



**Contact us ...**

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)  
 Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Asst Parish Priest)  
 Rafelina De Donato (Sacristan St John's)  
 Joan Parr (Secretary) Virginia Carter (Secretary)

Email: office@olsc.org.au Website: olsc.org.au  
 https://www.facebook.com/ourlady southerncross

**St Joseph's Community**

46 Otter Street, Collingwood  
 Tel: 9973 5681 School: 9419 4918  
 Principal: Damien Schuster

**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 co-parishioner, kindly leave a message at the administration office on 9481 7333 or email to office@olsc.org.au

**November 24 Collection :**

St John's \$656 St Joseph's \$983

**Sacramental Reception ...**

**Baptism :** Second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12 noon (book online ... olsc.org.au/baptisms)

**Marriage:** by appointment

**Reconciliation:** every Friday 7:15—8:00pm

**Confirmation, Reconciliation and Holy**

**Communion:** Preparation for these Sacraments will be conducted at John's for State School children.

Email our office at office@olsc.org.au for further information.

**Normal Mass Times at OLSC**

*St John's:*

Tuesday to Friday at 9.15am, Saturday 8.30am, 6:00 pm  
 Sunday at 9:00 am (Italian), 11:00 am and 5:00 pm

*St Joseph's:*

Monday to Saturday at 8:30 am, Saturday 6:00 pm (English)  
 Sunday at 9:00 am (Vietnamese)

*Good Shepherd:*

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday 9:30 am

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**

November 30/December 1, 2024 **ADVENT** Year C

**For those whom we remember...**

**Mass Intentions:**

**Condolences:** We pray for the families and souls of those who have departed recently, especially for Rose Mokdissi and Valentina Cecala whose funerals were held at St John's this past week.

**Anniversaries:** Quirino Pastorelli, Antonietta Car-damone, Anna Maria Giammario.

**For prayers of healing**

Please remember the following in our prayers: Mario Misurelli, Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Annette Baker, Rosa Presta, Rachel Bartolo. 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.

**Weddings**

Last Saturday we had a wedding at St John's—Diana De Amicis and Anthony Bartolo of Wollert. Next Saturday we have another wedding—at St John's: the wedding of Mary Dinh and Joseph Nguyen of Abbotsford. We wish them well and hope their journey of faith together will be most enjoyable.

**Baptism**

We have a baptism at St John's of Valentina Anna, daughter of Michael and Catherine Rapinett of Alphington. We warmly welcome Valentina into the Catholic Church and hop she enjoys her faith journey.

You can find out about events and activities between now and Christmas on the notice at the back of each church.

**Roster for Mass at St John's**

Please Note: If unforeseen circumstances prevent you from taking part, please arrange a substitute.

| Date         | First Reading | Second Reading | Prayers of the Faithful | Special Minister |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| <b>11 am</b> |               |                |                         |                  |
| 1 Dec        | John S        | Sue S          | Lucy C                  |                  |
| 8 Dec        | Michael B     | Michael/Anna   | John S                  |                  |
| 15 Dec       | Jeanette      | John S         | Susan S                 | Margaret         |
| 22 Dec       | Hugh          | Gabrielle      | Lucy                    | Margaret         |
| 25 Dec       | John A        | Gabrielle      | Jill                    |                  |
| <b>5 pm</b>  |               |                |                         |                  |
| 1 Dec        | Manickams     | Manickams      | Manickams               |                  |
| 8 Dec        | Anne/Peter    | Daniel         | Diana A                 |                  |
| 15 Dec       | Daniel R      | Manickams      | Manickams               |                  |
| 22 Dec       | Lachlan       | Lucy           | Lachlan                 |                  |
| 25 Dec       | NO MASS       |                |                         |                  |

**Upcoming Events**

**December: Advent and Christmas**

Sunday, 1—Advent; picnic in gardens  
 Tuesday, 3,10—Hugh McGinlay 11am Parish Centre  
 Friday, 6—Reflection and Reconciliation St John's 7pm (Spiritual Preparation for Christmas)  
 Saturday, 7—Christmas Carols in nursing homes  
 Sunday, 8—Second Sunday of Advent  
 Saturday, 14—Parish Christmas Carols, St John's.

