



We proclaim a crucified Christ

1Cor1.23

PETER ANDREW COMENSOLI
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE
METROPOLITAN

**DECREE AMALGAMATING THE PARISHES OF
ST BRIGID'S, MORDIALLOC AND ST LOUIS DE MONFORT, ASPENDALE INTO
THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MARY OF THE CROSS, MORDIALLOC AND
ASPENDALE**

1. A parish is a certain community of Christ's faithful stably established within a diocese, whose pastoral care, under the authority of the diocesan bishop, is entrusted to a parish priest as its proper pastor¹. Each diocese must be divided into parishes, which are distinct parts of the whole diocese. It is the responsibility and authority of the diocesan bishop, and he alone, to erect, alter or suppress parishes, after considering the advice of his presbyteral council.² The Fourth Plenary Council of Australia and New Zealand of 1937 also decreed that consultation must be had with the College of Consultors.³
2. In 1949 the parish of Mordialloc was erected under the patronage of St Brigid. In 1971 the parish of Aspendale was created from the southern portion of the parish of Mordialloc and erected under the patronage of St Louis de Montfort.
3. In 2000, the two parishes were partnered, and began to plan how the two parishes could better coordinate pastoral care. In 2011, a Faith Development Team was formed across the two parishes, and joint committees were initiated in various areas of pastoral activity. In 2018, the pastoral council endorsed the proposal that the parishes be canonically amalgamated, and parishioners were consulted through the parish magazine, avenues for feedback, information at parish Masses, and a meeting for parishioners of both parishes in October 2018. Following this, the Parish Priest petitioned for the amalgamation of the two parishes into one.
4. After carefully considering the motivations and observations presented to me, and after the required formal canonical consultation of the College of Consultors of the Archdiocese of Melbourne given on 5 December 2018 (there being no Council of Priests, cf. Canons 495§1, 501§2), I hereby decree the following:

¹ Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, can. 515#1

² Cf. *ibid*, can. 515#2

³ Cf. *Concilium plenum IV Australiae et Novae Zelandiae habitum apud Sydney anno Domini 1937*, decr. 148(d).



Archbishop of Melbourne

5. That the parishes of Mordialloc and Aspendale be amalgamated, so that the new parish shall encompass all the territory previously contained in the two separate parishes, that is: commencing at the point on the Port Phillip Bay shoreline across from the southern end of Parkers Road follow a line to and along Parkers Road northwards and then north-eastwards to Nepean Highway, then follow Nepean Highway south-eastwards to Mountview Avenue, and then follow Mountview Avenue to Davey Street, and then continue across Davey Street to Brownfield Street and continue eastwards on Brownfield Street to Bradshaw Street;
6. thence follow Bradshaw Street southwards to White Street, and then follow White Street eastwards to Boundary Road, and then continue across Boundary Road eastwards on Malcolm Road to the end and then continue in a straight line to the route of the proposed Mornington Peninsula Freeway; thence follow that reservation south to Governor Road, then follow Governor Road eastwards to Springvale Road; then follow Springvale Road south and south-westwards to the intersection with Wells Road, then across the intersection to continue on Edithvale Road to the Mordialloc Secondary Drain, then follow the Secondary Drain north-westwards to the point opposite the end of Lochiel Avenue;
7. thence follow Lochiel Avenue westwards to Nepean Highway, and then across Nepean Highway and then follow Alexandra Street and then continue in a straight line from the end of Alexandra Street to the shoreline of Port Phillip Bay, then continue along the shoreline of Port Phillip Bay north and north-westwards to the point on the shoreline across from Parkers Road – the point of commencement.
8. Unless otherwise stated all boundaries run along the centreline of rivers, creeks, roads, streets, etc.
9. Consequently, all the faithful with a domicile or quasi-domicile within this territory shall henceforth belong by law to the Catholic Parish of St Mary of the Cross, Mordialloc and Aspendale,⁴ which will be established by effect of this Decree from 12 March 2019.
10. I declare the juridical person of the Parish of Mordialloc to be suppressed. The ecclesiastical goods that were the patrimony of the parish shall devolve to the new Catholic Parish of St Mary of the Cross, Mordialloc and Aspendale.
11. I declare the juridical person of the Parish of Aspendale to be suppressed. The ecclesiastical goods that were the patrimony of the parish shall devolve to the new Catholic Parish of St Mary of the Cross, Mordialloc and Aspendale.
12. The churches of St Brigid's, Mordialloc and St Louis de Montfort, Aspendale shall continue to enjoy all the rights, duties and prerogatives that they have hitherto acquired.

⁴ Cf. *Code of Canon Law*, cann. 102-107, 518



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13. This decree will take effect from 12 March 2019. I order that this decree be published by copies of it being displayed on the noticeboards of St Brigid's, Mordialloc and St Louis de Montfort, Aspendale for one calendar month, and by the decree being drawn to the attention of the faithful by the celebrant of Mass at all parochial Masses in those churches on Saturday evening, 9 March 2019 and Sunday 10 March 2019.
14. I order that copies of this decree be carefully preserved in the parochial archives of the Catholic Parish of St Mary of the Cross, Mordialloc and Aspendale as well as the archives of the Archdiocese of Melbourne.
15. The Second Vatican Council proclaimed that "the parish offers an outstanding example of community apostolate, for it gathers into a unity all the human diversities that are found there and inserts them into the universality of the Church."⁵ I pray that these arrangements that I have decreed will be a rich opportunity for the parishioners of the Catholic Parish of St Mary of the Cross, Mordialloc and Aspendale's to renew their commitment to the Lord, and to the building up of his Church. I invoke the blessings of Almighty God on the priests and parishioners of this parish.
16. Given at St Patrick's Centre, East Melbourne, Victoria on this twelfth day of the month of February, in the year of Our Lord, 2019.

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Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne

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Notary

⁵ Cf. Vatican II, *Apostolicam Actuositatem*, 18 November 1965, n. 10 (*Vatican Council II*, Austin Flannery O.P. (ed). p. 777)