



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

Fourth Sunday of Advent 21 December 2025

Readings for Year A Isaiah 7: 10-14 Romans 1: 1 -7 Matthew 1: 18-24

*"My soul proclaims
the greatness of the Lord"*

I am certainly doing lots of reflecting as I approach my 15th and last Christmas experience in the parish. I am truly grateful for your support of me and how I have led the parish as your pastor. My heart is full of gratitude and love.

And now the scene is set. We can see the finish line, that is Christmas Day, just a few days away but our lives might still be in panic mode. That's OK. Let's acknowledge the reality and then seek some peace for the next few days. It is possible.

As we head into these last few days of Advent, may we take some time to find that inner peace that we so desire. May we channel some of the wisdom from the Mother of Our Lord in her ponderings as she begins to make preparations for the birth of her child. Then on Christmas Day, may we echo Mary's words: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord and spirit exults in God my Saviour."

**Fr Andrew
Parish Priest**



News and Announcements



Farewell and Thank you Fr Andrew and Fr Huy

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to our two priests who take up their new appointments on 12 January 2025. Fr Andrew will be joining the Flemington - Kensington Catholic Parish as the new Parish Priest and Fr Huy will be joining St Joseph's Springvale as Assistant Priest.

If you would like to contribute a personal gift for Fr Andrew and Fr Huy please place in the envelopes & leave in the box on the Welcome Desk.

Please join us for a farewell afternoon tea for Fr Andrew and Fr Huy on Saturday 10 January from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at St Brigid's Primary School Hall.

Sign-up sheets are on the Welcome Desk. Please let us know if you are coming along for catering purposes

Our new Parish Priest

If you have not yet heard the news, **Fr Michael Kong** has been appointed as our new Parish Priest. He is currently the Administrator of Sacred Heart Church in Kew.

Fr Michael was ordained in Melbourne in 2014 and has experience in several Melbourne parishes as well as having spent time studying at the Institutional Social Communication at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome.

To learn more about Fr Michael here is a link to his social media:

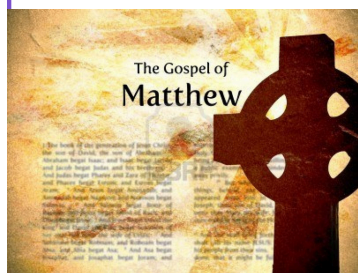
<https://www.facebook.com/papadon.preach.7>

We welcome Fr Michael and look forward to walking alongside him as we continue our parish's missionary journey.



We pray for the victims of the Bondi Beach Tragedy

Lord we pray for all those who died and were injured at Bondi in this terrible event. We also pray for all those who were present and those who helped the victims and are now affected by what they saw and experienced. We hold them in our hearts Lord. Have mercy on the souls of those who died. Amen.



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.



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>



Christmas Mass Times



Christmas Eve 6pm at St Louis' School Oval (Carols from 5.30pm)

Christmas Eve 8.30pm at St Louis' Church (Carols from 8pm)

Midnight Mass at St Brigid's (Carols from 11.30pm)

Christmas Day 8.30am at St Louis' Church

Christmas Day 10.30am at St Brigid's Church

Supporting Vinnies

There will be a special collection at all our Christmas masses to support our local St Vincent de Paul conferences. *Anyone needing assistance from St Vincent de Paul at this time can call: 1800 305 330.*

Christmas Serve Ministers Roster

We aim to create a joyous welcome for all. Please check the roster below and let Ann in the office know if you can fill in any of the gaps. Alternatively please add your name at the Welcome Desk **this weekend**.

