



Parish Clergy & Staff:

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)
 Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Assist 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/6156064521761/

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 18-19 July 2026:

St John's: \$869.30 | St Joseph's: \$824.55

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://melbourne.catholic.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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 25-26 JULY 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 Alice Andrews, mother to John Andrews; Maria Concetta Console and Sandra Reid on their 1st year anniversary; Santina Bonnici, Joe Addamo, Joan Potter, Ines (Dorina) De Rango, and Maria Assunta Zaffino.

Mass Offerings: We pray for Albert Akkerman on his anniversary, beloved father of Justin, father-in-law of Diana, and grandfather of Xiomara.



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.

Confirmation Preparation 2026

***Preparation:** Begins on Sunday 30 August 2026, with more details to come.

***Sacrament date:** Saturday 10 October 2026 during the 6pm mass at St Joseph's.

If you wish to include your child for this blessed sacrament, please contact Rafelina or Virginia in the Parish office on 9481 7333 or office@olsc.org.au.

You are all warmly invited to our annual **Parish Fun Night** next **Saturday 1 August** from **7pm-9pm** at the **St Joseph's Hall**, Collingwood.

Please join if you can for fellowship, food, dancing to disco tunes, and games.

Please contact the Parish office or look out for a PPC member at mass, to let them know if you are coming, and also if you can offer much needed help.

Next Food Outreach is 22 August

The next Food Outreach at St Joseph's will now be Saturday 22 August 2026 at 3pm (not 25 July).

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
26 July SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
11am	Anna Taylor	Michael Taylor	Michael Taylor	Deacon
5pm	Akkerman Family	Akkerman Family	Vicky	Deacon
2 Aug EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
11am	Bill Fitzsimons	Gabrielle McMullen	Gabrielle McMullen	Deacon
5pm	Berryman Family	Manickam Family	Manickam Family	Daniel Ryan

Diaconate Ordination this Saturday

The special day is here, when **Br Foua** and **Br Silao** will be ordained Deacons of the Catholic Church. A gentle reminder you are all warmly invited to their Diaconate Ordination at St Joseph's Collingwood this **Saturday 25 July 2026 at 6pm**.

May the Holy Spirit guide you and protect you Brothers, as you deepen your journey towards the Priesthood. We are grateful for all that you are.

All our **Salesians of Don Bosco** seminarians have devoted their life to the Gospel mission and service to God. Even with all their studies and commitments to occupy their day, they still give to our Parish and local community, with spiritual, pastoral, and practical help, comforting and enriching our lives.

Remember the Elderly Sunday & Always

World Day of Grandparents and The Elderly was initiated by Pope Francis in 2021 to enrich the contribution of older citizens within families and communities. It is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July, near the Feast Days of St Anne and St Joachim.

The theme this year is *'I Will Never Forget You'* — a message of consolation and hope for all grandparents and elderly people, especially those who live in loneliness or feel forgotten. Pope Leo XIV has called on us to not ignore the elderly.

He also says the occasion can be inspirational for everyone, especially the young, "to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family, and even those who have no one to visit them."

Celebration of Baptisms at St John's

Please pray for a faith-filled, safe and joyful life for the children receiving blessed sacraments this weekend at St John's, Sunday 26 July 2026.

Jaxon Everett Kimberley and Sora D Theiler will receive Baptism from Deacon Afia.

Penelope Cook will receive Baptism from Fr Cassius at the 5pm mass.

24-26 July

OPEN HOUSE MELBOURNE

Catholic Theological College will open its doors to the public as part of the 2026 Open House Melbourne Weekend

Date: Saturday, 25 July 2026
 Location: Catholic Theological College, 278 Victoria Parade, East Melbourne
 Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wisely Seeking the Kingdom of Heaven

King Solomon was renowned for his wisdom and sagacity. He skillfully handled difficult cases, much like a wise Judge. Even Queen Saba, from the far south, came to hear of his wisdom. But his greatest wisdom was that when given the choice by God, he did not ask for longevity or wealth, but only for the gift of wisdom. His prayer pleased God greatly. Therefore, God praised him and granted him everything he desired. God wants me to imitate King Solomon, to ask for wisdom and to be wise in my choices. Especially, to wisely choose the Kingdom of Heaven, like the people in today's Gospel.

The people in today's Gospel are wise because they are eager to seek. This eagerness to seek is seen in their tireless efforts to explore the land. They must have dug extensively to find the treasure hidden in the fields. This eagerness to seek is also seen in their arduous journey of casting their nets. After the hard work of fishing, they still had to choose. Despite the hardships, they were determined to find the Kingdom of Heaven.

They were wise because they knew how to discern. Life presents us with all kinds of values, both high and low, like a net catching all kinds of fish and shrimp. Among these values, we must know how to discern. We must choose the noble and good values. We must know how to select the good fish and discard the bad ones. We must know the value of a pearl even if it lies among rough, dirty rocks. We must know the value of a treasure even if it is still buried deep underground. We must know the value of the Kingdom of Heaven even if it is not yet clearly revealed in the world.

They were wise because they dared to commit themselves. Once they knew the value of the Kingdom of Heaven, they committed themselves to pursuing it to the end. Their commitment was complete, so they sold everything they owned to obtain the treasure, the precious pearl. Their commitment was resolute because having sold their homes, they could not return to their old place; they were bound only to their new homeland. Their commitment was absolute, abandoning everything for just one pearl. Such commitment is an attitude of love, passion, and intense longing. It is the attitude one must have when seeking the Kingdom of Heaven.

They are wise because they know how to let go. Selling everything one owns is a great renunciation. Separating from what one is attached to is even more painful. Leaving a secure and safe place to embark on an uncertain future is an ultimate adventure. But there is no other way. They must sell everything to have enough to buy the pearl of the Kingdom of Heaven. They must invest their whole being - all their talents, intellect, strength, and time - to hope to possess the Kingdom of Heaven. A little regret will lead to failure. A little hesitation will ruin everything. A little delay will cause them to miss the opportunity.

They let go gently and gracefully. Therefore, after letting go, they feel joyful. They let go quickly because they have decisively broken with the old. Their hearts and minds are devoted only to the treasure they have found. These are wise attitudes worthy of emulation on the path to finding the Kingdom of Heaven: knowing how to earnestly seek it; knowing how to discern its value; knowing how to readily let go; and knowing how to enthusiastically commit oneself to the very end.

Lord, grant me the grace of wisdom so that I may choose You as the source of my happiness.

Fr Anthony Nguyen sdb