

ISSUE 37 | APRIL 2026

Blessings

Christ is Risen.
Alleluia!

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Rally



Holy Week

From the editor

Welcome to another edition of Blessings, our quarterly parish magazine featuring news, stories and photos from our blessed and vibrant community. A lot has happened since our last issue. We farewelled our Parish Priest Fr Andrew Jekot after 15 years as our shepherd as well as Fr Huy Nguyen our Assistant Priest who was with us for 15 months and made many friends. We welcomed Fr Michael Kong into his first Parish Priest role, and we look forward to working alongside Fr Michael to continue to build a parish that warmly welcomes all into a relationship with Christ our Lord and a community of loving, warm acceptance and care.

If you have a story about our people and parish, please do contact me at: berna.wake@cam.org.au

Peace and blessings,

Berna Wake



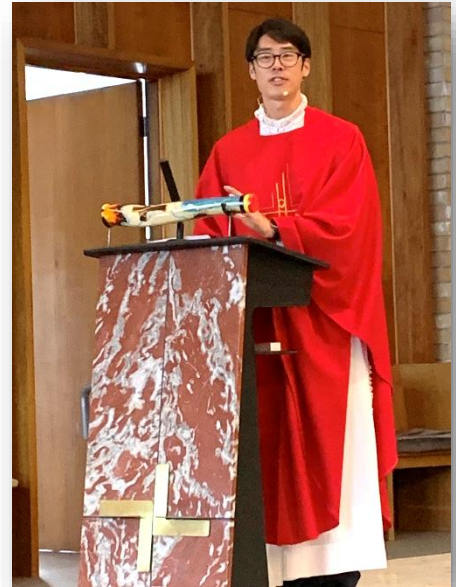
From Fr Michael

I pray that the grace and love of the Lord be with all of you who read this magazine.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Fr Andrew Jekot, who has entrusted me with this significant responsibility. It is difficult to fully grasp the depth of love he both received and generously shared within this community over the past fifteen years, as well as the dedication he invested in nurturing and strengthening parish life. I am also mindful that many of you continue to miss him dearly. In carrying forward the spirit he has handed on, I reaffirm what I shared when I first arrived: I have received a parish that has been well established and is full of potential for further growth. Together with all members of our parish and school community, I promise to continue striving for the building up of the Kingdom of God in Mordialloc and Aspendale.

By way of a brief introduction, I was born and raised in South Korea and first came to Australia in 2006 to study English. During that time, I encountered an inspiring Australian priest whose life and ministry I had the privilege to witness closely. Through that experience, I felt a deep calling to the priesthood in Melbourne. I subsequently entered the Corpus Christi seminary in Melbourne and, in 2014, was ordained as the first Korean-born priest for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Since my ordination, I have served in several parishes, where I have learned, grown, and been enriched through the guidance of senior priests and the diversity of parish communities.

St Mary of the Cross is the sixth parish to which I have been appointed, and it is my first appointment as Parish Priest. With this new role comes a deeper sense of responsibility, along with both excitement and a certain degree of apprehension as I begin this journey with you. I therefore humbly ask for your prayers and support.



My ordination motto is: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace." As mentioned earlier, my predecessors have laid a strong and faithful foundation for this parish, and I believe that my appointment here at this time is also part of God's providential plan. Drawing on my pastoral experience and the knowledge I have gained over the years, I will strive to serve as an instrument in living out our parish mission: "Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples." This mission aligns closely with my own vocation and pastoral vision. I am already inspired by the parish's desire to grow as a community of missionary disciples, open to renewal and to creative ways of living the Gospel in today's world.

In particular, with my passion for evangelisation, community life, and digital outreach, I look forward to journeying together with the parish and school community of St Mary of the Cross into the future. I pray that not only all members of our community, but also those within our parish boundaries who do not yet know Christ, may come to encounter Jesus through our shared efforts.

Once again, I sincerely thank you for your warm welcome as your new Parish Priest. God Bless.

*Fr Michael Duck Young Kong
Parish Priest
St Mary of the Cross Parish,
Mordialloc & Aspendale*

The Life and Legacy of Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey

by John Bainbridge

My connection with Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey continues following my attendance at a Presentation and Reflections event held at Cathedral Hall, Fitzroy on Friday 13 March 2026 following Dr Sr Mary Glowrey's recognition by Pope Leo XIV of her "heroic virtues" whereby she was granted the title of Venerable on 21 November 2025.

Mary Glowrey's Mission and Service

In 1920, Mary Glowrey made the courageous decision to leave her homeland and precious family to answer her calling. She journeyed to Guntur, India, and joined the Society of Jesus Mary & Joseph, taking the name Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ. With the special permission of Pope Benedict XV, she began her work as a doctor at St Joseph's Convent in Guntur.

For over thirty years, Sr Mary dedicated herself to healing and uplifting thousands of people, focusing especially on women and children who were marginalised and underserved. Her compassion and expertise led to the foundation of St Joseph's Hospital, an institution that would serve as a beacon of hope and care for the community. She was instrumental in establishing training systems and building a network that eventually became the Catholic Health Association of India (CHAI), ensuring her vision extended far beyond her immediate reach.



Sr Mary also dreamed of expanding opportunities for medical education. She carefully planned for the creation of a Catholic medical college in India, foreseeing the need for skilled and ethical practitioners. Her vision was realised with the opening of St Joseph's Medical College in Bangalore (Bengaluru), six years after her passing. During her final year, Sr Mary relocated to Bangalore due to illness and died there on 5 May 1957, leaving a legacy of service, compassion, and visionary leadership.

