life experiences, and age ranges—the youngest being 15, the oldest 75. Despite our differences, we were united for a two-week, once-in-a-lifetime experience.



One of the most enriching aspects of the journey was meeting other pilgrims from all walks of life. I had many opportunities to speak with them, listen to their life stories, and exchange reflections about the Camino. The route itself was breathtaking, guiding us through the picturesque countryside with its beautiful trees, rivers, and villages—natural ‘cathedrals’ where we could truly sense the presence of God.

Although I had heard many stories about the Camino and its spiritual impact, I didn’t fully understand it until I experienced it for myself. One of the most powerful lessons I learned on this memorable journey is that all pilgrims are on the same road toward a shared destination. We supported one another with patience and, most importantly, by truly listening to each other’s stories—especially over meals.



Fr Huy, Anne & John Field & Anne's sister Clare

The Camino de Santiago offered me a profound opportunity to walk with and listen to others who are different from me. What began as an unexpected journey turned into unexpected friendships. Now that each of us has returned to our everyday “Camino” of life, I carry with me the deep realization that life’s pilgrimage becomes lighter and easier when we walk together. As the saying goes: “If you want to walk fast, walk alone. If you want to walk far, walk together.” **Buen Camino!**



Pilgrimage Completed - The Field Family including their 8 grandchildren, daughter Jacqueline, Anne's sister Clare, Anne's 2nd cousin and Fr Huy

Family Violence: What can we do?

By Judy Lamb

Following the very successful parish forum on 15 March, the Justice Action Group has continued its focus on raising awareness of family violence with a variety of actions initiated by the Domestic and Family Violence Team.

Regular posts in the parish bulletin and on our Facebook page have explored different forms of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, financial and spiritual, all of which are underpinned by coercive control. Further afield, our parish action on family violence was recognised in an article in the May edition of Melbourne Catholic. The article, entitled "Parishes urged to consider new ways of addressing family violence", also featured extensive comments from Joclyn Bignold (CEO McAuley Health) who was a speaker at our March forum.



On 14 June, two of our members (Helen Rocks and myself) attended a full day workshop, "Preventing Violence against Women", run by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. The first part of the training covered understanding and responding to family violence, while after lunch, social drivers of this violence were explored and ways to prevent it suggested. We hope to offer a shortened version of this training to Justice Action Group (JAG) members and parishioners later in the year. A workshop focusing on men's response to family violence is also planned.

The following day, I was invited to share our parish experience with members of Pax Christi Australia, an international Christian peace movement, in a discussion of a variety of approaches to combatting family violence.

Letters have been sent to Archbishop Peter Comensoli, Father Cameron Forbes (rector of Corpus Christi diocesan seminary) and the State Council of the Knights of the Southern Cross asking for training in family violence response for clergy and seminarians as well as support for parishes to address family violence.

We are also developing a Parish Strategy on Family Violence to guide our future planning and action.

Our Domestic Violence Team which is a sub-committee of our Justice Action Group encourage all parishioners interested in this very important area to consider joining the team where you can be a part of raising awareness and making a real difference. To learn more please reach out to Judy Lamb at:

judith@jml.net.au

Welcoming the Arnaout Family with Dignity and Hope

By John Bainbridge

On Thursday 29 May, the Nepean Welcoming Immigrants and Newcomers with Dignity Inc. (Nepean WIND) joyfully welcomed the Arnaout family to Melbourne Airport. With compassionate assistance from the Airport Chaplain, the family was guided through customs and greeted by a warm welcoming committee. Thanks to the generosity of Kilbreda College, a bus and driver were provided to transport the family and their luggage to temporary accommodation in Highett.

Omar and his wife Jamileh, originally from Aleppo, Syria, endured over a decade of displacement in Lebanon before being granted immigration to Australia. Their three daughters—Jana (11), Ghina (8), and Mira (3)—were born in Lebanon and carry with them hope for a brighter future in their new homeland.

Initially housed at the Buckingham Motel in Highett, the search for secure accommodation proved to be one of Nepean WIND's greatest challenges. The group quickly gained a deeper understanding of Melbourne's competitive housing market. Within the first month, the Arnaout family expressed their wish to settle in a community where they could connect with others of Syrian and Lebanese backgrounds, access familiar foods, and afford a stable rental home. This led them to a welcoming residence in Reservoir, offering proximity to shops, schools, and public transport.

