



Contact us ...

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<https://www.facebook.com/olscjoehohn.cliftcoll.7/videos/143554354029158>

St Joseph's Community

46 Otter Street, Collingwood
Tel: 9417 2959 School: 9419 4918

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 School: 9489 1346

Principals

Ms Rachel Smith (St John's Primary)
Mrs Kerrie Campagna (St John's Primary)

Streamed Mass

From St John the Baptist Church on Sundays at 11am
<https://www.facebook.com/olscjoehohn.cliftcoll.7/videos/143554354029158>



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 to make an appointment.

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

Our Parish Office ...

Our Parish Office is open for business ...
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10am and 2pm
or send your query/comments via email ...
office@olsc.org.au and we will get back to you.



At our Parish, 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

April 24-25 2021 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Returned to the Father ...

Condolences : We pray for the families and souls of those who have departed recently.

Anniversaries : Francesco Bascetta, Philip Hart, Joe Brancatella, Margaret oats, Santo Romeo.

For the sick and injured ...

Please remember the following in our prayers:

Julia Rickard, Judy O'Leary Shepherd, Gabe Sullivan,
Julia O'Malley, John and Teresa Boetti, Ida Misurelli.

Please let us know if the office can help in any way.

St Joseph ... Man of Dreams

Luke's Gospel speaks of a single visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary, setting her path for the rest of her life. In Matthew's Gospel, we hear of an angel visiting Joseph some four times, guiding him step by step through troubled times. Interestingly, these visitations come to the sleeping Joseph in his dreams.

As a carpenter, Joseph would have been no stranger to silence. We can imagine him spending time alone, honing his patience and concentration as he worked the wood. Perhaps there is a link between this silent way of Joseph and the silent way of dreams in which the angel communicates with him? .

Joseph's dreams come to him at difficult times, when he is afraid and needs to make important decisions. The first dream comes after he finds out about Mary's pregnancy and has decided to dismiss her. The dream allows Joseph, the righteous man who knew the law, to interpret the law with love. He might have been angry and disappointed, yet he acts as if he is saying what his step-son would say to a woman about to be stoned almost thirty years later, 'He who has never sinned, let him cast the first stone' (John 8:7).

Joseph's dreams are brief, or at least the snippets we hear are brief. In the second dream, the angel tells Joseph to get up, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt and stay there until further instructions. If we listen to the Scriptures and the saints, it would seem that brevity is a strong characteristic of spiritual experiences. St Teresa of Avila writes very clearly that the duration of a rapture is short, and any prolonged raptures are more often due to the sister not being in control of herself, than to God!

Joseph's dreams give clear instructions. In the third dream, again Joseph is told to get up, take the child and his mother and go to Israel, for those seeking the child's life are dead. They also give reason and encourage. In the first dream, Joseph is told to name the child Jesus because he will save his

Mass Times in OLSC Parish

St John's: Tuesday, Thursday at 9.15am, Saturday 8.30 am
Sunday at 9:00 am (Italian), 11:00am and 5:00pm

St Joseph's: Tuesday to Saturday at 9am
Saturday at 6:00pm Sunday at 9:00am and 10.30am(Vietnamese)

St Joseph ... Man of Dreams

people from their sins. In the fourth dream, he is warned that Herod's son has replaced him and so to go to Galilee. Somehow Joseph knows to trust these messages. There is no fussing, no questioning or consulting other's opinions; he simply acts. Think how steadfast his trust in God must have been to know that what came to him in a dream was not to be questioned.

Do you trust your dreams? Dreaming is an interesting phenomenon and research continues into its function in our lives.

Dreams help our brains work through the myriad experiences of our day – a kind of mental processing and de-cluttering. Scripture also attests to dreams as a powerful sign of the presence of God. God is believed to actively speak through dreams as we hear in the Book of Joel, "...your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions" (Joel 2:28).

Joseph reminds us that rest is essential if we are to hear God's voice and understand what is being asked of us. He shows us what happens when we wait patiently even in fearful circumstances, trusting and remaining open to how Love might work in our lives. Just as Paul reminded the Romans to be transformed by the renewing of the mind so as to discern the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect (Rom 12:2) – Joseph reminds us to allow our minds to be renewed through our dreams.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/st-joseph-man-of-dreams>



Pope Francis says... BLESSED ASSURANCE

"Be assured that the Lord never abandons us."

Regardless of our conviction and stoutness of heart, there are bound to be times when our spirit flags and we wonder if spreading the message of hope is becoming empty. This is when we might find ourselves giving in to complaining and self-pity. Pope Francis asks us to be especially aware at these times of resting in the assurance that God is always with us. Just as peering into the deepest darkness can reveal the tiniest pinpoint of light, looking deeply through those moments of discouragement can highlight the hope that is still there in our souls. By remembering that God never abandons us, we open our hearts enough to let hope re-emerge.



A Message From Fr Martin ...

Dear Parishioners of OLSC

I pray this email finds you and your families well and staying warm during this early blast of winter. Our Churches are not only magnificent buildings but they are also places where families come to celebrate the most important sacraments in the life of the church.



One thing I have noticed about our churches is that they are places where those who once were part of the parish come back to celebrate the sacraments of Baptism, Marriage and Funerals. For many it is coming back home to continue the important stages of their faith. A couple may wish to get married here because their parents were married here. Or, past pupils from St John's and St Joseph's primary school and St Thomas' Secondary School, bring their children back to this parish to be baptised here. Finally, past parishioners who grew up in this parish wish to be farewelled from this earthly existence by having their funeral here. For many this parish plays an important part for current parishioners and past parishioners.

This weekend during our 11am Sunday mass one of our young parishioners will be making her First Holy Communion with us as witnesses. Congratulations to Aniela Aimi Lilian Oki who for the first time this morning will receive the Body of Christ at St John's Church. Aniela and mum, Vicki, have been long-time parishioners of St John's, and have contributed much to the life of our parish family. On behalf of all of us here at OLSC we ask the Lord to bless you, Aniela and nourish your soul with the gift of Christ himself. Aniela and her family warmly invite you all to a reception in Aikenhead Hall after the Mass. **All are welcome.** Please come and celebrate with Aniela this important moment in her life.



Finally, this Sunday is **Good Shepherd Sunday** and during this weekend the Church has asked us to reflect and pray about our vocations in life. There are many ways we can live our lives. Good Shepherd Sunday focuses on the gift of Priesthood. Christ is known as the Good Shepherd who would lay down his life for his sheep. In 2014 Pope Francis talked about Priesthood as 'Being an ambassador of Christ'. In a meeting with pastors and priests in Rome, Pope Francis said: "We are always priests with all our soul and with all our heart. Being an ambassador of Christ ... is a mission that penetrates our entire being." When I reflect on Priesthood what comes to mind is the scripture passage from the Gospel of Matthew 20:20-28 and the Gospel of Mark 10:35-45, Jesus explains that he "came as Son of man to give his life as ransom" ... For even the Son of Man *did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*" We are all called to serve each other, but in many different ways. May God continue to bless us in our service for all people and assists those who choose the life of a priest to devote themselves to the care of God's people with humility and a generous and compassionate heart.

God Bless and have a great week.

Fr Martin