Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 4-5 July Year A

Parish Clergy & Staff:

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)
Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Assistant Priest)
Fr John Gandini sdb (Assisting Priest)
Fr Anthony Nguyen sdb (Assisting 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 | Facebook:
facebook.com/people/Our-Lady-of-the-Southern-Cross/61560645217161/

We welcome any suggestions or comments 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 a pastoral visit with Fr Cassius, or one of the Salesians 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—12pm.
St Joseph's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month during Sunday 9am Vietnamese mass , or call the Parish Office.
Marriage: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/weddings.
Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm except for 1st Friday of the month—Adoration Hour 7pm-8pm.
Holy Communion, Reconciliation & Confirmation: Please contact the Parish office.

Collections & EFTPOS 27-28 June 2026:
St John's: $553.95 St Joseph's: $1143.75
Thank you for your offerings and donations. These help sustain and support our Parish gospel mission.

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.

For All Those We Remember

Condolences: We pray for the souls and families of all those who have died recently.
Anniversaries: We pray for Attilio De Rango—1st Anniversary.
Mass Intentions: We pray for all Deceased Benefactors of St John's and St Joseph's.

Prayers For Healing

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rachel Bartolo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Greg Andrews, Paul Sutherland, and Margie Dahl.

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.

Sacraments

Parish Sacramental Preparation 2026

First Communion

***Preparation:** Each Sunday at 4pm (before the 5pm Mass) at St John's, running up until 9th August 2026.
***Sacrament date:** Sunday 16th August 2026 during the 5pm mass at St John's.

Confirmation

***Preparation:** Beginning in August, details to come soon.
***Sacrament date**: Saturday 10th October 2026 during the 6pm mass at St Joseph's.

Bible Reflection

Our Parish weekly Scripture reflection sessions will recommence on Wednesday 5th August 2026 evening at 7:30pm in the Parish Hall. You are all warmly invited to join us for reflection and a cuppa.

Thank you to all those who have attended and supported our host Fr Peter Varengo, and contributed to a faith filled discussion.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	*First Reading/ Psalm*	*Second Reading/ Alleluia*	*Prayers of the Faithful*	*Special Minister*
5 July	**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**			
11am	Susan Smith	John Salamito	John Salamito	Michael Black
5pm	Diana Akkerman	Justin Akkerman	Justin Akkerman	Rafelina De Donato
12 July	**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**			
11am	Nicholas Luhrs	Nadia Batticoho	Nadia Batticoho	Michael Black
5pm	Salesian Youth Club			Daniel Ryan

Buon Compleanno Fr Peter Varengo

We as a Parish would like to wish Fr Peter a blessed and joyful birthday for the 4th July.

Fr Peter, you bless us each day with your gentle spirit, comforting words, poignant homilies, thoughtful conversations, genuine humility, and wonderful humour.
As you faithfully serve God, as you have for many decades, may He continue to guide you, protect you, and strengthen you.

Happy Birthday Fr Peter!
May you feel how deeply loved, valued, and appreciated you are.

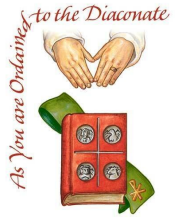
Celebrations at OLSC

Weddings

Congratulations to Monica Maroun and Lucas Marro on their upcoming wedding celebrations on 11th July 2026, at St John the Baptist Church.

Diaconate Ordination

On Saturday 25th July 2026, at 6pm Mass at St Joseph's, Collingwood, two of our Salesian Brothers will be joining the Deaconhood.
We hope you will join us to celebrate Brother Foua and Brother Silao on their Diaconate Ordination.



Food & Winter Woolies Outreach

A grateful thank you to all our parishioners who kindly donated new, warm items for those in the community who needed them this winter.

We are thankful for those who volunteered their time and efforts to handout these donations. A special thank you to the wonderful Matautia family who prepared all the meals and fed anyone who came that day for a much needed hot meal.

OLSC provided 50 large bags of winter woolies goods that will help many families keep warmer this upcoming season.

Childlike Trust

Faith in God '*for hiding these things from the wise and the intelligent and revealing them to infants*' (Mt 11:25), is more than a wish and a Jesus prayer, but carries the invitation to approach our faith-response to God with the openness and trust exemplified by a child toward his/her life-givers. Jesus invites us to look at children and learn from them what it means to seek and accept God in our lives. For Jesus, there is a definite correlation between a child's worldview and the kind of relationship God wants to establish with each of us - a relationship as intense as the one binding Jesus to His Father, built on mutual love and energised by absolute and total trust. Trust is the key to a child's love, to his or her sense of freedom and to an open and creative acceptance of life, trust is the building block and the energy for a healthy, mature and full person, empowering to journey on, looking forward to fulfilment with hope and vitality. Jesus invites us to look at children and learn from them what it means to seek and accept God in our lives calling us to become child-like free to imagine new possibilities, to be creative in skills and relationships, forever projected into a future uninhibited by fear, guilt or unhealthy self-image.

Sometimes I feel that God must be laughing in compassionate delight on observing our desperate puny efforts to reach out and achieve on our own steam. The first attempts of the child to stand on his/her own two feet are moments of pure ecstasy for mum and dad, putting out their hand as their child Donald-Duck wobbles and smiles in return, before throwing himself/herself into their arms. That is why Jesus says children are the ones who ultimately will not only know but experience God and be embraced by God in life. Ultimately, faith is a blind act of trust in a living and loving God, and a Christian faith-community will stand or fall on the strength or weakness of the relationships established and lived out in trust among the believers. In a world where trust in God and in each other is chronically put to the test, trapped by self-imposed anxiety, fear for the sake of hope and alibis for the sake of wonder, Jesus proposes abandonment to trust that comes from acknowledging and accepting the love of the Father embracing us, like a child feels secure in the arms of his/her mother to give us peace, hope and a future.

To what extent do we heed Jesus' invitation to find rest in God's loving and life-giving embrace? In response to Jesus' challenge, may each Sunday faith gathering become a commitment to heed his call to rest with him, and may we grow each day in trustful abandonment to our God who embraces us all and calls us individually and communally to peace and joy with each other as a parent embraces his/her newborn child in love.

Rev Fr Peter Varengo SDB