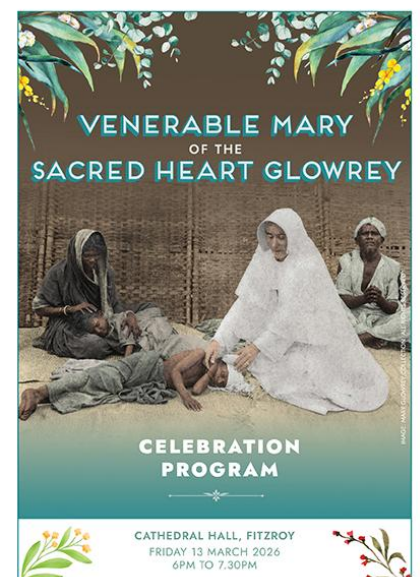
The Canonisation Process

The Catholic Church's path to sainthood typically involves four titles: Servant of God, Venerable, Blessed (after Beatification), and Saint (after Canonisation). Each step requires recognition of virtue or miracles. Mary's next step is Beatification, which needs a verified miracle attributed to her intercession after death. Canonisation usually follows a second miracle.

Personal Reflection

This photo above was taken by Mary's younger brother Harold, whom I met in 1972–73; he passed away in 1974. At the Presentation & Reflection on 13 March, I met Harold's granddaughter, Louise, who graciously invited me to sit with the Glowrey family a moment of honour and privilege.

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A peaceful and sacred pilgrimage

by Josie Johnson and Tony Aloysius



On 7 March 2026, we walked the uneven paths of the shrine, praying the Stations of the Cross together. Along the way, everyone looked out for one another, helping each other on tricky steps, sharing laughter, conversation, and quiet moments of reflection. There was a beautiful sense of fellowship, as if every step we took was a shared prayer, a shared journey of faith.

Fr. Michael celebrated a moving Mass at the end, and following the Mass, we shared a generous potluck morning tea, which felt more like a joyful feast among friends, full of warmth, laughter, and camaraderie.

The day was deeply meaningful for all involved, a true reminder of Matthew 18:20: *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* Josie and I feel inspired to continue organising such pilgrimages, witnessing how simple acts of shared prayer and fellowship can bring people together in God's presence.

Nearly two years ago, during Lent, our prayer group **Wings of Faith** gathered at our home for our final Lenten session of the year, where we prayed the Stations of the Cross together. As we reflected, an idea began to take shape - what if we did something more as a group, a shared journey of faith during Lent? Over time, the thought grew and stayed with us, quietly guiding our plans.

By Lent 2026, the moment finally felt right. We chose the Shrine of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu in Merrimu, Victoria, inspired by the original shrine in Gozo, Malta, known for its history of Marian devotion and answered prayers. Its peaceful and sacred setting made it the perfect place for our pilgrimage. With the support of our parish priest, Fr. Michael Kong, the invitation was extended to our parish and the neighbouring parish, OLA. Gradually, over 40 participants joined, and it became clear that God was quietly at work.



World Day of Prayer

by Berna Wake

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service. It is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions. Each year a particular country is chosen to pray for and stories from that country are shared in the liturgy. In 2026 this was Nigeria. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Our parish has supported World Day of Prayer for many years, and we have been passionately led by Sr Reba Woodwiss and Nola Petraitis. This year's event took place on March 6th at St David's Uniting Church Parkdale. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet the new Minister, Rev. Esteban Lievano, who took up his appointment at St David's in August 2025. Rev Esteban is very keen to meet with our Justice Action Group as the plight of refugees and asylum seekers is his passion.

The service involved scripture, music and prayer and firsthand life stories from women in Nigeria. It was a beautiful morning and many of our parishioners attended.



Nola Petraitis above &
Sr Reba right



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2026 World Day of Prayer Artwork Title: Rest for the Weary
Artist: Gift Amarachi Ottah

*"Come to me all who labor
and are heavy laden and
I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28*

My artwork depicts the daily reality of rural Nigerian women, whose lives are marked by endless labour from sunrise to sunset. These women traverse treacherous paths to their farms, often carrying both their harvest and their children – a toddler strapped to their back, a heavy load balanced on their head, while guiding other children along unmaintained roads through thick bush.

The artwork also shows three women sitting together, their different traditional attire representing Nigeria's diverse cultures. Though they come from different ethnic groups, their shared experiences unite them. To meet their basic survival needs, these women carry burdens and traumas that are physical, emotional and spiritual.

Yet there is hope for the many burdens these people are carrying. These burdens become bearable when we respond to Jesus' invitation in Matthew 11:28, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."* When we bring our weariness to Christ and support one another in community, we find rest and strength to continue our journey.

Lenten Retreat

Our annual Lenten Retreat took place on Saturday 14 February at St Brigid's. Once again, we were beautifully led by Jacqui Giuliano from the Archdiocese Proclaim Office. Jacqui guided us in song, reflection and prayer with meditation on the beautiful artwork "The Anointing" featured below. Thank you Jacqui for preparing our hearts for the season of Lent.