From the moment of arrival, Nepean WIND members were tirelessly engaged: opening bank accounts, enrolling children in school and childcare, arranging health and dental checkups, negotiating with Centrelink, sourcing household furniture, and organizing English classes for Omar and Jamileh. A dedicated parish member with extensive experience in rental negotiations successfully secured a suitable property that met the family's cultural and financial needs.



Support extended beyond housing. The family was given a 2012 Holden Barina via a JAG member who also arranged for a roadworthy certificate and completed the transfer document to allow the vehicle to be transferred into Omar's name. We also helped Omar with verifying his Syrian license and taking lessons with an Arabic speaking driving instructor so that he can drive his proudly newly owned car safely and obtain his full license. Jamileh is also keen to get her driver's license after not driving for many years. Community spirit blossomed at the High Tea hosted by parish volunteers on 21 June, where 110 guests gathered at the Mordialloc school hall. The joyful afternoon raised over \$6,000 in support of the Arnaout family's settlement journey. With CRISP now appointing a local case officer to support day-to-day needs in Reservoir, the family's transition is well supported. Although formal responsibilities shift, the bonds built between the Arnaouts and the St Mary of the Cross Parish community remain strong. We continue to walk with them in friendship and grace as they begin a new chapter in Melbourne.

High Tea Fundraiser for the Arnaout Family



Term 2 News *by Carmel Stutterd St Louis' School Principal*

Celebrating 60 Years of St Louis School

This year marks the 60th anniversary of St. Louis School, which first opened its doors in 1965. Over the decades, it has become a special place for many, including myself. I started at St. Louis in Grade 2 in 1965, and it continues to bring back countless cherished memories of my time here. The school celebrated this milestone by having our school cross country carnival and a sausage sizzle.



Mother's Day Celebration

We celebrated Mother's Day with a lovely breakfast. Some of our wonderful dads served breakfast, and the hall was filled with warmth and smiles. The school choir beautifully entertained us, honoring mothers and special friends, who sounded like angels.



Athletics Carnival 3-6

During the term, our senior students participated in the athletics carnival, achieving many personal bests. Many students represented St. Louis in District, Regional, and State competitions, demonstrating their talent and dedication.

Feast of the Sacred Heart

The whole school celebrated the Feast of the Sacred Heart. The students donated food to St Vinnies so they could distribute the food to those families in need in our parish and local areas.

Grandparents' Day

Grandparents' Day was a wonderful morning celebration. Many grandparents and special friends joined us, filling the classrooms, garden, and library. The morning concluded with a beautiful liturgy in the church, making it a memorable event for all.



Camps

Year 5 students supported their history unit during a camp at Sovereign Hill, learning about gold and life during the gold rush. Year 6 students enjoyed a winter adventure camp at Flinders, which included a night hike, campfire, and a giant swing—an exciting experience for all!



First Communion

Our Year 4 students received their First Communion this term. We are proud to have two classes at St. Brigid's, and we thank Father Andrew and Father Huy for their guidance and support during this special milestone.

Reconciliation Week

To mark Reconciliation Week, the entire school participated in the Little Long Walk around the streets of Aspendale. Students learned valuable lessons about reconciliation in their classrooms and experienced the significance of this important week.



Guinea Pig race

The term finished on a high with St Louis' first Guinea Pig Race. Frank worked with the Year 6 Garden team leaders, and they spent the term training our 8 guinea pigs for the race.

Frank invited Matt Hill, a professional race caller, to call the race. It was hilarious and the guinea pigs did not seem to be as excited as the spectators.



Term 2 News *by Jodie Marziano St Brigid's School Vice Principal*

Term 2 had many highlights - swimming for our Foundation to Year 4 students, First Eucharist, Anzac Day, and the opening of our refurbished library to name a few.

We began the term with a Resurrection Liturgy and ANZAC Day liturgy. We reflected on the life of Pope Francis and his example and extraordinary contribution to the Catholic church.

