



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Vision Statement:

*We are a faith community who gather to praise and worship God.
We express Christ's presence among us by reaching out to those in need
with Christ's message of love and forgiveness and the promise of justice and hope for all.*

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Sunday 5th September 2021

Our readings are: **Isaiah 35:4-7; James 2:1-5; Mark 7:31-37**

PARISH CHURCHES:

St Brigid's,
520 Main St, Mordialloc

& St Louis de Montfort's,
37 Dolphin St, Aspendale

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Andrew Jekot

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM:

**Berna Wake, Trish
Angliss &
Kristian Tangso**

PARISH CO-ORDINATOR:

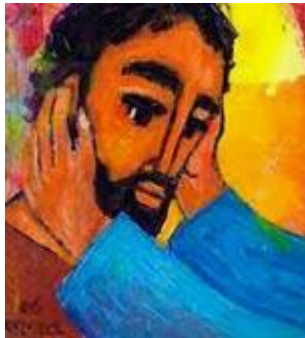
Ann Fitzgerald
Tuesday, Wednesday &
Friday

BAPTISM CO- ORDINATOR:

Deb Poynton
debannp64@gmail.com
0403 471 931

PARISH HOUSE: **9412 8432**

PARISH OFFICE: **9580 7981**



REFLECTION: As we begin to welcome the Gospel, we make the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, on our lips and over our hearts. It is accompanied by the thought: 'May the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart.' However, we do not just mentally recite that little prayer; we add a physical action to go with the prayer. Just like in today's gospel that allowed the deaf

man to be opened up to the miracle of speech and hearing through the prayer and physical actions of Jesus.

Jesus could not have been more physical than in today's Gospel. He stuck his fingers in the man's ears and touched the man's tongue with a spittle, looking up to heaven and saying the Aramaic word 'Ephphatha', which means to 'Be opened'.

Our Lord could have healed this man with a simple prayer. However, he acknowledged the sheer physicality of the person to be cured. In all sacraments we imitate the Ephphatha incident. For example at one stage, the priest lightly touches the forehead of the person being baptised and confirmed. In Baptism, it brings the baptised person into a community formed by hearing and speaking the Word in faith and this is repeated at Confirmation where they become an adult in the church. As can be seen by these sacraments the physical touch is just as important as the words – it evokes a response from us all.

In our own time, as Pope Francis puts it, the Church needs 'to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor'. This is so very relevant also in our current pandemic. We need to hear the cry of the people all over the world about how we can manage COVID. Environmental and human degradation are everywhere, crying out for remedy. In this Season of Creation we might ask ourselves whether we are good listeners.

Do we listen to the warnings of scientists about climate change and the pandemic and the impact it is having on our world and the people of the world, or do we block our ears in closed-minded self-interest and ignore Jesus' command, 'Ephphatha' – be open.

Be kind to each other – reach out to those that may be isolated at this time. Be open to the needs of our community.

Take care, stay safe and look after each other.

by Wendy Sullivan

PARISH NEWS:

PARISH MASSES: MASSES CANCELLED FOR THIS WEEK!!

Due to the state wide **extended lockdown**, there will be no Masses this week. Mass will be livestreamed from **St Louis'** at **6pm** on **Saturday** and will be available online from any time after this. Go to youtu.be/O2vcBH31hDI or the parish website melbcatholic.org/mordialloc-aspendale or search **YouTube** for **'Catholic Mass with Fr Andrew'**.



Due to the new restrictions, those involved with the livestreaming mass need to be the same "bubble" every week. I thank Carmel and Mick Barker, Marie Medlicott and Susan Dornom for being in this "bubble". Many of you have raised the issue about the poor sound quality of the livestreaming. I would appreciate any advice from anyone with live streaming equipment experience. Fr. Andrew



