



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.
 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:

St Johns: \$667.65 | **St Joseph's:** \$764.95
 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 Epiphany of the Lord 4 January 2026 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 soul of *Frank Kane*.

Mass Intentions: We pray for *Nolita Domenica* and the deceased benefactors of *St John the Baptist Church*.

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.



Sacramental Program



We warmly invite those of you hoping to have your children receive the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation this year, to reach out to begin this faith journey.

Please contact the parish office by the end of February to begin the preparation (Confirmation preparation will be with our St Joseph's school).

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

Parish Census

Please fill out the Parish census form at the back of the church. Knowing who are parishioners are and how we can contact them, helps the Parish mission for an inclusive, vibrant and supported community.

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
The Epiphany of the Lord				
11am	John Salamito	Sue Smith	Quyen Pham-Nguyen	
5pm	Rita Alviano	Julia Manickam	Abigail Rafelina/Daniel	
Baptism of the Lord				
11am	Michael Black	Hugh McGinlay	Gabrielle McMullen	
5pm	Clotilde Berryman	Vince Alviano	Xiomara Akkerman	Daniel/Rafelina

New Year Blessings from Fr Cassius

My dear parishioners,

As we come to the end of the beauty and wonder of the Christmas season, I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who contributed to our parish celebrations. Your generosity, dedication, and quiet service – whether through liturgy, music, decoration, hospitality, charity or countless unseen acts of love – helped create a truly prayerful and joyful Christmas Day for our whole community.

Thank you for offering your time, your gifts, and your hearts in service of the Lord and His people. May the light of Christ, born among us, continue to shine through your lives.

As we step into this new year, I extend to each of you my prayerful good wishes for a **grace-filled New Year**, rich in peace, hope, and God's abundant blessings.



Friday Eucharistic Adoration

You are warmly welcomed to the Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays from 7.15pm to 8.00pm (first Friday is 6pm), which will begin again on Friday 16 January 2026.

The first Friday of the month will resume on Friday 6 February at the usual 6pm to 7pm.

It is a special time for reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.



It is also an opportune time to pray for our relatives and friends who are unwell.

Join us to experience the peace and grace that comes from this encounter with the Lord.

2026 Parish Calendar

The new calendar can now be viewed on the noticeboard at the back of our churches, three months at a time.

You also view the full calendar on the parish website at www.olsc.org.au. Please try to keep important dates free if you can to allow you, and your family and friends to participate in key events for our Parish.

Re-entry into the Ordinary of Our Future

The story begins with bewildered shepherds searching for a newborn child in a shelter for animals and ends with kings and wise men leaving that child in a stable and journeying transfigured into an unknown future in an unknown land. A bright light shatters the darkness of the night, only to fade into a flickering star dimming away in some distant desert place. Unknown wise men offer kingly gifts, while the powerful of the world set their hearts on destroying the gift of life in innocent children. And in the midst of all this, the greatest contradiction of all, a fragile child is sung and acknowledged as God-with-us for all centuries to come. That is the secret of the Christmas season now ending: no matter what the contradictions of our lives, our God is there right in the midst of it all. No matter how dim the light around us or uncertain the future ahead, we who have celebrated the presence of the child-God now journeys, because this God is journeying with us right in the reality of our lives, with their contradictory feelings of nostalgia and yearning, of past and future, and of leaving behind and taking up again.

This is *Epiphany* (= *Revelation*), a Greek word encapsulating a triple dimension of every authentic faith journey: *search, acceptance, and mission*. Through ancient stories of kings and seers chasing a star alongside murderous thoughts of villains and bearing strange gifts to an unknown new-born in a stable, the liturgy taps deeply into our daily lives and confronts us with disturbing questions while suggesting trust-filled answers at the same time.

With nothing in common with the Hebrew culture or faith, gazing at millions of celestial bodies, the Magi recognized the beckoning presence of the 'King of Israel' in an apparently insignificant flickering starry sign leading them to encounter the most ordinary and unexpected people and situations in the guise of an unknown child lying in a feeding place for animals. We do not know if that child met with their expectations, but whatever their belief, they recognized in that child the fulfilment of their life-quest and the life-giving presence of God journeying with them.

As the echoes of our Christmas celebrations fade and the star of Bethlehem dims away and disappears, while the Wise Men journey further into the desert and beyond, we too are called to re-enter trustfully into the ordinariness of our lives, work, and relationships. Having celebrated Christmas, we too are invited to follow the beckoning presence of our God and seek and find this God in the ordinary and unexpected. As we delve once again into the sameness and contradictions of our lives as much as into the challenge of encountering those around us, may our journey into the new year become a journey of joyful discovery, faith-filled acceptance, and committed witness to God-with-us.

Fr Peter Varengo SDB