



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 25 January 2026

Readings for Year A Isaiah 8: 23-9:3 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17 Matthew 4: 12-23

Hello Dear Parishioners

I am excited to introduce myself as the new Parish Priest here at St Mary of the Cross - Mordialloc and Aspendale. My name is Father Michael (Duck Young) Kong, and I am deeply honoured to join this wonderful community. I was born and raised in South Korea, and in 2006, I came to Australia for language studies, and continued to study in Commerce. I entered the Melbourne Seminary in 2008, and in 2014, I was ordained as a priest for Melbourne Archdiocese. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving in several parishes, including Box Hill, Box Hill North, Moreland, Hampton, Pascoe Vale and Kew. Between 2021 and 2024, I studied in Institutional Social Communication at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome.

I am truly delighted to begin this new chapter with you all, and I look forward to working alongside you to nurture and grow the seeds of God's Word in our community. My pastoral vision is to serve not only those who are already part of the parish and the school, but also to reach out to those who may not yet know Jesus or who are currently away from the church. I want to help bring the Gospel to all people, especially those who may find it hard to connect with the church.

In addition to my pastoral work, I have been using social media under the name "PapaDonPreach" to share the message of Christ. Through these platforms, I hope to make the church more accessible and inviting, encouraging individuals to engage with our community and learn more about our faith.

I am looking forward to being part of this community, and I ask for your continued support and prayers. Together, we can work to spread the love and teachings of Jesus to many more people.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly, and I am excited to see what we can accomplish together.

God bless

Fr Michael Kong



News and Announcements



Parish Talk - The Gospel of Matthew presented by Patrick Jurd - All invited. Beginning this Tuesday 27 January 7.30pm

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. If you have been to one of Patrick's talks you

will know how informative and entertaining they are, and if you haven't well now here's the opportunity. The details are **Tuesday 27 January, Tuesday 3 February and Tuesday 10 February, from 7.30-8.30pm at St Brigid's**. Feel free to bring a friend. No need to register.



Prayer Ministers available this weekend

Prayer Ministry is the practice of two or more people praying with you for a particular intention. We will have prayer teams available after Mass this weekend (24/25 January) to pray for any intention that you have at this time. The prayer team will gently guide you, all you need to do is to present yourself and open your heart to God! Father will announce the Prayer Ministry teams at the end of Mass.



Kidz Zone is back this weekend

Kidz Zone is on during our 6pm, 9.30am and 11am masses this weekend (January 24/25). All children aged 5-12 are welcome to come and have fun and learn about Jesus. We would love to offer Kidz Zone more than once a month. If you can help, please contact Sangeetha at nsangeethac7@gmail.com



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. 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>

Pilgrimage to South Korea with Father Michael Begins on Wednesday 8 April - 11 days/ 10 nights

Walk the path of the early Korean martyrs and saints as we journey from the cradle of Korean Catholicism in Seoul to the southern shores of Busan. Through shrines, sacred villages, monasteries and modern memorials, we will encounter the profound story of a Church built on the blood of martyrs and the resilience of faith through persecution, war, and renewal.

Fr Michael will be happy to chat if you are interested or follow the link or QR Code for more details.

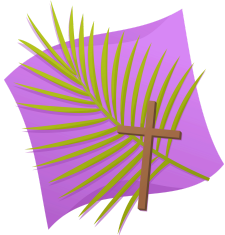
Wonders of South Korea



News and Announcements

Please Note

- Mass on Wednesday **28 January at 10am at St Brigid's** will be cancelled due to the funeral mass of Noel Pascal. Please join us at 11am for the funeral Mass of Noel Pascal (R.I.P.)
- Our Monday Communion Service at **St Louis'** will resume on **2 February** at 9.15am.
- Mass and Reconciliation on **Friday 6th February at St Brigid's** will be replaced with a Communion Service due to Fr Michael's unavailability.
- Holy Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration will return to St Louis' on **Saturday 7 February from 4.30-5.30pm**, and thereafter at this time on the first Saturday of the month.



A reminder that Lent is early this year

Lent is a season of preparation for Easter, mirroring Jesus' forty days in the desert and also anticipating his passion, death, and triumphant resurrection.

Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday 18 February.

Look out for more details on our Lenten Retreat and Lenten Small Groups in next weeks Bulletin and on our parish website.

