

Blessings



The magazine of St Mary of the Cross Parish Mordialloc & Aspendale

Issue no. 27 – July 2023



*Come Holy Spirit
Pentecost 2023*

Welcome to our July 2023 issue!

St Mary of the Cross Parish, Mordialloc & Aspendale

St Brigid's Church: 520 Main Street, Mordialloc

St Louis de Montfort's Church & Parish Centre: 37 Dolphin Street, Aspendale

Parish Office: 9580 7981 Email: mordiallocaspendale@cam.org



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

SUNDAY MASS

6pm Saturday Vigil St Louis'
8am Sunday St Brigid's
9.30am Sunday St Louis'
11am Sunday St Brigid's
RECONCILIATION
Friday 12 noon St Brigid's
Saturday 5.30pm St Louis'

WEEKDAY MASS

9.15am Monday St Louis'
(Communion Service)
9.15am Tuesday St Louis'
10am Wednesday St Brigid's
9.15am Thursday St Louis'
11.30am Friday St Brigid's

PARISH STAFF

Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Jekot
Assistant Priest: Fr Ignatius Tan
Parish Leadership Team:
Fr Andrew, Fr Ignatius, Trish Angliss,
Kristian Tangso, Berna Wake
Parish Coordinator: Ann Fitzgerald
Baptism Coordinator: Deb Poynton

HOLY ROSARY AND ADORATION - 1st Saturday of the month 4.30-5.30pm at St Louis' Church

PRAISE AND WORSHIP - 3rd Friday of the month 7.30-8.30pm alternating between our two churches

Join via livestream Catholic Mass with Fr Andrew & Fr Ignatius, 6pm Saturday & 8am Sunday on [YouTube](#)
Stay up to date with us on [Facebook](#), our [Parish Website](#) and by subscribing to our [Digital Bulletin](#)



From the Editor

Another big issue of Blessings, showcasing how alive our parish is. There is no doubt the Holy Spirit is in our midst. It is so inspiring to hear the thoughts and feelings of many in our parish community, both via direct feedback to the Parish Leadership Team and in the many written reflections in Blessings. At a time where there are many in society who feel Parish and Church are no longer relevant or important, I truly feel at St Mary of the Cross Parish we are bucking this trend. We are making Church matter! This is entirely intentional and is due in part to our "Opening the Door's" Parish Renewal Pathway which we began in May 2021, the larger influence of course is due to the Holy Spirit, without whom nothing can be achieved.

May we continue to be blessed as we journey onwards, supporting each other in our faith journeys and being a people who love and care not only for each other but increasingly for those who are outside our doors.

I would love to hear from you if you have a story to share about our parish and people and your ideas about reaching those outside of the pews.

Peace & blessings,

Berna Wake

Berna.wake@cam.org.au

*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 respect to Elders, past, present, and emerging.*

Father Andrew's Word



"Maybe I'll run into Pope Francis along the street?"

As you read this, I will be well and truly into my sabbatical time. I will be in Baulkham Hills attending a retreat run by the Josephite Sisters. I am so looking forward to the quiet of the retreat way of leading me into my travelling component of sabbatical. Walking the Portuguese Camino in August followed by 4 weeks in Rome looking at the scriptural theology of Mary. I am looking forward to my time in Rome as I haven't really spent any significant time in the Eternal City. Maybe I'll run into Pope Francis along the street? Who knows!!!

Not having read what is in this edition of Blessings, I can still confidently say that what you will read will be a snapshot of what has been happening in the parish since Easter time. That is why Blessings contains so many pages due to the incredible vibrancy of a parish that is about community and faith. Your willingness to be involved and partake in all the opportunities provides momentum and energy, allowing the Holy Spirit to be so present amongst us. I'm sad that I will miss out on some parish activities in the next few months, but I look forward to hearing about them upon my return. One main parish activity coming up will be the Parish Feast Day involving a lunch that you will be invited to. I hope that you can be part of that gathering.

The Parish Leadership Team will be your main contact for any questions or concerns whilst I'm away and don't hesitate to contact them if you need to. Please pray for me whilst I do the same for you.

St. Louis' – pray for us.

St. Brigid – pray for us.

St. Mary of the Cross – pray for us.

Shalom,



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

Pentecost 2023

Happy Birthday to the Church

A SENSE OF JOY pervaded our celebration of the Feast of Pentecost, from the welcoming fire to the abundance of candles and balloons, the beautiful music, the superb altar frontal, scripture readings in Spanish, Mandarin, Polish, Italian, Tagalog, Malayalam, Vietnamese, and German, all acknowledging that we are part of the universal Church. We are the Church - *All are Welcome in This Place* - and it's our birthday.



