



### 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

### December 15 Collection :

St John's \$595 St Joseph's \$951

### Sacramental Reception ...

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

**Marriage**: (book online ... olsc.org.au/weddings)

**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

December 21/22, 2024

ADVENT Year C

### For those whom we remember...

**Mass Intentions:** William Fitzsimons.

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

**Anniversaries:** Carmela De Donato, Rose Mokdissi, Yolanda Capicciano, Vincenzo Gaetano.

### 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.

### Christmas Hamper Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who has contributed so far to our Christmas Hamper appeal. A quick update—we have raised \$1,075 to date. Well done everyone!! You are still able to donate this week.

### Archbishop's Campaign

The Archbishop's Campaign raised \$811,178 across the Archdiocese, demonstrating the generosity and commitment of our parish communities.

Our Parish's contribution was a total of \$2,059 received in the following ways: • \$452 via direct transfers • \$1507 through envelopes and the collection plate • \$100 via online giving.

The generosity and dedication of your parish ensures vital Archdiocesan ministries can continue to flourish. On behalf of the Archdiocese, thank you for your support of this campaign. Your parish contribution has made a real difference.

*This office will be closed from  
24th December to 9th January.*

#### 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>				
22 Dec	Hugh	Gabrielle	Lucy	Margaret
25 Dec	John A	Gabrielle	Jill	
<b>5 pm</b>				
22 Dec	Lachlan	Lucy	Lachlan	
Midnight	Joan	John A		

### Upcoming Events

**December: Advent and Christmas**

**Tuesday, 24—Christmas Eve services:**

Family Mass at St John's 6pm (English) and St Joseph's 6pm (English); Vietnamese Mass at St Joseph's 8:30pm

Carols at St John's 11:30pm

Midnight Mass at St John's; Midnight Mass at St Joseph's

**Wednesday, 25—Christmas Day services**

Mass at St John's 9am (Italian); 11am (English) Mass at St Joseph's 10am (Vietnamese)

**January, 2025: New Year's Day**

Mass at 11am at St John's; St Joseph's 10am.

### Parish Carol Evening

Last Saturday's Parish Carols was a wonderful event, bringing together the various groups in the parish community for a night that was uplifting and full of good feeling - thank you to all in attendance. We were treated to a selection of traditional carols and more contemporary Christmas songs presented by the Cecilia Cung Chieu Choir, the Vietnamese Eucharist Youth Group, the Samoan Community, St John's Occasional Choir, and local family Richard, Emma, Henry and Alfie.

Thanks go to all involved, especially to Wayne Matautia for playing, and Thanh Tung Ca Truong for conducting, the community carols. The delicious supper afterwards in the parish hall was thanks to Rafelina deDonato.

The Christmas Crib looked lovely on the night - thanks to Daniel, Jacinta and our Salesian brothers for putting this together at the beginning of Advent to enhance our Advent experience.

### Singers Needed please

If you would like to help with the singing at the 6pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve, please come along at 5:00pm on the evening for a run through before Mass.

On behalf of all the Salesian priests and brothers, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. May the Lord Jesus Christ fill your hearts and homes with His presence during this Christmas season. Wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas! From Fr Cassius.

#### URGENT PASTORAL NEED

**Please call mobile: 0401 887 115**

### Secrets Revealed

How many secrets revealed to us in the strictest confidence have we ever kept entirely to ourselves? As if propelled by an unbearably painful compulsion, the more personally touching the event, the greater the urge to tell someone. The experience of God belongs to this category of secrets that demand revealing.

And so, Mary, her bewildering secret in her heart, sets out to tell someone, even if that means undertaking a long, tiring, and perilous journey, simply because someone needs to know.

Unlike in Luke's narrative of the Annunciation confronted with the unbelievable and shattering announcement, Mary balks at the very thought of being chosen as Mother of the Messiah. Her final *yes* to God coming only after considerable struggle of faith. On the contrary, there is no hesitation in today's Gospel narrative, no dialogue or anxious questioning, only an unrestrained urgency by a young girl regardless of peril or distance. Having given her *yes* to God and having allowed God into the flesh and blood of her life and of human history, Mary is driven by a totally different energy and intent, and someone must know that God is intertwined in the human story and the human story is now enfleshed with the divine. *Nothing is impossible* to God and her cousin Elizabeth must know that God has the same plans for her and though long-past childbearing age and condemned by religious and cultural taboos, she is to bear a child.

Incarnation is a very real event that not only took place within the body of a virgin two thousand years ago, but an event that takes place in each man, woman, or child who dares to step into the shoes of another in order to bring peace, joy, and hope where it is most needed, at the concrete level, here and now and in every daily situation. Goodwill, joy and hope are not platitudes that we exchange for one day of the year like Christmas wrappings. They are the true Christmas gifts that we, who believe and celebrate Christmas, commit ourselves to exchange for good and for a lifetime.

Joy is the hallmark of the encounter of Mary and Elizabeth, and joy must be both the message we proclaim and the witness we give, because that is precisely what the Incarnation brought to people of good will. Mary brought the God in her womb to bear on a yet unborn child and the result was joy. Our commitment must be Good News for those who meet us and the result must be joyful hope. Youngsters will leap for joy when they see us joyful in our daily drudgery. People will look forward and struggle onto another tomorrow when they see us hopeful in our weakness. The whole world will rejoice and be transformed, if our lives reveal Good News of joy and hope - a joy and hope welling up from our deep and lived conviction that we carry the secret that *God is Emmanuel, the One with us.*

*Fr Peter Varengo*