



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong

Deacon: George Piech-Meat

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 20 September 2026

Readings for Year A Isaiah 55:6-9 Philippians 1:20-24, 27 Matthew 20:1-16



Are you envious because I am generous?

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

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[catholicmassstmaryofthecross](https://www.youtube.com/catholicmassstmaryofthecross)

Our Parish Ministry and Service Groups

Our parish is blessed with many wonderful groups and ministries through which parishioners generously give their time, gifts and energy in service of our community.

Over the coming weeks, we will introduce these groups to you, broadly organised into four areas, so that everyone can have a better understanding of the many opportunities available to participate in parish life.

This week, we begin with **Liturgical & Worship Ministries**.

Commentators: In keeping with the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, commentators help guide the assembly's full and active participation in the Mass. They introduce the Mass, lead the Penitential Act and the Prayers of the Faithful, and offer helpful cues during the liturgy.

Readers: Honouring the teaching of *Dei Verbum* on the presence of Christ in his Word, readers faithfully proclaim the Word of God during Mass. Through their clear and prayerful reading, they help the whole congregation hear God speaking directly to his people.

Computer Screen Operators: Supporting the Second Vatican Council's call for the full and active participation of the faithful, these volunteers operate the Proclaim slides during Sunday Mass. Their careful attention ensures that hymns, responses, and readings flow smoothly with the rhythm of the liturgy.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Commissioned by the Parish Priest, these volunteers assist in distributing the Body of Christ during Mass and to the sick. Their ministry reflects a profound reverence for Christ's Real Presence and helps ensure the faithful are able to receive Holy Communion.

Liturgy Group: Drawing on the Church's rich liturgical tradition, this team works closely with the Parish Priest to plan and prepare our parish's worship throughout the year. They help ensure that every liturgical season and special celebration is marked with reverence, beauty, and spiritual depth.

Music Ministry: Following the guidance of *Musicam Sacram* on the role of sacred music, this ministry enriches our communal prayer through sacred song. By leading the assembly in hymns, musicians and singers help lift the hearts of the faithful to God at every Mass.

Sacristans: Serving as humble and faithful stewards of the sanctuary, sacristans prepare the altar, sacred vessels, and vestments before every Mass. Their careful, behind-the-scenes work allows the liturgy to unfold smoothly and with dignity.

Altar Servers: Continuing a long-standing tradition of service at the altar, these volunteers assist the priest throughout the celebration of Mass. Through their reverent presence, they enhance the solemnity of the liturgy and witness to the call of every Christian to serve God.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these groups or becoming involved, please feel free to contact the parish office by email.

We will also be inviting the various groups to come together in the near future, providing an opportunity to share information, exchange ideas and keep one another updated. We hope that this will help more parishioners discover the many ways they can share their gifts and become more actively involved in the life and mission of our parish.

News and Announcements

Season of Creation 1 September to 4 October



Living Water
Season of Creation 2026

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator, and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created.

"Environmental justice can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or distant goal. It is an urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. For it is a matter of justice - social economic and human. For believers, it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed." Pope Leo XIV

Blessing of the Pets at St Louis 9am on Saturday 3rd October



Deacon George will performing a Blessing of Pets ceremony for the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi, our Patron Saint of animals and the environment. Due to safety concerns, this year the blessing will be held in front of the St Louis Primary School office building, where there is a grassed area and it is fully fenced off. Please bring along your family pets for this special blessing.

Thank you to our PPC and PLT

The parish extends heartfelt thanks to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Leadership Team who have served our community so faithfully over the past five years. We are grateful to Berna Wake, Trish Angliss, John and Anne Field, Nicole Mielczerak, Marylene Douglas, and Jon Searle for their generous and prayerful service. Through their vision, creativity, and dedication, they have opened up many meaningful opportunities for formation and growth within our parish. As this chapter of service comes to a close, the PPC and PLT now hand on their mission to a newly formed Evangelisation Team, which will carry this important work forward. We ask everyone to keep the new team in your prayers as they begin this exciting new stage of parish life.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Let's Do Lunch hosted by Aspendale's St Vincent de Paul Conference last week.

