



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

Feast of the Holy Family 28 December 2025

Readings for Year A Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6, 13-14 Colossians 3: 12-21 Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23



*“Take the child and his
mother and flee to Egypt”*

The joy of the newborn child has been cut short. Now the real-life journey of the Holy Family begins to unfold. Joseph, warned by an angel's message in a dream, took Mary and Jesus on an exodus to Egypt. This was because the defenceless and vulnerable Child Jesus posed a threat to the powerful King Herod, with his army of soldiers and weapons. What irony! The Holy Family now becomes a “refugee” family, sharing the lot of countless migrants and refugees ever since.

The Feast of the Holy Family reminds us that Jesus, the Son of God, chose to be born into a family. He, Emmanuel, comes “to be with us” in the family context, sharing with us the ups and downs of family life. Today, let us offer all the members of our families to God. We pray for healing, reconciliation, and unity for any who need them at this time.

**Fr Huy
Assistant Priest**



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)

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

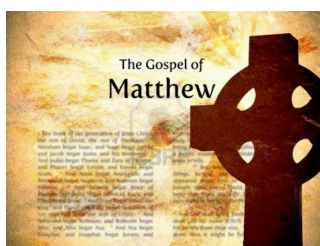
Our new Parish Priest

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.



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.

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**

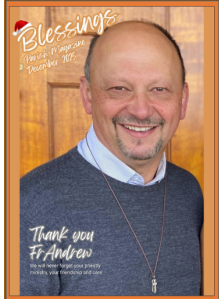


Accompanying children and families in sacrament preparation

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>

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and holy Christmas



Blessings Parish Magazine

The December 2025 edition of our Blessings magazine is available from this weekend. Packed with stories including - farewell to Fr Andrew and Fr Huy, Deacon George article, the National Liturgy Conference, parish groups, news from our schools and lots of photos. All who have subscribed to our parish newsletter will automatically receive a copy in their inbox and there will be printed copies available. If you are yet to subscribe to our weekly newsletter and parish emails, please do so here **SUBSCRIBE**, or at our **parish website**.

Parish Office closed

The Parish office is closed until 13th January. Phones and emails will be monitored over that time.

PS Fr Andrew would appreciate some medium sized boxes for packing.

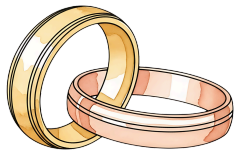
Serve Ministers - New Roster January - March 2026

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

Thanksgiving Mass on New Year's Eve, Wednesday 31 December at St Brigid's at 10.00am, followed by Adoration and Benediction for those who wish to stay.

Mass on New Years Day, Thursday 1 January at St Louis at 10am.

Monday Communion Services will resume on Monday 2 February.



Wedding news

Congratulations to Grace Reiter & Harry Stratford who are to be married on Sunday 28 December. May the Holy Spirit bless your marriage and may you spend a long and happy life together.



Happy 40th anniversary Pearl and Brian

Congratulations to Pearl & Brian Braganza who will celebrate their 40th Anniversary on 30th December. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless you with good health and happiness.



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 and 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](#)

Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family
**Atticus Mark, Leo, Nicholas Ludovic,
Jack Colin, Lena Rosie, Lucian**

God has you in his hands on this special day.

*With every step you take,
he guides you on your way.*



Our parish has a Formed subscription. Visit **formed.org/** **signup** and select our parish.

The Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus - Devotions

Join De Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as we celebrate the feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, with this litany prayer of the Holy Name.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - 4 JANUARY 2026

3/4 January 2026	Epiphany of the Lord Readings (Yr A) Isaiah 60: 1-6 Ephesians 3: 2-3, 5-6 Matthew 2: 1-12						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Patrick Jurd	Ann Furlong	Sonia Williams	Julius Lau	Gail McGillivray	Jan Hughes	Tom Hughes
8.00am (M)	Tony Aloysious	Angela Meo	Carole Guthrie	Jane Standish	Stephen Pooley	Paula Rodrigues	Wence Rodrigues
9.30am (A)	Brian Martin	Gen Martin	Ron Schneider-Loos	Felice Cortese	Volunteer	Mary Nayna	Blessen Mathai
11.00am (M)	Adam Whatmore	Peter Hannan	Christine D'Cruze	Philippa Pecora	Louise Breslin	Ellen Young	Vanessa Fernandes
Counters	Group 4	Bern & Geoff Terrell	Susan Dornom				

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Llorenç Rovira-Durán, Colin Harding, Gus Roomer, Veronica Arthur, Thelma Bromley, Max D'Astoli, Jack Plant, Veronique Lynch, Olwen Griffith, Sebastiano Barbarino, Charles Connell, Vincenzo Colantone, Mario Costanzo, Dorothy de Monte, Marietta Tan Guek Eng, Alberta (Betty) Ryan, David Birch, Daniel Crowe, Audrey D'Cruz, George Kendrick, Mary O'Brien, Phyllis Dynes, Pietro Boccari, Matteo Buensalida, Giusepina Solito, Stefano Solito, Marie Woodhouse, Harry Lavery, Bill Sparey, Millie Regester, Albert Leo Payne, Bernadette Tedford, Susse Cassar, Walter Dow, Shaun Elwood, Elvis Pearle, Annamma Paily, Steven Watkinson, Andrea Burns, Ryen Galdes, Sean Jones, Mary O'Neill, Antionette Laria, Lorna Powell.

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.

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

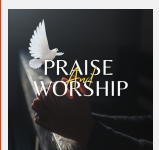
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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.