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Blessings is our quarterly magazine featuring news and stories about our vibrant parish community, as we strive towards our mission to Love God, Love Others and Make Disciples. If you have a story for Blessings, please contact me at berna.wake@cam.org.au

From the Editor

As we approach the end of 2024, we look back on a year filled with a wide variety of wonderful parish activities which have contributed to our missionary parish renewal journey. This issue includes many of these initiatives and I hope you enjoy reading about them.

Our parish is vibrant and life-giving. The Holy Spirit is in our midst, leading and guiding us and we are blessed to be in the slipstream.



I wish all a happy and blessed Christmas spent with loved ones creating cherished memories.

Peace and blessings,
Berna Wake



Father Andrew's Word

*"Christmas Blessings to you
and your families"*

Just when you thought that you didn't have any summertime reading!!! Well, this edition of Blessings will fulfil that need. This edition reminds us that so much has happened since the last edition but that it has also been a bumper year. Wait till 2025, the Jubilee Year, and you won't have time to stop and think!!

Seeing so many parishioners involved in a serve ministry brings a smile to my heart. I believe that this is our way forward in becoming that vibrant parish that will attract many others to join. It has already as 8 adults are enrolled in our RCIA process of becoming Catholic at Eastertime. Now that is a commitment! Our prayers continue to support Amy, Brian, Jade, Deidre, Jason, Giselle, Yan & Caity who witness to all of us the power that the Holy Spirit can have on someone. My thanks go to the team (Judy, Vikki, Carmel, Bernie, Tony & Josie) who accompany them.

Our two schools continue to be places that are nurturing and supportive. Our two principals embrace their role that can be at times challenging, especially dealing with families that are in hardship and turmoil. Their pastoral approaches soften hearts and provide compassion and empathy. Thank you, Wendy and Carmel, for your contribution to our overall parish life.

A special thanks to our Catechist team (Elizabeth, Jenny, Carmel & Gayle) and baptism coordinator Deb. Your frontline welcome to families who are trying to reconnect with the catholic faith is done with a sincere heart.

Thank you to all of you for your support of me and the Parish Leadership Team (PLT – Fr. Huy, Berna & Trish). We are here for you and for the building up of the Kingdom.

Christmas Blessings to you and your families.

God Bless,

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

What a year



130+ Alpha Guests



Fr Andrew's 60th



*Lenten Retreat with
Maria Forde*



Five new Catholics (RCIA)



Archbishop's Parish Visit



Pentecost Celebrations



Welcome Deacon George



Sacrament of Confirmation



Farewell Fr Ignatius



Welcome Fr Huy



Blessing of Pets



Advent Retreat

We give thanks to God for the moments that have blessed our Parish and our community this year.
Looking back with a full heart and forward with hope.

2024

What exactly is Alpha?

By Berna Wake



Alpha

Alpha began at a church called Holy Trinity Brompton (HTB) in London in 1977, it was taken by HTB's Anglican Priest Nicky Gumbel, in 1990 and repositioned as a course for those outside the congregation. The number of people attending Alpha at HTB grew quickly into the hundreds and attracted the attention of other churches across denominations seeking to find an effective tool for evangelism.

Now, all over the world, thirty million people have tried Alpha, and it has been translated into 112 different languages. The Alpha Talks have been repackaged for today's audience in the Alpha Film Series and the Alpha Youth Series – created to reach a younger generation with the Gospel. Even as times have changed, the Alpha course has continued to be used by Christian churches as an effective tool to reach people with the message of Jesus' love, forgiveness and sacrifice.

Aiming for Christian Unity

The Alpha Course is created to outline the core principles of the Christian faith that all denominations agree on. Alpha is fully approved by the Catholic Church and features many prominent Catholics such as Cardinal Raniero Cantalamessa – the official preacher of the Vatican.



Watch

The Alpha talks are designed to engage people from all walks of life and inspire conversation. They explore the big issues of life and faith and unpack the basics of Christian belief, addressing questions like "Who is Jesus?", "Why and how do I pray?" and "How does God guide us?"

Equipping parishes in the mission to help people encounter Jesus

Alpha is an 8-week course that creates a space, online or in person, where people are excited to bring their friends for a conversation about Jesus.

Each session has three elements:



Connect

Enjoying a meal, all sessions start with a time to connect, relax and build friendships. Eating food together creates space for people to connect and share life on a deeper level.