The Holy Spirit is most assuredly in this place. In this blessed place where we have gathered to share joy and challenges, to learn and to be inspired; where we have brought our sorrow, our grief, our fear, our disappointments, our struggles, we have journeyed together through a spectacular Easter season. From the inspiring Triduum, right through to fabulous Pentecost, we have been drawn in, lifted up, immersed in faith, grace and joy, and rejoiced in the warmth of the Holy Spirit poured out in our world and in our lives.

Acknowledging the Holy Spirit as a constant presence in our lives, and mindful of a relationship of love and trust between ourselves and the Spirit of Life, our Mass concluded with an invitation to all to come forward for an individual blessing. With hands laid on participants' heads, the Spirit in Fr Andrew, Fr Ignatius, and Eucharistic ministers, reached out to connect with the Spirit present in participants.



As always St Mary of the Cross hospitality was outstanding, from the birthday cake to the toasted marshmallows (a great use of Liturgical Symbol); overarching all the warmth and friendly interaction that is so much a part of our Parish. The Easter Season has gloriously ended with Pentecost's celebration of the Holy Spirit, always present, always active. We pray that the fire of the Holy Spirit will set our hearts ablaze to joyfully recommit to our Parish Mission to **Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples**.

Frances North (Parishioner)



St Louis' Herb Garden



As an 'Earth Care Parish' our Earthcare team continues to identify opportunities for our parishes to be more Earth and community conscious. Over April and May, the team purchased raised garden beds from a local supplier and with members of St Louis planted a community herb garden close to the footpath outside the church. Once there is enough growth, the community will be invited to come and take what is needed for a meal. The garden beds look fantastic and are a great way to bring the community together not just for the initial working bee but also into the future as the herbs are used and stories of meals enjoyed and shared. The Earthcare team are working to replicate the herb garden at St Brigid's in October and will welcome volunteers to come and help with the working bee.



Thank-you to Fr Andrew and the Parish for supporting this initiative. Future donations of herbs to keep the gardens going would be greatly appreciated.

Dina Watterson



The Wild Goose



"The number one game changer in parish renewal is faith sharing small groups".

Fr Michael White Rebuilt Ministry & Church of the Nativity.

THE PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM and Parish Pastoral Council continually review ways to provide opportunities to address our Parish Mission and Anchors. **Watch & Share** events are an integral part of our Discipleship Pathway (see the poster on the church noticeboards). Over a 7-week period in April and May approximately 35 parishioners gathered each week to watch an episode of the acclaimed series on the Holy Spirit entitled *The Wild Goose*, and then to meet in small groups to discuss and share. It was an opportunity to encounter or have a renewed encounter with the Holy Spirit. *The Wild Goose* was a term that the ancient Celts had for the Holy Spirit. Here are some reflections from our parish community.

From Ellen Young:

As we opened in prayer with Fr Andrew at the start of the first episode, I felt within minutes the loving, warm calm presence of the Holy Spirit fill St Louis' church I had been praying for months prior to this event for something like this to happen in our church and here I was in the presence of the 'Wild Goose'. The confirmation that **God is love** and that the Lord's Love is perfect, passionate, and unconditional for all of us... We were about to experience the beauty of the Gifts and the Fire of the Holy Spirit who was waiting to be invited into our lives.



The Wild Goose was about to take me on an adventure I had never encountered with such depth and stirring in my spirit!

I did not want the video to end.... Come Holy Spirit Come is what we sang before we joined our small groups of discussion, reflection, and prayer for each other.

I found that the Holy Spirit touched each person in our Group in a very personal and individual way... each with a willingness to share, encouraging and opening our hearts to God, ministering to us through His gentle love. It felt like we were starting with an enlightened understanding of a renewed spiritual relationship with God our Father with a joyful excitement and thirst for more of what the Holy Spirit was already doing in our lives.

It was at that moment that I was awakened and realized that the very Holy Spirit that was present at the Baptism of Jesus, was also there for us to have access to when we become baptised in the Holy Spirit...

I felt a renewing of my spiritual life in a way that I had not felt before... a willingness to share what I had seen and heard in the following days and weeks with my family, friends, and colleagues.

I would not have done this before with such boldness and passion... I cannot imagine my life now without the joy of calling on the Holy Spirit for the gifts of Wisdom and understanding, learning to let go of trying to be in control and allowing God's love and purpose for my life to take shape to fulfill my calling to do His will. The Spirit of Jesus offers us a relationship to be free from fear but a loving Father – daughter or Father – son relationship.

When Fr Andrew encouraged us to watch the next 7 episodes at home or with each other to complete the series I jumped at the chance to invite everyone in my group to my home to continue to share the love, friendship and support we had felt throughout the previous weeks.

We have since been meeting each week in a different home to watch the remaining 7 episodes. We have grown together to reflect on the *Wild Goose*, with prayers and fellowship.

