



# 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.*

## 24th Ordinary Sunday – 13th September 2020

Our readings for this week are **SIRACH 27: 30 – 28: 7; ROMANS 14: 7-9; MATTHEW 18: 21-35**

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.sbmord.catholic.edu.au)**

**St Louis de Montfort's School,**  
37 Dolphin St, Aspendale  
**9580 5169**

**[www.stlouisaspendale.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stlouisaspendale.catholic.edu.au)**

### Gospel Reflection:

The theme of today's Gospel is forgiveness. We are all here in this world in order that we learn to love as Jesus did. That love is dictated by how Jesus lived. If we do not forgive, we will never learn how to love.

For Jesus, forgiveness is wholehearted and constant. It is not Jesus' way to calculate numbers of hurts or offences.

So Jesus replies: I tell you, not seven times but seventy seven times. Jesus didn't mean that you kept a score and that the 78th offence could go unforgiven! He was saying that for Jesus' followers, forgiveness is to be unlimited. Forgiveness was to be a way of life. Bearing in mind that God has forgiven them, they ought not to withhold forgiveness from others. We are called to follow Jesus and so our forgiveness is not based on our feelings. The path we must follow is His path as we echo Jesus' words, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Forgiveness, depending on individual tolerance and level of wrongdoing, comes easier for some than it does for others. This message is reflected in the life and words of Nelson Mandela.



After being imprisoned in South Africa for 27 years, simply for his protest of Apartheid it is reasonable to think that he would hold at least a small grudge. However his words as he was leaving prison reflect the meaning associated with today's Gospel "As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison." His words like the words of Jesus inspire many to follow in their footsteps of compassion.

We all know that forgiving is not easy and maybe difficult depending on the person and events involved, but it is the only way forward. As long as we do not forgive, we are not free. Forgiveness is freedom. Forgiveness also does not mean blotting out painful memories, but it means not acting out of them. God revealed Himself in Jesus and revealed His closeness to us and God's desire to always forgive us.

*Michelle Barron*

### **NEXT SUNDAY- 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

Next Sunday is the Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time in Year A:

Our readings for next week are: **ISAIAH 55: 6-9;**  
**PHILIPPIANS 1: 20-24, 27; MATTHEW 20: 1-16**





## Pastoral Letter to Parishioners

Dear Parishioners,

11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

This weekend is designated as Child Protection Sunday. Greater care is taken in this area of parish life as we know that the most vulnerable of people are our children who unfortunately have been let down in years gone by. We never want that to happen again. We are all part of the solution and awareness in the start. There are some links in the newsletter and website along with a prayer and info to read. Again I say sorry to those who have been let down by the church through the abuse by clergy and by the church authorities who have been reticent in acknowledging this abuse. We continue to pray for the survivors healing.

Did you know that the parish has a Child protection committee? Yes there are 8 parishioners who meet monthly via Zoom and we continue to facilitate the protocols in the parish. There's a lot of policy review during our meetings whilst we are not open for mass. Who's on the committee? Just check the newsletter and parish website. I am indebted to these parishioners who give of their time to oversee this vital dimension of parish life.

We go into this week which is the final week of term 3 and what a school term it has been! Our teachers and school staff are amazing and continue to work under new and evolving conditions. They deserve a big thank you. This is also the last week for our beloved Mr Michael Russo, principal of St. Brigid's who is moving on to his new appointment as principal of Sacred Heart, Croydon in term 4. Traditional farewells are not possible but digital farewells are in the making as we speak. I would like to thank Michael for all that he has given to the growth of St. Brigid's school the last 6 years. He has left a great legacy for the upcoming principal. Who is that you ask? More details next week!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1YtT0qLjDA>

Shalom,

St. Mary of the Cross.... pray for us.      St. Brigid.... pray for us.  
St. Louis.... pray for us.

*Fr. Andrew*

# Parish News:

**JAG News:** Our Parish Justice Action Group (JAG) would like to highlight the plight of refugees and asylum seekers in these very difficult times. Many of them receive no government assistance and are unable to work so they rely on the support of groups like **BASP** (Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project).



JAG is planning to hold a Silent (online) Auction as a way of raising funds for BASP.



**JAG's SILENT ONLINE AUCTION for BASP**  
(will be held on weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October)  
Bidding & viewing of items will be online



To make the auction successful JAG needs ITEMS to auction. Suggestions include: gift cards, wine, books, artwork, craft, plants, sport souvenirs, cash, gifts for hampers etc etc.

Perhaps you or your business could provide some kind of service?

It is a good way to advertise your business.

**Do you have any goods or services you would like to donate?**

For more information or to discuss possible donations Contact:

Maree on 0407 376 505 or [mareemorris959.mm@gmail.com](mailto:mareemorris959.mm@gmail.com) or Sandy on 0412 057 177

**Important Reminder!** JAG would like to know what all our donations are by 30<sup>th</sup> September so they can then prepare the catalogue for the online auction.