Discuss

The discussion time is an opportunity for people to respond to the talk, hear from others and contribute their own perspective in an honest, friendly, safe and open environment.



By Berna Wake

The Parish Leadership Team decided in early 2024 to fully commit to running Alpha in our parish as part of our missionary discipleship renewal.

We held our first Alpha in April-May and the uptake was beyond our expectations. Having been advised that we should expect 30-40 registrations by Alpha Australia, we were absolutely delighted when 105 people registered to attend.

We then ran our second Alpha in September- October, and again 35-40 people attended each week.

Many guests experienced a Spirit-filled time and enhanced knowledge of the Gospels and Jesus' message. It was the first time for many to discuss who Jesus is and His role in our lives. The discussions, stimulated by the excellent course content was rich and fruitful. One of the benefits of Alpha is that no one is forced to talk, it is ok to just listen and absorb. It is in these moments that the Holy Spirit can be heard.

We give thanks to our guests, the wonderful helpers and meal preparers and our Alpha hosts.

We pray that everyone will think about someone who you would like to invite to our next Alpha which will commence on Tuesday 11 February 2025 (more details to follow). Remember you don't have to seal the deal, just a simple invitation and leave the rest up to God.



Breaking bread together on our Holy Spirit Day

2025 Year of Jubilee

- Pilgrims of Hope

Jubilee Year



What is a jubilee?

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years. Beginning with the blowing of a ram's horn—the yobel, from which the word jubilee comes—on the Day of Atonement, it was meant to be a kind of 'reset' or 'refresh' for their relationship with God and with each other. Debts would be forgiven, misappropriated land returned, slaves freed, and the land given rest. It was a stark and dramatic reminder for the ancient Israelites that nothing was absolutely theirs—not even the Promised Land.

In the Gospel, Jesus announces his mission with a quote from the prophet Isaiah, who declared that:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord," (Luke 4:18-19; cf. Isaiah 61:1-2).

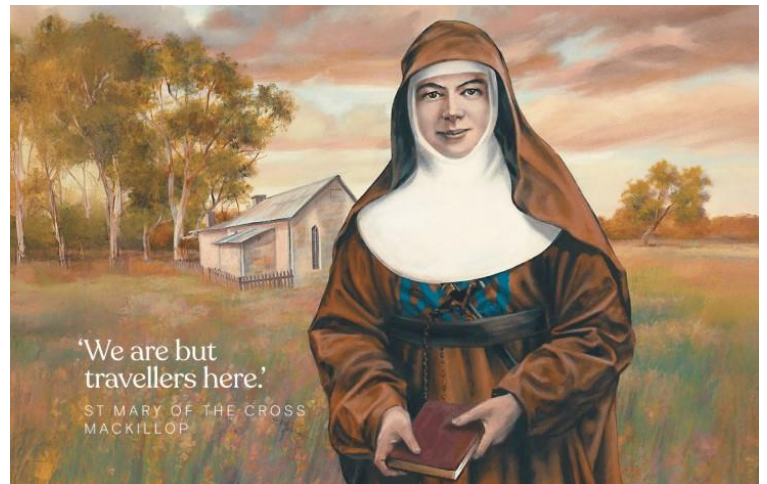
Jubilee in the Church

The first jubilee was celebrated in 1300 AD at the initiative of Pope Boniface VIII. They are celebrated every 25 years in the Church—though the pope may mark 'extraordinary jubilees' outside of that—and bear the hallmarks of the ancient spirit of jubilee. In the tradition of the Church, a Jubilee is proclaimed by a Papal Bull of Indiction. This publication explores the particular themes and focus of the Jubilee. The Bull for Jubilee 2025 is titled 'Hope does not disappoint' (Rom 5:5) Pope Francis notes that we, as a pilgrim people, need 'moments of greater intensity to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps'. Jubilee years offer those moments of 'greater intensity', opportunities to reorient, refresh, and renew our relationship with the Lord and with our neighbours.

Being pilgrims of hope in the world

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believes that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair.



During Jubilee 2025, he wants everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39)—can breathe life back into weary souls. This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5) the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6).

