



Contact us ...

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)
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Email: office@olsc.org.au Website: olsc.org.au
https://www.facebook.com/ourladysoutherncross

St Joseph's Community

46 Otter Street, Collingwood
Tel: 9973 5681 School: 9419 4918
Principal: Matthew Shawcross

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 receive 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 office@olsc.org.au

Collections for 29-30 March:

St John's \$642.20 St Joseph's \$1,122.8

Thank you to our parishioners and visitors.

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

April 5-6 2025 — 5th Sunday of Lent, Year C

Funeral for Valerie Valls

The rosary and requiem mass for our dear parishioner Valerie Valls will be held at St John's the Baptist Church this Tuesday 8 April at 10:30am.

Please join if you can to celebrate the life of a beloved lady.



For those we remember...

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

Anniversaries: John Capicchiano, Patricia Miller, Guillermo Beecher, Michael Chiodo.

For prayers of healing

Please remember the following in your prayers: Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Mario Misurelli, Rosa Presta, Rachel Bartolo, and Victoria and Aldo Costanzo.

If you hear of any of your fellow parishioners who are not well, or who have been injured, please email us at office@olsc.org.au so that we can include them in our prayers.

Diaconate Information Session

The Permanent Diaconate is open to single and married men, aged between 30 and 60 years, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. It is an ordained ministry of service. The information session is open to everyone interested in learning more about the permanent diaconate. If you have attended any previous session, you are also welcome to attend this session.

The session will be in person. If you are interested email Deacon Kevin Pattison Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au with full name and parish, but if you forget, then just turn up on Saturday morning. All are welcome.

Saturday 3 May 2025

10.00am-11.30am

Catholic Theological College

278 Victoria Parade

East Melbourne

Roster for Mass at St John's

Date	First Reading	Second Reading	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
11 am				
April 6	Michael T/Anna T	Lucy C	Susan S/John S	Margaret A
April 13	Anne C/Peter C	Hugh Mc	Michael B	Margaret A
5 pm				
April 6	Rita A	Vincent A	Giuliana A	Daniel R
April 13	Daniel R	Lucy C	Marita Q	Rafelina D

Holy Week Services



PALM SUNDAY	
Saturday 12 th April	
6:00pm:	St. Joseph's (English)
6:00pm:	St. John's (English)
Sunday 13 th April	
9:00am:	St. John's (Italian)
9:00am:	St. Joseph's (Vietnamese)
11:00am:	St. John's (English)
5:00pm:	St. John's (English)
HOLY THURSDAY 17 th April	
7:30pm:	Combined Mass at St. John's
9:00pm:	Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's
GOOD FRIDAY 18 th April	
10:00am:	Way of the Cross at St. Joseph's
3:00pm:	The Liturgy of the Passion at St. John's (English)
3:00pm:	The Liturgy of the Passion at St. Joseph's (Vietnamese)
HOLY SATURDAY - EASTER VIGIL 19 th April	
6:00pm:	St. Joseph's (English)
7:30pm:	St. John's (English)
8:00pm:	St. Joseph's (Vietnamese)
EASTER SUNDAY 20 th April	
9:00am:	St. John's (Italian)
10:00am:	St. Joseph's (Vietnamese)
11:00am:	St. John's (English)
* There will be no 5:00pm Mass at St. John's	



A gentle reminder that this Lenten season, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.



UNITE AGAINST POVERTY
this Lent

Please donate if you can with the QR code above or return your Project Compassion box next weekend.

URGENT PASTORAL NEED—Please call: 0401 887 115

God's Mercy and Forgiveness

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Wishing you joy, love and peace from the Lord.

The Gospel for the fifth Sunday of Lent continues to offer lessons about God's mercy and forgiveness. Last Sunday we heard the Parable of the Prodigal Son [or Merciful Father] from the Gospel of Luke. Today we hear not a parable, but the report from John's Gospel of an encounter between Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees, and a woman caught in adultery.

This Sunday's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case. The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. The purpose of the question appears to be similar to the question about paying taxes found in Mark 12:13-17. Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing. This Scripture reading, by the way, is the only evidence we have of Jesus writing. Yet there are no specific details about what he wrote. We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment. These Pharisees are not as self-righteous as the portrait found in the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector (See Luke 18:9-14).

Dear brothers and sisters, we can identify ourselves with the woman when she was left alone with Jesus. She remained silent and entrusted herself to the mercy and love of God. Jesus simply asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin. From this perspective we can surmise that Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

Let us begin this today!

Fr Anthony Nguyen SDB

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2: 12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

GOSPEL

Jn 8: 1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

JESUS' LIBERATING GAZE

Today's Gospel from John might seem out of place in a year where the liturgical focus is on Luke. However, some scholars suggest that the story of a woman caught in an adulterous act belongs more in Luke's Gospel and became misplaced in time. Whatever of the story's history, it is the teaching that unfolds that is so important as we come to our final week in our Lenten journey.

In the story, the woman becomes a pawn in a dispute over Torah teaching and as an object to trap Jesus in his apparent moral liberality and rejection of Mosaic teaching. Never addressed is the way the knowledge of the woman's adulterous act is derived. How would her accusers know of her conduct if they had not set themselves in a position to spy upon her? They, too, are incriminated by their very witness. Jesus does not buy into their legal dispute nor their accusation of the woman.

As her accusers depart from the scene without condemning the woman, Jesus gazes upon her without judgement. His gaze frees her. The story leaves contemporary listeners with at least two insights. It affirms Jesus' forgiveness and his desire for our spiritual release. It also provides an opportunity to reflect on the way women are treated today in many contexts as objects of sexual desire, domestic violence, male abuse and pornographic depiction.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / C

6 APRIL 2025

FIRST READING

Isa 43: 16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 125. R. v. 3

R. The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, / it seemed like a dream. / Then was our mouth filled with laughter, / on our lips there were songs. **R.**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' / What marvels the Lord worked for us! / Indeed we were glad. **R.**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage / as streams in dry land. / Those who are sowing in tears / will sing when they reap. **R.**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, / carrying seed for the sowing: / they come back, they come back, full of song, / carrying their sheaves. **R.**



SECOND READING

Phil 3: 8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

■ The word of the Lord.