Roster for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2025

24th & 25th December 2025	6.00pm St Louis' School Grounds Christmas Eve (Wednesday)	8.30pm St Louis' Christmas Eve (Wednesday)	Midnight Mass St Brigid's Christmas Eve (Wednesday)	08.30am St Louis' Christmas Day (Thursday)	10.30am St Brigid's Christmas Day (Thursday)
Reader	Marylene Douglas	Jenny Ford	Paula Rodrigues		Peter Hannan
Commentator	Carmel Barker	Irene Crowe	Ann Furlong	Ann Furlong	Chester Ryan
Special Minister	Ann Furlong	Sonia Williams	Kristian Tangso	Martin Newington	Jack Meyer
Special Minister	Carmel Barker	Anthony Barnhoorn		Mary Nayna	Christine D'Cruze
Special Minister	Louise Breslin	Marg DeVries			Helen Rocks
Special Minister	Patrica Chaves	Krystyna Wrzesinski	X		X
Welcomer	Robyn Worsnop	Rob Ward		Norma Taylor	Vanessa Fernandes
Welcomer	Monique Bruce	Gail McGillivray		Lex Miller	
Welcomer	X	Maureen Wraight	X	Rosemary Miller	X
Sacristan/s	Susan D	Ann Furlong	Glenice Laughlin	Susan D & Tony A	N/A
Parking Attendants	Tung Pham	X	X	X	X
Christmas Wish	Berna Wake	Chester Ryan	Jenny Ferguson	Ann Furlong	
Flowers	Glenice Laughlin - St Louis -		St Louis -		

Serve Ministers - New Roster January - March 2026

The new roster for the next 3 months has also been emailed to all serve ministers. There are printed copies available on the Welcome Desks. Thank you to all who give so generously for our parish.



The Story of Christmas **formed**

In this hour-long special television event, Benjamin Cello and his friends travel to Pennywhistle Park for a spectacular shadow puppet retelling of "The Story of Christmas" by Boither Joseph and the 'Shadow of His Wings' puppet theatre. Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - 28 DECEMBER 2025

27/28 Dec 2025	The Holy Family Readings (Yr A) Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 12-14 Colossians 3: 12-21 Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Ann Brennan	Carmel Barker	Sonia Williams	Michael Barker	Bernie Stuart	Tom Hughes	Jan Hughes
8.00am (M)	Frances North	Jane Standish	Marlene Tangso	Jack Guthrie	Stephen Pooley	Tony Aloysious	Josie Johnson
9.30am (A)	Lisa Tuke	Irene Crowe	Martin Newington	Elizabeth Newington	Ann Furlong	Volunteer	Edward Joseph
11.00am (M)	Volunteer	Mark Carrazzo	Christine D'Cruze	Peter Hannan	Peter Wain	Vanessa Fernandes	Helen Rocks
Counters	Group 3	Joe Corda	Deborah Joseph	Nelson Popley			

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Rev Fr Paul, Mariano B. Sumayao, Sean Passagne, Ed Riordan, Graeme Donnellan, Brian Murphy, Anne Sleeth, Nicholas Morillion, Gordon Adrian Wagstaff, James O'Donnell, Edmond O'Sullivan, John Illott, Mary Tancheff, Margaret Smith, Guiseppe Taranto, Jim Kerlin, Des Lourey, Aloysius Mendonça, Sr Mary Vera, A.C., Walter M Wesols, Sam Cassano, Joan Juliff, Pietro Gazzo, Theresa Morrison, Mario Nasello, Lance Riordan, Robert Martin, Bert Parisi, Muriel Cramer, Simone Ellul, Marino Nasello, Michael Melbourne, Max Stooke, Shante Vaghela, Luileen McGrath, Denis Raihely, Nancye Raihely, Peter Raihely, Kerry O'Keeffe, Robert Lasrado, Angela Vuat, Elvina Braganza, Gaetano La Pira, John Agimatagi, Jean Barber, Pasquale Tomasiello, Laura Di Lorenzo, Giuseppina Mancini, Francesco Pruscino, Assunta Retina.

Praying for healing and the sick: Natalie Searle, Deborah Joseph, Carmelo Nasello, Stephen Hopkins, Mary Farren, 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.

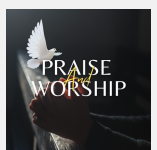
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND HOLY ROSARY

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

EUCCHARISTIC 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