



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

**Happy New Year !!**  
**For what has been, Thanks.**  
**For what will be, Yes.**

### 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

January 4/5 2025

Epiphany Year C

### For those whom we remember...

**Mass Intentions:** Thomas Mathews .

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

**Anniversaries:** Thomas Mathews

### 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.

### Upcoming Events

#### 2025 CALENDAR OF PARISH EVENTS

The parish 2025 calendar of major events is on display on the noticeboard to your left as you enter the church.

If you would like your own digital or hard copy, please contact the office on 9481 7333. Hard copies will be available after the 11am and 5pm Mass for the next two Sundays at St John's and at the back of both churches. It will soon be placed on our parish website too.

### Epiphany

Epiphany is a Christian holiday primarily commemorating the Magi's visit to the baby Jesus and the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.

Jesus came to John the Baptist while he was baptising people in the Jordan River and asked to be baptised. John initially tried to convince Jesus not to be baptised, but Jesus said "In this way we will do all that God requires". John then baptised Jesus by immersion. This marked the beginning of his ministry and confirmed his identity as the Son of God.



*Australian Catholics*

To download this Newsletter, please visit :  
<https://olsc.org.au/news-bulletins/>

#### URGENT PASTORAL NEED

Please call mobile: 0401 887 115

### Re-entry into the Ordinarity of our Future

The story begins with bewildered shepherds searching for a newborn child in an animal shelter and ending with kings leaving that child in a stable, journeying into an unknown future in an unknown land. A bright light shatters the darkness of the night, only to fade into a flickering star dimming away in some distant desert place. Unknown wise men offer kingly gifts, while the powerful of the world set their hearts on destroying the gift of life in innocent children. In the midst of this, the greatest contradiction of all: a fragile child is sung and acknowledged as God-with-us for all time to come. That is the secret of the Christmas season now ending. No matter what the contradictions of our lives, our God is there right in the midst of it all. No matter how dim the light around us or uncertain the future ahead, having celebrated the presence of the child-God, we can now journey with trust, because this God is journeying with us, right in the reality of our lives, with its contradictory feelings of nostalgia and yearning, of past and future, and of leaving behind and taking up again.

This is *Epiphany* (= Revelation), a Greek word encapsulating the triple dimension of every authentic faith journey:

*search, celebration, and mission.* Through ancient stories of kings and seers chasing a star alongside the dark thoughts of villains and murder and bearing strange gifts to an unknown new-born in a stable, the liturgy taps deeply into our daily lives and confronts us with disturbing questions, while suggesting answers.

With nothing in common with the Jewish culture or faith, gazing at millions of celestial bodies, the Magi recognized the beckoning presence of the 'King of Israel' in an apparently insignificant flickering starry sign. This led them to encounter the most ordinary and unexpected people and situations in the guise of an unknown Jewish child lying in a manger. We do not know if that met with their expectations, but whatever their belief, they recognized in that child the fulfilment of their life-quest and the life-giving presence of God journeying with them.

As the echoes of our Christmas celebrations fade, the star of Bethlehem dims away and disappears, while the Wise Men journey further into the desert and beyond, we too are called to re-enter into the ordinarity of our lives, work, and relationships. Having celebrated Christmas, we too are invited to follow the beckoning presence of our God and seek and find this God in the ordinary and unexpected. As we delve once again into the sameness and contradictions of our lives as much as into the challenge of encountering those around us, may our new journey into the year just begun be a journey of joyful discovery, faith-filled acceptance and of committed witness to God-with-us.

### The Gate of the Year

Fr Harman, our former and much loved Parish Priest, always used the following to preach at the beginning of each year ...

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'

And he replied: 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.' So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."



So heart be still:  
What need our little life  
Our human life to know,  
If God hath comprehension?  
In all the dizzy strife  
Of things both high and low,  
God hideth His intention.  
God knows. His will is best.  
The stretch of years which wind ahead,  
So dim to our imperfect vision,  
Are clear to God.  
Our fears are premature; In Him,  
All time hath full provision.  
Then rest: until God moves to lift the veil  
From our impatient eyes,  
When, as the sweeter features  
Of Life's stern face we hail,  
Far beyond all surmise God's thoughts around  
His creatures Our mind shall fill.

**Please note that we will not be celebrating Reconciliation during January.**  
**Please contact the office if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**