Australia Day / 26 January Reflection and Discernment Guide 2026

"Genuine reconciliation needs more than structural change – it requires inner healing where truth is named and dignity restored, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council said in a statement ahead of Australia Day." Source: Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Media Blog. To read the full statement please access at <https://mediablog.catholic.org.au/australia-day-carries-different-meanings-for-people/>

Prayer for Students and Teachers for the new school year



Dear God,

As the new school year begins, we ask You dear Lord to bless every teacher and student.

Give teachers patience, kindness, and clear minds so they can guide and inspire their students.

Give students focus, curiosity, and courage to learn and grow each day. Keep every classroom safe and full of respect, understanding, and encouragement.



Let this school year be filled with learning, friendship, and joy.

Thank You for being with our schools in every step of this journey. Amen.

Serve Ministries - are you being called?

When we focus on helping others and honouring Christ, we soon discover that our needs are met far more deeply than we ever experienced otherwise. When you serve the parish, you serve God.

Music

Do you have a talent for singing or playing an instrument?

Audio visual operating

Do you enjoy operating cameras and creating engaging content with our Proclaim software?

Altar Flowers

Do you love flowers and arranging them, creating a beautiful altar?

Children's Liturgy

Do you enjoy celebrating the good news and love of Jesus in fun & engaging ways with children?

Sacristan

Would you love to prepare the sacred vessels, linens, books, and vestments needed for the liturgy?

Welcoming

Do you enjoy meeting and greeting people, especially guests and visitors?

Visit our [parish website](#) to find out more and contact the parish office to express your interest at mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au



St John Bosco - Mission of Love

Flavio Insinna gives a winning performance as Don Bosco, the great priest and educator of youth. Beautifully filmed in Italy, this epic movie dramatises the many challenges he had to overcome, from his childhood all the way to founding his religious order.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.

Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 1 FEBRUARY 2026

31 Jan/1 Feb 2026	4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Zephaniah 2: 3, 3: 12-13 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 Matthew 5: 1-12						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Julius Lau	Debra Searle	Sonia Williams	Gail McGillivray	Carmel Barker	Monique Bruce	Ann Furlong
8.00am (M)	Jane Standish	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Joan Healy	Jack Guthrie	Marlene Tangso	Paula Rodrigues	Wence Rodrigues
9.30am (A)	Gen Martin	Brian Martin	Felice Cortese	Martin Newington	Volunteer	Anne Marsh	Mary Smith
11.00am (M)	Mark Carazzo	Gail Bell	Juan Wilson	Peter Hannan	Philippa Pecora	Robyn Worsnop	Ellen Young
Counters	Group 3	Joe Corda	Deborah Joseph	Nelson Popley			

Recently deceased: Michelle Parker (Aspendale), Una Daniel (Auntie of Helen Rocks), Noel Pascol (Mordialloc), Ron McVay (Aspendale).

Anniversaries: Angelo Trettel, Peg Libbis, Josephine Defelice, Honora Elvey, John Kenny Ford, John Breslin, Merlyn Avril Hendricks, Kathleen Reiter, Maria Reiter, Norm Baker, John Carino, Rita Kane, Anna Bradbury, Susan O'Keeffe, Gracian Sequeira, Kevin Daniels, Lawrence Ryan, Vera Hodgkinson, David Borg, Dan Powell, Carmelina Inguanti, Sebastiana Lo Rossa, Letitia D'Souza, Rosa Laria, Noel Bailey, Patrice Skipworth, Bryan Muschialli, Maria Barbarino, Anna Maria Camerino, Harry Shallvey, Elaine Dunn (Young), Tony Martin, Laurie Halloran, Angela Valentie, Emma Labonté, Graziela Barone, Karen Agar.

Healing & Sick List Refresh - Please be aware that from next week we will be refreshing this list in the bulletin. If you would like your loved on to stay on the list, please email the parish office.

Praying for healing and the sick: Noleen Dunn, Therese Lee, Kim Power, Kathleen Smith, Natalie Searle, Deborah Joseph, Carmelo Nasello, Stephen Hopkins, Harry Donohue, Ann Muir, Lina DiGiovine, Alex Bennett, John Davis, Chris Doran, Chris Wardle, Peter Waltho, Janice Gillette, 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, Craig Ross, Virginia O'Toole.

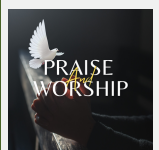
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



Children's Liturgy
5 - 12-year-olds.
4th weekend of the month. 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, 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, (recommences 2 February)
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 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
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Denise 0412 926 752