



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Priest: Fr Michael Kong
Deacon: George Piech-Meat

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time 27 September 2026

Readings for Year A Ezekiel 18:25-28 Philippians 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32



“Go and work in my vineyard”

This Gospel reminds us that faith is lived as much as spoken. Discipleship becomes real when our choices, habits and priorities begin to reflect what we profess.

The first son initially refuses his father's request but later turns back and obeys, showing how a sincere change of heart can redirect a life. Even when we have resisted God through sin, fear or indifference, His invitation remains open. What matters is the humility to recognise our mistakes and begin again.

The second son offers another reminder. Although he speaks respectfully and promises obedience, he never acts. His response can mirror moments when faith becomes routine, when our daily lives show little love, forgiveness or service.

Many people today carry full schedules, constant noise and the quiet strain of feeling stretched thin. In that kind of life, faith can slip into the background, not from rejection but from tiredness and distraction. Mass can be a simple way of returning, giving us space to pause, pray and be renewed, and reminding us that we are held and known even in the busyness of daily life.

Our participation in the Church continues beyond Sunday, shaping how we relate, take responsibility and care for others. The vineyard is God's work in the world, and we're invited to take part through prayer, family life, honest work, forgiveness, service and care for the poor.

**Tony Aloysious
Parishioner**



Our Parish Ministry and Service Groups

Parish Life, Community & Administration

Safeguarding Team: Upholding the Church's unwavering commitment to protecting children and vulnerable people, this team implements essential safety protocols across all parish liturgies and events. They work to assess risks and ensure our parish remains a safe and secure place for everyone.

Bulletin: Reflecting the Church's commitment to clear and effective communication within the community of faith, this ministry compiles parish news, notices, and upcoming events each week. Drafts are coordinated with the parish office and approved by the parish priest before being finalised for printing and email distribution.

Welcomers: Embodying the biblical call to hospitality, these volunteers are often the first face of Christ that parishioners and visitors encounter as they arrive for Mass. They offer a warm greeting, hand out any needed materials, and help everyone feel truly at home in our parish community. Generally, those who are rostered as Welcomers for that particular weekend also help prepare and organise the morning tea after Mass.

Cuppa After Mass: Fostering Christian fellowship and communion (*koinonia*), volunteers set up and clean up morning tea on the second and fourth Sundays of each month. This ministry builds a warm and welcoming community where parishioners can connect and share life together after Mass.

Counters: Practicing transparent and responsible stewardship of the community's resources, this team gathers at St Louis meeting room on Sunday mornings to accurately count the previous week's offerings. Their careful, trustworthy work supports the parish's financial integrity and its ability to carry out its charitable mission.

Flower group: volunteers prepare and arrange flowers for the sanctuary, helping the community worship in an environment that reflects God's beauty. Members decorate the church in keeping with the liturgical seasons and feasts, so that the flowers support the prayer and joy of the Mass.

Gardening group: Inspired by Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato Si'* and its call to care for our common home, this group tends to the parish grounds and gardens. Through their loving stewardship of creation, they help maintain a beautiful and peaceful environment that reflects the beauty of God.

Church Cleaning (SB): Embracing the call to care for God's house as a sign of love and reverence, volunteers gather every two weeks to clean and tidy the church. Their faithful stewardship helps create a welcoming and prayerful environment for all who come to worship.

Digital Mission Team: Ministers use our website, YouTube, Facebook, and other social media to livestream Mass and to share parish news tailored to different audiences. Recognising the Internet as a new forum for proclaiming the Gospel, this ministry reaches those who cannot join us in person, engage younger generations, and invite our neighbours into the life of our community for the sake of evangelisation.

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.

Ezekiel's vision reframes water — the most basic element of life — as a divine agent of renewal, justice, and hope, a life-giving force flowing from God's sanctuary. The vision begins with a small trickle — droplets of water flowing from the place of prayer and sacrifice. From a tiny stream it grows to an unstoppable river — the first marvel. The river grows as it flows from the Temple, nourished by the worship and prayers of God's people. The second marvel sees the river not merely sustain life, but restore entire ecosystems.

All Men of the St Mary of the Cross parish and primary schools are invited to a BBQ on Friday 2nd October 2026,

Commencing 7pm in the St Louis Tennis Club rooms behind the church. Food provided. BYO drinks. Minimum \$5 donation to cover costs. This gathering is being organised by our parish Men's Fellowship Group. If you are attending please text Tony Allday on 0411 075 631.

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.

Kidz Zone this weekend

Calling all children 4 - 12 years old. Join our Kidz Zone leaders at our 6pm, 9.30am and 11am masses. Activities based on the Gospel reading of the day help our children to explore and grow in their relationship with Jesus.

Parish Ministry Group Gatherings

As previously announced, we will be arranging gatherings for our various parish ministry groups over the coming weeks. These gatherings are intended to provide an opportunity for parishioners who serve at different Mass times to meet one another, reflect on how each ministry has been carried out, and share thoughts and ideas about how we may continue and support these ministries going forward.

Saturday, 3rd October, at St Louis de Montfort's Church, Aspendale:

- 10 am – Commentators and Readers
- 11 am – Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Those who are currently members of these ministry groups should have received further information by email. If you are already involved in one of these ministries but did not receive the email, or if you are interested in becoming involved, you are also very welcome to attend.

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



formed
Forming Catholics for Life.

Who are the Archangels?

Dr. Ben Akers & Dr. Elizabeth Klein discuss archangels and what role they have in our lives. Grab your bible and follow along.

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 - 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - 3/4 OCTOBER 26

3/4 October 26	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) Isaish 5: 1-7 Philippians 4: 6-9 Matthew 21: 33-43						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Jenny Ford	Volunteer	Anthony Barnhoorn	Adrienne Kennedy	Michael Barker	Blessen Mathai	Danny Carey
8.00am (M)	Celine George	Frances North	Chris McAleer	John Guthrie	Carole Guthrie	Tony Aloysious	Josie Johnson
9.30am (A)	Helen Healy	Irene Crowe	Maureen Wraight	Felice Cortese	Mary Nayna	Volunteer	Gail Ryan
11.00am (M)	Maree Wesols	Gail Bell	Louise Breslin	Philippa Pecora	Juan Wilson	Volunteer	Vanessa Fernandes
Counters	Group 4	Bern & Geoff Terrell	Susan Dornom				

Recently deceased: Maria Casolan

Anniversaries: Greg Kellet, Denzil Popley, Don Swaine, Frank Buxton, Joseph Stuart Hamilton, Sarah McCorquodale, Paola Zahra, Therese Antonios, Phil Wraight, Robert Mitchell, Anna Marani, Megan Abbot, Lorenzo Barbarino, Paul Mooney, Peggy Quin, Giovanna Di Benedetto, Margaret Powell, Diego Fernandes, Bob Moorhouse, Audrey Quirk, Audrey May Morris, Mary Newington, Paula Sims, Fr Michael Morgan, Giuseppe Costanzo, John O'Donnell, Wladyslawa Mitula, James Tobin, Giuseppe Iorianni, Tjakrawala Ahkiat, Annunziata Camilleri, Frank Moor, Teresa Healy, John Surrin, Elizabeth Major, Jean May Stone, Slavica Bubica, Charles Patrick, Mathew Braganza, Subir Gopinath, Keith Reiter (Snr), Laurie Rose, Bill Wilson, Nadine Shakemamade, Bernadette O'Connor.

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](https://catholicmassstmaryofthecross.org.au)

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

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

Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



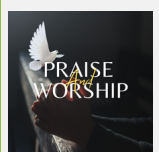
Children's Liturgy

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.

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