Source: Melbourne Archdiocese Parish Jubilee Pack November 2025

Celebrating our parish community



Congratulations Barry Wheeler on your 90th birthday



Congratulations Debbie & Edward Joseph on your 40th Wedding Anniversary



Congratulations Maureen Fitzgerald on your 90th birthday



Thank you Patrick & Anne Marie Jurd for creating the beautiful candle boxes for our churches

Celebrating our parish community

Community



Catechist First Reconciliation - October 2024



Thanksgiving Mass for Catechist Class of 2024 - November 2024



Vinnies 'Let's do Christmas Lunch'



Vinnies 'Let's do Christmas Lunch'



The Talented Artist in our midst

By Berna Wake



Kristian with some of her artwork

Sharing her gifts

Many parishioners will know Kristian Tangso and her parents, Marlene and Virgil. After dedicating a decade of her life to the field of pharmaceutical sciences, Kristian discovered her calling as an artist through her journey of healing from various health struggles.

In 2022, she completed a master's in sacred art in Florence, Italy, specialising in oil painting. Kristian hopes to share her God-given creative gifts to help lead many souls on the path of Beauty.

Our parish was fortunate to have Kristian showcasing and selling her artwork recently in the lead up to Christmas.

Exciting News

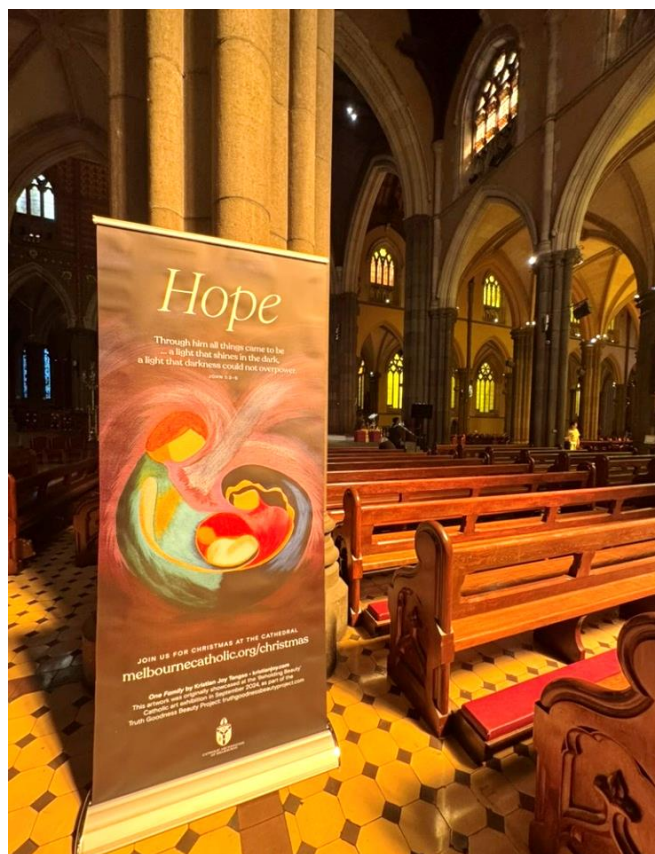
The Archdiocese of Melbourne are using Kristian's artwork for their Christmas Mass times billboards at St Patrick's Cathedral and on the cover of their Mass booklets this Christmas. Congratulations Kristian!



Kristian's artwork outside St Pat's Cathedral

Working with Kristian

For any enquiries, donations, commission requests, or interest in purchasing prints, please feel free to contact Kristian on love.kristianjoy@gmail.com.



Kristian's artwork inside St Pat's Cathedral



**Nepean Welcoming
Immigrants with
Dignity Inc
(NEPEAN WIND)**

WELCOME REFUGEES INTO OUR COMMUNITY

Our group NEPEAN WIND is a group of community-based members, mostly from Christ Our Light (Highett & Cheltenham) and St Mary of the Cross (Mordialloc & Aspendale) Parishes.

We are seeking support to assist us in welcoming a refugee family under the **Community Refugee Integration & Settlement Pilot** (CRISP, through independent charity **Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia** (CRSA).

“ Our house was empty and you filled it out with your kindness and brought happiness to my family. ”



WE NEED HELP TO ASSIST US WELCOME A REFUGEE FAMILY:

- ✓ Organise temporary accommodation
- ✓ Provide essential items & household goods
- ✓ Assist with long-term accommodation, education & employment
- ✓ Provide ongoing settlement & integration support for 12 months

WE WELCOME DONATIONS



Bank Account: Nepean
Welcoming Immigrants
BSB 633-000
Account no. 2175 6744 5
OR

Donate through
Shout for Good
(Tax deductible)



For more information, contact us at nepeanwind@googlegroups.com

By Jodie Marziano – Vice Principal

What a busy Term Four we have had at St Brigid's Primary school with fun, engaging and cooperative activities.