Humanitarian crises unfolding in Afghanistan and Lebanon

– As the situations in **Afghanistan** and **Lebanon** deteriorate, you can help to support families caught up in the crises. In Afghanistan, people have been forced from their homes, with half of the population in urgent need of food, water, shelter and protection. In **Lebanon**, the country is running out of power, water, fuel, medicine and food. Even

hospitals are facing massive fuel shortages and will soon have to turn off the lights. Please donate to Caritas Australia so that we are able to respond to crises like these and others across the world. Visit caritas.org.au/lebanon or caritas.org.au/afghanistan or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support. **The Catholic Bishops of Victoria have expressed their solidarity with the local Afghan community and their families back home. 'Afghans hold an important place in the hearts of Victorians, especially at this difficult time'.** melbournecatholic.org/news/bishops-of-victoria-express-solidarity-with-afghan-community. *Caritas Australia - End poverty, Promote justice and Uphold dignity.*

Baptism Coordinator – I thank **Deb Poynton** for accepting to take on this role as the parish Baptism Coordinator. All enquiries regarding this sacrament will be handled by Deb. Her contact details are now on the front page of the newsletter.



JAG – We are meeting this Wednesday 8 September at 7.30pm. Ahead of our online meeting this week all are invited to watch this 30 minute video from Sr Joan Chittister where she discusses the thoughts behind her current book "The Time is Now": youtu.be/z7TBIkdV5aw Joan Chittister is one of the most influential religious and social leaders of our time. For 50 years she has passionately advocated on behalf of peace, human rights, women's issues, and church renewal. All these issues are very much in line with our JAG Charter. At our online meeting on the 8 September we will discuss the video and think about ways in which JAG and our parish could put some of Sr Joan's ideas into action.

So please do find the time to relax, grab a cuppa and listen to this modern day prophet. Remember to watch the video BEFORE the meeting. We look forward to seeing you on the 8 September.

us02web.zoom.us/j/86339229410?pwd=NFBNbnhWVDJiMEpXYzZuSzBsa0oxZz09



Priest Retirement fund - Fathers Day appeal Due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions and Masses not being able to be held, donations to the Father's Day appeal can be made through the Priests Retirement Foundation website. This can be done via direct debit, credit card or Paypal. Please go to cam.org.au/foundation.

Sincere thanks for your support of the Priests Retirement Foundation

PARISH NEWS:



Australian Catholics Magazine Spring 2021 Edition Please pick up a copy of the Spring 2021 Edition of the Australian Catholics Magazine. These have been placed outside both St Brigid's and St Louis' in a box near the newsletter for collection. The magazine has some interesting articles for your lock down reading, on 'Hope in community' and 'St Mary of the Cross MacKillop'



Lockdown Light—week one *A weekly series bringing 'light' to this time of lockdown ... Well and truly done with sourdough starters? Not interested in another DIY project? To help fill the void during lockdown, each week we'll suggest some inspiring content to bring 'light' to this difficult time. Pop on the kettle and check out the recommendations below.*

Podcasts for Christian living (Quality podcasts navigating marriage and family life) —

- **Parenting as a team:** This podcast from the Messy Family Project gives some great practical advice on how couples can be truly in sync with one another and parent together with unity, respect and God's grace. Listen at bit.ly/ChristianLiving1
- **Getting to know your Bible:** In this short video, Fr Mike Schmitz shares several reasons we should pick up our Bible again, see it with fresh eyes and allow it to transform our lives. Watch at bit.ly/BibleGettingStarted1
- **Going deeper:** In this video, Bishop Robert Barron looks at different approaches to understanding Scripture and how we can use them to hear God speaking to us today. View here bit.ly/BibleGoingDeeper1

"Lockdown suggestions and the Gratitude Challenge are listed on the [parish website](#)"

Fathers in Our Lives

We give our thanks, Creator God, for the fathers in our lives.
Fatherhood does not come with a manual, and reality teaches us that some fathers excel while others fail.
We ask for Your blessings for them all
and forgiveness where it is needed.

This Father's Day we remember the many sacrifices fathers make for their children and families, and the ways — big and small — lift children to achieve dreams thought beyond reach.

So too, we remember all those who have helped fill the void when fathers pass early or are absent; grandfathers and uncles, brothers and cousins, teachers, pastors and coaches and the women of our families.