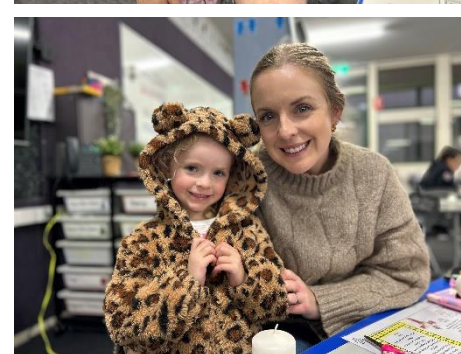
Our key driving focus for our Inquiry and Religion for Term Two was the concept of physical change. Each level approached this key concept from a different perspective, using the curriculum to create learning outcomes. Foundation - Year 2 focus was on the properties of materials and how these are used for specific purposes, as well as identifying how these materials can be changed. Years 3-6 explored the States of Matter through investigation and reflection.

On Sunday, 18th May, our Year 4 (and one Year 5) students celebrated their First Eucharist in the 11 am Parish Mass. Many parishioners commented on the reverence the students showed and how lovely it was to see the children's smiles as they received the body of Christ for the first time. One parishioner, who was a special minister at the Mass and could see the children's faces as they received, stated what an absolute blessing it was to witness this expression of faith.

Students participated in the National Simultaneous Storytime in their levels or Learning Hubs. Students read the story 'Truck Cat' and created a response to the picture storybook.

We celebrated Mother's Day and commemorated National Reconciliation Week with a liturgy and class reflections. Our Foundation students celebrated Prayer in Pyjamas and Mordialloc Preschool visited us. They loved experiencing PMP and playing with the Bee-Bots. Year 3 had a 'Camp Experience Evening', and the Year 3-6 participated in a science incursion with an Inquiry focus.

We had the joy of officially opening our refurbished library. A big thank you to the Community Bank Parkdale for the grant, which, combined with the fundraising from our Parents and Friends Association, made this possible. We ended the term with a bang with a Whole School Excursion to 'Werribee Zoo'.



Welcome to our baptised children and families

*May God grant you always a sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you,
a sheltering angel, so nothing can harm you. Laughter to cheer you.
Faithful friends near you, and whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you.*

Axel Shane Reid - son of Shane & Fleur

Gracie Mireya Rose Lee - daughter of
Jeremy & Megan

Bryson Anthony Prochilo - son of
Bruno & Antoinette

Hunter William & Thomas Stuart Hynds -
sons of Scott & Natalie

Felix Thomas Koszalka - son of
Ben & Jacqueline

Frankie Annie & Billie Lee & Mainwaring –
daughters of Shane & Katie

Tomás Seamus Stone - son of Niall & Claire

Violet Strong - daughter of Campbell & Sylvia

Noah Kenneth Hall - son of Lucy

Santiago Edward Llavallo McArthur -
son of James & Magdalena

Addison Mary Chitty -
daughter of Jake & Jessica

Eden Sage Giarrantana -
daughter of Rob & Kristin

Brody Kevin Fullerton - son of
James & Tammy

Boston Michael & Charles Anthony Woods -
sons of Peter & Meagan

Zali & Jaxson Boss -
children of Brittany & Jodi

Rhani Belle Alexander -
daughter of Josh & Emily

Fletcher James Trump - son of Phil & Jessica

Alexander Kevin & Georgia Louise Debra
Coull – children of Jason & Jade

Amilia Raquel & Adalyn Mireya Araneda -
daughters of Ivan & Vivian

Seth Anthony Lewis - son of Kane & Dean



McArthur Family



Boss Family



Strong Family



Mainwaring Family



Seth Lewis



Araneda Family

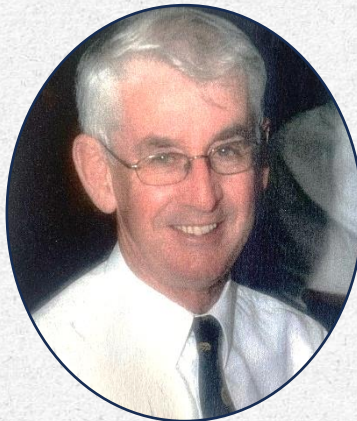


In Memoriam

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



William John (Bill) Pedrazzini
17.6.1971 - 30.4.2025.
*John's funeral was held at
St Louis' on 8.5.2025.*



