



**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)  
 Jason (Website Content Manager)

**Email:** office@olsc.org.au **Website:** olsc.org.au  
<https://www.facebook.com/ourladyssoutherncross>

**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 5-6 April:**

St John's: \$452.50  
 St Joseph's: \$819.65

*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 12-13, 2025 — Palm Sunday, Year C**

**For those we remember...**

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

**Anniversaries:** We pray for all our dearly departed parishioners.

**For prayers of healing**

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Mario Misurelli, Rosa Presta, Rachel Bartolo, Victoria and Aldo Costanzo and Teresa Boetti.

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 so that we can include them in our prayers.

**Prayers for Our Catechumens**

We pray for Claire Bradley and Michael Jones, as their RCIA preparation to enter the Catholic Church comes to fruition at the Easter Vigil mass at St John's, when they will receive the Sacraments of Initiation from the most Reverend Bishop Rene Ramirez.

Claire and Michael have been a joy to witness on their Catholic faith journey.

**Congratulations Fr Will!**

Fr William Matthews, the former Salesian Provincial of Australia-Pacific Province, has been elected as the Regional Councillor for East Asia-Oceania by the 29th General Chapter of the Salesian Congregation. He will now take on a broader responsibility, guiding and animating the Salesian mission across this vast and diverse region.

Our prayers are with Fr Will for a fruitful and fulfilling mission.

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

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

Date	Readings	Narrator	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
<b>11 am</b>				
April 13 Palm Sunday	Berryman Family	Hugh Mc	Michael B	Margaret A
<b>5 pm</b>				
April 13 Palm Sunday	Marita Quinn, Manickam Family	Daniel Ryan	Manickam Children	Rafelina D

**URGENT PASTORAL NEED—Please call: 0401 887 115**

**Easter Triduum**



HOLY THURSDAY 17 <sup>th</sup> April	
7:30pm:	Combined Mass at St. John's
9:00pm:	Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's
GOOD FRIDAY 18 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> April	
6:00pm:	St. Joseph's (English)
7:30pm:	St. John's (English)
8:00pm:	St. Joseph's (Vietnamese)
EASTER SUNDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> 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	

**Quiet Time with the Lord**

Holy Week is a profound time to meditate on the depth of God's love revealed through Jesus' life journey – his teachings, his sacrifice, and his ultimate triumph over death. It's a time of gratitude, hope, and renewal, reminding us of the transformative power of grace.

As we journey through Holy Week, let us set aside moments of silence to come before God in prayer. St John's will be open from 12 noon to 2 pm every day during the Holy Week. It is good to spend time in the stillness of the church, to meditate on the Lord's love, sacrifice, and resurrection. Let these quiet moments draw us closer to Him and refresh our spirit.

**Chrism Mass**

The annual Chrism Mass will be celebrated at St Patrick's Cathedral on **Tuesday, 15 April** at 10am. Archbishop Peter A Comensoli will bless the oils that will be used to celebrate the sacraments for the year ahead.

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

**Triumph and Execution**

*"Blessings on the King who comes! ... Crucify him!* Such is the fickleness of the human heart and the result is death: a royal welcome ending with an execution like a rebellious slave or an abhorrent criminal. This is not just a Jesus-flavoured Hollywood drama of two millennia ago but an unavoidable summons to a personal decision for or against God within the fickleness and challenges of life.

Holy Week is decision-making time. Within a few days of each other, the same people of Jerusalem proclaimed in one voice *Hosanna* and *Crucify*, and the challenge must be confronted as we face the roller coaster of daily struggles and misunderstandings seemingly crushing both faith and hope into an illusion where God appears to be so far away from our painful reality. Where do we stand in that crowd calling out *Blessing* and *Crucify*?

The cross is the ultimate and crucial dilemma of faith and Palm Sunday signals a stern warning that faith is a dangerous commitment demanding an uncompromising and non-negotiable acceptance of God in our personal and collective stories. Jesus did not choose the cross because it was good nor did he embrace suffering as an end in itself, but only as an expression and an instrument of that radical *Yes* to the Father that he lived for and witnessed throughout his earthly life. Betrayed, abused and executed, Jesús walks to his death, choosing trust and abandonment to his Father, proclaiming that for the believer, the duel between life and death is the duel between fidelity to God and fickleness of the human heart.

Fidelity to God is the key to the human understanding of life both in triumph and in contradictions. When confronted and lived with trust and abandonment to God, the experience of rejection, execution, and death become a sacramental sign of encounter with God. Christianity has stood accused of making an apology of the cross by escaping from the darkest experiences into an unreal spirituality of an other-worldly reward. In Jesus, God "descended into hell" plumbing the human depth of our fears, physical and emotional torments, alienation and abandonment, pain and misunderstandings, sudden and tragic experience of death by embracing trust and abandonment to the Father. And because of that trust-filled descent into all that is evil, life blossomed anew like a flower out of the cruellest winter. The triumph of Easter is always subsequent to the execution on Friday, and the tragedy of Good Friday can only make sense through the joy of Easter Sunday.

May we be people who have the courage to shout *Hosanna* and never condemn God for the struggles of our lives! Because our God has lived the hells of humanity in full, we are now able to sing *Alleluia* even beyond and in spite of death!

**Fr Peter Varengo SDB**