From Jon Searle:

This is the third instalment of our **"Watch and Share"** series, and I encourage anyone who hasn't been able to join us yet to strongly consider attending the next one. It provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with people outside of our regular mass time and gain a deeper understanding of their unique insights and perspectives.

The Wild Goose Holy Spirit series (wildgoose.tv) is an engaging resource for anyone seeking to encounter the transforming love and power of the Holy Spirit. It calls us to open ourselves fully to the Holy Spirit's wild and untamed love, allowing it to ignite our hearts, renew our faith, and empower us to live as authentic witnesses of God's love in the world. Through this invitation, we embark on a journey that draws us closer to God and unveils the abundant life He desires for each of us.

The series highlights the unconditional love of God, surpassing any notion of worthiness. It reminds us that God loves us deeply, regardless of our actions or shortcomings. This realisation has the power to transform our hearts and instil a profound sense of worth and belonging.

The series also touches on the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. It encourages us to embrace and cultivate these gifts in their lives, allowing them to bear the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The Holy Spirit empowers and equips us to live a life of love and service, impacting not only our own lives but also those around us.

My personal favourites were "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" and "The Spirit and the Desert" because they validated some of my own experiences. In our group, some of us shared our direct experiences, which were sometimes sudden and dramatic, deepening our faith. Others recounted experiences of even more vulnerable times when they had reached a point of complete emptiness, knowing they couldn't rely on their own strength, and yet through some wondrous intervention, they found the resources they needed. These experiences highlight the multifaceted nature of the Holy Spirit, who can come like a gentle breeze or a raging wind, touching and transforming lives in extraordinary ways.



From Sandy Lindfield:

It was the start of week one of a watch & share experience that looked at how we allow the Holy Spirit to be part of our lives.

Wow this was going to be confronting. Maybe this isn't for me, maybe I'm not comfortable with my faith taking shape this way. Maybe I could duck out the back door and nobody would notice..... but, after sitting with a group of other parishioners that night, I began to feel, maybe yes, I could do this - Maybe I should give it one more week.

From then on, each week brought greater inspiration and invitations. Invitations to allow myself to take the next step to deepen my faith and to open my heart to the Holy Spirit. Inspiration to start to understand God's messages through our liturgy and to start to make connections between my faith and my everyday life, as an educator, wife, mother, and friend.

Being part of the Wild Goose evenings allowed me to hear that God's invitation to me wasn't to experience the wonder of the Holy Spirit alone, but to journey in communion. It was through others I felt and experienced the Holy Spirit. It was through the sharing of each other's stories, through the sharing of each other's fears and loves that the Holy Spirit came alive.

Come Holy Spirit.

From Rosemary Grace:

Whilst I do not like venturing out on winter evenings, I made the decision to attend our recent parish “Watch and Share” event presented on Wednesday evenings for a

period of seven weeks. My reasons for attending were twofold. I had in my mind that the Wild Goose sessions would be about Celtic Spirituality and I also thought it would be a great opportunity to meet fellow parishioners. Fr Andrew’s words were in my mind – “Just come along and see what it is about. If it’s not for you, that’s fine.”

The first (and subsequent sessions) were given by an American Franciscan priest. We then broke up into randomly chosen groups of 5 or 6. Each group had a designated leader to keep us on track. As I have an aversion to American voices, I allowed that to be a barrier and shared with the group that my problem was not with the matter presented but the American way of presenting it. I own the problem. I could hear Fr Andrew’s words – “if it’s not for you, that’s fine”.

The group was very accepting of me, and I didn’t want to try to influence anyone else with my prejudice. I felt that we were building trust and acceptance within the group as we discussed our awareness of the Holy Spirit in our lives. At the end of the session, I was unsure whether I would attend the following week. We ended with the prayer “Come Holy Spirit”.

Needless to say, I returned the following and ensuing weeks, enjoying the sharing of our individual encounters with the Holy Spirit in our lives. Each person’s experience was so different. But we were reminded of how the Holy Spirit is constantly beside and within us and I found myself during the weeks between sessions walking around the house saying, “Come Holy Spirit”. It was a constant reminder of how important the Holy Spirit is in our everyday lives.

The bonus for me was meeting people I would not have otherwise met and building meaningful relationships.



If you would like to watch the Wild Goose series, you can do so for free via our Parish subscription to Formed - [Sign in - FORMED](#)

FIRST EUCHARIST



IT WAS an absolute delight to see the 5 children from our current catechist program receiving their First Eucharist on Sunday 11th June.

Mia, Gabbi, Jasmine, Chloe and Carla have been coming to our Parish every Tuesday after school since the beginning of the year to prepare to receive their first Eucharist.

They have participated in activities centered around our liturgical year and lessons to develop an understanding of our Mass and the importance of the Eucharist within our Catholic faith.