Art Show

The term began with our St Brigid's Art Show. The children were very proud to share their artwork with the community and Mrs Kimball was a very proud art teacher! The conversations and the reconnection between staff and families at this event was lovely to see. This year each class created a piece of art that was auctioned off - we would be proud to have any of these pieces in our homes.

Science

This term each year level has focused on Earth and Space Science. They discovered that as a result of natural processes and human use of resources, the Earth is subject to change within and on its surface. They explored the ways in which humans use resources from the Earth and the influence of human activity on the Earth and the atmosphere. This culminated with a celebration of learning where students proudly shared their work with each other, and with their families.



Student Artwork

Reconciliation

Our Year 3 students celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. They participated reverently, showing their understanding of the importance of giving and receiving forgiveness. We also celebrated Remembrance Day, with our Year 5's leading a beautiful liturgy.

Another highlight during the term was Italian Day. We were amazed by the fantastic Italian Day outfits, and we all enjoyed our pizza and gelato lunch!

Christmas

We have been learning the stories of Jesus' family through our study of the Jesse Tree. We held our annual Christmas Food Drive for St Vincent de Paul and celebrated our annual Christmas Carols on Friday 6 December with a guest appearance by

Santa Claus. We decorated a Christmas tree and delivered it to Mercy Nixon House. We gave thanks at our End of Year Mass on Friday 13th and farewelled our Year Six students at Graduation on Thursday 12th.

We here at St Brigid's would love to take this opportunity to wish you all a fabulous Christmas. May the light of Christ bring you hope, joy, peace and love surrounded by loved ones.



End of Year News

St Louis' Primary School

By Carmel Stutterd - Principal

A party for our gardener Frank

Term 4 was full of celebrations. Four of our Year 4 students held a cake stall one weekend and raised money to give a party to Frank.

Frank is our gardener and so much more, he mentors many students while they are in the garden, helping him prune trees, clean out the chook pens or making them a hot chocolate in the garden kitchen.

The girls organised a celebration in the garden. They had bubbles, pinatas, biscuits and lollies. Frank was overwhelmed and humbled by this act of appreciation and kindness.



Swimming and beach safety

Our swimming program was in Term 4 for prep to Year 2. The Beach safety program was for Years 3-6. All our students really enjoyed participating in the events and learnt a little bit more about water safety and our beaches.



Christmas Festival

We finished the year with our Christmas Festival. It was a highlight of the term bringing together the school and local community. All 24 classes performed Christmas songs, the preps performed a nativity play and the teachers danced. There were food vans, a BBQ and community stalls. The rain held off and it was a wonderful celebration for everyone.



Yr 6 boys State Cricket Championships

Term 4 saw us celebrate our Year 6 cricket team winning the State finals. They are an amazing group of young boys who developed into an incredible team, displaying important qualities including teamship, encouragement and great sportsmanship to each other and their opposition. Mr. Andrew and Mrs. Gill were the super coaches and encouraged the boys all the way.



I wish all the parishioners of St Mary of the Cross a very Merry Christmas.

May you find peace and joy in this festive season. Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Carmel Stutterd – St Louis' School Principal

Thank you

On Sunday 1 December in the grounds of the Parish House, we hosted a very successful thank-you lunch to honour our incredible serve ministers. The event was filled with gratitude and friendship as we celebrated the hard work and dedication of everyone who gives their time and energy to support our Parish.

Once again thank you all for everything you do – May you be proud of the work you do, the person you are, and the difference you make.



Treasuring our Seniors

Servant Hearts

Our wonderful team, led by Marie Seddon have been active all year visiting the folks in the five residential care homes in our community.

Taking Holy Communion, extending friendship, celebrating anointing masses, spreading Christmas cheer and singing carols, this group does the work of Jesus in treasuring the senior members of our community. We give thanks for their selfless work and loving hearts.



Fr Andrew, Olga Lobianco & Jenny Ferguson - Anointing Mass at Bayside Residential Care



Fr Andrew leads the Carol singing with Annette Brilliant, Kathleen Cleary, & Christine D'Cruz at Parkdale Residential Care



Fr Huy & Patrick Jurd - Anointing Mass at TLC Residential Care



Helen Rocks, Fr Huy, Louise Breslin & Deb Joseph - Anointing Mass at Mordialloc Grove Residential Care



Fr Huy, Vo Johnson & Connie Nichols - Final Mass at Mercy Place Nixon Residential Care

We regret that Mercy Place Nixon leaves our parish as they will re-locate to be a part of the Mentone Parish community. We send our fondest regards and ask for God's blessings on all the beloved residents. We will keep them in our prayers.

