



St Mary of the Cross Catholic Parish

EMBODYING CHRIST'S LOVE

Parish Vision Statement:

*We are a faith community who gather to praise and worship God.
We express Christ's presence among us by reaching out to those in need
with Christ's message of love and forgiveness and the promise of justice and hope for all.*

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 20th December 2020

Our readings are **2 SAMUEL 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; ROMANS 16: 25-27; LUKE 1: 26-38-28**

PARISH CHURCHES:

St Brigid's,
520 Main St, Mordialloc
& **St Louis de Montfort's,**
37 Dolphin St, Aspendale

PARISH PRIEST:

Fr Andrew Jekot

PASTORAL ASSOCIATE:

Bernadette Carr

PARISH SECRETARIES:

Susan Dornom

Monday, Thursday & Friday

Ann Fitzgerald

Tuesday & Wednesday

PARISH HOUSE:

9412 8432

PARISH OFFICE:

9580 7981

Monday-Friday 9am-4.30pm

PARISH EMAIL:

mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

PARISH WEBSITE:

www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale

PARISH SCHOOLS:

St Brigid's School,

129 Albert St, Mordialloc

9580 4518

www.sbmord.catholic.edu.au

St Louis de Montfort's School,

37 Dolphin St, Aspendale

9580 5169

www.stlouisaspendale.catholic.edu.au

Gospel Reflection:

Christmas celebrations in the city of Bethlehem are likely to be very quiet this year. Under the weight of a global pandemic, and the ongoing troubles in the Middle East, this special destination for thousands of pilgrims and tourists will resemble something more akin to that familiar Carol, 'O little town of Bethlehem... how still we see thee lie...'

Perhaps it was a similar stillness that met the Holy Family more than 2000 years ago, as they sought a place of safety to welcome the birth of their child. Doors had been shut to them, amidst their own time of worrying restrictions. How familiar is this aspect of the nativity story to our own lives this year? Jesus was born in such a time as this, and in fact, is born for such a time as this. He comes to us always in our need and our reality.

There has been much said about what a 'COVID Christmas' will be like, but is that the question we need to be asking? This year has challenged us in ways that have been unimaginable, it has turned our levels of comfort and security on their head. And whilst we've sought creative ways to engage in our worship and our connections, it's never been about reinventing something. Christmas too is not of our own making. The tinsel and gifts, food and holidays certainly play their part in how we acknowledge the festivity of the season, but they're not Christmas. Jesus is Christmas: then – now – always.

Whether it is into a peaceful landscape, or a war torn one; a time of uncertainty and isolation, or one of abundant friendship and family; whether it is in poverty or in plenty – the question we should ask is what is the kind of Christmas we want to live? Isn't it one that holds close the promise of life and hope that the birth of Jesus gives us? And in that very gift, is not our calling to bring this life and hope to the world? Jesus is the gift beyond all gifts, which we receive; and He is the gift we can always give. Which brings me back to the next part of the Carol: "Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight"

When you gather this Christmas, in whatever way that is, don't labour on the darkness and of this year - recall the wonder of that birth and the light by which we can see ahead. May you, your families, loved ones, your friends and neighbours be filled with the everlasting light of life and hope this year.

Jesus is Christmas.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli



NEXT SUNDAY - 26th & 27th December 2020

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family in Year B:

Our readings for next week are: **GENESIS 15: 1-6, 21: 1-3;**

HEBREWS 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19; LUKE 2: 22-40

Fourth Sunday of Advent– Year B:

Advent Quiet Time and Opportunity for First Rite Reconciliation:

Our churches will be open for people to come in for quiet prayer as a lead up to Christmas for one hour from **7pm to 8pm** on **Tuesday 22nd Dec & Wednesday 23rd Dec** (both churches)

Reconciliation will be available during these times as well as the normal scheduled times which are:
Saturdays at 5.30pm at St. Louis' & Fridays at 12pm at St. Brigid's.

Advent Prayer: (with Bernadette Carr) takes place at **St Louis'** on **Tuesdays at 11am** during Advent. All welcome.