In our times together we always had great discussions as they opened their hearts to learn more about Jesus and how precious it is to receive Jesus in Holy Eucharist.

The lead up to their 'special' day was filled with great anticipation and excitement as they thought about all that was going to occur. The actual day was amazing and for those that were at that Mass on the 11th of June, the children's radiant faces were enough for us all to be touched afresh by their joy at receiving this Sacrament of the Eucharist for the first time.

It is always an absolute delight to work in these Catechist groups with the children and their very supportive parents.

We ask, all that read this, to hold these young children in your prayers as they continue to experience and learn more about our loving God.

Elizabeth, Carmel, Gayle and Jenny.

Caritas Kilometres for Compassion



IN SOLIDARITY with the millions of people around the world who need to cover many kilometres to fetch water, obtain food, get to school, or market, or flee from natural disaster or conflict, our parish Justice Action Group held a Caritas Ks event on Saturday 20th May.

To help promote the event, the St Louis Faith and Social Justice group, put up posters around the school, talked about it at assembly and talked to all the classes.

On the day the weather was forecasted for rain but luckily the rain missed us, but it is a reminder that the poor and vulnerable people around the world have to find access to water no matter the weather. After a special blessing from Fr. Andrew, we set off on our 4km journey around the wetlands. Some students ran, other participants walked and some even rode their bikes.

On return we were treated to a delicious sausage sizzle and scones thanks to kind volunteers, as well as fruit, tea and coffee. Thank you to the Lindfield family for cooking the BBQ, to Helen and Barbara for the scones and to Fr. Ignatius for helping with the clean-up.

We had approximately 35 people attend the Caritas Ks and in total we raised \$565 to support the work of Caritas Australia. We are very thankful to all the participants and helpers for their time, effort, and kindness.

Mia Dobrohotoff

St Louis de Montfort's Faith and Social Justice Co-leader



Baptisms

*We welcome & pray for children recently
baptised & their families*

William Thomas Buttigieg son of Matthew Buttigieg and Jane Yeow

Ayla Megan Garcia daughter of Jason and Sarah Garcia

Romeo Badalassi son of Bartolomeo Badalassi and Stephanie Taylor

Daisy Sylvia Damen daughter of Adrian and Clare Damen

Hazel Grace & Oliver William Coulson children of Luke Coulson and Amy Edmonds

Xavier Ged Meyer son of Michael Meyer and Mandy Hammond

Noah Frankie Lee son of Jeremy and Megan Lee

Isla Ray and Sunny James Turville children of Michael Turville and Sharni Taylor

Liam Keo Mariani son of Leo Mariani and Sophanna Keo

Olive Renae Charlesworth daughter of Cameron and Zoe Charlesworth

Freddie Bohdan Lucas son of Shane Lucas and Allena Marks

Maddison Dawn Marshall daughter of Scott and Josephine Marshall

Hudson James Raffaele son of Paul and Amber Raffaele

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



A Child's Blessing

May your life be blessed with joy and love.

May angels guide you from above.

May your heart be kind your spirit strong,
to see the good and right some wrong.

May the world be a better place,
because you came and shared some space.



Walk to school day!

It was great to see so many children, prams, mums, and dads, and the two members of the Mordialloc Police - Abbey and Rob joining us for the Walk Safely to School Day recently. The sirens and lights were a huge hit when the police had to leave to attend an accident. Below is a thank you from the Pedestrian Council of Australia:

Thank you for participating in the 24th National Walk Safely to School Day. We hope you had a great time and know your support of this important community initiative is hugely appreciated. We were thrilled to also have the support of the Prime Minister of Australia, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP.

Warm regards, The Pedestrian Council of Australia

School News!

Jodie Marziano

Deputy Principal

St Brigid's Primary School

Mordialloc preschool visit

Recently our Year 5 students were visited by the Mordialloc Pre-School. "Yellow" group and 9 of our Year 5 students spent time with the children in the library reading them stories and Mrs Marziano read a lovely story to the children to start the session off.

After that, the "Orange" group came to visit and with the other 9 Year 5 students created a lovely butterfly as an art activity. Next term the activities will swap over for the Preschool children and our Year 5's will visit the groups at the Pre-School.

Intergenerational program with Nixon House

Our Year 5 students participated in an intergenerational program with Nixon House. They spent time with the residents planting native plants and making beehives. They all said it was a wonderful experience and the residents were so pleased to see our students. Below are some photos of the children engaging with the residents.



New Administration Block

When I took up the principal's position at St Louis in Term 4, 2020 the office area had a partial roof collapse. The admin staff were working in very difficult working circumstances. The Leadership area was dark, no natural light and there were waterfalls down the interior walls when it rained. We now have a large, spacious light filled and modern building that I am so proud of.