Treasuring our Seniors

Community



Congratulations to Josephine Fogarty – 100 years young who resides at Bayside Residential Care.
God Bless you Josephine.



Congratulations to Joyce McDowell – 102 years young who resides at Parkdale Residential Care. Joyce keeps busy knitting clothing for premature babies, her work is in high demand, and she delights in doing this. She is an inspiration to us all.
God Bless you Joyce.

Prayer for the elderly

— AVEPRAY —

Father of all, I thank You for the life, experiences, and wisdom of our elderly loved ones. Be their strength and inspiration. May You bless them unceasingly. May You be their consolation and joy. Keep them in the shelter of Your unfading love. Through Christ our Lord.

AMEN



*We welcome into our parish family, children recently
baptised and their families*

Freddie Leo Juliff son of Aaron & Elise
Harley Hector Garside son of Daniel & Emily
Scout Autumn Cleary daughter of Dermot & Nicola
Finley Thomas Deveson son of Tom & Erica
Ayla Rae Postle daughter of Benjamin & Rita
Samuel Reine Anrep son of Lloyd & Rebecca
Harper Jennifer Hugon daughter of Herbert & Alisha
Anna Maree Bastin daughter of Thomas & Sarah
Noah Snoxall son of Rachel
Lachlan Frank Bishop son of Tom & Kate
Marco Agostino Rex Antignano son of Luca & Diana
Lewis Anthony Cauchi son of Daniel & Kim
Isla Ann and Finn Hocking children of Luke & Jacinda
Fletcher John Patterson son of Sean & Stephanie
Poppy Joan Howard daughter of Thomas & Sarah
Robbie Itajahy Pinto son of Kyle & Lianna
Michael Santiago Tsigas son of Dean & Lara
Joshua Benjamin & Oliver Riley Hewson sons of Dean & Monica
Remy Peter Dalzotto son of Glenn & Alicia
Arlo James Denholm son of Jesse & Natalie
Toby George James Hughes son of Marcus & Heather

*God has you in his hands.
With every step you take, he guides you on your way.*

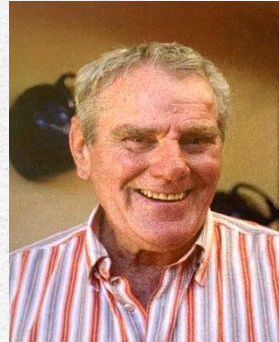


In Memoriam

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



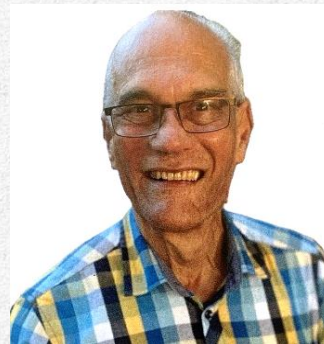
Slavica Bubica
24.2.1936 - 1.10.2024.
Slavica's funeral
was held at St Louis' on
17.10.2024.



**William Edward Mellan
(Bill)**
8.6.1939 – 28.10.2024.
Bill's funeral
was held at St Brigid's on
8.11.2024.



Amanda McKirdy
20.2.1957 – 7.10.2024.
Amanda's funeral
was held at St Brigid's on
15.10.2024.



**Marc Jacques Serge
Gerard Nayna**
5.7.1945 – 5.11.2024.
Serge's funeral
was held at St Louis' on
11.11.2024.



Denise Loretta Chesters
19.2.1930 – 17.10.2024.
Denise's funeral
was held at St Brigid's on
7.11.2024.



Ella Bednarski
28.1.1953 – 3.12.2024.
Ella's funeral
was held at St Brigid's on
11.12.2024.



Sr Anita Le Clerq csb
7.5.1936 – 4.12.2024.
Sr Anita's funeral
was held at St Joseph's
Port Melbourne on
17.12.2024.



