



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 20-21 December 2025:

St Johns: \$518.60 | St Joseph's: \$1,018.70

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

The Nativity of the Lord 25 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 Carmela De Donato and Dawn Carter who died on Christmas day, and Matilde Costanzo.

Mass Offerings: We pray for the soul of Michael Borg.

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.

St John's Saturday 6pm Mass ends 2026

We regret that our last St John's Saturday 6pm mass will be this Saturday 27 December.

You are warmly welcomed to join the parishioners at St Joseph's if you wish to attend a vigil mass.

Sacramental Program

We warmly invite those hoping to have their children receive the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation next year to reach out to begin this journey with our Parish.

Please contact the parish office by the end of February for preparation for Communion with the Parish team, and for preparation for Confirmation with our St Joseph's school.

The parish is continuing the RCIA program in 2026 and we already have interested adults dedicated to being baptised into the Catholic Church.

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
<i>Christmas Eve Family Mass</i>				
Dec 24:				
6pm	Eliza Manickam	Gabrielle McMullen	Julia Manickam	Rafelina DeDonato
<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>				
Dec 25:				
11am	Claire O'Keefe	Chau Nguyen		
<i>The Holy Family</i>				
Dec 28:				
11am	John Salamito	Sue Smith	Quyen Pham-Nguyen	Daniel Ryan
5pm	Akkerman Family	Akkerman Family	Marita Quinn	Giuliana Alviano

Christmas Blessings

**Dear Brothers and Sisters,
On behalf of the Parish Priests, Staff
and the Parish Pastoral Council,**

*May the miracle of the birth of Jesus, fill
your hearts with hope and love,
your homes with comfort and joy,
and your paths with guiding light.*



*Thank you to all our parishioners,
volunteers and donators for your
faithful presence and generosity.*

*May you and your loved ones have a
holy, merry and safe Christmas
as you rejoice in the Lord.*

Christmas Hampers

The parish outreach volunteers have finished putting together the food hampers for those in need, and have delivered them before Christmas.

Together we raised \$900.

Our gratitude for your prayers, donations and help, in making this happen in time to make a difference.

Archbishop Comensoli gives a heartfelt Christmas message—to listen go to:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/news/a-christmas-message-from-archbishop-comensoli-2025>

The First Christmas: From Hardship to Enduring Joy

I have often wondered what that first Christmas day and night must have truly been like. According to the Lucan narrative, Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem after their long journey from Nazareth, only to discover that there was no room for them – nothing but a humble manger in which Mary could give birth to Jesus. At first glance, it all appears bleak and burdensome, a moment marked by hardship and rejection. Yet the deeper reality that shines through the narrative is this: because Jesus was *with* them and *within* them, Joseph and Mary found the strength to travel far, endure difficulty, and face rejection with quiet courage.

The first Christmas, thus, reminds us that, **when God is with us and within us, we receive the grace to meet every challenge with courage and hope.**

Mary and Joseph were not spared difficulty, rather they were strengthened through it. Their resilience did not come from ideal circumstances but from the *presence* they carried within them. That is the essence of spiritual resilience: not the absence of struggle, but the *presence of grace*.

Interestingly, the nativity scene shifts the moment Jesus is born, the moment Mary brings baby Jesus into the world. Angels appear to shepherds, and the glory of the Lord surrounds them. They announce good news, and suddenly the atmosphere is filled with joy. The shepherds then make their way to see the *God who became a child*. The Matthean account adds that wise men from the East journeyed to Jerusalem to worship the baby Jesus and to offer their gifts to him. Together, these two moments reveal a profound truth:

**Christmas is about God becoming a child
so that He might draw people closer to Himself
and closer to one another.**

While we focus on what the *God with us* can do for us, it is just as important to recognize that when we, like Mary and Joseph, bring God into the world, we become instruments of true joy and draw hearts together, thus illuminating the world around us.

*Wishing all of you a Christmas season graced by
God's humble presence that gathers loved ones near
and fills your homes with quiet, enduring joy.*

Fr Cassius Correya SDB

Please note: The Parish office will be closed from Christmas Day 25 December 2025 until and including 6 January 2026. See you again on Wednesday 7 January in the new year.

For urgent pastoral needs please call Fr Cassius on 0401 887 115.