**R U OK? Day:** was Thursday, but every day is a good day to ask the question and start a conversation that could change a life.

At the moment it is hard for everyone, as we are doing many things differently, let's make time to reach out to family, friends and fellow parishioners and start a conversation.

For more info on what to say or do after you ask R U OK? go to [www.ruok.org.au](http://www.ruok.org.au)

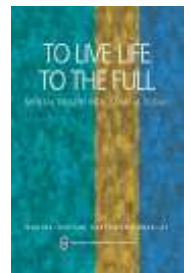


**Australian Catholic Bishops Social Justice Statement:** This year's title is:

**TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL –Mental Health in Australia Today**

and it encourages each one of us to make mental health a priority.

To view the **Social Justice Statement** go to: [www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au](http://www.socialjustice.catholic.org.au)



**Prayer Time (via Zoom):** with Bernadette Carr is on **Tuesdays at 11am.**

All welcome. Go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84762497666>



**Scripture & Friendship Group:** meet via Zoom at **11am on Thursdays**

All welcome. Go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82363841283>

Contact: **Ann Brennan 9580 3810** or **Carmel Barker 9580 0539**

**St Mary of the Cross Prayer Group:** encourages everyone to join them in reciting the Rosary in your own home on **Tuesdays at 7:30pm** as way of praying together when we're apart. *No computer required – just rosary beads.*



**The Swag**  
Quarterly Magazine of the  
National Council of Priests of Australia

**The Swag** is available online. Simply go to [www.theswag.org.au](http://www.theswag.org.au)  
Click on the **green button** 'bulk subscription.'

**Australian Catholics:** The Spring edition of Australian Catholics has arrived. Copies are available near the Bulletins on the Church doors.





**CORONAVIRUS ADVICE: ALL MASSES HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.**

**BOTH OUR CHURCHES AND PARISH OFFICE ARE NOW CLOSED.**

All staff are working from home. Phone calls and emails are still being attended to.

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

## 24th Ordinary Sunday – Year A:

**Recently Deceased:** Wilma Jones (mother of Heather Flavelle)

Robert Reid (brother-in-law of Tom Hughes)

**Anniversaries:** Mary Coen, James Doran (snr), Freda Fernandez, Filippina Gazzo, Julien Mendonça, Fr Peter Murray, Sheila Popley, Gordon Teasdale, Kurt Wessel, William Blackie, Anthony Purcell, Dea Thomson, Kevin Worfolk, Ribomapil Concon, Bridget Gallagher, Janos Pastor, Maureen Payton, Andrew Atherton, Alex Baptist, Michael O'Leary, Gary, Glen & Verlie Callaghan, Gus Pottier, Joan Jose, Maureen Allday, Alexander Louis, Ruby Mannix, Joan Phillips, Darbra Singh, Zsolt Bognar, Peter Crawford, Felecia Cresswell, Aniello Pollio.

**Healing Prayers Asked For:** Evelyn Chan, Michelle Barclay, Lilah & Salvatore (Sam) Finocchiaro, Sheila Dawson, Peter Spencer, Alma Brennan, Sr Helen Reed, Graham Owen, Honor Elvey, Betty Vilca, Frank Forbes, Valerie Kilpatrick Jean Phillips, Rebecca Walker, John McFall, Helen Pedrazzini.

*(If you know of anyone who needs prayers please contact the Parish Office.)*



**Happy Birthday:** to Maree Velten who celebrates her 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday this Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September.



**Congratulations:** to Fr Justel & Fr Patrick, our former assistant priests, who celebrate their 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of priesthood this weekend

## Parish News:

**Child Protection Sunday - 13<sup>th</sup> Sept:** This weekend we highlight the issue of Child Safety. We pray for those who have been abused.

We recognise and apologise for harm done in Church settings.

*The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.*

We recommit to practices that support survivors and make our Church the safest possible place for children and people at risk.



Go to: [www.cam.org.au](http://www.cam.org.au) to view:

# A message from Archbishop Peter A Comensoli

# Child Protection Prayer

# Protecting God's Children Parent Resource:

A Catholic Parent's Guide to Keeping Their Kids Safe

# Video: Local parishes share how they are creating child safe environments

Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community. Our Safeguarding Committee is working to ensure we are a Child Safe Parish:

**Fr Andrew Jekot, Trish Angliss, Carmel Barker, Ann Brennan, Louise Breslin,**

**Judy Dickinson, Susan Dornom, Joanne Partleton, Deb Poynton, Robyn Worsnop**



**Parish Cuppa with Fr. Andrew:** Fr Andrew invites you to have a catch up with him and others online. Please join Fr Andrew on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept at 2.30pm**

Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89682499521>

**Special Collection:** On Fathers' Day we support all the sick and retired priests through the **Priests Retirement Foundation**. You can still make

donations either by dropping off your donation (*in a clearly marked envelope*)

in the Parish Office or Presbytery letterbox or via credit card on the payment

link on the Parish website (*mark your donation PRF*) or contact the Parish Office.



Caring for those who served