



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time 28 June 2026

Readings for Year A 2 Kings 4: 8-11, 14-16 Romans 6: 3-4, 8-11 Matthew 10: 37-42

*"Anyone who welcomes you
welcomes me"*

Today's Gospel is the conclusion of the instructions and consolations that we have heard Jesus offering to his disciples during the past few weeks. In this passage, Jesus summarizes both the costs of discipleship and its rewards. Once again our understanding of the Gospel is strengthened by considering the context in which it was written and the perspective of Matthew's audience.

The conditions of discipleship outlined in Matthew's Gospel may appear harsh. Yet they underline for us a truth—choosing anything with one's whole heart has consequences. Choosing life with Christ means that every relationship we have must be understood from a new perspective.

For many in Matthew's community, this choice brought division to their family.

Matthew also outlines the reward of hospitality offered to Jesus' followers. In today's Gospel, Jesus explains the difficulties of discipleship, yet reveals that those who welcome the disciples have also welcomed him.

Today's Gospel also highlights for us the importance of hospitality in the Christian life. To welcome another in Jesus' name is to extend hospitality to Jesus himself. We have many opportunities in our daily life to reach out to others, to be a welcoming presence and a sign of God's love.

Loyola Press



News and Announcements

Congratulations Fr Michael

On the 12th Anniversary of your ordination. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide you to keep our community on their missionary journey.

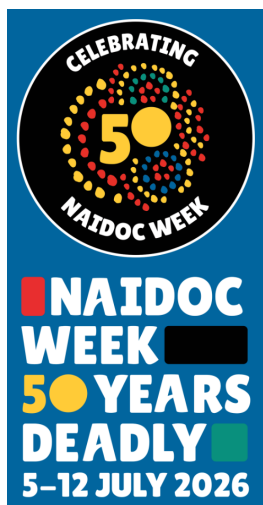
Proclaim 26

'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the gospel to all creation' Mark 16:15

Proclaim26 is an inspiring two-day gathering to equip, form and send clergy, lay leaders and all who want to share Jesus Christ into their communities.

Please pray for the participants from our parish attending the Proclaim 26 Conference this weekend.

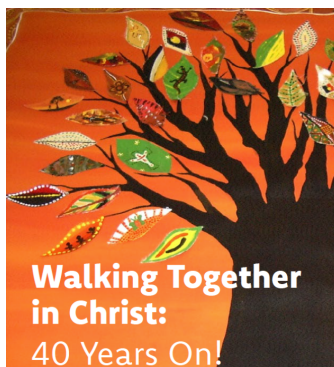
National NAIDOC Week



Celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. It acknowledges the strength, resilience, and leadership of communities, Elders, artists, and activists who have carried the NAIDOC movement forward, ensuring it remains grounded in culture and community.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander Sunday 5 July

May we continue to be guided by the words of St Pope John Paul II, spoken in Alice Springs forty years ago, to recognise and receive the gifts of First Nations Peoples. We have been enriched by their cultures, spirituality, and presence and we are called to walk together in peace, dignity and love.



Baptisms this weekend

We welcome into our parish family - **Rafferty Patrick, Zoe Marlee, Billy, Parry, Collins Karen, and Cooper Wesley.** *God has you in his hands on this special day. With every step you take, he guides you on your way.*

Envelopes

Please pick up your sacrificial offering envelopes from the foyers. Thank you for your support.



During 2026, the Archdiocese will provide clear details regarding the purpose, process, and how this important journey for the People of God in Melbourne will unfold.

Synodality is demanding

Walking together takes patience, time and effort. But the Gospel has never promised an easy path - only a fruitful one.

Synodality and the Holy Spirit

At the heart of synodality is trust in the Holy Spirit. Without prayer, synodality becomes mere strategy. With prayer, it becomes a path of grace.

Synodality and Scripture

From Abraham's journey to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Scripture is full of stories of God walking with His people. Synodality places us within that biblical story.

If you would like to become involved in the preparation toward the Melbourne Synod please email: Synod2026@cam.org.au



Save for a Greater Reward

Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account.

With competitive interest rates, it's a greater reward than money alone.

Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information



News and Announcements

Living the Gospel Helping others in need



For Yamikani*, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice. But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility.

This World Mission Month of July, you are invited to share in this mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children. *Name changed for privacy.

There will be a third collection next week for Catholic Mission.

To learn more about Catholic Mission and our work, please go to

catholicmission.org.au/united



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND

Persecution & Faith: A Witness of Courage and Forgiveness from Pakistan

Twenty-year-old Akash Bashir was serving as a volunteer security guard at his parish in Lahore, Pakistan, when a terrorist with explosives tried to enter the church. Akash said, "I would rather die than let you in," and then gave his life to prevent a massacre.

