



Parish Clergy & Staff:

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)
 Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Spiritual Director)
 Fr John Gandini sdb (Assistant 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 which is at 6pm-7pm).

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

Collections & EFTPOS 3-4 January 2026:

St Johns: \$602.50 | **St Joseph's:** \$879.75

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

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 11 January 2026 Year A

For All Those We Remember

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



Anniversaries: We pray for the souls of Kathleen Mason, Maria Garasy, Lina Cosma and Lucia Ferrante.

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 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 Catholic.

Get Well Prayers for dear Fr Peter

Let us pray for a gentle healthy recovery for our beloved Fr Peter Varengo, who had hip surgery a few days ago.

Fr Peter is grateful and in cheerful spirits, and will return to us soon.

Eucharistic Adoration this Friday

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

Parish Events for 31 Jan & 1 Feb

You are warmly invited to our wonderful Parish events coming up:

*Saturday 31 January at the 6pm Vigil Mass at St Margaret Mary's Parish, 51 Mitchell Street Brunswick Nth, we will celebrate the Perpetual Profession of our Salesian Brothers Foua and Sirilo.

*Sunday 1 February at every mass, we will celebrate the *Feast of Don Bosco*, the founder of the Salesian religious order to which our Parish priests and brothers belong.

St John's Began 150 Year Ago

This year marks 150 years since the building of St Johns began.

Please keep these dates free to help us commemorate our humble beginnings—February 21 & 27, March 1. More details to follow soon. John Andrews

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.

Called to Live as God's Beloved Children

Whenever I celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, I draw upon one of the Synoptic accounts of Jesus' baptism by John. I remind the parents and all gathered that Jesus had no need of baptism, for John's baptism was a call to repentance from sin. Yet Jesus chose to enter those waters to identify himself fully with humanity, and in that moment the Father revealed his true identity as the beloved Son. In the same way, our own baptism reminds us that we, too, are God's beloved children and that we share in the very life of Jesus.

In one of his sermons, reflecting on the profound connection between the birth and baptism of Jesus, Maximus of Turin observes that at the Nativity, Mary presented the child for the Magi to adore, while at his Baptism, the Father himself revealed that "his Son is to be worshipped by all the nations." In the Gospel of Matthew, this revelation reaches its dramatic climax at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross, when the centurion and those with him, witnessing all that had occurred, proclaim with awe: "Truly this was the Son of God!"

Hence, from the moment of his baptism until his death on the cross, Jesus revealed himself as the beloved Son of the Father and as the Suffering Servant foretold by Isaiah – the one who would bring true justice to the nations and shine as a light for all peoples, especially by freeing those who are burdened.

As we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of Jesus, it is an apt opportunity for us Christians to reflect on and renew our baptismal commitment, recognising it as the foundation of our faith, a call to discipleship, and a moment to reaffirm our promises to live as children of God – rejecting sin and spreading Christ's love and justice. Just as the Baptism of Jesus marked the beginning of his public ministry, this feast invites us to embrace our own mission of service, strengthened and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Finally, and most importantly, the Baptism of Jesus reminds us, as Pope Benedict XVI beautifully observed, that "God does not hide behind clouds of impenetrable mystery but...

...has opened the heavens, he has shown himself, he talks to us and is with us; he lives with us and guides us in our lives."

May we continue to live as God's beloved children, ushering in a kingdom of love, peace, and justice!

Fr Cassius Correya sdb

Ordinary Time in this liturgical year A begins
 Tomorrow, the 1st Monday in Ordinary Time.