After eighteen months of the building process and all that it entails, we proudly celebrated the opening of our New Administration Block on Wednesday 24 May. Various guests were invited to share in the opening ceremony led by Fr Andrew. Our local Politician Tim Richardson joined us on the day and was suitably impressed. We had visitors from the Melbourne Archdiocese of Catholic Schools, representatives from Baxter and Crosier Scott and our Leadership Team. Fr Andrew blessed the building; our student school leaders sang along with eight of our prep students.

School News!

*Carmel Stutterd
Principal
St Louis' Primary School*



The little Long Walk

We continue to celebrate significant events at St Louis. In the first semester we recognised Harmony Day, our St Louis Feast Day, and Reconciliation Week. During Reconciliation week we celebrated the Little Long Walk. The walk was a great way to gather and educate the whole school community about our First Nations People and Cultures. We had many special guests joining us this year including Jenaya Serra from the Michael Long Foundation, Hon Mark Dreyfus, Tim Richardson, MP, Mayor Hadi Saab, Deputy Mayor Councillor Chris Hill, Local Councillors, and others.

School Camps

This semester saw us take our Year 4, 5 and 6 cohorts on camp. Our Year 5's travelled to Phillip Island and camped under canvas for two nights. Our Year 6's went on a journey to Canberra for four nights before flying home. An amazing experience was shared. Our Year 4's went on their first camp to Silvan and enjoyed the experience.



Sports Success

Our involvement in sport continues to be a highlight at St Louis. This has included both the junior and senior athletic carnivals, bike education for our Year 6 students and preparation and participation in swimming and cross-country events. Our Year 6's have also been involved in Friday sport which has led to a number of teams in AFL, Netball and Tee Ball move through to the Division Competitions.

Parish Groups



We are delighted to announce our new St Mary of the Cross "Bob's Knitting & Crochet Group". Everyone is invited to join in a warm, friendly environment to knit, have a cuppa and form friendships whilst knitting beanies, scarves, rugs and toys for organisations including the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, the John Paul College Companion Van helping the homeless in Frankston amongst others. As we grow, so will our causes. If you cannot attend, your donations of wool and handmade knitted items will be greatly appreciated. There are collection baskets in our church foyers.

New Men's Fellowship Group



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



Welcoming all men in a non-judgemental, friendly environment

Men - do you feel it's hard to find opportunities to talk about faith without being ridiculed or judged—whether it's by your friends, families or at work?

All men of the parish and school dad's are invited to join in this monthly gathering. We will watch a short video and discuss our thoughts, ideas and challenges, learning and listening from one another.

3rd Wednesday of the month 7.30-9pm at St Louis'
Next gathering Wednesday 23 August

So, who is Bob?

Bobs was the name of Mary MacKillops beloved dog. Mary adored her furry companion. Even more reason to love our beloved Saint.



Interfaith Bus Trip



I attended my third interfaith bus tour; I am a little biased as one of the stops on this past tour was our very own St Brigid's. We as a parish received great praise from the organisers from the Kingston Interfaith committee.

We were welcoming, warm, and informative. Much thanks to Fr Andrew, Barbara Cronin, Sandy Lindfield, John Bainbridge, and Berna Wake from our JAG with Kristian Tangso from the PLT. I would suggest our own parish members learnt something about our Parish history.

The bus tour is a great way to learn and experience other faith beliefs. This year we visited the Jewish Museum in St Kilda. None of us had been here before and we totally enjoyed all the information given. Across the street at the back is the St Kilda Temple (Shul). We sat and listened to a small snapshot about Judaism which was extremely interesting. I learnt to appreciate the length of a day! Do yourself a favour and visit the museum yourself and allow plenty of time.

Second stop was the "Jain Temple", it was a huge surprise. It currently consists of only the "footings" of the Temple, a work in progress. The Jains currently worship in an old Masonic building in Rohan's Road Moorabbin. Once built, in 12-18 months time the intricate carved marble will be a visual delight in the industrial area. If an invitation comes forward when it opens, I will pass it on.

Third and finally our St Brigid's Church was a wonderful way to celebrate the day with lunch to share.

Helen Rocks our representative on the Kingston interfaith committee.



Entering fully into our parish community

Our Easter Saturday Vigil Mass of the Resurrection was a beautiful and joyous celebration as we welcomed new members into the Catholic faith. We asked Mandy, Nikki and Brett, Feodor and Jon:

What has becoming a Catholic meant to you?



Feodor Frukhtman

Starting the RCIA process, I initially thought it would all be about the practicalities of being a Catholic. Do this, don't do this, this is how you conduct yourself at Mass etc. While we did cover some of the practicalities of Catholicism, mostly what happened was that the RCIA team led the way for deep personal reflection and a welcoming to the parish community.

Our sessions and various gatherings were punctuated by a spirit of love. Becoming a Catholic, for me, was about developing a deeper relationship with God. I found that I also developed a relationship with the parish community. So, I got a two for one you might say.