The Anointing by Eva Koliva Timothy

Copyright © Eva Koliva Timothy

Inspiration:

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment... Then said Jesus, leave her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. You will have the poor with you always; you will not always have me. – John 12: 3, 7-8



Lenten Small Groups

by John and Anne Field

This Lent we had some 70 people sign up and commit to journey together towards the Easter Triduum. We are indebted to you all as you shared your faith journey with one another. As can be seen from the sample of feedback below, all who participated had a significant impact on your fellow parishioners. On their behalf we thank you for the gift of sharing your story. It has a major impact on the community. We can promise you there will be more opportunities upcoming to continue this journey of sharing our story. Look for more coming in about a month!!

"Gathering together and sharing experiences was both insightful and uplifting. It certainly enhanced my understanding of the scripture associated with Lent."

"The small group has enriched our involvement with the parish. It has allowed for friendship to bloom."

"Our Lenten group was open, friendly and shared with each other respectfully".

"I looked forward to spending time each week with our little group – friendly and unthreatening atmosphere."

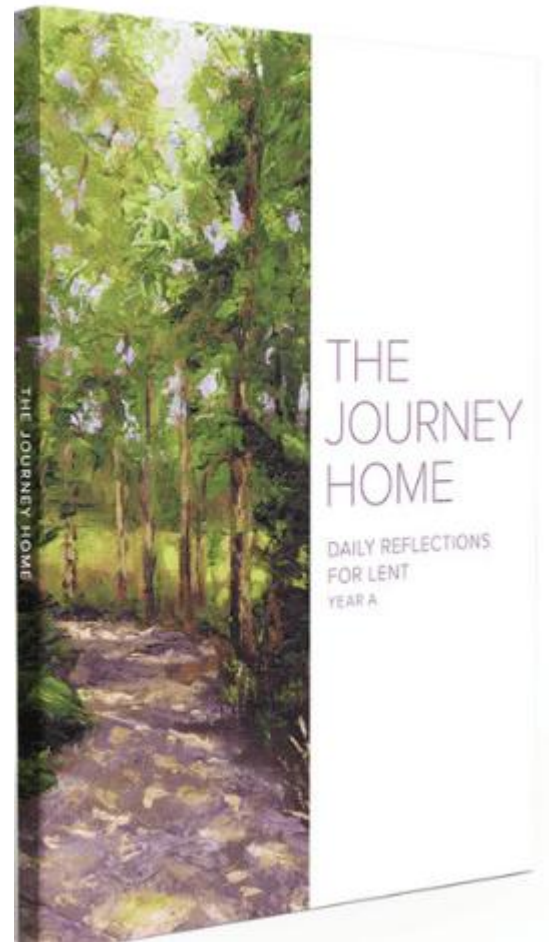
"While learning new and interesting lessons, the groups have been very supportive and new friends made and deepened the sense of community."

"To share with this group of people with faith and prayers was wonderful."

"I do like being with a small group. "

"An absolute blessing to share the lead up to Easter with other parishioners in our small group. It is very thought provoking to hear others' opinions and insights on spiritual matters."

"The discussions are very rewarding and by everyone sharing you get a deeper understanding and feeling for the meaning of the Word."



The Journey Home was the daily reflection resource used by our Small Groups for Lent 2026.

Written by Archbishop Emeritus Mark Coleridge, former Archbishop of Brisbane, this resource draws on his deep grounding in Sacred Scripture and decades of teaching and pastoral experience. His reflections invited readers to walk the Lenten journey with honesty, depth, and hope, returning again to the heart of the Gospel.

Walk for justice, respect and kindness

Palm Sunday 29 March 2026

by Berna Wake



Members of the JAG group attend the rally (apologies to John Meyer, not included in the photo)

On a sparkling Melbourne day, the annual Palm Sunday rally saw groups of people from schools, advocacy groups, social services and people of all faiths – Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Hindu and others come together under the theme “We are stronger together”.

It was a call for Australia to remain a welcoming place, for refugees and asylum seekers whose lives are often uncertain and unsafe, particularly those still on bridging visas many years after arriving.

Lord Mayor Cr Nicholas Reece gave an impassioned speech, using his faith background to recall Jesus entering Jerusalem humbly on a donkey ahead of his crucifixion. He implored those in attendance to remember how Jesus’ earthly ministry was filled with compassion and justice and the courage to call out injustice, equating successive federal and state governments treatment of refugees as a moral sin. Melbourne City Council undertakes significant advocacy work to support refugee groups.

Longtime asylum seeker advocate Sr Brigid Arthur CSB of the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (pictured right) hosted much of the afternoon, including an insightful discussion with three refugees. A short play involving Xavier College and OLSC Oakleigh students, as well as musical entertainment capped off a very special day.



Farewell for Fr Andrew and Fr Huy

It was standing room only as almost 200 parishioners gathered for the farewell to our beloved priests Fr Andrew Jekot (PP) and Fr Huy Nguyen (Asst Priest) on Saturday 10 January 2026. The final Masses celebrated on that weekend were a joyous occasion. We continue to keep both men in our hearts and prayers and wish them all of God's blessings in their new parish communities.





Some reflections on the Beatitudes - Matthew 5:1-12

by Patrick Jurd

During the seminars on the Gospel of Matthew, there was a question asking for 'more time' on the Beatitudes. That wasn't possible. What follows are reflections - with many questions. Reading the Gospel with your mind and heart open may give you more questions... and your answers.

Note that the Gospel text is in ordinary type and my reflections are in italics.

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

This is the very beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, the very beginning of Jesus' teaching. Is Jesus close to the crowds? Who is close to Jesus?

