



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

Fourth Sunday of Lent 31 March 2025

Readings for Year C Joshua 5: 9-12 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21 Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32



*My son, I am always with you
and all I have is yours*

Pope Francis says that today's Gospel parable 'leads us to the heart of God'. It is a lesson about forgiveness, rejoicing, and how to show a true welcome to those struggling with their sins.

In the parable we are shown that 'God always forgives'. Through the father's welcome of his younger son we see a God who waits with infinite love. But on the other hand, we see how easily we can slip into what the Pope calls 'the indignation of the elder son'. If we do not see God as our merciful Father, we can easily judge and exclude, we try to limit God's mercy. We risk staying outside the Father's house.

God shows deep and constant love for us no matter what we do. God is the loving, compassionate father who reaches out to both the loyal son and the lost son. The only blockage is what may lie, unconverted, in your heart.

Jodie Marziano
St Brigid's School
Deputy Principal & RE Leader



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News and Announcements

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Retreat Day Sunday 30 March

Please pray for our RCIA candidates as they participate in their retreat day this Sunday, led by parishioner and spiritual advisor Nicky Winters. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide them on their journey as they prepare for their acceptance into the catholic church at our Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass.

Domestic and Family Violence

Many of the organisations involved in the recent parish forum provided valuable support and information as we planned and presented the event. WHISE, Better Health, The Orange Door, McAuley Family Services, Family Life and AccessCare (City of Kingston) were all involved and we thank them for their commitment to our awareness-raising project. Catholic Social Services Victoria was a key partner, providing resources, advice and practical assistance. They attended the forum and published an article on their website about the forum. (Link - <https://css.org.au/parishes-taking-action-on-domestic-and-family-violence/>) We thank them most sincerely for their involvement. Brochures are available in the foyers.



Alpha

We pray for our Alpha group that concludes this week after 8 weeks. May the Holy Spirit watch over them and help them to continue to grow in their faith. Look out for more opportunities to invite family and friends to Alpha in our parish later this year.



Holy Rosary and Adoration on Saturday 5 April at St Louis at 4.30pm

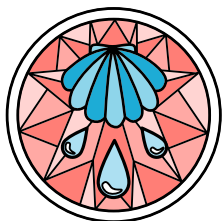
Next Saturday 5 April at 4.30pm there will be Holy Rosary and Eucharistic Adoration held at St Louis church. All are welcome.

"All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers." Acts 1:14

CRISP Update



Our group **NEPEAN WIND** (Ne pean Welcoming Immigrants and Newcomers with Dignity) has now been matched with an Arabic speaking family of five. Two of the children are school aged and the third a preschooler. The earliest for their arrival will be 5th May. This is a busy and exciting time for us and between now and then we will get to know them a little and prepare for their arrival. Finding suitable accommodation will be our biggest challenge. More exciting news is that our group has now been given Charity Status, so any donations will be tax deductible. We ask for your prayers for our group NEPEAN WIND, that we may be guided in the decisions we make and the support we give. If you would like to become involved, or help in any way, we would be most grateful. Contact John Bainbridge for more info: jgb095@aussiebbb.com.au



Baptism Celebrations this Sunday

We welcome into our parish family: **Ada Monica**

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Having been formally commissioned at last weekends masses our Parish Pastoral Council are meeting this Saturday from 9-1pm for the first of their 2025 workshops. Please keep them in your prayers as they discuss and plan the spiritual and practical needs for our parish community, now and into the future.



Breda Cooney

Congratulations to Breda on reaching her 100th birthday on 28 March. May the Lord watch over her and keep her in good health so that she may continue to live independently.



The Season of Lent at St Mary of the Cross Parish

"Be praised, my Lord, for sister water, who is very useful and humble and precious and pure"

Water is scarce in some parts of the world and companies are commodifying it against the common good. Clean water is a human right

Let 'Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical on care for creation be your guiding star this Lent.

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.

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

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

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 (more details next bulletin) 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.

Project Compassion 2025

Irene lives in the Kongolo Region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and faced immense challenges after losing her father to war and raising her children in poverty. With support from Caritas Australia, Irene received vocational training in sewing and farming and can now support her whole family

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.



This Week on FORMED

Who do you say that I am? - Metanoia

In the Gospel of Mark, the first words of Jesus are an invitation to metanoia, to repent, to change, to be converted. Join Fr Dave Pivonka in this incredible 10-part series as he preaches on conversion. This series is beautifully filmed on location in the Holy Land, highlighting sacred places such as the Sea of Galilee, the River Jordan, the desert of Temptations, and many of the holy sites in Jerusalem.

Access FORMED at <https://formed.org/>

NEXT WEEK'S SERVE MINISTERS ROSTER - FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - 5 / 6 APRIL 2025

5/6 April 25	Fifth Sunday of Lent Readings Year C Isaiah 43: 16-21 Philippians 3: 8-14 John 8: 1-11						
	Reader	Commentator	Special Minister	Special Minister	Special Minister	Welcomer	Welcomer
6pm (A)	Marg De Vries	Helen Healy	Julius Lau	Bernie Stuart	Carmel Barker	Ann Brennan	Volunteer
8.00am (M)	Jane Standish	Chris McAleer	Carole Guthrie	Jack Guthrie	Jack Meyer	Odette Budge	Angela Meo
9.30am (A)	Brenda O'Leary	Maureen Wraight	Mary Nayna	Volunteer	Ann Furlong	Jon Searle	Niko Tovia
11.00am (M)	Dianne Wain	Mark Carrazzo	Peter Hannan	Louise Breslin	Christine D'Cruze	Helen Rocks	Lucy Cameron
Counters	Group 5	Aileen Dvnes	Anthony & Julie Barnhoorn				

Recently deceased:

Anniversaries: Anna Iacono - George Clark - Peter Dennis - Ponamma Thomas - Chris Bainbridge - Kevin Michael Ryan - Chris Rafter - John Robert Payne - Dorothy Torney - Margaret Malone - Hazel Sweeney - Guiseppe Aparo - Francis Colin Butler - Angela D'Amelio - Denis Castenetto - Alice Madden - Patrick Madden - Denis Govinder - Alycia O'Keefe - Michael Van Staveren - Janina Drozd - Lance Forkgen - Margaret (Peggie) Pashley - Lina D'Avola - Erwin Roschutz - Gesualdo (Gerry) Inguanti - Jesus Manahan - Baltazar Caday Sr - Nicole Petersen - Gwain Walker - Aime Zara - Kingsley Anthonisz (Snr) - Dianne Marchant - Sr Justine Power - Christopher Lee Eng Chye - Sydney Haag - Damian West - Marjorie Kirkby - Placida Viecele - Clotilda Herman.

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, Heidi Soeding, Janice Gillette, Peter Shoppe, Natalian Constanzo, Flynn, Andrea Williams, Fr Kevin Tortorelli (OFM), Joseph Michaleff, Geraldine Bennett, Charmaine Milne, Michelle Lieour, Louise Hawes, Clayton Dunn, Keith Wiltshire, Michelle Parker, Basil Van Der Merwe, Brian Smith, Brian Gleeson, Adrian Smith, Graziella Marini, Patty Hood, Br Michael McCabe (De La Salle), Fr Patrick Flanagan, Bishop Terry Curtin.

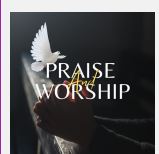
Growing in community & belonging at St Mary of the Cross



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

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
Joanne 0413 133184
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.