**Exploring Christmas Gospels**

Hugh McGinlay, Editor of Coventry Press, will consider the infancy gospels of Matthew and Luke - how they complement one another and how they differ from one another; and what the stories teach us about the development of the Jesus tradition within the community.

Coventry Press is an independent Christian publishing house and its philosophy is "We believe that good books should be available to everyone".

Hugh's sessions will be held in St John's Parish Centre on Tuesdays, 3rd and 10th December starting at 11am.

**Cung Chiêu Choir celebrations**

Last Sunday was a duo celebration for our parishioners at St John Hoan Vietnamese Community at St Joseph's church. We celebrated the Feast Day of Christ the King and the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Cung Chiêu choir.

The Mass was concelebrated by Fr Peter Hoang SDB Fr Cassius SDB, Fr Duc Tran SDB, Fr Quyen Vu SJ and Fr Xuan Vo.



Accompanied by violinist and organist, with 50 voices of our Choir filled the church with song, weaving Vietnamese liturgical music into the poignant liturgy.

In his homily, Fr Duc reflected on the profound legacy of St Cecilia, the Saint Patron of the Cung Chiêu Choir, inviting members of the Choir to follow the devoted life of St Cecilia with purity, resilience, and unwavering faith.

Following the Mass we had a big celebration in the hall, with music and delicious food.

We pray that God might help choir members to continue feeling the joy in music and the harmony that sums up God's love, and that with their harmony and dedication, they will convey God's message through hymns, enriching our souls and those we aim to inspire. *Hùng Chau*

**STOP PRESS: No 9:15am Mass at St John's on Wednesday, 4th December.**

**URGENT PASTORAL NEED**

Please call mobile: 0401 887 115

**The End is the Beginning**

As we look back on another year coming to an end and plunge into the frenetic busyness of the onrushing Christmas season, continuity and repetition are the parameters of this liturgical time of year, confronting us at the same time with the interplay of opposites and apparent contradictions, endings and beginnings, old and new, openness and closure. However, energised by the excitement of the Christmas season ahead, rather than the subdued and joyful expectations associated with the birth of a child, the Word of God predicates ominous alarm bells summoning us to be prepared for fearsome struggle and survival, in a scenario of cosmic upheavals foreboding personal disasters of end-of-time cataclysmic proportions (Lk 21:25-36).

We can never escape this fundamental natural dynamism of making the endpoint the energy for the new reality ahead. As we grow through life and encounter ever-new experiences, we become increasingly more aware of being caught up in a never-ending flow of beginnings that often mirror and demand life responses to the new situations and challenges. By highlighting the apparent contradiction between closure and continuity, today's Word alerts us that in the Christian understanding of time and history both endings and beginnings are the place where God is at play. Consequently, the only way for us to encounter *God-with us* is to grow in awareness and acceptance of the Christmas *Advent-ure of God* in whatever life experience, at all times and without conditions or presuppositions.

As we move into the Advent-Christmas season, the spectacular language of today's Gospel narrative calls for a radical transformation of action and perception, ready to capture this dynamic human-divine energy so as to incarnate God in our very selves. *Be prepared and alert* is the lens offered us to look back on our past and to look forward to our future, and unless we see through this lens of *God-with us* no amount of Christmas glitter will enlighten our inner selves or bring warmth and joy into the coldness of minds and hearts.

Advent and Christmas are not just memories of some distant event expressed in heart-warming rituals and expensive gifts exchanged to the tune of sentimental carols. Conversion is a state of mind and an ongoing journey of decision-making, and Advent-Christmas are active verbs calling for movement, change, and transformation, to the tune of the mantra, *be prepared*. Be prepared to seek and capture God in your personal life and in your relationships with others. Be prepared to embrace the challenges to change that life encounters will inevitably throw at us. Be prepared to see life from a new perspective, to act in a new way, and to reach out both in giving and receiving. Most of all, be prepared to journey with people who, like us, seek God and at the same time are instruments and revelations of *God-who comes* into our needs in whatever life situations we may find ourselves. *Fr PV*