John Maurice Leonard
16.4.1942 - 27.4.2025.
*John's funeral was held at
Springvale Botanical Cemetery on 7.5.2025.*



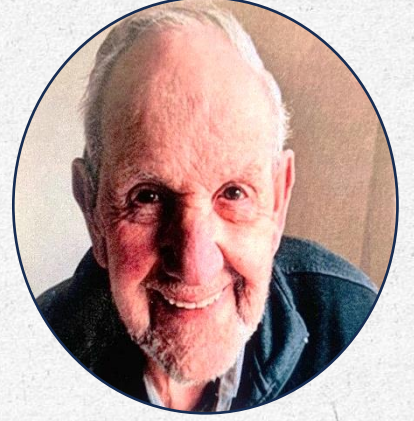
Marie Celine Fernandez
8.2.1932 - 24.5.2025.
*Marie's funeral was held at
St Brigid's on 29.5.2025.*



Catharina Smit
17.10.1933 - 4.6.2025.
*Catharina's funeral was held at
Tobin Bros. Chapel Noble Park
on 21.6.2025.*



Catherine Anne Mary Hewitson
(Cath)
2.2.1941 - 5.6.2025.
*Cath's funeral was held at
St Louis' on 17.6.2025.*



Frederick (Fred) John Hamilton
19.8.1938 - 29.7.2025.
*Fred's funeral was held at
St Louis' on 5.8.2025.*

Mary Norman
9.8.1940 - 9.6.2025.
*Mary's funeral was held at
St Brigid's on 17.6.2025.*



Michael Harvey and ACORN

A spiritual practice with the ability to make disciples

By Berna Wake



I first encountered Michael Harvey, a renowned, international speaker at the National Alpha Conference held in Melbourne in November 2024. I came away feeling inspired and excited. Not only is he one of the most engaging presenters on the topic of church renewal and encountering Christ, but he is able to unpack the often – intimidating task of making disciples in a powerful, transformative yet simple way.

You can then imagine my surprise and delight when Fr Andrew announced at a PLT meeting that Michael Harvey was coming to Australia to run 6 workshops and St Mary of the Cross Parish was chosen as one of them.

On Sunday 20 July, sixty parishioners came to hear Michael speak on the topic "Invitation Changes Everything: Build a Parish that Reaches out."

Guiding us through an exercise on why we don't talk about our faith or invite people to church, Michael explained that we are often paralysed by the fear of rejection. He explained success is one person talking about God to another person, potentially inviting them to something in the parish, leaving the yes and the no to God.

"If we invite people, some will say no and some will say yes, but if we don't invite people the answer will always be no."

Could a line that we say several times a day really transform a life? Michael's ACORN method can do exactly that. The simple phrase "How are you (really)?" asked in a way where you are actually interested and listening to the answer can and does open up an opportunity to see what God is doing in the other person and through us.

The PPC recently undertook training with Michael in the ACORN method. It was an incredible experience where we grew in our experience to share our faith with one another. Please do ask one of our PPC members to share their experience with you.

Post the parish workshop we have a further 10 people who will do this training and an additional 7 of us will begin ACORN facilitator training this week.

This will enable us to introduce ACORN Small Groups in our parish later this year.



ACORN is an acronym for a spiritual practice that can and does make disciples.

A – ASK Lord, today is there someone outside of church you want me to connect with?

C – CALL When God Calls and reveals a person for us to connect with.

O – OBEY We simply Obey and follow through by contacting them in any way appropriate. We then just ask the person "How are you?" God is already there, with the other. Our job is to find out what God is doing and join God in that conversation.

R - REPORT Reporting to others, in a small group what God has been doing in and through them.

N – NOTICE Noticing together what God is up to and doing in the other person.

Our Parish Community



Certificate of appreciation for Judy Lamb



Happy 80th Birthday Bruno Gismondi



*Happy 55th Wedding Anniversary
Rosemary and Lex Miller*



Happy 33rd Birthday Fr Huy



Happy 60th Birthday Ann Fitzgerald



*Happy 60th Wedding Anniversary Kay
and Jim Walker*

PARISH GROUPS

On behalf of SMOTC winter appeal we'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks. Your support, time, and generosity have meant so much. Whether you've donated yarn, shared your skills, helped distribute our handmade items, or simply offered encouragement — please know that your kindness has wrapped warmth around countless hearts.