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

What might it mean to be 'poor in spirit'? We are taught about heaven, as a place after death. Is the 'kingdom of heaven' the same thing? Is the 'kingdom of heaven' a place?

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Note in this verse (and many of the following ones) that the future tense is used. When will they be comforted?

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

What does it mean to be meek? When will the meek inherit the earth? Since we know that the meek do not currently 'inherit the earth', might it be connected to the kingdom of heaven?

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

The Greek word that is translated as righteousness means justice and right relationships. We know that injustice is present in the world, both in world events and everyday interactions. What must change for God's justice to prevail? What can I do to behave more justly? Do you feel you have right relationships in your life? What would you need to do to improve this?

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

There are those who think that being merciful is being weak. Might being merciful be a sign of strength? Where are you merciful?

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Might those who are 'pure in heart' be less caught up in the cares and distractions of this world and so glimpse God in other people and the creation that He has so marvellously made? Is it even possible in today's world?

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

World events demonstrate the need for peace; there can be upsets and disputes among family or friends. More than once in the Gospels Jesus said 'peace be with you'. If I wish to be a child of God, how might I be a peacemaker?

10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

What will be the hallmarks of the kingdom of heaven? Being meek, thirsting for righteousness, being merciful, being pure in heart, being a peacemaker. These qualities are not always valued in the world as we know it. Behaving this way requires courage, do you have such courage or just hope you will never need to know?

11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Being reviled and persecuted because of faith in Jesus Christ, this is the path of the martyrs and is very challenging. How might this happen in our country? Note that 'your reward is great in heaven' - not now.

Rite of Election – Stepping towards Christ

by Tony Aloysius and Josie Johnson



As RCIA leaders, we have had the privilege of attending the Rite of Election at the cathedral of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne for the past few years. Each year it is a deeply moving and joyful experience, but this year's celebration was particularly memorable.

I was joined by fellow members of our RCIA team, along with our parish priest, Michael Kong. Walking into the cathedral and seeing it filled with people from many different backgrounds was truly inspiring. This year, around 550 Elect were presented — the largest number recorded in the history of the archdiocese.

Among them were eight from our own parish, which made the occasion even more special for us. Witnessing them step forward in faith and hope was a moment of great joy.

At times, many of us worry about declining church attendance and the future of our faith communities. Yet moments like this remind us that our perspective can be limited, while God continues to work quietly and powerfully in the hearts of people. Seeing adults from all walks of life responding to that call and preparing to enter the Church was truly encouraging.

For cradle Catholics, this experience renews our faith and reminds us that God's love is still touching hearts and drawing people closer to Him. It fills us with hope and gratitude for the many ways God continues to guide people back home. We can only give thanks and praise to God for His enduring mercy and grace.

COMMUNITY

Giving thanks

by Christine and Lesley D'Cruze

Mum is 89 years old and resides at an Aged Care facility. We bring her home on Sundays to spend time with the family. One of the highlights of her Sunday visit is to participate in the streamed mass from St Mary of the Cross Parish which she actively participates in, including receiving communion.



We are ever so grateful for the streaming of the mass from St Mary of the Cross Parish as we too participate in this mass while we are away travelling/overseas holidays.

Watching the streamed mass also keeps us in touch with the Parish.

Thank you to our wonderful serve ministers who faithfully film the mass and organise the slideshow at our 6pm Saturday Vigil Mass at St Louis' and the 8am Sunday Mass at St Brigid's. These masses can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@catholicmassstmaryofthecross>

Meet our neophytes 'new lights'

We welcome and continue to pray for Pete, Holly, Antonia, Anthony, Jason, Adam, Sinead and Cathy, as they begin living a new life as fully initiated and participating members of the Catholic Church.



My name is Peter Jeffery (Pete). My wife is Fiona and we have two children Xavier and Estelle, who attend St Louis' Primary School. My journey so far has been a meaningful exploration of history, the clearing of long held myths, and the discovery of faith that grows stronger the more I practice it. The RCIA team has been incredibly welcoming, supportive, and inspiring. I look forward to what lies ahead and to becoming Catholic alongside my family.



My name is Holly David-Alderson. My husband, Michael, and I have been married for almost four years, and we live in Chelsea with our son August and our bulldog, Audrey. I'm very new to faith and am just at the beginning of my journey. After having my son, August, who is now 10 months old, I felt a strong sense of hope that I couldn't quite explain. It didn't feel like a clear plan or idea as it was a feeling of wanting something deeper and more meaningful than what I had known. That feeling is what led me to begin RCIA. The RCIA team has helped open my mind and soul to a greater love and a real sense of community. I've learned so much already — not just about faith, but about belonging and sharing life with others.

It feels like such a privilege to begin this journey while August is so little and to grow in faith alongside him. I hope that as he grows, he'll come to know that same hope, love, and community in his own life. A heartfelt thank you to the entire RCIA team for being so welcoming, kind, patient, understanding, and non-judgmental and for taking the time to share your own journeys and knowledge with me.



My name is Antonia Hemming, and I have lived in Aspendale for almost 20 years. I have been married to my husband, Justin, for 18 years. We have three children - Hunter, Marlon and Ivy. I am a secondary school teacher, and I have taught in Catholic schools throughout my teaching career. Through this, I have found a connection with the Catholic faith, which I wished to pursue further. I have found the Parish of St Mary of the Cross to be extremely welcoming, and I have enjoyed our RCIA sessions so far, as we go along on our faith journeys together. I look forward to continuing to grow in my relationship with God and am hopeful that I will be able to contribute to the parish in a meaningful way.



