



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE



Parish Priest: Fr Andrew Jekot, Assistant Priest: Fr Huy Nguyen,
Deacon: George Piech-Meat

Fifth Sunday of Lent 6 April 2025

Readings for Year C Isaiah 43: 16-21 Philipians 3: 8-14 John 8: 1-11

*If there is one of you who has not
sinned, let him be the first to
throw a stone at her*

This Sunday's gospel tells the story of a woman caught in adultery, whom the Pharisees bring before Jesus to test Him. Instead of condemning her, Jesus responds with wisdom, saying, "Let the one without sin cast the first stone." One by one, the accusers leave, and Jesus, full of mercy, tells the woman, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." Jesus bestows great dignity on the woman by saving her from being condemned to death, but even more so he knows that it does not have to be like this and so challenges her to turn her life around.

This passage reveals Jesus' deep compassion and divine wisdom. He upholds justice while also offering grace, showing that God's mercy is greater than human judgment. It reminds us that we, too, are sinners in need of grace, and rather than condemning others, we should extend love and forgiveness. Jesus' final words call us to transformation—not just to receive mercy, but to live differently. No matter what we have ever done, we are greater than our worst moments. Jesus loves us enough not to condemn us, but to give us this Eucharist so that we might find the strength and hope to stop doing the things that destroy us and to live a life that leads to peace and joy.

This story challenges us to examine our heart, extend grace to others, and seek a life of holiness through Christ's love.

Marylene Douglas
St Louis School
RE Leader & Lead Learner



m.stmaryofthecross.com



[m.stmaryofthecross.com/facebook](https://www.facebook.com/m.stmaryofthecross)



[m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass](https://www.youtube.com/m.stmaryofthecross/mass)

News and Announcements



Parish Justice Action Group (JAG)

Our Parish Justice Action Group is celebrating 10 years this year! The group meets monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 7.30-9pm at the St Louis' Church meeting room. Our vision is to follow Jesus' example to hear and respond to social injustices, to inform and educate ourselves and take action - to live the Gospel. If you are interested in living your faith in action, please think about coming to our meeting this month on **Wednesday 9 April 7.30-9pm at St Louis'**. **Read about our activities below.**

JAG - Refugee Family Sponsorship - NEPEAN WIND

Our group NEPEAN WIND (Nepean Welcoming Immigrants and Newcomers with Dignity) as you have now heard if you were at last weekend's masses has been matched with an Arabic speaking family of five - Omar, Jamileh, Jana, Ghina and Mira. Two of the children are school aged and the third a preschooler. The date of their arrival is 29 May. Finding suitable accommodation will be our biggest challenge. If you or your family and friends have a 3 -bedroom house that is currently a holiday home, Air BnB or you will be away, it would be amazing if our refugee family could rent it for a short period until they find permanent accommodation. More exciting news is that our group has now been given Charity Status, so any donations will be tax-deductable. We ask for your prayers. Sign up sheets are on the Welcome Desk if you can offer support of time or your gifts.

JAG -Save the date - High Tea Fundraiser for our refugee family - Sat 31 May St Brigid's PS Hall

This will be a major fundraiser for our refugee family. Please save the date so you can come along and support our team. Please contact Helen Rocks if you would like to help 0488 997 233.

JAG -Domestic and Family Violence

Speakers at our recent parish forum referred to a new approach to addressing domestic and family violence. **Safe-at-Home** prioritises a whole-of-family approach integrating a range of services to provide support to all family members and keep the family in their home. Jocelyn Bignold, a panelist at our forum, is CEO at McAuley, a key partner in a trial being held in Geelong over the next three years. The trial was featured in Cath News on 20 March which you can read online [here](#) or at:

<https://cathnews.com/2025/03/20/victorian-trial-aims-to-keep-victims-of-domestic-violence-safe-at-home/> For further information click here www.safeathome.org.au.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) Called to bring hope in the Year of Jubilee

The ACBC has produced a guide to the Federal Election 2025. It covers the key issues to reflect upon before deciding your vote: Dignity and the value of every human being, Fairness, justice and the common good, Religious freedom and conscience rights, and Responsible stewardship of God's creation. Scan the QR code to download the guide or online at bit.ly/ACBCElection2025 Some printed copies are available in the church foyers.



