St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong
Deacon: George Piech-Meat

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 23 August 2026

Readings for Year A Isaiah 22: 19-23 Romans 11: 33-36 Matthew 16: 13-20

"You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church"

Jesus wants to know who people think He is, and what they call Him. Peter responds on behalf of the group. Peter has often responded first to any situation that Jesus presents to some or many of the disciples, e.g. walking on the water, or the Transfiguration.

Peter, with all his roughness and shortcomings, correctly heeds this gifted knowledge and understanding from the Father and names Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus then reveals to Peter what God is calling him to be; namely the foundation of the Church. His vocation is: to build up the community of disciples on earth.

To determine what God is calling you, ask yourself these questions: What are your gifts? What does your community need? What do you believe God wants you to do?

Take time to pray and listen to what Jesus is calling you to do. Determining or discerning one's vocation takes time, so make these questions and reflections components of your regular prayer routine.

Chris Comas
Parishioner

News and Announcements

Archbishops Campaign 2026 - Giving Weekend

This is now underway and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Envelopes are available for cash or tear off pledge cards that can be completed and be placed into the collection baskets. There will be a third collection this weekend for the campaign. Brochures with more information can be found in the foyer.

Welcome to our Year 1 St Louis children and their families

We welcome our Year 1 children from St Louis to our 6pm and 9.30am masses this weekend. Please say hello to the families and stay for a cuppa provided by the parents.

Next weekend we welcome our Year 3 Children - Reconciliation Commitment masses

Year 3 children will attend from both St Brigid's and St Louis next weekend for their reconciliation commitment masses. Please make them welcome.

Scripture and Friendship Group - Tuesday 25 August

Our Parish Scripture & Friendship group is on this coming Tuesday 25 August at Ann's home, 47 Gothic Road Aspendale. We begin at 10am and will finish at about 11am for a cuppa. This group is open for anyone - we discuss the coming Sunday's Gospel, sharing our thoughts, questions or just listening. A great way to meet people in our Parish. For any queries contact Ann on 0425 712 741 or Carmel 0425773608.

Prayer Ministry next weekend

Our prayer teams available after all Masses to pray with you for any particular intention. Everyone is invited to take part in this opportunity. It will only be for a few minutes.The prayer team will gently guide you, all you need to do is to present yourself and open your heart to God

Season of Creation - Earthcare Gathering - A Caritas Initiative

3 and 4 September 10am to 4.30pm

A national online gathering to listen deeply, reflect faithfully, and act courageously in care for all creation. It aims to bring together participants from across Australia to deepen formation and inspire practical ecological action grounded in faith. Recognising the urgent environmental challenges facing our world, this event responds to Pope Francis' call for ecological conversion and care for our common home. The gathering aims to foster deep formation across the Catholic community in integral ecology and Catholic Social Teaching articulate a cohesive Catholic response to ecological challenge and inspire practical, faith-filled action across ministries and communities. There are a number of keynote speakers during Thursday 3rd September, but you don't need to stay for the whole day. Friday you could join from your home computer as there are workshops that you can choose yourself, or if you are happy to go with what is running in the meeting room, please join us. If you would like to join us in the Parish Meeting Room, please contact Julie Buick, our Earthcare leader on 0422 674 634.

Called & Gifted Charisms Workshop: Step Into the Mission God Has for You

In June, a number of our parishioners took part in the Called & Gifted workshop — an experience many described as eye-opening, encouraging, and deeply affirming. Together, they explored their charisms (the spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit) and discovered how these gifts can enrich their families, workplaces, and our parish community.

Our Archdiocese is now launching Called & Gifted on Friday evening 11/9 & Saturday 12/9. Full details: https://mission.melbournecatholic.org/posts/called-and-gifted-2026

Initial planning for more workshops in our parish is underway.

If you're longing for a deeper sense of purpose... If you want a heart on fire for bringing God's love into the world... If you're curious about how the Holy Spirit has uniquely gifted you

This is the place to be.

For enquiries or reservations, please contact: **Marcella Reiter 0402 569 295 or Anne Field on 0417 033 399**

Refugee family looking for work

Do you have any work for a local refugee family living in Bonbeach and being supported by BASP? The husband and wife are career professionals but are unable to practice in this country. They will take any kind of work to support their family - cleaning, gardening, maintenence etc.

Please contact John Meyer if you can help 0418 597 750

News and Announcements

Holy Hour + with Fr Boniface Endorf OP

Thursday 27 August 2026, 7.30pm – 9.00pm
St Patrick's Centre, East Melbourne
Join young adults after Six30 Holy Hour for a special Holy Hour+ Candid Conversations on Catholic life where young adults gather to share food, company and dive deeper into issues of life and faith today.
Food and drinks included. 18+ only event

Worship & Music Training

Saturday 29 August 2026, 9.30am – 1.00pm
St Benedict's Parish, Burwood
Join young musicians, leaders in worship and those passionate about serving the Church through music for a day of formation and practical training.

Who gets to go to the Melbourne Synod?

Do you know someone who could serve as a Melbourne Synod member? Over the weekend of 4-6 December, representatives from throughout the Archdiocese of Melbourne will come together to pray, discern, discuss important matters, and make decisions to help shape our shared mission and ministry.