My name is Anthony Antoniou, and I am really happy to be part of this RCIA group. My wife, Stefanie Carino, has been a big inspiration to me and has helped open my eyes and widen my view on my relationship with God. I have been coming to Mass regularly for the past eight years and over that time I have learned so much that has stayed close to my heart. Being part of these RCIA sessions has helped me grow in my faith in ways I didn't expect, and I have really enjoyed getting to know everyone here. I also want to give a special mention to our RCIA leaders, whose guidance and support has been truly amazing throughout this journey. It has been such a great experience and one I will always treasure. If anyone is thinking about joining, I would truly encourage you to take that step, it is so worth it, and you will be made to feel so welcome.

GROW WIDER & DEEPER

Hi, I'm Jason Coull. I've lived in Aspendale for the past 14 years and feel very grateful to be part of such a welcoming local community. I work in the construction industry and take pride in the work I do each day.

Family is a big part of my life and something I thank God for. My wife and I have two kids, and I love spending time with them whenever I can—whether that's heading off on camping trips, going to the snow, getting outdoors, or just enjoying time together at home. Our children are in Prep and Grade 3 at St Louis', and we've really enjoyed being part of the St Louis' school and parish community.

I'm also a big sports fan and an avid Hawthorn Hawks supporter. I follow the Lakers in basketball and the Green Bay Packers in the NFL as well. When I get the chance, I enjoy a round of golf or getting away for the weekend with a few good mates.

I joined the RCIA group after my wife began her journey of faith last year. Over the past nine or so months, I've really enjoyed the RCIA journey and the opportunity to grow in my understanding of the Catholic faith. It has been a meaningful and faith-filled experience, and I'm grateful for the guidance, support, and sense of community I've found along the way.



My name is Adam Bartley. I've been living in Mordialloc now for the past three years. I grew up in NSW on the coast and so naturally gravitated to the beautiful coastline of the bay and Mordialloc. I have a one-year-old girl, Laura, with my partner Catherine. Whenever we can, we like getting out and seeing different parts of Melbourne, and where possible the world. During the day, I am a lecturer and research fellow at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, where I teach and research on cyber, artificial intelligence, and security. I also run a business with my partner in my spare time. I decided to join the RCIA journey to become more involved with my community and also reestablish

family roots with our Catholic heritage. I want my daughter to grow up in a community of openness, love, respect, and support. And my experience so far tells me that St Mary of the Cross, among other parishes, have this and much more to offer. The people I have met on my journey are all kind, genuine, willing, and generous, and I look forward to the day that I can give back in equal amounts. I thank the RCIA team for all their support and for all the prayers for me and my family along the way.



My name is Sinéad Williamson. I'm a 21-yr old HR consultant at an Amazon warehouse. I moved to Mordialloc 2 years ago, and it was around this time I began to explore how religion and the church community could strengthen my relationship with God. I am interested in health, politics and spending time with my family and boyfriend Adam. Since starting this RCIA journey last year I have felt so supported and cared for by all the RCIA leaders, in both my Catholic faith journey but also in my personal life. The way they have reached out and prayed for me when I have been going through a tough time has truly touched my heart. Everyone, including the other RCIA candidates, have created a judgement free environment allowing us to ask questions and learn freely. Special thanks to Fr Michael, Fr Andrew, Fr Huy, Tony, Josie and the rest of the RCIA team. I look forward to seeing you all at church. Thank you to everyone praying for us on our journey.

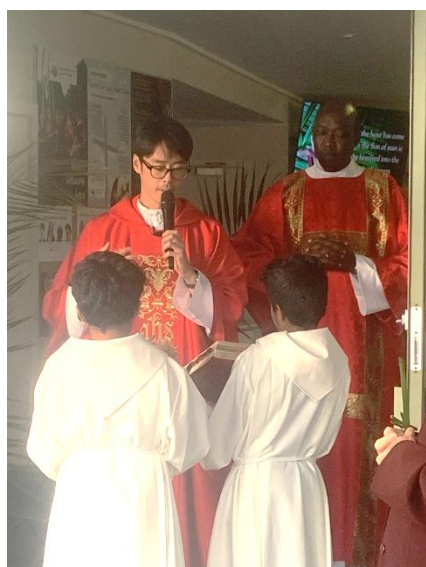
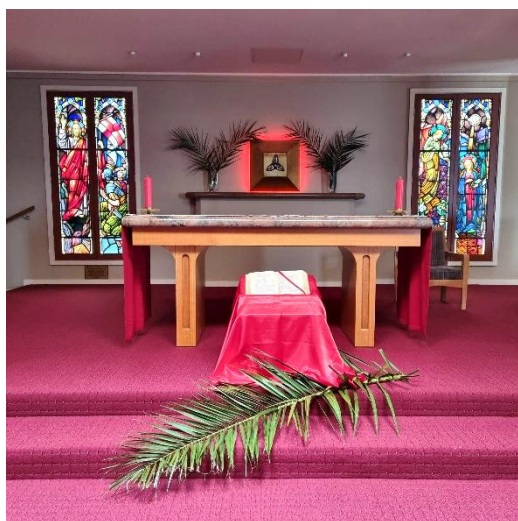


We will hopefully be able to share the story from our final new light, **Cathy Buchanan** in our next edition of Blessings.