I am deeply thankful to Fr Andrew, Fr Ignatius, and the whole RCIA team for a wonderful journey.

Jon Searle

Something truly special seems to be happening in our parish. Whether this is due to our small groups, the Wild Goose and other "watch and share" sessions, the daily prayers, and devotions of people in our parish, or maybe it's just God deciding that it's time for Him to renew his mission with us. Nevertheless, I can see the Holy Spirit working in us, in the way we welcome everyone, the loving care we show each other, how we pray for each other, and build each other up in God's love.

Personally, sharing my testimony at Pentecost was a nerve-racking and vulnerable experience. However, witnessing the genuine openness and acceptance from people in this parish reassured me of the power of sharing our faith stories and the impact they can have on others.

Reflecting on Jesus' compassionate encounter with the woman at the well, His unwavering love seeks out the vulnerable and embraces the outcast and marginalised. He gives living water that never runs dry, quenches our spiritual thirst, dissolves evil, and brings us new life. Despite the religious and cultural conflicts between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus' words bring peace and joy, washing away barriers both between us and within us. Like the woman at the well, the Holy Spirit gives us courage, strength, and desire to share His self-giving love with everyone.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

What has becoming a Catholic meant to you?



Mandy Hammond

There is a wonderful community feel about becoming a Catholic. When I began my RCIA journey I was welcomed by everyone in the group, and I have enjoyed connecting with different people. Over the past several months I have learnt the importance of taking time to reflect and giving myself the opportunity to stop and remember what is important. I am grateful to the Parish and all those involved in running the RCIA program.

Nikki and Brett Hill

A big thank you to the parishioners, the RCIA team, Father Andrew and Father Ignatius for all their love, support and prayers for our family during this journey to becoming Catholic. We have met the most kindhearted and generous people within this Parish and made some incredibly wonderful friendships in the process. People who have impacted us in the most wonderful way.

The preparation involved to becoming Catholic has meant we have spent countless hours researching, reading, listening and reflecting over the last 12 months.

It has been a soul searching journey for us as a family and a journey that we will continue to embrace by learning and growing as individuals and as a whole.

We have loved being apart of this community and the St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish. We are forever thankful.

Kind regards,
The Hill family



Do you know someone who is thinking about becoming a Catholic?

Have you or someone you know ever thought about doing the sacraments and expanding your faith? What about joining with your children as they go through the sacramental program at school?

RCIA is for: Adults who are not baptised; Adults baptised in another Christian Church or faith; non-practising Catholics wishing to renew their faith. Phone the Parish office for more information on 9580-7981.

Making of a masterpiece

Kristian Joy Tangso

LAST YEAR, I embarked on an unexpected journey to pursue my calling as an artist at the Heart of the Renaissance. I thought I would be so immersed in Italian culture and in learning about and appreciating the beauty of Sacred Art that I didn't expect much more. However, lo and behold I discovered that my experiences overseas were amazingly more about God continuing to mould me into His masterpiece and teaching me how to trust in Jesus more.

I was blessed to call Santa Marta monastery my home in Florence where I could bask in awe of God's beauty in creation with the view of rolling Tuscan hills from our backyard. There, I found silence and solitude in our chapel where I would join the Benedictine Sisters in their daily prayers and celebration of Holy Mass, while also embracing new friendships with people from all around the world.

It was a tremendous honour to represent the Lay Carmelites of Australia in celebrating the canonisation of Saint Titus Brandsma in Rome. It was Providential that I came to encounter this Carmelite priest, philosopher, and journalist in this way especially having discovered that he valued and promoted the use of any form of media, particularly images, to share the message of Truth to all peoples. For this, I am certain that St Titus Brandsma's intercession helped lead me on my chosen path and why I decided to paint a portrait of him through which he is accompanying me on my journey in also discovering the Cross as my joy.

With my health and wellbeing crying out in peril from exhaustion, stress, and the scorching summer heat of Italy, I sought refuge in a country where I first encountered the personal love of God. Overjoyed, I was finally reunited with my dear friends in Norway. Since this visit was unplanned, I surrendered everything to God trusting that He would provide and bring me healing, comfort, and peace. I was overwhelmed with God's goodness in sending me on a pilgrimage around Oslo; to homes where I was warmly welcomed with love and generosity. My friendships grew both deeper and wider as we shared in God's love with each other, in prayer, worship, and through our joys and sorrows. Surprisingly, I found a new love of the sea, as its deep and calling immensity reminds me of the Sacrament of Baptism and of God's Ocean of Mercy which I personally experienced through the hardships I faced last year. I drew inspiration from walking more closely with Jesus in my struggles to create with God a painting of Jesus entitled 'Love and Mercy.' I look forward to sharing my sacred art compositions with the world someday.

Continued next page.