Every stitch we make is a small act of love, and with your help, we've been able to reach those in need with comfort and care. From blankets, beanie's, gloves, & scarves for those facing hard times, your contribution has been part of something truly special. Thank you for walking beside us in this ministry. We are so grateful to be in this community with you.

Monique Bruce - SMOTC knitting group

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Celebrating the Sacraments

GROW WIDER & DEEPER

By Elizabeth Newington

We started our Catechist classes in February, with the children preparing to receive First Eucharist in June and Confirmation in July.

There were seven children preparing for First Eucharist and nine candidates for Confirmation. Each week we learned about our Faith - We learned about Lent, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost. We experienced the Stations of the Cross. We learned about The Blessed Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ. We came to know our Mother Mary and how to pray the Rosary; we learned about St Patrick, St Joseph, and St Louis de Montfort. Each week we sang songs related to the Church Season or to the particular Saint. Our First Eucharist Mass on the 22nd of June, the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, was beautifully celebrated for us by Father Huy. The children were excitedly looking forward to receiving Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. They were all very reverent and I feel sure that they will always remember their First Eucharist. The Confirmation Mass on the last Saturday in July was wonderful. We had nine very enthusiastic candidates, and they were looked after beautifully by Jodie and her team from St Brigid's School. Our group was the last group to be confirmed by Bishop Ireland before he left for Hobart, where he will be installed as the new Archbishop. Our Confirmation Candidates will remember their Confirmation Day as a very important and special day in their lives.

Confirmation Celebrations



Catechist Students celebrating their First Eucharist with Fr Huy

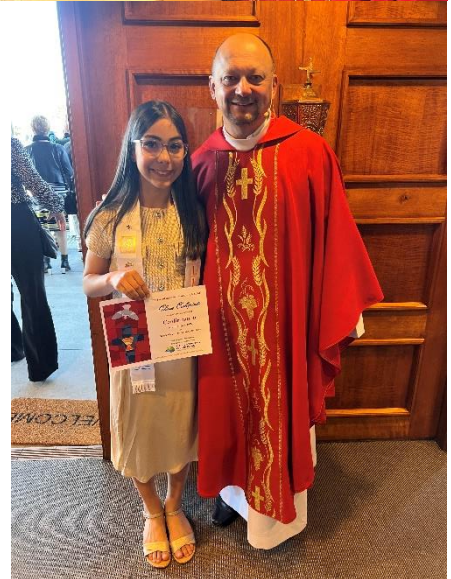


Catechist Students celebrating their Confirmation with Bishop Tony, Fr Andrew and Fr Huy



Confirmation Celebrations

GROW WIDER & DEEPER





St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

These are our parish Mass times. Join via livestream our 6pm Saturday and 8am Sunday Mass [here](#).

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil 6pm St Louis'
Sunday 8am St Brigid's
Sunday 9.30am St Louis'
Sunday 11am St Brigid's

WEEKDAY MASS

Mon 9.15am St Louis'
(Communion Service)
Tues, Thurs 9.15am St Louis'
Wed 10am St Brigid's
Friday 11.30am St Brigid's

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*Sr Mariella Erdmann ofc
Cantic of the Creatures.
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Laudato si – 2000 Years in the Making

2025 is the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' encyclical Laudato si – Care for our Common Home. Come along to St Louis' Church on Thursday 28 August from 7.00 – 8.30pm to learn, discuss and reflect upon this rich encyclical. All are welcome. Presented by Patrick Jurd.

St Brigid's Church: 520 Main Street, Mordialloc.
St Louis de Montfort Church & Parish Office:
37 Dolphin Street, Aspendale I
mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

WELCOME!

If you are new to the parish or would like to be more connected, we would love to meet you. Please reach out to one of our Welcomers at our weekend masses or get in touch at the email address above.

Find us on:

Facebook at:

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Our parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing, and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

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.

God bless you dear Pope Leo.



Leo P.P. XIV