



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 13-14 December 2025:

St Johns: \$713.50 | St Joseph's: \$982.80

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love Candle 21 December 2025 Year A

For All Those We Remember

Condolences: We pray for the souls and families of *Antonio Di Parsia*, and all those who have died recently.



Anniversary: We pray for the souls of *Carmela De Donato* and *Dawn Carter*.

Mass Offerings: We pray for the soul of *Antonio Di Parsia*.

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.

Raphael is Back

The restored Madonna of the Sedia, a copy of Raphael's famous painting is back at St John's. The original is housed in the Pitti Palace, Florence. Please take time after Mass to view it in the former baptistery. Thanks to all who were able to contribute to the cost of its cleaning/restoration. *John Andrews*

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.

Reading Roster—St John's

If a reader is not available, please step in if you can

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
Fourth Sunday of Advent				
Dec 21:				
11am	Nadia Batticotto	High McGinlay	Michael Black	Gabrielle McMullen
5pm	Julia Manickam	Eliza Manickam	Darcy Manickam	Rafelina DeDonato
Christmas Eve Family Mass				
Dec 24:				
6pm	Eliza Manickam	Gabrielle McMullen	Julia Manickam	Rafelina DeDonato
The Nativity of the Lord				
Dec 25:				
The Holy Family				
Dec 28:				
11am	John Salamito	Sue Smith	Quyen Pham-Nguyen	Daniel Ryan
5pm	Akkerman Family	Akkerman Family	Marita Quinn	Giuliana Alviano

*Please help if you can read for Christmas
 Midnight Mass and 11am Mass, as we currently have no
 volunteers. See the sign-up sheets at the back of the church.*

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

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 Monday 22 December at 7pm at St John's church.

Please come along if you can be part of the choir leading us all in song on this holy night.

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 people within our community.

Donations may be made through EFTPOS at St John's, via the collection box located at 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.

Our Parish has raised \$600 so far and preparing the hampers has begun. Let us pray that these gifts will make a real difference this Christmas.

Do Not Be Afraid

A Reflection of the Gospel of the 4th Advent Sunday

The Gospel of Luke speaks of the Annunciation to Mary, while the Gospel of Matthew speaks of the Annunciation to Joseph. The angel of the Lord relieved his confusion and bewilderment by informing him that the child conceived in his wife, with whom he had not yet lived with, was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. The angel invited him to accept Mary as his wife and to accept the unborn child as his own.

Joseph said "Yes." He embraced the mysteries he did not fully understand.

Mary was a mystery. The child about to be born of the Holy Spirit was also a mystery. Joseph allowed these mysteries to surround him.

Joseph's whole life was a contemplation of mysteries unfolding normally, right beside him. And his own life was a mystery.

Joseph accepted God's plan even though it shattered his long-cherished dream. He wanted to be the husband of Mary, whom he loved, but God wanted him to be her friend. He wanted him to be the father of many children, but he was only the foster father of Jesus.

He lived alone in the mystery of his life before God. Joseph readily said "Yes."

He was always awakened from his sleep. The angel of the Lord told him to rise and do something. He interrupted his sleep and set out in the middle of the night. From Nazareth to Bethlehem, from Bethlehem to Egypt, and then back again. Joseph was responsible for the treasures God entrusted to him.

Simple obedience: that was Joseph's attitude.

Today, perhaps God did not speak to me through a dream, but through many other, very private paths, which only I can perceive. If I readily say "Yes" like Joseph, I will contribute to the salvation of the whole world.

For the Son of God to become man, Mary's "Yes" was needed, but so was Joseph's humble "Yes." Taking Mary, pregnant, into his home and naming the Child as a father: these actions gave Joseph a special place in the history of salvation. We cannot predict what would have happened if Joseph had stubbornly abandoned Mary.

Thanks to Joseph, Jesus became a member of the house of David. God's promises were fulfilled (cf. 2 Samuel 7:13).

Together with Joseph, let us call the Son of God by the name JESUS.

To the whole universe, let us call Him EMMANUEL. JESUS is God-with-us until the end of time.

As we come to celebrate the Christmas and the New Year 2026, May the Lord and Mary and Joseph bless us and journey with us throughout the whole year.

Fr Anthony Nguyen sdb