



Contact us ...

Fr Cassius Correya
Fr Peter Varengo
Joan Parr (Secretary)
Thai Pham (Secretary)

Email: collclift@hotmail.com; office@olsc.org.au
Website: olsc.org.au
https://www.facebook.com/olscjoehohn.cliftcoll.7/
videos/143554354029158

St Joseph's Community

46 Otter Street, Collingwood
Tel: 9973 5681 School: 9419 4918
Principal: Marita Richardson

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

St Heliers Street, Abbotsford Tel: 9417 2909

St John the Baptist Community

61 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill
Tel: 9481 7333

If you would like to have a pastoral visit from the parish priest, or a priest, or a seminarian, or a co-parishioner, kindly leave a message at the administration office on 9481 7333 or email to collclift@hotmail.com

Sacramental Reception ...

Baptism : Second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12 noon (email the office to book)

Marriage: by appointment

Reconciliation: approach a priest before Mass

First Communion and Confirmation: Preparation for this is conducted in our school at St Joseph's; we also offer this preparation to State School children. Email our office at office@olsc.org.au for further information.

Mass Times at OLSC

St John's:
Tuesday, Thursday at 9.15am, Saturday 8.30am, 6:00 pm
Sunday at 9:00 am (Italian), 11:00am and 5:00pm
St Joseph's:
Monday to Saturday at 9am, Saturday 6:00pm (English)
Sunday at 9:00am (Vietnamese)
Good Shepherd:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday 9:30am

At Our Lady of the Southern Cross, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parish.

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people and offer our respects to the elders past, present and future. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.

**Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross
February 10/11, 2024 Ordinary Time Year B**

For those whom we remember...

Mass Intention: Iginia Di Blasio.
Condolences: We pray for the families and souls of those who have departed recently, especially for Iginia Di Blasio whose funeral was held at the Chapel of the Good Shepherd last Thursday.
Anniversaries: Josephine O'Donnell, Bernard Murphy.

For prayers of healing

Please remember the following in our prayers:
Ian Armstrong, Lorena Ferri, Cecily Hollingworth, Tony Addamo, Teresa Boetti, Mario Misurelli.
If you hear of any of our parishioners who are not well or who have been injured, please email us at office@olsc.org so that we can remember them.

Great Women of Faith

I have been involved in preparations for the Great Women of Faith exhibition to be held in St Patrick's Cathedral 1 to 10 March 2024, to coincide with International Women's Day - the poster with entry times is up on the notice board. Portraits of Mary Mackillop and Mary Glowrey were among the earliest artworks Barbara created in her unique, vibrant style. *Gabrielle McMullen AM*

Ash Wednesday

- ♦ St John's will hold Mass at 7:30pm.
- ♦ St Joseph's will be held at 9:00am.

Readers and Special Ministers

If you would like to be a reader or special minister at the 11am Mass please write your name on the A3 sheet at the back of the church by Sunday 18 February. This covers March and April except for Easter when special arrangements will be made.

| Date | Meeters and Greeters | First Reading | Second Reading | Prayers of the Faithful | Bell ringer | Special Minister |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| 11 am | | | | | | |
| 11 Feb | | Ann/Peter | Susan S | John S | | Gabrielle |
| 18 Feb | | John S | Susan S | Kevin B | | Lucy C |
| 25 Feb | | Quyen | Hugh | Gabrielle | | Margaret |
| 5 pm | | | | | | |
| 11 Feb | | Daniel Ryan | Man-ickams | Man-ickams | Darcy | Manickams |
| 18 Feb | | Ann/Peter | Quyen | Ann/Peter | Darcy | Daniel Ryan |
| 25 Feb | | Man-ickams | Lucy Cirona | Daniel Ryan | Darcy | Manickams |

Our Vietnamese Community

Vietnamese Catholics at St Joseph's Collingwood celebrate **Lunar New Year -**

The Year of the Dragon

Lunar New Year, for the Vietnamese is known as "Tet Nguyen Dan," or simply "Tet" for short - is the celebration of New Year according to the lunar calendar of Asian countries like China, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam.

With the Vietnamese Catholic we have a special 4-day celebration. This year on the Friday night of 9 February, we have a New Year's Eve Mass. It's similar to Thanksgiving Mass, we attend Mass to give thanks to God for the last year and to ask God to help us use the coming year, according to God's will.

The following day, Saturday 10 February is the New Year Mass. We attend Mass on New Year's Day to pray for peace in the new year, for the country and for the faithful. We ask God to guide us in living better each day for the family, for the Church and for society.

Sunday, 11 February is the second day of Tet, the Mass is dedicated to remembering and praying for our deceased ancestors, asking God's mercy and bring them to heaven. We also pray for our living Grandparents and parents and ask God to bless them with abundant health in the new year.

On the third day of Tet, Monday 12 February, we pray and ask God to sanctify our jobs throughout the new year. May God bless them with a new year and success in their jobs.

On this special occasion, we wish all parishioners a very happy New Year, the year of the Dragon - May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

Special Occasions ??

The Parish is offering mass intentions to those parishioners who may have a special occasion to celebrate. Perhaps you or a family member has a special birthday coming up, a wedding anniversary, the anniversary of a deceased loved one, whatever you may be celebrating, one of our priests would like to join with you at mass. Please email Joan at office@OLSC.org.au if you would like a mass intention said at a particular mass on a particular weekend. Please list all details including a phone number (just in case we need to speak with you).

Of Course I Want to! Be Cured"

"For the contemporaries of Jesus, leprosy implied the ultimate cancerous scourge that could afflict a person, destroying body and spirit, labelling the victim with moral corruption. Banished to the wilderness and filth of the rubbish dump, standing outside the Law and humanity on every count the leper was a non-person, an object to be thrown away, without any hope of physical healing or moral redemption.

In today's Gospel narrative, breaking every law and mores, Jesus plunges himself into that scenario to bring the Good News of a God enmeshed as a life-giving and healing presence in the midst of every brokenness and painful situations without reservations or whatever our personal and collective human condition. But God is not a faith healer or the wonder worker of the sideshow. The dialogue that ensued between the leper and Jesus himself reveals God as the one who seeks to enter humanity's story in a deeply personal mutual relationship. The leper almost excuses himself by a conditional, "If you want to, you can cure me", while Jesus' reply is categorical: "Of course I want to! Be cured!" Without self-pity or fear and against the horror and revulsion of the self-righteous who could only see the absolute sinner steeped in decaying flesh, the leper begs for a cure acknowledges his situation of brokenness, and in that self-acceptance powered by trust in Jesus, he finds healing.

As an injunction to respond in trusting relationship to God's self-invitation to enter the messiness, taboos, separation, and self-condemnation, the leper's request of a "cure" is rewarded with "healing". Physical "cure" relates to wellbeing, while "healing" is a symbol of God's yearning to enter humanity, a manifestation of the total depth of healing that restores us to what we really are in the eyes of God and re-establishes a relationship by our God touching us in the depths of our being and setting us on the path of wholeness and holiness. There is no other way God can respond to our call for help. For Jesus, the man calling out to him is not a leper, but a person who happens to be struck down by a dreadful disease, and against all common sense or fear-filled human rationality the Lord has no hesitation in entering into the life of the victim by touching him.

Flawed and messy though the human condition may be, that is exactly where God touches us and brings new life, freedom from slavery of fear and condemnation, joys and peace out of death. We can only be finally healed by trusting in a God who, not only sees beauty in brokenness and sacredness in human sinfulness, but is right there, in the midst of our messiness, touching and embracing that brokenness and shame, to the point of assuming it into himself and giving us life in return. *Fr Peter Varengo SDB*