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Mass times are:

CHRISTMAS EVE:

6pm Mass on St Louis' School Oval

800 permitted to attend

8.30pm Mass in St Louis' School Hall

400 permitted to attend

Midnight Mass in St Brigid's Church

120 permitted to attend

ALMOST BOOKED OUT

CHRISTMAS DAY:

8.30am Mass in St Louis' School Hall

400 permitted to attend

10.30am Mass in St Brigid's Church

120 permitted to attend

ALMOST BOOKED OUT

Christmas Masses: The Parish has maximized the number of people able to attend our Christmas Masses by celebrating the Family Mass on St Louis' School Oval and the other St Louis' Masses will be celebrated in St Louis' School Hall. Numbers permitted have increased but you still need to book for all the Masses so that we have a list of attendees for tracing purposes if necessary.



Christmas Eve Family Mass:

If you are attending the Christmas Eve Family Mass on St. Louis' School Oval please come early (5pm onwards) to avoid the last minute queues (you need a mask on you if social distancing is compromised). You will be directed to your spot by Covid Marshalls (welcomers). Please note that this is a Mass and it is inappropriate to bring food and drink to the Mass other than water.

Please bring a fold out seat or picnic blanket as **no seating will be supplied.**

This Mass will be a large gathering and children must remain with their family at all times to ensure they are safe and also that people are not mixing unnecessarily.

In the event of bad weather we will move into the School Hall but numbers will be greatly reduced. Please check the website for up-to-date information closer to the date.

Words for the songs will be via a QR code so we encourage you to use your device and bring extra devices for children.

Christmas Mass Bookings:

Bookings are now open and are essential. To book online go to:

<https://www.trybooking.com/BMGLK>

or contact the **Parish Office 9580 7981** or

mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

Recorded Christmas Masses: There will be two recorded Masses available to view for Christmas.

Go to our Parish website. www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale



Parish News:

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers: Thank you to everyone for their generous donations of non-perishable food items suitable for Christmas hampers and gifts that were left under the Christmas Trees in our Churches.



Our two St Vincent de Paul conferences have made up hampers to distribute to needy families in this area.

Christmas Special Collection: There will be a special Collection for St Vincent de Paul Society at all our Christmas Masses. Donations can also be made via phone on **13 18 12** or online donations can be made at www.vinnies.org.au



Mini Hampers: Usually at Christmas there is a special Christmas lunch in Chelsea provided by St Joseph's & Chelsea's Church of Christ for the homeless, lonely and needy of the area. This is not possible this year so instead they are delivering gift hampers on Christmas Day. JAG (Justice Action Group) is helping to provide a few hampers. Donations can be left at the Parish Office.



Archbishop Comensoli's Christmas Message: reminds us that despite the weight of the global pandemic, the Child Jesus was born in a time just like this, and is in fact, born for such a time as this. 'He comes to us always in our need and our reality. Jesus is Christmas: then – now – always.' To view a video of his message go to www.cam.org.au

Jesus is Christmas: A Christmas Carols Special: To celebrate the Season of Advent and Christmas, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is hosting a TV Carols Special entitled "Jesus is Christmas" on **Sunday 20th December at 7pm**. Presented in partnership with ACU, Mercy Health and VMCH, the one-hour program features a stellar line up of local and internationally acclaimed artists including singer and performer Silvie Paladino, ARIA Award winning artist and X-Factor Australia Vocal Director Gary Pinto, international opera singer Michael Petrucci, Melbourne's own The SAGA, and a host of other local artists and parish choirs. The carols special will be broadcast on free-to-air TV via C31 (channel 44 on digital TV) and streamed online at the Archdiocesan YouTube channel www.youtube.com/archmelb

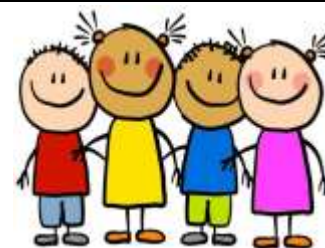


Melbourne Overseas Mission Appeal: is usually at this time of year and your donations help support projects for disadvantaged people in Papua New Guinea, Peru, West Africa, Pakistan, Palestine and many Pacific islands. This year the appeal is online. Copies of the MOM Annual reports are available in the Church Foyer. To donate go to <https://bit.ly/CDFpayMOM>



Child Safety. *Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community*

If you have any questions please contact one of our Child Safeguarding Committee. See our Parish website or Church noticeboards for their contact details.



