



Clergy & Staff

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)
Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Asst Parish Priest)
Rafelina De Donato
(Sacristan & Parish Office Assistant)
Virginia Carter (Parish Secretary)
Jason Vu (Website Content Manager)

Parish Office:

Phone: 03 94817333

Email: office@olsc.org.au Website: olsc.org.au

St John the Baptist Community

61 Queens Parade, Clifton Hill; Tel: 9481 7333

St Joseph's Catholic Church Community

46 Otter Street, Collingwood;

School Tel: 9419 4918; Principal: Matthew Shawcross

The Chapel of the Good Shepherd

St Heliers Street, Abbotsford Tel: 9417 2909

Pastoral Care

If you would like to receive a pastoral visit from the parish priest, a priest, a seminarian, or co-parishioner, please call the parish office on 9481 7333 or email office@olsc.org.au.

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

Sacramental Reception

Baptism:

St John's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 12pm:

Booking form: olsc.org.au/baptisms.

St Joseph's Contact the parish office.

Marriage: Booking form: olsc.org.au/weddings.

Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm

(excluding 1st Friday of the month)

Holy Communion, Reconciliation & Confirmation:

These are held at St John's. Contact the parish office.

Mass Times at OLSC

St John the Baptist

Tuesday to Friday at 9:15am, **Saturday** at 8:30am, 6:00pm

Sunday at 9:00am (Italian), 11:00am and 5:00pm

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Monday to Saturday at 8:30am **Saturday** at 6:00pm

Sunday at 9:00am (Vietnamese)

The Chapel of Good Shepherd:

Sunday at 9:30am

Collections & EFTPOS—6-7 September 2025:

St John's: \$419.80

St Joseph's: \$807.85

Thank you to parishioners and visitors

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

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross 14 September 2025, Year C

For All Those We Remember

Condolences:

We pray for the soul and family of all those who have died recently.

Anniversaries:

We pray for the souls of Simmaco Golino, William Puli, and Joan O'Donnell.

Prayers of Healing

Please remember the following in your prayers: Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Mario Misurelli, Rosa Presta, Rachel Bartolo, Aldo Costanzo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Fr Frank Moloney sdb, Rita Alviano and Peter from the Good Shepherd.

If you are in need, or you know of fellow parishioners who are in need, and wish to be included in our prayers, please contact the parish office.

Sacraments at St John's



On Saturday, Fr Cassius will celebrate the marriage of Martina Sinodinos and Marcus Vaiano.

May they experience deep faith in God on this day, and throughout their life together.

On Sunday, five children will receive the sacrament of

Holy Communion from Fr Cassius.

We pray for a life of devotion to their faith for Benjamin, Georgia, Matilda, Mackenzie and Michael.

Fr Cassius thanks their parents for their dedication and presence, as he prepared them to receive their first Holy Eucharist.



Reading Roster—St John the Baptist

If the reader is absent please step in if you can

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
Sep 14				
11am	Susan Smith	John Salamito	Bill Fitzsimons	Margaret Amarant
5pm	Daniel Ryan	Giuliana Alviano	Abigail Berryman	Rafelina DeDonato
Sep 21				
11am	Samoan Community	Samoan Community	Samoan Community	Samoan Community
5pm	Youth Group	Youth Group	Youth Group	Youth Group

The Cross: The Place We Share with God

Wrapped in their own self-pity and anger, the disciples along the road to Emmaus do not even notice the stranger who falls in step with them, unmoved by their obvious tale of woes and showing little feeling of pity for their plight. In their own mind, they are the victims seeking only compassion and sympathy, and yet this stranger calls them foolish reproaching them for failing to understand that "it was necessary that the Messiah should suffer and die and then enter his glory?" (Lk 24:26). A hot blade thrust into the heart of those grieving disciples. Pain cannot be a necessity to be sought after for its own sake, as the stranger seems to imply, because life is too precious a gift to be wasted by self-imposed suffering.

Christianity has stood accused of making an apology of the cross, canonising a spirituality of an other-worldly reward directly proportional to the degree of suffering endured throughout one's earthly experience. It is true that for Jesus the cross is the absolute path to discipleship (Mt 10:38; 16:24; Lk 9:23), but he was not a sadist masochist. He did not choose the cross as a good in itself but as the inevitable condition of his filial relationship and submissive obedience to Abba, the life-giver he came to reveal to us. The necessity that Jesus speaks of to the disciples of Emmaus, is the necessity of letting God into our pain, and abandoning our false images, expectations and securities into God's hands. Jesus reached the ultimate level of physical, emotional, and spiritual agony to the point of touching and living through human despair. In the Gethsemane, facing, arrest and execution, Jesus prayed "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass me by" (Mt 26:39; Lk 22:42), and in the agony on Golgotha he reached the point of doubting the Father's presence and love screaming "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" (Mt 27:46). Yet, in those agonising cries, he accepted the cross as expression and instrument of that radical Yes to the Father that he lived and witnessed throughout his earthly life. There lies the key to our belief and the salvific power of the cross the banner of God's Kingdom of love and hope, not through suffering and death but as the place we share with God for life in spite of death and suffering.

Continues next column

150th Anniversary dates at St John's

*History talk, 'It's a wonder it was built at all—Saturday 21 February at 2pm;

*Parish Mass—Friday 27 February at 7.30pm;

*Parish Celebration—Sunday 1 March at 11am.

Significantly "let this cup pass me by" of the garden is immediately followed by "yet not what I want but what you want" (Mt 26:39), and on the cross, the last and ultimate agonising cry of Jesus' agony becomes a commitment: "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Lk 23:46). Through Jesus' filial abandonment to the Father, the cross thus becomes the only human way to be embraced into God reality, just as death was the ultimate way of God entering the totality of our human story. Having taken upon himself the totality of human suffering, through Jesus, now God knows it all: rejection, insult, physical and mental abuse, betrayal and falsehood to the point of their ultimate destructive power in death.

Every time we proclaim the credal statement "he descended into hell", we commit ourselves to accepting that in Jesus, God has plumbed the darkest depths and whatever our personal hells may be – paranoia, fears, physical and emotional torments, alienation, abandonment. And because of that descent into all that is inhuman, by remaining trustful to the Father, life blossomed anew, like a flower out of the cruellest winter.

Fr Peter Varengo sdb

Pope Leo canonises first saints

On Sunday 7 September at St Peter's Square, Pope Leo XIV proclaimed Italians Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis as saints of the Church. These were the first canonisations of his pontificate.

Among the thousands of pilgrims witnessing the canonizations of the two young saints—one from the early twentieth century, the other a teen and the first twenty-first-century saint—were many devoted and passionate young faithful.

"Sts. Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upward and make them masterpieces," said Pope Leo

St Pier Giorgio and St Carlo were ready to give up everything for Jesus; and inspire love of the Eucharist and reaching out with charity to those who needed it. They proved that sanctity can be a calling for everyone.



"If you have God at the center of all your actions, then you will reach the end." Pier Giorgio

"Not I, but God," Carlo.

More reading is at:

melbournecatholic.org/news/living-holy-wild-the-joyful-holiness-of-saints-carlo-acutis-and-pier-giorgio-frassati

Pilgrim Day

For those that have registered for the Parish Pilgrim Day to be held on Friday 26 September, there will be reminders closer to the date including where to meet, which is at St Joseph's 46 Otter St, Collingwood.