



Contact us ...

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https://www.facebook.com/olscjoehncolliftcoll.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 Joseph's Primary)
Mrs Kerrie Campagna (St John's Primary)

St Joseph's Community Store (St Vinnie's)

Tel: 8415 1593

Streamed Mass

From St John the Baptist Church on Sundays at 11am

https://www.facebook.com/olscjoehncolliftcoll.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 will be closed for the Christmas Break and **will reopen on Wednesday 6th January 2021**. You may email us at office@olsc.org.au or telephone on 9481 7333 and we will get back to you on the 6th. Wishing all in our Parish Family a very Blessed Christmas Season from all the Parish Team.

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 2nd & 3rd January, 2021 Feast of the Epiphany

Returned to the Father ...

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

Anniversaries : Antonio Marasco, Giulia Angerame, Matilde Costanzo, Jillian Morrow, Antonietta Zampichelli, William Quinn, Fr Vincent Burke, Joseph Buttigieg, Joan Duffy, Rosa Nedeljkovic, and Thomas Nguyen Ba .

Grant unto them eternal rest O Lord ...

For the sick and injured ...

Please remember the following in our prayers: Greg Andrews (John Andrews' brother), Judy O'Leary Shepherd, John Vogels, Julia Rickard, Gabe Sullivan, Julia O'Malley, John Vo, Sr Valda, John and Teresa Boetti, Cecilia Nguyen, Ida Misurelli, Simon Fenelon, Joan Parr, and Michael Noone.

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 all remember them in our prayers.

Mary, Mother of God ...

To call Mary the Theotokos, the 'God-Bearer', is to celebrate the unique role that she has played—and continues to play—in God's plan of salvation. We honour the Theotokos in our celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, on January first.

The iconic Christmas image of Mary holding her infant Son embodies the mystery of the Lord's birth, as it brings together the human and divine elements of the Incarnation. And yet, in honouring Mary as the Mother of God, we are also invited to consider another image – the Mother cradling the body of her murdered Son. The same arms which held the Prince of Peace in a stable in Bethlehem received body of the crucified Saviour of the world on a hill outside of Jerusalem. The Son of this Mother is the true source of peace among nations, within families and communities, and in the deepest recesses of our hearts.

In his Message for the World Day of Peace (2017), Pope Francis speaks of the violence that plagues the world today: "Jesus himself lived in violent times. Yet he taught that the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart." And it was in the depths of her heart that Mary contemplated everything that was happening to her and her Son. She maintained this contemplative stance throughout her life, and she found peace in her contemplation and prayer

As we celebrate this great feast of the Mother of God, we are ultimately being asked to join Mary in contemplating the gift of her Son and allowing the grace of these holy days to change us, so that the Prince of Peace may reign in our hearts and in our world.

Adapted from: <https://aleteia.org/2016/12/31/reflection-for-the-solemnity-of-mary-mother-of-god/>



Epiphany House Blessing ...

Each year around the feast of the Epiphany many parishes throughout the world participate in an annual blessing of chalk. It is an ancient tradition that not only places God at the entrance of your home, it places your entire family under his protection.

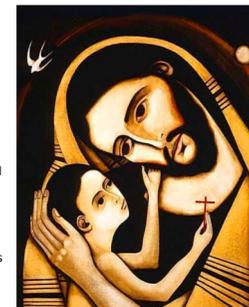
The Epiphany blessing of chalk and homes is a centuries old tradition where priests would visit each home in their parish after the Feast of the Epiphany. Over time it became more difficult to accomplish such a feat as parishes became larger and larger and priests were stretched thin. For this reason it became an accepted tradition that a member of the household is able to lead this blessing in place of the priest.

Traditionally a priest blesses chalk on the Feast of the Epiphany. The chalk is then distributed after Mass. If your local parish does not administer such a blessing, inquire around and see if any neighbouring parishes do. Parishioners then take the chalk home and use it while invoking God's blessing upon their home. We will be blessing the chalk and distributing the blessings at the end of each Mass. (aleteia.org)

GOD, as it were, "took a risk"—all lovers do. God became one of us; and risked rejection, indifference, incomprehension, even hostility. God became one of us so that we might become one-with-God.

If we really understood what that meant nothing else would matter. If we really believed it, everything would forever be changed. There would be no fear of death; no fear of sickness; no fear of pain and suffering and injustice and meaningless.

God the *Word*—the *Divine Meaning*—became human to give humanity its true and only real meaning. Unless that *Word* becomes flesh in our flesh, unless the divine meaning of human being, becomes really in us, what happened two thousand years ago in Bethlehem will be meaningless. Christmas is not about what *happened* a long, long time ago in a place far, far away. Christmas is about what is happening now, here, in us. May God's risk pay off? And may we take the same risk ...



Mass Times After Christmas (January)

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

St Joseph's: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 9am
Saturday at 6:00pm Sunday at 9am (Vietnamese)

Good Shepherd: Sunday at 10am.

Pope Francis says ... LIFE AS GIFT

"Jesus' presence in the Eucharist is a life given and one in which we share. When we take and eat that Bread, we commit to transforming our own life into a gift."

Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist, Pope Francis says, in order that we may ourselves become a gift to others, especially the poorest and neediest. The call to go forth at the end of Mass is just that—a summons to take the gift we have received and share it. When we leave the church building, nourished and (it is hoped!) filled with new purpose, this is where our thanksgiving, our Eucharist, takes wing. As Jesus gave his life for us, so we are to do for others. It's perfectly fine to start small—sometimes an unbidden kind word or a smile is the best beginning of all.



A Message From Fr Martin ...

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all...

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a safe and happy New Year It is amazing to think that we have started the new year - 2021. Even though it may be a bit daunting, it will be good to start a fresh year and to reflect on the experiences of 2020. I am sure 2021 will be full of different challenges, but I hope it is also full of great successes.

I would like to thank all those who were able to join us for the Christmas celebrations at both St John's and St Joseph's or online. It was great to come together and celebrate the birth of Christ as a parish family. In the words of Arch Peter Comensoli "At the heart of who we are is not all the buildings, but the person of Jesus Christ, who enters into our lives and who we then share with others." Christ lives in each one of us and we are the hands, the feet, and the voice of Christ. To be a Christian is not easy and there are a great deal of expectations from others. We all can only do our best as followers of Christ. As parents, I am pretty sure you would tell your sons and daughters to do their best in their studies or in life. We are not perfect, but we have a lifetime to reach our best. We may aim high, but that does not always mean we will get there, and that is ok. We can only do our best and offer the rest up to God.

On the 1st January we had morning mass at St Joseph's and St John's to celebrate the new year and the Solemnity of Mary – the Mother of God. It was great to see parishioners come together and offer the day and the year ahead to God. The first reading from Numbers spoke about blessings and what to ask for. For us today, may the Lord Bless us and keep us. May we be blessed with the face of the Lord shining on us. May the Lord bless us with peace. The Gospel told the story of the Shepherds coming to see the baby Jesus in the manger. They were not rich or powerful people, but in their simplicity of life they could see the joy in a baby being born. Through the gift of Mary, God has entered into our world. The beginning of a life long relationship with the Trinity – God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All the blessings for 2021 for you and your wider family and friends. As a church may we support each other in the simplicity of life. Fr. Martin.



Entrance Antiphons ...

Vigil Mass

Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

During the Day

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.