

Opening the Doors to Christ's Love

Serve Ministries

See what God can do through you.



St Mary of the Cross
Catholic Parish
EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

OUR MISSION

Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples

OUR MISSION IS ANCHORED IN:

Grow Wider

**LISTEN AND RESPOND TO
THE WIDER COMMUNITY
WITH LOVE, CARE,
COMPASSION AND
WELCOMING ACCEPTANCE.
WELCOME NEW PEOPLE
WITH OPEN ARMS.
ENCOURAGE PARISHIONERS
TO INVITE NEWCOMERS TO
COME AND SEE.**

Weekend Experience

**AN EXPERIENCE OF GOD'S
LOVE WITH THE WEEKEND
MASS AT THE HEART OF OUR
COMMUNITY, OFFERING
EXCEPTIONAL HOSPITALITY,
ENLIGHTENING HOMILIES
AND UPLIFTING MUSIC
GUIDED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

Serve Ministry

**WE INVITE, ENCOURAGE
AND SUPPORT EVERYONE TO
SERVE IN A MINISTRY USING
THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS
GIVEN THEM.**

Grow Deeper

**GROW IN OUR FAITH AND
RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS,
LIVING OUR LIVES IN
ACCORDANCE WITH HIS
TEACHING. A DISCIPLESHIP
PATHWAY OFFERING CLEAR
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL.**



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At St Mary of the Cross Parish, we are on a mission and it's the greatest mission of all time! It comes to us from Jesus.

Through our baptism we are all called to be missionary disciples, this means connecting people to the person of Jesus Christ and bringing them into an ever-deepening relationship with him. The Church exists to make disciples.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us before Jesus ascended into heaven, he called the apostles together and said:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded of you...and know that I am with you until the end of time." (Matthew 28:19-20)

On the previous page we have outlined our Parish Mission, and the Four Core Anchors that support our Mission. Working together, we seek to build a strong parish community, caring, loving, and embracing our parishioners and reaching out to those who do not yet know our parish.

I invite and encourage you to embrace our anchor to *Serve* in one or more of our four serve ministries - Hospitality and Parish Support, Care, Formation and Liturgical. When we focus on helping others and honouring Christ, we soon discover that our needs are met far more deeply than we ever experienced otherwise. When you serve the parish, you serve God.

I thank all who currently serve in a parish ministry and welcome anyone who has been thinking about it and would like to become involved. Don't worry if you have never been involved in a ministry before, we will provide support. You may try a few different areas before you settle on the one (or more) that suit you best. Please indicate your interest on the enclosed form and return it to our Welcome Desk in the church foyer and a member of our Parish Leadership Team will be in touch.

"The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and some teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-1)

Please note all Serve Ministers require a current Working with Children Check. If you do not have one, it is a simple process which the Parish Office will help you with if required.



Hospitality Ministry

Welcome Ministers:

Our goal at Saint Mary of the Cross Parish is a warm, welcoming, and safe environment for all people, making them feel at home with us and assisting them with any needs they might have.

Our weekend masses, baptisms and liturgical celebrations are an opportunity to connect with our parish community and welcome guests, visitors, and newcomers. Welcome Ministers provide a loving, friendly atmosphere by opening doors, saying hello with a smile, answering enquiries at our welcome Desk, helping people find a seat at busy times and assisting with after Mass hospitality at our 'cuppa weekends'. We ask that our Welcome Ministers arrive at mass at least 15 minutes before Mass starts and remain afterwards to farewell and assist at the Welcome Desk. Welcome Ministers are allocated to their usual weekend mass and are rostered once a month or more frequently if desired.



Parish Support Ministries

Office Enquiries and admin:

Our office enquiries team help at our parish centre, spending a 2 or 3 hour block each week, answering phone inquiries, and assisting with simple office tasks such as photocopying.

Church Gardens Maintenance:

General weeding, some re-planting & mulching & tidying once a month at our two church sites.

Opening our Churches:

Our goal is to have our two churches open more regularly outside of mass times for personal prayer, a friendly chat and maybe a 'cuppa'. To enable this, we welcome people who have a spare hour or two in groups of two.

Piety Stall:

Opening, closing, and serving at our piety stall at weekend masses.



Care Ministries

Prayer Ministers:

Prayer is the calling of every Christian and of every member of St Mary of the Cross. Through Baptism we are initiated into the one Body of Christ and commissioned to care for one another by prayer as well as action. On the first Saturday of each month at 4.30-5.30pm our Prayer Team hold the Holy Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration at St Louis' Church, where the private intentions of our community are prayed for. Anyone is welcome to leave an anonymous prayer intention in the St Mary Mackillop box in our churches.

In addition, the ministry of prayer is available after each of our 'cuppa' weekends for any parishioner or visitor who would appreciate being prayer with. If you feel called to assist, you will be most welcome, and Father will provide formation.

Funeral Care Ministers:

Funeral Care Ministers journey with the family in the preparation of the funeral and the celebration of the life of their loved one. This can involve accompanying Father with pastoral visits to the family, preparation of the funeral booklet, ensuring friends and family are welcomed at the service and arranging hospitality after the service.