Fr Andrew Jekot, Susan Dornom, Trish Angliss, Carmel Barker, Louise Breslin, Judy Dickinson, Joanne Partleton, Deb Poynton, Robyn Worsnop

Fourth Sunday of Advent– Year B:

Recently Deceased: John Beable (husband of Edwina), Neville Larter (stepbrother of Peter Waltho), Michael Smith (Beaumaris), Fred Rosenbrock (Mordialloc), Martha Peries (mother of Sriyani Katugampola)



Anniversaries: Peter Toner Snr, Albert Weiss, Raymond Smith, Salvatore Aparo, Edward Dunn, Frank Garlick, Margot Poynton, Brian Murphy, Sean Passagne, Mariano Sumayao, Nicholas Morillion, Ed Riordan, Anne Sleeth, James O'Donnell, Edmond O'Sullivan, Margaret Smith, Gordon Wagstaff, John Illott, Sr Mary Vera AC, Jim Kerlin, Des Lourey, Aloysius Mendonça, Sam Cassano, Muriel Cramer, Guiseppe Taranto, Simone Ellul, Pietro Gazzo, Robert Martin, Theresa Morrison, Michael Melbourne, Joan Juliff, Mario Nasello, Lance Riordan, Luileen McGrath, Denis, Nancye & Peter Raihely, Max Stooke.

Healing Prayers Asked For: John Nicholson, Rosa Leonardi, Laura Bruder, Salam Assaad, Tony Del Prete. Soula Paliouris, Rye Johnson, Valerie Kilpatrick, Sr Helen Reed, Sheila Dawson, Peter Spencer, Lilah & Salvatore (Sam) Finocchiaro, Graham Owen, Jean Phillips, Helen Pedrazzini.
(If you know of anyone who needs prayers please contact the Parish Office.)

Baptisms: There is one child being baptised on this **Sunday 20th December at St Louis'**. We welcome in to our Parish family: **Tadhg Chaminda Senaweera**



Funerals: Mass on this **Wednesday 23rd December at 10am** at **St Brigid's** will be a Requiem Mass for **Fred Rosenbrock**. Fred's family invite any parishioners who know Fred to attend. *There are also two private funerals in our Parish on **Tuesday 22nd December for Michael Smith and Martha Peries.***

Congratulations: to **Hoang Dinh** who was ordained as a Deacon on **Saturday 12th Dec**. Hoang did a pastoral placement as a seminarian in our Parish a few years ago and next year will join us again and be with us every second weekend to gain further pastoral experience through preaching at Mass and assisting with Baptisms. We pray for God's blessing as he continues his journey towards becoming a priest.

Parish Masses:

Restrictions Eased: We look forward to welcoming you all back to Church.

Restrictions have eased and now allow over **120 parishioners** to be present at our Masses in St Louis' and St Brigid's Churches but you must book first.

Book online at <https://www.trybooking.com/BMGLK>

or contact the **Parish Office 9580 7981** or mordiallocaspendale@cam.org.au

Saturday at 6pm at St Louis', **Sunday at 8am** at St Brigid's,
9.30am at St Louis' & **11am** at St Brigid's

Sunday Mass is also available online via the website

There is no need to book for any of the weekday Masses as it is unlikely we will exceed our limit
Weekday Masses are on: **Tuesday at 9.15am** at St Louis' **Wednesday at 10am** at St Brigid's
Thursday at 9.15am at St Louis' & **Friday at 11.30am** at St Brigid's



Live Streaming of Masses: Our Parish is now live streaming our weekend Masses. To view the Live Stream Masses go to:

<https://youtu.be/94DMeQkyRyE> for **Saturday 6pm Mass**,
and <https://youtu.be/ljeqku7jHWk> for **Sunday 8am Mass**,

Don't forget to keep checking our Parish website www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale
for Fr Andrew's YouTube Masses, Weekly Bulletins and lots of other up to date information.