Thank you to our wonderful and dedicated RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) leaders for your role in guiding the group – Carmel Barker, Bernie Stuart (P/T), Josie Johnson, Tony Aloysius, Patrick Jurd and Fr Michael, Fr Andrew and Fr Huy.



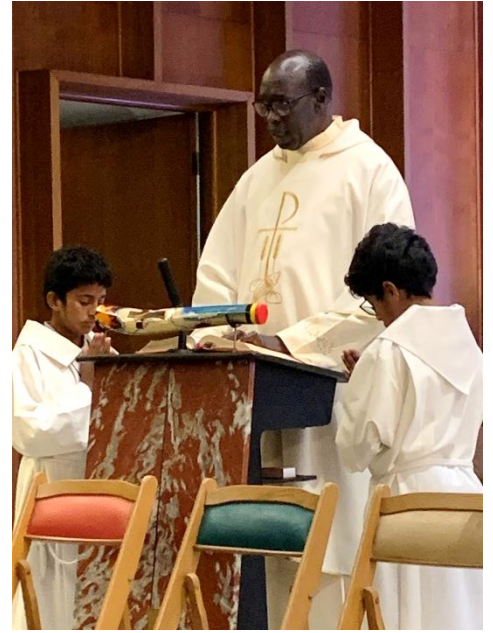
Sunday of the Passion of Our Lord (Palm Sunday)



*"Are you the King of the Jews?"
Jesus replied,
'It is you who say it.'
Matthew 27:11*



Triduum Liturgies – Holy Thursday 2nd April



*"For I have given you an
example, that as I have done to
you, so you do also."
John 13:15*



Triduum Liturgies – Good Friday 3rd April

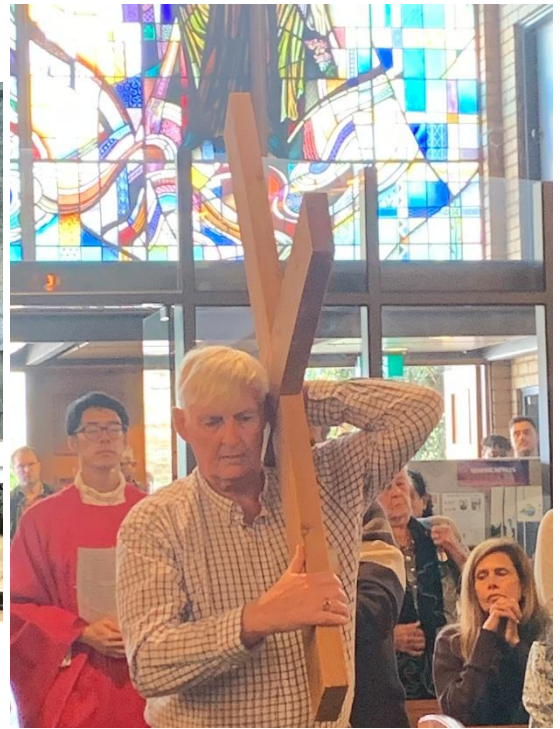


*Pilate said,
So you are a King, then?
Jesus answered,
It is you who say it.
Yes, I am a King. I was
born for this, I came into
the world for this: to bear
witness to the truths and
all who are on the side of
truth listen to my voice.*

Inter-Faith 'Way of the Cross' - Beeson Reserve Edithvale



The Passion of Christ - Good Friday St Brigid's Church



"I would like to invite all people of goodwill, all people of faith, all Christians to walk together, to walk with Christ who suffered for us to give salvation, life, and to seek how we may also be bearers of peace and not of hatred."

Pope Leo XIV - the Way of the Cross at the Colosseum in Rome April 3, 2026.



Triduum Liturgies – Easter Vigil 4th April

The Easter Vigil is the first celebration of the Resurrection. We begin outside around the open fire, then the light of the Paschal candle is shared with the congregation—symbolizing the light of Christ shining in the world. We proceed into the darkened church to experience the beautiful, powerful liturgy. It is the highlight of the Church year and includes readings and baptisms of our RCIA catechumens and candidate who are received into the faith. A joyful proclamation of the Risen Christ.



Easter Vigil 4th April - Congratulations

We welcome with open hearts Pete, Holly, Antonia, Anthony, Jason, Adam, Sinead and Cathy. We your parish home and community look forward to walking with you on your new journey where you will find belonging and love.



The Paschal Candle *by Kristian Joy Tangso*



It has been a profound blessing to help prepare St Mary of the Cross Parish's paschal candle this year. Initially, I was quite hesitant to embrace the opportunity to do so as the memories of my past experience plagued my thoughts. It was three years ago when I was first introduced to the techniques of painting on wax candles from an exceptionally skilled woman at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middle Park. In my excitement to embark on this new project, I literally leapt for joy and to my dismay resulted in me wearing a cast for at least six weeks, so I had no choice but to paint with my left hand. Being right-handed, one can imagine how painfully challenging it would have been to complete this task in under a month. By entrusting my fears and doubts to God, He gave me the grace to say 'yes' to His invitation for me to share my gifts as an artist in this special

way with our community and for especially protecting me from any major injuries this time around. For me, painting the paschal candles for both St Louis' and St Brigid's churches became a beautiful focal point of this year's season of Lent, helping me to grow closer to God, as well as strengthening my mental, emotional and physical capacities. I began with asking the Holy Spirit for inspiration on an image that would both help us in our journey in welcoming and working with the new shepherd of our community, Fr Michael Kong, and somehow embody the Easter story. The Scripture verses that I found peace in receiving were: *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light" [Ephesians 5:8]* and *"Do not be afraid, for I am with you" [Isaiah 41:10]*. I have included these Words on the back of the candle as they are the foundation of the artwork I've entitled "Children of Light". After doing some preliminary sketches, I then worked consistently over a period of four weeks to produce what you can see in these photos.