Eucharistic Ministers to Aged-Care:

Distributing the spiritual food - the Body of Christ to our aged-care folk is a blessing for many who can no longer attend Mass in person. It is a gift to the recipient and ourselves. Our parish takes communion to several local residential homes and new volunteers are always welcome.

Pastoral Ministers:

Our Pastoral Ministers purpose is to model Christ's concern for people, both individually and collectively in our community. For those who are unable to attend the Church, our Pastoral Ministers provide caring friendship to the sick and housebound. They can also take Communion to those who are unable to physically attend the Eucharist. Pastoral team members make a profound difference in the lives of those they serve by sharing the love of Christ.

Food for Friends:

Our Food for Friends create delicious home-cooked meals for people in our community who at times of need might appreciate the thoughtfulness of a meal made with love. Members of the team create meals at home or together in our St Louis' kitchen. Dishes are frozen and made available as soon as the need arises. A wonderful opportunity to meet others from the parish in the preparation and cooking and to make a difference in the lives of others.



Liturgical Ministries

Sacristans:

Sacristans work quietly behind the scenes to ensure our liturgies run smoothly. Training is provided to prepare the sacred vessels, linens, books, and vestments needed for the liturgy, and clean and store all items. Sacristans are responsible for keeping the sacristies, (working and vesting), clean. Sacristans should arrive at Mass 30 minutes earlier.

Lectors And Commentators:

Lectors: Those who commit to this ministry have the special privilege of proclaiming the Word of the Lord with the 1st and 2nd readings during Mass.

Commentators: The commentator begins the Mass, reads the welcome, penitential rite, responsorial psalm, and prayers of the faithful.

Lectors and commentators should feel comfortable in front of the congregation, be able to read clearly, slowly and use the microphone properly. Lectors should arrive to Mass 10-15 minutes earlier. Formation training will be provided.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

These dedicated parishioners assist the Celebrant in distributing the Body and Blood of our Lord during Mass. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should arrive to Mass 10-15 minutes earlier. Formation training will be provided.

Music Ministry

God calls those with musical talents to share their gifts of singing and/or playing a musical instrument. Music enhances our worship and gives praise to our Lord. As we embrace our goal of an exceptional worship experience, we are intentional in our desire to create uplifting music, with a mix of old and new styles. If you are interested in joining our choirs or assisting with your ideas and musical gifts please approach any member of our choirs after weekend Mass.



Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers

These boys and girls, Year 4 and older, assist Father with the celebration of Mass. Participants must have received First Communion. They should arrive to Mass at least 15 minutes earlier. Formation training will be provided.

Collectors and Counters

Collectors assist with the collection proceeds during Mass. Counters assist with counting the weekly collections.

Audio Visual Operators

Our A/V Team operate the video recording/live streaming of specific Masses and Liturgies. They ensure the AV equipment runs smoothly and that sound, lighting and slideshows are optimal. Serve at the live stream Masses, volunteer at some special events, and organise team members for each weekend Mass to manage the AV requirements. If you would love to create a wow Mass experience, this is the role for you.

Altar Flowers and Displays

Flower decorations for the altar and altar displays in line with liturgical celebrations.

Communion Service Ministers

Parishioners lead a liturgy that involves the Liturgy of the Word and the distribution of communion to those present. They are to prepare the altar beforehand for the liturgy, choose readers and offer a short reflection after the gospel based on the readings of the day. You are invited to personalise the liturgy with choice of music or prayer focus. These liturgies occur at the normal mass times when the priest isn't present for the mass.



Discipleship/Formation Ministries

Children's Catechesis

Our Parish Catechist Program offers religious instruction classes for children not attending Catholic Schools. The classes teach the children about our faith and help them prepare for the sacraments. All materials are provided, as well as training. If you are keen to pass on your faith to children, this could be an ideal role for you.

Baptism Preparation Team

Our baptism team helps families to go through the preparation and assistance required so that their child/children can be welcomed into our community. We are open to new ideas to design this journey for parents with a view to creating deeper connections to our parish for all who are undertaking baptism for their children. We are also looking for hosts who can welcome families and friends at the baptism ceremonies in our Churches.

Children's and Adolescent's Ministry

We are looking to re-build our Children's, Adolescent & Young Adults Ministry. To offer age-appropriate programs focused on celebrating the good news of Jesus in fun & engaging ways and to grow in discipleship in Jesus with each other through stage-appropriate content.

We have established Kidz Zone catering for children aged 4-10 years old. We are very keen to welcome new leaders (materials provided) which will allow us to offer Kidz Zone at our weekend masses.

If you are interested in helping to develop programmes for other age groups we would love to hear from you.

Becoming Catholic (RCIA Team)

RCIA is the process by which adults who wish to know more about the Catholic faith and/or to join the Church receive instruction and formation so that they might become full members of the Community. If you would like to accompany new members of our faith, please consider joining the RCIA Team. Training will be provided.



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