Chrism Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral East Melbourne on Tuesday 15 April at 10am.

This Archdiocesan Mass gathers the lay faithful and clergy of the Archdiocese. All are welcome.

Chelsea Longbeach

Social luncheon on 16 April at 12:30. For Bookings ring Patrica Adams on 0448-866-020 or Keith Reiter on 0417-350-733.



Baptism Celebrations this Sunday

We welcome into our parish family: **Christian George**

*God has you in his hands on this special day.
With every step you take, He guides you on your way.*

St Brigid's Gardening Group

We are having an Easter tidy up on Monday 14 April. Start time is 8.30am or when you can get there. Morning tea is about 10am. New members most welcome.

This Week on FORMED Preparing for Holy Week

Join Dr Tim Gray and Dr Mark Giszczak, professor of Sacred Scripture at the Augustine Institute Graduate School of Theology, as they walk through the liturgies of Holy Week, historical spots in the Holy Land, and how to prepare our hearts for the events of the Passion. Access FORMED at <https://formed.org/>



The Season of Lent at St Mary of the Cross Parish

Stations of the Cross during Lent

Will be held on Monday evenings at St Louis' church from 7.30 to 8pm, and at 11am Friday at St Brigid's.

Stand Together for Justice and Kindness on Palm Sunday 13 April

The annual Palm Sunday event will commence at 1pm on Princes Bridge Melbourne. The day will include music and speakers including Gillian Triggs AC and refugees. Bring picnic rug or chair. Everyone is welcome. For further enquiries: info@refugeeadvocacynetwork.org.au and [Facebook](#) page.

Reconciliation for Lent

The First Rite of Reconciliation will be held at **St Brigid's church on Saturday 12 April from 11am to 12pm** and at **St Louis' church on Tuesday 15 April from 7pm to 8pm.**

Holy Week and Easter Services

Holy Thursday - 17 April 7.30pm at St Brigid's church

Good Friday Stations of the Cross Ecumenical Service- 18 April 10.30am at Beeson Reserve, Edithvale

Good Friday - 18 April 3pm at St Brigid's church

Holy Saturday Vigil - 19 April 6.30pm at St Louis church. Please bring a plate for celebrations afterwards (please label if it contains any food allergens)

Easter Sunday - 20 April 8am & 11am at St Brigid's church, 9.30am at St Louis church

Holy Saturday Working Bee

19 April 10am to 12pm. Working bee at both churches. Morning tea provided. All welcome.

ACRATH - (Australian Catholic Religious against Trafficking in Humans) - Easter campaign

Cocoa is a key ingredient of chocolate. Much of the chocolate sold in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved, or forced to work in exploitative conditions. Make the right choice this Easter and be informed by reviewing the "Be Slavery Free Chocolate Scorecard"

<https://www.chocolatescorecard.com/>

Serve Ministers roster for Holy Week and Easter

We will welcome many visitors and guests during Holy week and Easter, and we want everyone to feel they belong. First impressions count and our serve ministers play a major role. There are many serve ministry areas where we need assistance. Please sign up for the roster on the Welcome Desk. Thank you.

Do you have any palms?

Our new creative arts group are looking for palm fronds to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday. We also need large palm branches to decorate our churches. If you can assist, please let Ann in the office know. The large palms need to be delivered on Friday 11 April. We will be decorating the churches with the palms on Saturday 12 April from 10am at both churches for anyone who is available to help.

Project Compassion 2025

The life-changing work of Caritas Australia is only made possible by the unwavering generosity of our supporters and the dedication of our local partners on the ground.

Our partners are the true heroes, working tirelessly on the frontlines every day to transform lives and build brighter, more hopeful futures for their communities

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code on the right, or online at caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling: 1800 024 413.