In addition to the typical symbols found decorated on paschal candles (Greek letters alpha and omega - God is the beginning and the end, a cross - the instrument of our salvation and the year), I have depicted Christ our resurrected Lord walking radiantly with His wounds hand-by-hand with a little boy and girl dressed in white garments with a halo on either side of Him. This reminds us of our personal calling to holiness and our true identity as beloved children of God. And that if we choose to take Jesus' hand, which is always open for us, and remain steadfast in God's merciful love with child-like trust and confidence, we too can courageously 'walk on water' in faith through whatever comes in life. It was my intention to have these figures wrapped around the candle to invite those viewing it from a distance, particularly people who may not yet know Christ but present in the church during baptisms and funerals, to come and see the special Words God desires to speak to their hearts.



The Holy Spirit is also present as a reminder of God's gift to us in baptism to help empower and accompany us in living out our Christian faith.

In 2018, Kristian Joy pursued her dream job as a research scientist in Norway, but little did she know that her life would be changed forever. There, for the first time, her heart was profoundly pierced with the fire of God's merciful love awakening her soul to encounter beauty in all things. Since then, she has been on a whirlwind adventure with her best friend, Jesus, in discovering and embracing her strengths and weaknesses, as well as her identity as a beloved daughter of God and her purpose in the world. Kristian Joy's mission is to inspire humanity on their journey towards Beauty especially through her voice and art.

For any enquiries, donations, commission requests, or interest in purchasing artworks or learning more about her art ministry, please feel free to contact her on love.kristianjoy@gmail.com. You may also wish to follow her journey as an artist on [Instagram@kristianjoyart](https://www.instagram.com/kristianjoyart) and jump onto her website kristianjoy.com

Welcome to our baptised children and families

*May God grant you always a sunbeam to warm you, a moonbeam to charm you,
a sheltering angel, so nothing can harm you. Laughter to cheer you.
Faithful friends near you, and whenever you pray, Heaven to hear you.*

Atticus Mark Tracey son of Robert & Charlotte

Nicholas Ludovic Nayna son of Matthew & Helena

Jack Colin & Lena Rosie Taylor children of Andrew & Patricia

Lucian Atkinson son of Gabriel & Georgina

Liana Eve Reiter daughter of Dermot & Jess

Alfred Damon & Louis George Daly sons of Thomas & Kiera

Henry James & Isla Grace Womersley children of Michael & Alicia

Oliver Jack Bowman son of Rochelle

Lyla Demuth daughter of Aaron & Keiko

Mateo Gregov son of David & Vesna

Zach Charles Katugampola son of Mark & Ashi

Lucas Murphy Pryor son of Kale & Isabella

Noah Patrick & Mila Jean Regan children of David & Kaeli

Mowenna Pearson daughter of Michael & Tenille

Vincent Béla Berecz son of Béla & Julia

Lucius Dante Maccora son of Dylan & Emily

Leo Daniel Van Den Corput son of Florian & Bridie

Michael Connor Soto son of Guillero & Susy

Poppy Anne Bardoel daughter of Cassie and Sam

Theodore Maurice Wilson son of Mathew & Erin

Goldie Karen Dawn Rickard daughter of Adam & Emily

Ruby Azalea Grima daughter Steven & Reema

Hunter Lucas Christian Clare son of Ashlee

Laura Mei Bartley daughter of Adam & Catherine

St Brigid's Primary School Term 1 News

by Jodie Marziano

What a busy term it has been at St Brigid's. We have had so many activities in Term 1. Including - beginning of Year Mass and Feast of St Brigid; getting to Know You sessions; Fr Michael Visits; Shrove Tuesday; Ash Wednesday liturgies with Years 3-6 at St Louis' and F-2 led by Year students at St Brigid's; Welcome Afternoon BBQ; Project Compassion; Foundation Mass at St Louis' Hall; Year 5/6 Adventure Camp to Portsea - including snorkelling and paddle boarding; House Cross Country; Naplan; Eucharist Family Activity Night and Commitment Mass; Swimming Training and Carnival; Catholic Education Week; Harmony Day; African Drumming Incursion; Holy Week Liturgies and Easter Bonnet Parade and Raffle - just to name a few!

We have enjoyed getting to know Fr Michael, our new priest. It has been lovely to see Fr Michael visit all the classes and attend our Welcome BBQ on top of leading our liturgical celebrations this term. Our Year 6 Liturgy and Community Leaders attended St Patrick's Day Mass. In their reflection of the day, they commented on how big and beautiful the Cathedral is and were astonished at how many schools attended. They enjoyed learning about St Patrick and his family through Archbishop Peter's homily, attending the picnic in the Treasury Gardens and getting a soft serve ice cream on the way home.

Harmony day is an Australian event held on March 21 (March 20 for St Brigid's) to celebrate cultural diversity, inclusiveness, and a sense of belonging, occurring at the end of Harmony Week. It promotes respect for all backgrounds. It's signified by wearing orange to represent social communication. At St Brigid's we celebrated in family groups reflecting on how everyone belongs here. There are over 45 nationalities represented at St Brigid's!