Making of a masterpiece

Kristian Joy Tangso

A beautiful insight I gained from the process of oil painting is how profoundly it relates to our very own creation, humanity, and path to holiness. Initially, a rough sketch is outlined that resembles God's plan for our lives, but because we are given free will, the path we end up taking may not be as how God intended. A thin diluted layer of paint is then applied to the canvas as a foundation which signifies both the good and bad fruits borne from our decisions and experiences in life that help shape who we are becoming. God delights in us when we grow and learn from our mistakes, as well as the times when we fall short in loving Him, ourselves, and others. God is quick to forgive us and waits patiently for us to come back to Him. This is reflected in the second phase of painting when the artist adds a new layer of pure paint, symbolic of a new life in Christ. More and more layers of paint are applied onto the canvas creating more depth as we continue to journey through life's ups and downs. Each brushstroke emphasises an encounter, whether big or small, that strengthens our faith and character as we persevere in carrying our daily crosses with Jesus.

At the very end, the details are added to complete the work of art - God's masterpieces which is all of us. Throughout our pilgrimage on earth, God's merciful and loving hands mould us into the person who we were created to be - an image of Jesus - a saint!

All in all, during my formation as a Christian artist and my adventures in Europe, I have discovered that leading people on the path of Beauty and creating an opportunity for all to encounter God through Sacred Art is my personal mission. You are all welcome to accompany me on this exciting journey through your presence, thoughts, prayers, encouragement, purchasing my art, donations, or by following me on Instagram @kristianjoyart.

Thank you and God bless,
Kristian Joy Tangso



Growing Old

Lord thou knowest I am growing older.

Keep me from become talkative and possessed with the idea that I must express myself on every subject.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone affairs.

Keep me from the recital of endless detail.

Give me wings to get to the point.

Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains. They are increasing with the years and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong. Make me thoughtful but not nosey; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of experience, it does seem a pity not to use it at all.

But thou knowest Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Thanks Tony Allday

Congratulations



Congratulations to Kristina Tseprailidis and Michael Giarusso who were married by Fr Andrew at St. Brigid's on 22 April 2023. The son of Greg & Eva Giarrusso, Michael and Kristina married on a lovely autumn's day.

Congratulations to Patricia and John Bainbridge on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.



Congratulations to Maxine and Tom Murphy on their 60th Wedding Anniversary.



Sending our love and blessings to Emilia Wisniewski who is one of almost 600 pilgrims from Melbourne to attend World Youth Day in Lisbon Portugal from 2-6 August.



Congratulations to Pam and Peter Hannan on their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



St Mary of the Cross



ON HIS first General Audience after his recent surgery the pope talked about his "zeal" for evangelization by focusing on **St. Mary MacKillop**, the Australian founder of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart. Australia's first saint, she was born in 1842 near Melbourne and died in Sydney in 1909. Her order established schools and charitable organizations across Australia and was devoted to the care of orphans, neglected children, the homeless, sick and aged. Pope Benedict XVI, who canonized her in 2010, had praised her as one of the most outstanding figures in Australia's history, and St. John Paul II, who beatified her in 1995, praised her courage and her commitment to serving the poor.

In his general audience talk, Pope Francis called her "an extraordinary religious sister," who dedicated her life to "the intellectual and religious formation of the poor in rural Australia."

"Wisely reading the signs of the times," this young woman whose parents had emigrated from Scotland, understood that the best way for her to spread the Gospel and attract others to encounter Jesus was through teaching young people, "in the knowledge that Catholic education is a form of evangelization. It is a great form of evangelization," said the pope, who "Mary MacKillop was convinced that the purpose of education is the integral development of the person both as an individual and as a member of the community, and that this requires wisdom, patience and charity on the part of every teacher," he said. Education is helping others "to think well, to feel well -- the language of the heart -- and to do well -- the language of the hands," Pope Francis said. "This vision is fully relevant today, when we feel the need for an 'educational pact' capable of uniting families, schools and society as a whole."

But an essential part of St. MacKillop's zeal for sharing the Gospel, the pope said, was her dedication to caring for the poor and marginalized.

"This is very important," he said. Along "the path to holiness, which is the Christian path, the poor and the marginalized are the protagonists, and a person cannot move forward in holiness if he or she does not also devote himself or herself to them in one way or another."

Those in need, he said, "draw attention to injustice, which is the huge poverty in the world. Money is spent on making weapons and not on making meals."

St. MacKillop also had great faith in God's providence and "was always confident that in any situation God provides," the pope said, "but this did not spare her from the anxieties and difficulties arising from her apostolate."

"Yet, through it all, she remained calm, patiently carrying the cross that is an integral part of the mission," he said, and she never gave up "when her joy was dampened by opposition and rejection."

"You see, every saint faced opposition, even within the church," he said.