Caritas are also appealing for donations for the Myanmar earthquake. You can donate here at this link

<https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/myanmar-earthquake/>



NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - PALM SUNDAY - 12/13 APRIL 2025

12/13 April 25	Palm Sunday Readings Year C Isaiah 50: 4-7 Philippians 2: 6-11 Luke 22:14 – 23: 56 CUPPA WEEKEND						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Marie Seddon	Jennifer Rodrigues	Marie Medlicott	Michael Barker	Gail McGillivray	Bernie Stuart	Carmel Barker
8.00am (M)	Tony Aloysious	Frances North	Jane Standish	Marlene Tangso	Jack Meyer	Odette Budge	Angela Meo
9.30am (A)	Brian Martin	Gen Martin	Maureen Wraight	Ann Furlong	Ron Schneider-Loos	Lex Miller	Rosemary Miller
11.00am (M)	Gail Bell	Lucy Cameron	Peter Wain	Louise Breslin	Helen Rocks	Judy Lamb	Mary Ann Farren
Counters	Group 1	Gary & Joanne Partleton	Ron Soares				

Recently deceased: Keith Wiltshire

Anniversaries: Sophie Medlicott - Keith Keating - Ross Stevens - Sharon Budge - Margaret Lloyd - Ana Vitulic - Louisa Vitulic - Thomas Shanahan - Doreen Jewell - Eric Ludwick - Dianne Veitch - Margarita Lacson - Leonora Rosia Salim Navarro - George Irving - Kitty Greenwell - Delfino Castenetto - Brian McMahon - Alan Vickers - Chinamma Eapen - Calvin Saddler - Giovanni Faoro - Patricia Forkgen - Noel De Quadres - Foster Varney - Hans Bongers - William Donald Smith Sinclair - Peter Grotto - William Peart - Anthony Zerdoner - Gail Panton - Anne Weir - Gwen Rosario - Gavin Kirchner - Phillip Allan Reid - Filippina (Phyl) Giarrusso.

Praying for the sick: Fr Terry Kean, Walter Young, Julie Griffiths, Naldi Junaldi, Nik Selepak, Sophia Bicos, Steve Gobac, Therese Brown, Fernanda Barbarino, John Nicholson, Peter Waltho, Sam Finnochiaro, Michelle Ives, Graham Owen, Norreen Spies, Caiden Hoare, Gail Bell, Sarah Gilbert, Brenda Cortese, Peter Baxter, Deborah Hall, Patty Hood, Heidi Soeding, Janice Gillette, Peter Shoppe, Natalian Constanzo, Flynn, Andrea Williams, Joseph Michaleff, Geraldine Bennett, Brian Smith, Charmaine Milne, Michelle Lieour, Louise Hawes, Clayton Dunn, Michelle Parker, Basil Van Der Merwe, Brian Gleeson, Adrian Smith, Graziella Marini, Br Michael McCabe (De La Salle), Fr Patrick Flanagan, Bishop Terry Curtin, Greg Hayes.

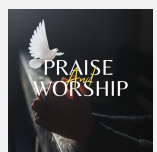
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



Children's Liturgy
5 - 12-year-olds.
4th weekend of the month. All masses except 8am.



Prayer Ministry
Intercessory prayer.
Last weekend of the month - all masses.



Praise & Worship
3rd Friday of month
7.30 - 9.5 8.30pm.
Alternates between each church.

Pastoral care

If you would like a pastoral visit, Helen is available to drop by for a chat or to organise some help if required. Please contact the office at mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

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

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:
m.stmaryofthecross.com/mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

St Louis Mon 9.15am Communion Service, St Louis Tuesday 9.15am, St Brigid's Wed 10am, St Louis Thurs 9.15am, St Brigid's Fri 11.30am

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION AND ROSARY

St Brigid's every Fri 10.30am
St Louis 1st Sat of the month 4.30pm

RECONCILIATION

St Brigid's Friday's 12pm
St Louis Saturday's 5.30pm

BAPTISM COORDINATOR

Debbie Poynton 0403 471 931

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Fr Andrew, Fr Huy, Trish Angliss, Berna Wake

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 Andrew Jekot 03 9412 8432
Fr Huy Nguyen 03 9412 8432
Trish 0421 604 849
Louise 0415 963 799
Joe 0407 354 568
Helen 0498 178 899
Anthony 0407 505 341
Robyn 0412 814 592
Denise 0412 926 752

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.