



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.*

5th Sunday of Lent – 29th March 2020

This week's readings: **EZEKIEL 37: 12-14; ROMANS 8: 8-11; JOHN 11: 1-45**

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:

9580 1018

PARISH OFFICE:

9580 7981

Monday-Friday 9am-4.30pm

PARISH EMAIL:

**mordiallocaspendale
@cam.org.au**

PARISH WEBSITE:

**[www.cam.org.au/
mordiallocaspendale](http://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:

Throughout human history, God has shown people that He is a God of Life. The first Sunday of Lent we read in Genesis how God breathed life into humanity. Ezekiel in the first reading today describes the time when Yahweh has transformed the blanched, broken skeletons with his divine spirit. Ezekiel speaks to the Chosen people who have all but given up. Like a family who scavenge through the rubble of their flooded out home, all they see is death, mouldy debris they would rather not touch. But God will transform them from this deathly experience like raising the dead from their graves. God will transform them into a new humanity. God gives us life and cares for humanity. In the Gospel, Jesus isn't indifferent to his friend Lazarus' death. Jesus weeps but he uses this situation to again show that God the Father isn't constrained by death. God's power isn't made impotent because of death, no, the bandages of Lazarus are unravelled because Lazarus is alive. God has brought him back from death. Lazarus is instrumental in this dramatic scene that again enlightens non believers into believing. It is a dramatic experience and it brings many people to belief.

We are called to strengthen our belief in the God of Life. We look to our God at this time when our lives have been dramatically changed. For some it is their health, others it is their job losses, for others it is the isolation. God knows the bandages that are currently wrapped around us and he knows the suffering that is present. God wills that life will be restored and we are called to believe that. We step up and allow the God who lives in our hearts to lead us again to the Promised Land of his Kingdom.

Fr Andrew



NEXT SUNDAY- 4th & 5th April 2020

Next Sunday is the Palm Sunday in Year A:

Our readings for next week are: **ISAIAH 50: 4-7;
PHILIPPIANS 2: 6-11; MATTHEW 26: 14-27**

CORONAVIRUS ADVICE: In order to help prevent the spread of Corona Virus **ALL MASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED** until further notice. All parishioners are reminded to heed health advice about washing hands regularly and avoiding unnecessary contact with others. **BOTH OUR CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED. PARISH OFFICE IS NOW CLOSED.** All staff are working from home. Phone calls and emails will still be attended to.

Fifth Sunday of Lent:

Anniversaries: Ken Bramich, Pat Direen, Kevin Laws, George Clark, Peter Dennis, Anna Iacono, Chris Rafter, Guiseppe Aparo, Francis Butler, Margaret Malone, Hazel Sweeney, Lance Forkgen, Jesus Manahan, Baltazar Caday (snr), Dianne Marchant, Nicole Petersen, Sr Justine Power, Gwain Walker, Lucy Asciak, Sydney Haag, Christopher Lee Eng Chye.,

Healing Prayers Asked For: Alex Brodie, John Nicholson, Lorraine Ingram, Trish Wardle, Helen Pedrazzini, Bob Orchard, Helen Munro, Margaret McCormack, Michelle Ives, Noel Ryan, Ed Jansen, *(If you know of anyone who needs prayers or a pastoral visit please contact the Parish Office.)*

Parish Groups:

JAG Request for Donations to BASP: The Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project initiative aims to help those that are seeking asylum in Australia. They provide support in very practical ways including giving out house hold goods, but some essential items are running low. If you are shopping and would like to help BASP next week JAG are asking for donations of small or medium size packets of **Washing Powder** (previous weeks we asked for **Long Life Milk, Plain Tuna, Basmati Rice & Cooking Oil**). If anyone has any items to donate please contact the Parish Office 9580 7981.



Slavery Free Products: When you choose your coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate this Easter, or anytime, look for a label that shows the product has been sourced ethically like: **'Fairtrade', 'Rainforest Alliance', 'UTZ Certified'** or **'Cocoa Horizons'** (*Lindt/Lindor are also acceptable*)



Easter Raffle! JAG is raffling baskets of slavery free products to show you some of the products available locally. Money raised will support the work of **ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against the Trafficking of Humans)** Tickets (\$2 ea or 3 for \$5) If you want to support this raffle please contact the Parish Office 9580 7981.



St Vincent De Paul: Our two St Vincent de Paul conferences continue to visit needy families in this area using current social distancing guidelines.

Anyone needing assistance from St Vincent de Paul Society can call: **1800 305 330**

Stewardship Donations: With no Masses at the moment many may be worried about how to continue to support the Parish and Fr Andrew.

Parishioners who usually contribute using envelopes can drop them off at the Parish Office. Stewardship envelope donations support the Parish. Donations to support Fr Andrew are separate and need to be in a separate envelope or noted on your stewardship envelope. We are still receiving credit or direct debit contributions. Anyone who wishes to change their contributions for any reason is asked to contact Parish Office 9580 7981. Thank you to everyone for their continued support – financial, physical and spiritual.



Mass at Home: Mass for You at Home can be viewed on Sundays on Channel 10 or 11 or on Aurora Channel on Foxtel. *(See your TV Guide for details)*. Daily Mass and other options for prayer in these difficult time can be viewed on the Archdiocese website www.cam.org.au

Don't forget to keep checking our Parish website www.cam.org.au/mordiallocaspendale