St. MacKillop had been briefly excommunicated in 1871 and her religious order temporarily disbanded during a disagreement with local church authorities, who disapproved of the sisters living in tiny, isolated communities frequently cut off from the sacraments in the remote Australian outback. The bishop who had excommunicated her lifted his censure after a few months and a church commission cleared the sisters of all wrongdoing.

"May St. Mary MacKillop's missionary discipleship, her creative response to the needs of the church of her time, and her commitment to the integral formation of young people inspire all of us today, called to be a leaven of the Gospel in our rapidly changing societies," the pope said.

May her example and intercession support parents, teachers, catechists and all educators, "for the good of young people and for a more humane and hopeful future," he added. *Catholic News*



Let's Celebrate

Parish Feast Day & Fr Ignatius' 60th lunch

Sunday 13 August
12.30-2.30pm
St Brigid's Primary School Hall

trybooking.com/CKBOG



Why do we pray to Saint Anthony when we lose something?

I am sure like me you have often prayed to St Anthony when you lose something. I have also always wondered why St Anthony?

The answer comes from a story in the life of the 12th Century Portuguese-Italian saint.

Apparently, Anthony had a valuable book of psalms that was extremely important to him.

One day, a novice monk left the community, taking the book with him. As this was a cherished book, Anthony prayed fervently for its return.

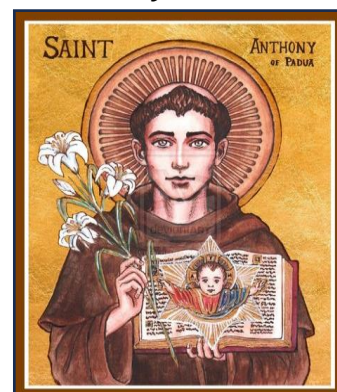
It turned out the novice felt guilty and returned the book, this resulted in Anthony's book being referred to as the "Book of Lost Things".

In later years and after his death, people began looking for Anthony's help when they misplaced or lost something of value, and many people found their lost item after praying to him.

So next time you misplace something you might like to say this prayer to St Anthony:

O Holy St. Anthony gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Encouraged by this thought, I implore you to obtain for me (request).

O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms. The gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. Amen.



In memoriam

A Prayer for Those Who Have Died

God of Consolation,

We remember those who died.

For those who passed away quietly,
we ask for a joyful passage into your spacious
heart.

For those who suffered great pain,
we ask for respite and the comfort of your
compassionate embrace.

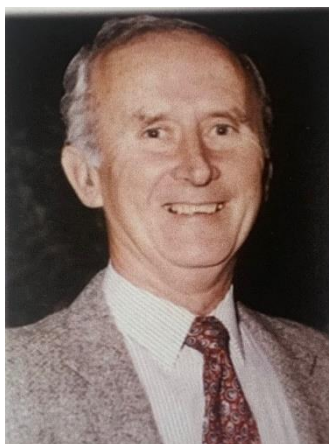
For those who died too soon, in sudden and
unexpected ways,
we ask for peace and surrender into your loving
care.

Grant all of those who have died the grace of your
eternal light and life.

Amen.

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*Michael Kelly (85).
Michael passed away
on the 7th of June 2023.
Michael's funeral was
held at St Brigid's on
the 16th of June 2023.*



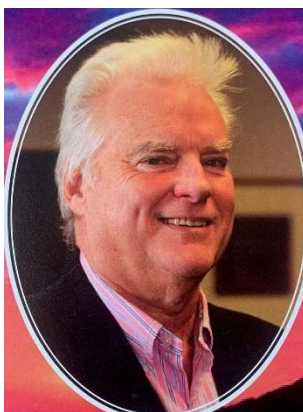
*Helen Rose Pedrazzini (79).
Helen passed away on the
7th of May 2023.
Helen's funeral was held at
St Louis de Montfort on the
18th of May 2023.*



*Giselle Emma Labonte (86).
Giselle passed away on the
16th April 2023.
Giselle's funeral was held
at St Brigid's on the
21st April 2023.*



*Thomas Yat Wai Tong (74).
Thomas passed away on the
9th of June 2023.
Thomas' funeral was held at
St Brigid's on the 21st of June
2023.*



*Paul Stephen Burrows (71).
Paul passed away on the
26th of May 2023.
Paul's funeral was held at
St Brigid's on the 6th of
June 2022.*



*Rupert Neville Hood (85).
Rupert passed away on
the 27th of May 2023.
Rupert's funeral
was held at St Brigid's on
the 2nd of June 2023.*

All welcome to our Praise & Worship Nights

3rd Friday of the month 7.30pm*

*alternating between St Louis' & St Brigid's



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

Holy Rosary & Eucharistic Adoration

1st Saturday of the month 4.30pm at
St Louis de Montfort Church



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



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