Alpha National Conference

Grow Wider

The **'Every Generation'** two-day national Alpha Catholic Conference was held in Melbourne on the 8/9 of November. Seven members of our parish attended the high-calibre event – Anne and John Field, Ann Furlong, Trish Angliss, Fr Huy, Jon Searle and Berna Wake. We were treated to excellent speakers and workshops and able to network with people from across Australia. This inspired new connections, sparked meaningful conversations, and equipped us with tools to bring the vision of intergenerational renewal to life within our own parish context. Three of our parish attendees share their thoughts.



John Field

"The conference was a wonderful experience particularly as we met people from all around Australia who are enthusiastic evangelists and using Alpha. The launch of the new Youth Alpha was exciting and

seems pitched using today's technology and processes with a relevant discussion space for our youth and it will be exciting to launch this in our parish in 2025.

The music was a great part of the two days, as well as the opportunities for sharing and listening to people from other parishes who are striving for similar objectives to us at SMOTC. The conference also contained some great prayer and praise that was very uplifting. Overall, we were challenged and at the same time left with an ongoing encouragement to continue the path that has been set in our parish."



Fr Rob Galea - ICON Ministries



Barb Conlon - Alpha Australia



Ann Furlong

"Walking into Cathedral Hall at ACU on Day One I was feeling some trepidation and excitement about the next 2 days. We opened with a prayer

and song. There was an eagerness amongst new friends to listen and learn from each other to embrace an invitational culture. Michael Harvey presented on **ACORN** - acronym for **Ask Call Obey Reporting Noticing** which resonated with me due to its simplicity to start each day with a simple prayer:

"*Lord, is there anyone beyond the church You want me to connect with today?*" this is the **ask**, then when God responds with a name it is our **call** to action to **obey** and ask that person "How are you today?". God is already there with the other, and will often reveal what he is doing, via our conversations. We encourage each other by **reporting** what God has been doing in and through them and **noticing** together what God is up to and doing in the other person."



Anne Field

"It was a privilege to participate in the 2024 Alpha Conference with several of our parishioners. Not only did the 2-day experience galvanize our resolve to put our collective 'shoulders to the wheel' for the missionary parish renewal plan for St Mary of the Cross Parish but enabled us to be inspired by the

efforts of so many parishes around Australia. It was so encouraging to hear and see the huge range of resources that are available to support us in our mission. Of particular interest was the launch of Alpha for Youth series, which has been specifically designed for Generation Z.... our grandchildren's generation! I often hear a common lament of other grandparents who wish they could get their children / grandchildren to 'come to mass'. We all yearn to see our loved ones feel welcomed and experience a sense of belonging in a faith community as we do.

However, what was made clear at the conference is what is possible is to ambition with "audacious boldness" for the discipleship of our families and the broader community. The tools and resources are there. We just have to invite and welcome, and God will do the rest! My dreams for our Church and my family have been reinvigorated with hope, and my heart is on fire to spread this Good News, alongside our companions on our parish journey."

In our parish we are blessed to have several small groups who meet to share and discuss on a wide range of topics, some to understand the Gospel, or the bible, others to watch a video on a topic relevant to our parish missionary renewal, some for enriching socialising and friendship. In this edition of Blessings we feature three such groups, others will follow in the first edition for 2025.

Scripture and Friendship *by Carmel Barker and Ann Brennan*



The Scripture and Friendship group has had another wonderful year full of support for each other, enjoying deeper insights into the gospels, the comfort of praying together, the valued acceptance of our varied ideas, thoughts and reflections, and enjoying laughter with friends.

This is what we are about, and anyone is welcome to 'come and see' when we resume in February. 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month - excluding school holidays.



To me the Tuesday group provides a warm, loving environment where people can share, and you know you are supported with love and prayer. **Leonie**

Beautiful well-chosen words Leonie!! Spot on! Agree 100%!! **Pauline**

I can only agree... The Friendship group has been a great comfort to me in both prayer & learning how to pray, as well as a lovely group of girls & guys!!!! **Maureen**

So well described already. Just want to add that I find peace... and fun...within the group, so caring and genuine. Love that we can openly share differing interpretations and opinions. I feel my faith is affirmed and love hearing people speak of my 'buddy', the Holy Spirit.