For those who are fathers, we ask for wisdom and humility in the face of the task of parenting. Give them the strength to do well by their children and by You.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

WHEN I WAS A BOY OF FOURTEEN.
my father
WAS SO IGNORANT
I could hardly **STAND**
TO HAVE THE
OLD MAN
AROUND.
BUT WHEN I GOT TO BE TWENTY-ONE.
I was astonished
AT HOW MUCH HE HAD LEARNED
in seven years. *mark twain*

catholicALLYEAR.com

Next Week's Roster:

24 th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: 11 th - 12 th September 2021: Our readings are: Isaiah 50:5-9; 1 Peter 2:21-25; Mark 8:27-35			
6PM MASS	Reader Commentator Special Minister		Reader Commentator Special Minister
Welcomers:			
9.30AM MASS	Reader Commentator Special Minister		Reader Commentator Special Minister
Welcomers:			
Counters:			

Masses and Communion Services are CANCELLED this week

22nd ORDINARY SUNDAY:

Recently Deceased:

Kim Van Dinh (Deacon Hoang Dinh's father)

Gillian Dalton (St Louis' - Aspendale)

Anniversaries:

George D'Cunha, Curtis Drenen, Marc Licciardo, Terence Partleton, Joseph Antonios, Virgilio Arcilla, Mary Carroll, Bert Hodgkinson, Dennis Porter, Alec Rodrigues, Maria Scardoni, Frederick Summerton, Blossom Baldery, Eileen Hannan, Trish Hone, Dr Peter Nelson, Maureen Reidy, Fr Tom White, Maureen Cuskelly, Beryl D'Sylva, Roma Kampf, John Martin, Robert Reid, Letetia Sheehan, Vincenta Vella, Morris Joseph, Ken Raphael, Dirk Senn, June Rosina Phippen and Fr Michael Quigley

Healing Prayers Asked For:

Bobby Bajram, Sue Kelly, Josie Tobin, Mimmo Rodolico, Jarrod Le Brocq, Peter Waltho, Antonio Delprete, Lindsey Edwards, Laura Bruder, Liam Campbell, Patricia Carrazzo, David Marshall, Helen Pedrazzini, Peter Spencer, George Caruana, Salvatore (Sam) Finocchiaro, Lilah Finocchiaro and, Maureen Hepburn. *(If you know of anyone who needs prayers or a pastoral visit please contact the Parish Office.)*



Please note that all volunteers must have a current Working With Children Check and should have read and signed a copy of our Child Safety Code of Conduct. Copies are available at the Church or on our website. For any concerns about Child Safety issues please contact our Child Safeguarding Team listed below:

Fr Andrew Jekot 9412 8432	Susan Dornom 0413 979 049
Trish Angliss 0421 604 849	Louise Breslin 0415 963 799
Joanne Partleton 0413 133 184	Deb Poynton 0403 471 931
Judy Dickinson 0407 865 522	Robyn Worsnop 0412 814 592



**St Mary of the Cross
Catholic Parish**
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PARISH MASS TIMES:

WEEKENDS: *(QR Coding essential)*

Saturday:

6pm (vigil) St Louis', Aspendale

Sunday:

8am - St Brigid's

9.30am - St Louis'

**Masses and
Communion Services
are CANCELLED this
week**

WEEKDAYS: *(QR Coding essential)*

Monday 9.15am - St Louis' (Communion Service)

Tuesday 9.15am - St Louis'

Wednesday 10am - St Brigid's, Thursday

9.15am - St Louis'

Friday 11.30am - St Brigid's

RECONCILIATION:

Friday 12noon - St Brigid's,

Saturday 5.30pm - St Louis'

**BAPTISM BOOKINGS
through Parish Office
9580 7981**

PARISH SCHOOLS:

St Brigid's School,

129 Albert St,

Mordialloc

9580 4518

www.sbmord.catholic.edu.au



St Louis de Montfort's School,

37 Dolphin St,

Aspendale

9580 5169

www.stlouisaspendale.catholic.edu.au



Child Safety: Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.



We acknowledge the original owners of the land on which we gather and their leaders - past, present and emerging.

TAKE CARE, STAY SAFE AND GOD BLESS