In the years since, his parents have offered an extraordinary witness of Christian faith. Asked whether they had forgiven those responsible for their son's death, they replied: "Yes, we have forgiven them and pray that they may find the right path to God." Their example reminds us that the Gospel calls us not only to courage, but also to forgiveness.

Reflection: Where may God be asking you to make a sacrifice out of love, or to forgive an injustice against you? Read more testimonies of faith from Aid to the Church in Need at: aidtochurch.org/welcome or via the QR code.



About Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)

Aid to the Church in Need is the only international Catholic charity dedicated to the service of suffering Christians wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. Founded in 1947, ACN is a pontifical foundation and provides vital aid for pastoral projects, religious education, and emergency relief in areas affected by conflict and poverty. Learn more via the QR code.

Annual Winter Appeal for people experiencing homelessness

Thank you to our generous parishioners for your donations of scarves, beanies, socks, gloves and blankets. These are being delivered to several organisations who assist people experiencing homelessness that our JAG team supports. Next week is our final weekend for collections.

Peter's Pence third collection - Be a sign of Mercy and Hope

There will be a third collection today for Peter's Pence to support the work of the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV.

Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria

They are deeply grateful for our parish's generous donation of \$1422. This will directly support the most vulnerable members of our community. Those who may feel forgotten are welcomed, supported and given the opportunity to rebuild their lives.



FORMED - Saint Junipero Serra - A Man of God, a Mission of Love

In this documentary, learn about Fr Serra's heroic missionary activity to the 18th Century indigenous people of North America.

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 - 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 5 JULY 2026

4/5 July 2026	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Zechariah 9: 9-10 Romans 8: 9, 11-13 Matthew 11: 25-30						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Marie Seddon	Joanne Partleton	Volunteer	Volunteer	Anthony Barnhoorn	Bernie Stuart	John Bainbridge
8.00am (M)	Tony Aloisious	Volunteer	Carole Guthrie	Jack Meyer	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Odette Budge	Josie Johnson
9.30am (A)	Phillip Morris	Irene Crowe	Martin Newington	Felice Cortese	Maureen Wraight	Mary Nayna	Gail Ryan
11.00am (M)	Peter Hannan	Diane Wain	Gail Bell	Peter Wain	Juan Wilson	Helen Rocks	Robyn Worsnop
Counters	Group 5	Julie & Anthony Barnhoorn	Aileen Dynes				

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: George Foster, Gladys Foster, Mark Lyovic, Harry Bibby, Peter Wraight, Joyce Tulk, Emily Riordan, Clifford Hawley, Mary Tobin, Eugene Rozario, Dino Vidotto, Jack Drinan, Rita Grotto, Marie Claire "Gilberte" Lefevre, Glen Martin, Leah O'Hehir, John McFall, Victor Dorian, Daniel Sexton, Harrison Baker, Margaret Birch, Mariamma Mathew, Kerry Mulcahy, Shayne Neighbour, Jerry Masters, Dorothy McGinley, Stefania Ragalewicz, June O'Brien, Gwen Winter, Virgil D'Souza, Hazel D'Souza, Frances Taylor, Robert Beckham, Alice O'Brien, Gerald Drenen, Francis Kenny Ford, Tom Demeduk, Kathleen Racis, Helen Francis, Kenneth Taylor, Margaret Finlay, Pasqua Marrama, Mollie Donegan, John Collins, Damian Gilbert, Andrew O'Farrell, Elizabeth Vickers, Peter Williams, Mabel Patricia Frawley, Haydee Brigida Barra, Christopher Griffiths, Bill Libbis.

Praying for healing and the sick: Alex Kalpakoff, Mim Rodolico, Michael Albert, Angela Meo, Fr Terry Keane, Luis, Marisa, Julie Griffiths, Steve Govac, Chris Wardle, Deborah Joseph, Chris Doran, Ruben David, Rita Popley, Vasilos Garavelis, Mary Agiropoulos, Prunella Julien, Sophia Bicos, Maree Wesols, Peter Waltho, Jeffrey Sellar, Noleen Dunn, John Catalano, Damian Haggerty, Alasdair Hughes, Andrea Williams, Brilliant boys, Leonard Hamilton.

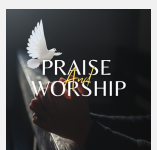
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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](http://catholicmassstmaryofthecross.com)

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

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 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
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Deacon George 9580 7981