Attendance at the Synod is guided by Canon 463 and includes clergy, religious and lay representatives. In Melbourne, the Synod will comprise approximately 180 Members. Sixty (60) lay Members, comprising fifteen (15) representatives from each region, will be selected through a parish nomination process to participate in the Synod.
If you are interested in nominating a parishioner to become a Synod member, nomination forms are available via:
https://melbcath.org/synodnomination
Nominations should be submitted to the parish office by Thursday 27 August.

In the meantime, the invitation to gather as friends and family to participate in the consultation process is ongoing. Information can be accessed via: **https://melbournecatholic.org/synod2026**

Food for Friends

Our freezers are getting a bit low as we have had families needing some support recently. If you are able to cook any family sized meals it would be greatly appreciated. Meals can be dropped of at the parish office during the week or placed in the freezer on the weekend. The freezer at St Brigid's is in the flower room and the parish kitchen at St Louis. Labels and containers are available. Thanks for your support.

Serve Ministry Roster - new serve ministers welcome

The new serve ministry roster for our weekend masses is due out in a couple of weeks. Please make sure you have let Ann in the office know when you will be away or unavailable. Also, we are always looking for new serve ministers in Welcoming, Reading, Commentating, Special Ministers, Counters and Prayer Ministers. Please let the office know if you would like to be added to the roster once compliant with our Child safeguarding standards of WWCC, Code of Conduct and online training.

formed™
Forming Catholics for Life.

Restless Heart - The Life of St Augustine

This film offers a message of conversion and redemption. It's the story of a gifted man who pursues fame and fortune without a moral compass and the dramatic changes that occur in his soul when he sees the light of truth.

Go to: https://formed.org/signup type in St Mary of the Cross Mordialloc and Aspendale, and enter your name and email address, for free access to this and much more great content.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 22 & 23 AUGUST 2026

29/30 Aug 2026	22nd Sunday in Ord Time Readings (Year A) Jeremiah 20: 7-9 Romans 12: 1-2 Matthew 16: 21-27							
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Prayer Ministers
6pm (A)	Year 3 Student	Year 3 Student	Sonia Willliams	Marg De Vries	Volunteer	Danny Carey	Annette Brilliant	Bernie Stuart Volunteer
8.00am (M)	Volunteer	Tony Aloysious	Stephen Pooley	Jack Meyer	Jack Guthrie	Wence Rodrigues	Paula Rodrigues	Connie Nicols Jack Meyer
9.30am (A)	Year 3 Student	Year 3 Student	Mary Nayna	Ron Schneider-Loos	Maureen Wraight	Eddie Joseph	Volunteer	Jon Searle Mary Nayna
11.00am (M)	Volunteer	Volunteer	Helen Rocks	Louise Breslin	Juan Wilson	Robyn Worsnop	Volunteer	Nicky Winters Nicole Mielczarek
Counters	Group 3	Deborah Joseph	Nelson Popley					

Recently deceased: Leonard Hamilton, Bob (Bartolomeo) Cafarella (Mordialloc)

Anniversaries: Richard Pearle, Mary Dawson, Walter Cresswell, Leo Laragy, Philip Hunter, Maureen Koenig, Des Bevis, Mary Wilde, Daniel Paul Rodis, Roma Jones, James Maguire, Domenica Demaio, Josie Macnaughtan, Maria Marinho, Fred Berthun, Doris O'Brien, George Goodier, Peter Barasits, Mary Bibby, Margaret Nelan, Phyllis Laughlin, Jo Wakeham, Patrick White, David Lavery, Don Ferguson, Alice Barkley, Paolo Laria, Cecil Rowe, Annie Drenen, Jose De La Luz Amaya, Vera Phillips, Joaquim Rovira Reixach, Christopher Jones, Bernadette Munro, Phil Cain, Patricia Sayers, Francesco (Frank) Finnocchairo, Jan Smith, Donald Milne, Janet White, Lorna Coyne, Margaret Scarrott, Antonia Bautista, Robert O'Kane, Elivis Ricky Thurgood, Ermina Luvara, Joseph Ellul, Angelo Stoppa, Margaret Fallon, Joseph Chan, Pat Crowe, Joaquim Rovira-Reixach, Maria Tesoriero, John (Jack) Wilkinson, Hector Bibby, Don Sutherland

Praying for healing and the sick: Maureen McKeown, Jan Mitula, Maree Wiltshire, Sammy Dahalid, Kathie Martin, Edith Venton, Marisa, Mim Rodollico, Michael Albert, Fr Terry Keane, Luis, Julie Griffiths, Steve Govac, Chris Wardle, Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Rita Popley, Vasilos Garavelis, Sophia Bicos, Mary Agiropoulos, Prunella Julien, Maree Wesols, Peter Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Noleen Dunn, John Catalano, Damian Haggerty, Alasdair Hughes, Andrea Williams, Brilliant boys,

Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross

Children's Liturgy
5 - 12-year-olds.
4th weekend of the month. 6pm, 9:30am and 11am

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, we have volunteers 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: catholicmassstmaryofthecross

WEEKDAY MASSES

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION AND HOLY ROSARY

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

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

St Louis' Monday's 7.30 - 8.30pm

RECONCILIATION

St Brigid's Fri after 11.30am Mass
St Louis'Sat 5.30pm before 6pm Mass

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr Michael, Trish Angliss, Berna Wake, John Field

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 Michael Kong 9580 7981
Trish 0421 604 849
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Robyn 0412 814 592
Deacon George 9580 7981