It was a very enjoyable gathering and we raised enough money to sponsor two more students in the Assist-A-Student Program.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Information Night Thursday 8 October at 7.30pm at St Louis Church, Aspendale

If you or someone you know is beginning to explore the Catholic faith or asking deeper questions about God, you are welcome to attend.

For more information contact: mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

Caritas Australia: Nepal Floods Appeal

Together with Caritas Australia, we can provide urgent relief and hope to families rebuilding their lives in Nepal. To donate to the Caritas Australia Nepal Floods Appeal, visit www.caritas.org.au/nepal or call 1800 024 413.



formed
Forming Catholics for Life.

Saint Matthew

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We are familiar with the four Gospels, but what makes them stand out from the rest? Join Dr Tim and Dr Michael as they discuss St Matthew, the Great Apostle and evangelist

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 - 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 26/27 SEPTEMBER 26

26/27 Sept 26	26th Sunday in Ord Time Readings (Year A) Ezekiel 18: 25-28 Phlippians 2: 1-11 Matthew 21: 28-32							
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer	Prayer Ministers
6pm (A)	Debra Searle	Marg De Vries	Carmel Barker	Sonia Williams	Volunteer	Bernie Stuart	Gail Hamilton	Ann Brennan Volunteer
8.00am (M)	Frances North	Krystyna Wrzesinski	Marlene Tangso	Jack Meyer	John Guthrie	Joey Virginie	Carole Guthrie	Josie Johnson Tony Aloysious
9.30am (A)	Gen Martin	Brian Martin	Mary Nayna	Ron Schneider-Loos	Martin Newington	Aida Adriano	Maureen Wraight	Teresa Basile Brenda O'Leary
11.00am (M)	Jennifer Rodrigues	Adam Whatmore	Volunteer	Louise Breslin	Juan Wilson	Robyn Worsnop	Volunteer	Nicole Mielczarek Ellen Young
Counters	Group 3	Deborah Joseph	Joe Corda	Tony Allday				

Recently deceased: Michael Albert - brother of Joey

Anniversaries: Andrew Atherton, Alex Baptist, Michael O'Leary, Bernie Varney, Hilary Rooney, Mary Callaghan, Glen Callaghan, Verlie Callaghan, Gus Pottier, Joan Jose, Mario Turone, Alexander Louis, Ruby Mannix, Maureen Allday, Paolo Carnibella, Lorraine Petersen, Joan Phillips, Darbra Singh, Faava Kwan-Him, Felcia Cresswell, Peter Crawford, Aniello Pollio, Zsolt Bognar, Francis Mannix, Mary Munro, Own O'Leary, Charlie Attard, Marie Celine Gregory, Anthony Lamperd, Wayne Blair, Richard Potter, Brigid murphy, Br Calixtus Cusack FSC, Giovanni (Johnny) Giarratana, Rose Farren, Matthew Lazaroo, Mattia Aparo, Sebastiano Castanzo, Joyce (Dolly) Hendricks, Pat Edward, Corren Keating, Betty Cutts, Margherita Trettel, Nayda Churches, Carl Beer, Marie Cooper, Lucy Rogen, Luciana Miglietta, Alexandra Grace Walsh, Ruby Stoppa, Clare Dunn, Mary Augello, Stefan Mitula, Godwin Cassano, Rodelio Torres, Gwen Murfett, Ken Lawrence, Eileen Raphael, Msgnr Lawrence Chua, Zorka Marinovic, Ruth Hickey, Cyril Touhy, Bert Vickers, Annie McFall, Vaughn Dowsey, Ron Argent.

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

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' Tue 9.15am
St Brigid's Wed 10am
St Louis' Thur 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

Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people & adults at risk in our community.

CHILD SAFEGUARDING TEAM:

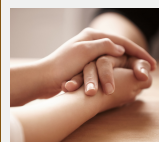
Fr Michael Kong 9580 7981
Deacon George 9580 7981
Trish 0421 604 849
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Robyn 0412 814 592

Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



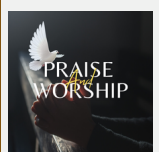
Children's Liturgy

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

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.