I feel that our prayer needs, shared within the group, spoken or silent, are well heard. I truly appreciate the group's prayers and the opportunity to pray with and for others. Thank you all.... means so much. **Trish**

What beautiful words from everyone about our amazing group. I endorse all of them and also thank Carmel and Ann for all their knowledge, wisdom in helping us (me especially) understand the gospel more clearly. I feel very blessed to be a part of the group. **Love Deb**

Tuesday morning group gives me an opportunity to get to know more of our church family. A very caring supporting group. A chance to discuss the gospel and gain more insights, thanks everyone. **Norma**



St Mary of the Cross Men's Fellowship Group *by Tony Allday*

St Mary of the Cross Men's Fellowship Group enjoy monthly gatherings which are held in the St Louis Church meeting room starting at 7.30 pm and concluding no later than 9 pm, generally on a Thursday. We watch a video of about 30 minutes which challenges us to consider the way we live our life based on Catholic beliefs. We break into discussion groups of 2 or 3, then come together again for final discussion. It's all done in a relaxed and open manner, and all views are welcome. No judgement. Our next gathering will be early in the New Year, keep an eye on the weekend bulletin for details. All men welcome. Usually, either Fr Andrew or Fr Huy attend.



End of year gathering for the SMOTC Men's Group

St Mary of the Cross Prayer Group

by Felice Cortese and Teresa Basile

St Mary of the Cross Prayer Group aims to provide a place of fellowship and prayer, for all people to grow in faith through a relationship with Jesus.

The Group offers:

Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament through Eucharistic Adoration.

Mary in the recitation of the Holy Rosary.

Reverence in the Litany.

Quiet prayer and meditation.

Songs and Hymns.

Benediction and confession (if Priest is available.)

Fatima Devotions: First Saturdays, Marian feast days.

Mary Mackillop prayer box (petitions placed in prayer box)

Intercessory prayers.

Celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Rosary before Funeral (on request).

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at St Louis' from 4.30 - 5.30pm. Holy Rosary is also offered every Friday before the 11.30am Mass at St Brigid's.

In 2025 we are looking to begin a new gathering once a fortnight on Tuesday's 7.30 - till 8.30 pm. Details in the Bulletin early 2025.



In Advent the Church prepares to celebrate the Nativity, when we recall Christ's first coming.

On Saturday the 7th of December we gathered in the beautiful sanctuary of our St Brigid's Church. Jacqui Guiliani from the Melbourne Archdiocese's Proclaim Team led us gently and beautifully in a time of music, scripture reading and silent reflection. At this often-hectic time in the lead up to Christmas, it was indeed a precious gift we could all share.



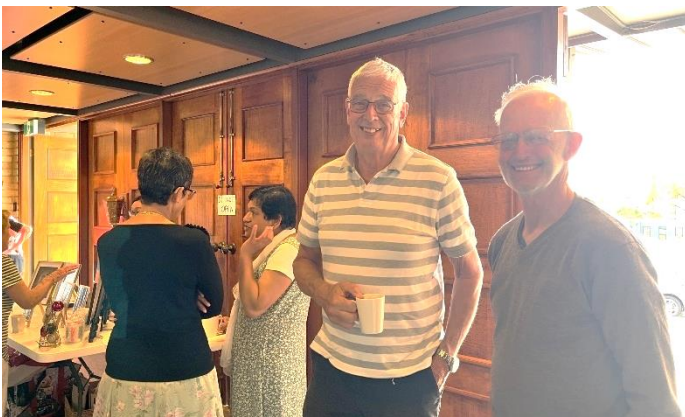
Anne Field gives thanks to Jacqui



Jacqui Guiliani and Vo Johnson



Anthony and Steph Antoniou & Chester Ryan



Jack Meyer & Graham Jones



Jacqui Guiliani



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

These are our parish Mass times. Join via livestream our 6pm Saturday and 8am Sunday Mass [here](#).

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday Vigil 6pm St Louis'
Sunday 8am St Brigid's
Sunday 9.30am St Louis'
Sunday 11am St Brigid's

WEEKDAY MASS

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

St Brigid's Church: 520 Main Street, Mordialloc.
St Louis de Montfort Church & Parish Office: 37 Dolphin Street, Aspendale | mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

WELCOME!

If you are new to the parish or would like to be more connected, we would love to meet you. Please reach out to one of our Welcomers at our weekend masses or get in touch at the email address above.

Find us on:

Facebook at: <https://m.stmaryofthecross.com/facebook>

YouTube: <https://m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass>

Website: <https://m.stmaryofthecross.com/>

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It's as simple and difficult as that.
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R.I.P. Michael Leunig December 19, 2024

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 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.

pg. 23 Blessings December 2024

Micah 5:5

HE WILL BE OUR

PEACE

A happy and holy
Christmas to all