Continuing our Harmony Day celebration, we were fortunate to welcome the Asanti Dance Group to St Brigid's. They not only performed for us but also led engaging and interactive African dancing and drumming sessions. The vibrant rhythm of the drums echoed throughout the school, with some staff members even dancing their way to the photocopiers! It was a truly immersive experience, with students gaining a deeper appreciation of African culture through this exciting and memorable event.

Next term will begin with a Resurrection liturgy and a prayer service for ANZAC Day, followed by swimming for our Foundation to Year 4 students in Week 2 as well as First Eucharist for our Year 4 students.



St Louis' Primary School Term 4 News

by Carmel Stutterd

Term 1 at St Louis' was busy as we welcomed 97 preps and a total school population of 587 students for the start of 2026. We welcomed 7 new teaching staff and Mr Thomson Wood was appointed Deputy Principal to work alongside Mrs Tanya Stefanec.

We welcomed Father Michael into the school community, and he was able to attend the Welcome Picnic and meet some of the parents.

Harmony Day/FIRE Carrier

Again, this year we celebrated Harmony Day and inducted 6 Year 5 Fire Carriers for 2026. Thank you to Mrs Traynor for all her work and training of our new F.I.R.E carriers



Holy Week Liturgy

We celebrated Holy Week with the whole school and some parents who were able to attend. Thank you to Mrs Douglas and the Year 6 Faith and Social Justice team for organising this for the school community. The students raised a lot of money for Caritas this year with some Year 3 students holding cake stalls on the weekend and raising over \$100 on both weekends.

We finished the term with an Easter Bonnet parade with the students in prep to Year 2, followed by the Junior athletics' carnival. On the last day of the term, we had the Easter egg raffle, and we are very grateful to the PFA for organising this event.





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.



Michael Zakic
12.1.1972 - 1.2.2026.
*Michael's funeral was held
on 17.2.2026.*



Jason Patrick Rooney
21.12.1970 - 3.1.2026.
*Jason's funeral was held on
29.1.2026.*



**Noel Jim Pascol 10.12.1928 -
21.1.2026.**
*Noel's funeral was held on
28.1.2026.*



Joan Mary Baxter
13.1.1939 - 22.1.2026.
*Joan's funeral was held
on 10.2.2026.*



Fernanda Barbarino
20.6.1934 - 29.1.2026.
*Fernanda's funeral was held
on 12.2.2026.*



Carmelo Nasello
26.5.1966 - 11.2.2026.
*Carmelo's funeral was
held on 20.2.2026.*



Michael Hurst
24.10.1998 - 2.2.2026.
*Michael's funeral was held
on 27.2.2026.*



Christine Wagstaff
7.1.1950 - 18.2.2026.
*Christine's funeral was
held on 26.2.2026.*



Margaret Catherine Hogan
9.8.1925 - 2.3.2026.
*Margaret's funeral was held
on 12.3.2026.*



Palma Vintaloro
24.9.1929 - 3.3.2026.
*Palma's funeral was held
on 17.3.2026.*



Concettina Favola
29.9.1930 - 15.3.2026.
*Concettina's funeral was
held on 24.3.2026.*



Keith Arthur Carmody
24.5.1926 - 2.4.2026.
*Keith's funeral was held
on 13.4.2026.*



Felice Errante-Parrino
10.11.1925 - 27.3.2026
*Felice's funeral was held
on 14.4.2026.*



Aileen Marita O'Reilly
30.7.1939 - 31.3.2026
*Aileen's funeral was held
on 15.4.2026.*

Installation Mass for Fr Michael

On Sunday 22 March at our 11am Mass at St Brigid's, we celebrated a joyful and significant milestone — the official installation of Fr Michael Kong as St Mary of the Cross' Parish Priest. Very Rev Fr Andrzej Madry the Episcopal Vicar presided over the ceremony. Mass was followed by a light luncheon in the parish house grounds.



Parish celebrations



Pearl & Brian Braganza 40th Wedding Anniversary



Liz and John Chapman 60th Wedding Anniversary

OUR COMMUNITY



Happy 80th Birthday Vo Johnson



Christine and Les D'Cruze 40th Wedding Anniversary



Happy 80th Birthday Teresa Basile



Happy 80th Birthday Gail McGilivray



Checking out the new digs



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

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*Lord Jesus,
you conquered death without weapons or
violence:
you shattered its power with the strength
of peace.
Grant us your peace,
as you did to the women filled with doubt
on Easter morning,
as you did to the disciples who were
hiding in fear.
Send forth your Spirit,
the breath that gives life and reconciles,
that turns adversaries and enemies into
brothers and sisters.
Inspire in us to trust in Mary, your mother,
who stood at the foot of your cross with a
broken heart,
firm in the faith that you would rise again.
May the madness of war cease
and the Earth be cared for and cultivated
by those who still
know how to bring forth, protect and love
life.
Hear us, Lord of life!*

**Pope Leo XIV's reflection at the Prayer
Vigil for Peace 11 April 2026**

St Brigid's Church: 520 Main Street, Mordialloc.
St Louis de Montfort Church & Parish Office:
37 Dolphin Street, Aspendale I
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://www.youtube.com/@catholicmassstmaryofthecross>



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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.