



Parish 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

We welcome any suggestions or feedback from our parishioners. It helps us to help our Parish.

Church Communities:

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 need or would like to meet with Fr Cassius, or receive a pastoral visit from Fr Cassius or one of the Salesian of Don Bosco seminarians, please contact the Parish office.

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

Mass Times:

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

Sacramental Reception:

Baptism: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/baptisms.

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

St Joseph's: Contact the Parish office for a date.

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

Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm (excluding 1st Friday of the month).

Holy Communion, Reconciliation & Confirmation: Please contact the Parish office.

Collections & EFTPOS 6-7 December 2025:

St Johns: \$463.75 | **St Joseph's:** \$922.10

Thank you to our Parishioners and Visitors.

Safeguarding:

At the Parish of 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.

<https://melbournecatholic.org/safeguarding/commitment-to-the-safety-of-children-and-young-people>.

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

Third Sunday of Advent-Joy Candle 14 December 2025 Year A

For All Those We Remember

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

Anniversary: We pray for the souls of Mary-Anne Balmer, Leo Kosta, Rosa Formica, Rafaele Verrocchi, and Giovanni Boetti.

Mass Offerings: We pray for the soul of Merle McGrath.

Prayers of Healing

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rosa Presta, Rachel Bartolo, Aldo Costanzo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric and Greg Andrews.

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

Thank you from Rita

I sincerely thank Fr Cassius, Fr Peter, Fr Anthony and all parishioners who prayed healing prayers for me.

Rita Alviano, St John's parishioner

St John's Saturday 6pm Mass ends 2026

To our parishioners of the St John's Saturday 6pm mass, we are sorry to advise that this mass will no longer be held from January 2026. You are warmly welcomed to join the vigil mass at St Joseph's.

Message from the Archbishop

Please see the noticeboard for a heartfelt reflection from Archbishop Comensoli on the Australian Catholic Youth Festival held on Nov 30-Dec 2.

Wedding at St John's

On Friday 12 December, Chelsea Parker and Robert Privitera received the sacrament of marriage from Fr Cassius at St John's.

Let us all join in prayer for Chelsea and Robert for a faith filled life and guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
Dec 14	<i>If a reader is not available, please step in if you can</i>			
11am	Claire Bradley	Hugh McGinlay	Gabrielle McMullen	Margaret Amarant
5pm	Giuliana Alviano	Rita Alviano	Abigail Berryman	Daniel Ryan
Dec 21	<i>If a reader is not available, please step in if you can</i>			
11am	Nadia Batticco	Nicholas Luhrs	Michael Black	Gabrielle McMullen
5pm	Julia Manickam	Eliza Manickam	Darcy Manickam	Rafelina DeDonato

Advent Reconciliation and Reflection

The next parish Reconciliation & Reflection during Advent will be for the Vietnamese Community at St Joseph's on Friday 19 December at 7pm.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 24 December	*St Joseph's	*English Family Mass at 6pm; *Vietnamese Carols & Mass at 8pm.
	*St John's	*Christmas Carols at 6pm followed by English Family Mass at 6:30pm; *Christmas Carols at 11.30pm followed by English Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day, Thursday, 25 December	*St Joseph's	*Vietnamese Mass at 10am.
	*St John's	*Italian Mass at St John's at 9am; *English Mass at St John's at 11am. *No 5 pm Mass.
New Year's Day, Thursday, 1 January	*St John's	*English Mass at 9:15am.
	*St Joseph's	*Vietnamese Mass at 10am.

Choirs for Christmas Eve Mass

Parishioners who wish to be part of the Choir for Christmas Services are warmly invited to participate. Please reach out to these parishioners when you see them at mass:

*Janis for 6pm Carols & Mass at St Joseph's.

*Daniel for 6pm Carols & Mass at St John's.

*Clotilde for Carols & Midnight Mass at St John's.

Choir Rehearsal for Christmas Eve Mass

Choir rehearsal for Christmas Eve Family Mass at St John's will be held this Tuesday 16 Dec and Thursday 18 Dec at 7pm at St John's church.

Christmas Hampers

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Parish invites all parishioners to share the joy of the season by donating towards Christmas Food Hampers for those in need.

Your generosity will help bring comfort and festive cheer to families within our community. Donations may be made through EFTPOS at St John's, via the collection box located the beginning of the church aisle, or via direct funds transfer. If you wish to donate via funds transfer, or help in putting the hampers together, please call the Parish office.

Prayers for our Synod Journey 2026

Archbishop Comensoli has written to Parishes to share the news of a Synod to be held in the Melbourne Archdiocese in 2026. See the noticeboard.

Jesus the Revealer

Sometimes, people who have lived together for many years still fail to understand one another. Perhaps they have not paid attention to the other's actions that accompany his/her words. Often, it is deeds, more than words, reveal who a person truly is.

When John the Baptist's disciples sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we wait for someone else?" Jesus' reply was, "Go back and tell John **what you hear and see...**". Jesus invited them to observe both his words and his works. Through his teaching and his miracles, he was transforming lives: "the blind see again, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor..."

In doing so, Jesus was fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah, who had instilled hope in Israel by announcing a time of renewal. In chapter 35, Isaiah speaks of the land restored, the weak strengthened, the sick healed, and everlasting joy breaking forth. Those living in Jesus' time were witnessing these promises come alive before their eyes. Hence, Jesus revealed who he is – the One who has come to transform lives. As a prophet, John the Baptist would have certainly recognised that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

John's question offered his disciples the opportunity to discover Jesus' identity for themselves. In doing so, he was urging them to ask the right questions and to seek their own answers. Likewise, in our journey of faith, we too are called to ask, to seek, and to discover.

Answers come when we are attentive; when we truly hear and see. They also require patience. The early Christians, longing for the Lord's return, grew restless: "Why is the Lord not coming?" St James encouraged them not to lose heart, echoing Jesus' words: "Happy is the one who does not lose faith in me."

Ultimately, when we seek answers about God and about our faith, we discover that the Lord also reveals truths about others and ourselves. Today's Gospel illustrates this beautifully. While John's disciples sought confirmation of Jesus' identity, Jesus turned to the crowd and revealed the greatness of John: "Of all the children born of women, none has been greater than John the Baptist." Yet he added, "the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is." In this way, Jesus not only revealed who John was, but also enlightened his disciples who they are called to be: children of God's kingdom.

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God-with-us, may we remain attentive to the many ways Jesus reveals himself to us, and open our hearts to the truths he unveils about ourselves. This Christmas, may our joy be found in knowing Jesus more deeply and in discovering ourselves anew through him.

Fr Cassius Correya sdb