



Clergy & Staff

Fr Cassius Correya sdb (Parish Priest)
Fr Peter Varengo sdb (Ass't 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

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

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>

Pastoral Care

If you would like to receive a pastoral visit from the parish priest, a priest, a seminarian, or co-parishioner, please call the parish office on 9481 7333 or email office@olsc.org.au.

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

Sacramental Reception

Baptism:

St John's: 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month at 12pm:
Booking form: olsc.org.au/baptisms.

St Joseph's Contact the parish office.

Marriage: Booking form: olsc.org.au/weddings.

Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm

(excluding 1st Friday of the month)

Holy Communion, Reconciliation & Confirmation:

These are held at St John's. Contact the parish office.

Mass Times at OLS C

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

Collections & EFTPOS 27-28 Sep 2025:

St John's: \$584.80

St Joseph's: \$832.75

Thank you to our parishioners and visitors.

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

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, 5 October 2025, Year C

For All Those We Remember

Condolences:

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

Anniversaries:

We pray for the souls of Fr Bart San and Dorothy Quilley.

Mass Intentions:

We pray for the Deceased Benefactors of St John's.

Prayers of Healing

Please remember the following in your prayers: Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rosa Presta, Rachel Bartolo, Aldo Costanzo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Fr Frank Moloney and Minh Ho.

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.

Rosary for Peace—Month of October

Pope Leo XIV has asked that we pray the Rosary for peace in war-torn lands in October—the month the Church dedicates to the Holy Rosary. Our parish will hold a rosary each remaining Friday in October—10, 17 & 24—at St John's Clifton Hill, at 7pm prior to the weekly Eucharistic Adoration. Please join if you can. As Catholics, the rosary and prayer for peace are intrinsically connected.



Adoration Hour this Friday

You are warmly welcomed to our weekly Eucharistic Adoration this Friday, 10 October, 7.15pm to 8.00pm (6pm-7pm on the first Friday). This is a special time for reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament; and to pray for any unwell relatives and friends. Please join if you can to experience the peace and grace that comes from this encounter with the Lord.

Reading Roster

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
Oct 5	If a reader is not available, please step in if you can			
11am	John Andrews	Lucy Cirona	Hugh McGinlay	Margaret Amarant
5pm	Daniel Ryan	Akkerman Family	Akkerman Family	Rafelina DeDonato
Oct 12	If a reader is not available, please step in if you can			
11am	Quyen Pham-Nguyen	Michael Black	Sue Smith	Margaret Amarant
5pm	Manickam Family	Manickam Family	Manickam Family	Manickam Family

OLSC Pilgrim Day—Pilgrims of Hope

On 24 December 2024, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica to inaugurate the **Jubilee Year of Hope**—a special time of grace for prayer, conversion, repentance, and pilgrimage, with a specific focus on Christian Hope.

Last Friday 26 September, we had 68 people from our parish, and 3 guests, Fr Gersio, Fr Peter Minh and Fr Nicolas Ho, who attended Pilgrim Day. We visited two churches that have been chosen by the Archdiocese of Melbourne as Pilgrim Places—St Mary Magdalen, Trentham and St Mary Star of the Sea, West Melbourne.

We celebrated Mass at St Mary Magdalen Church. In his homily, Fr Anthony Quang briefly explained that the Jubilee Year celebration has its origins in the Jewish religious tradition. Pope Boniface VIII established the Holy Year in 1300 as a centenary observance. Later on the Church reduced the interval to 50 years, and then to 25 years.



Fr Anthony said that the theme **Pilgrims of Hope** emphasises the journey of faith, especially hope found in Christ. As pilgrims, we are called to embark on a spiritual journey, seeking renewal and deeper communion with God. The Jubilee Year especially invites us to live out our faith with joy and to inspire others through acts of love and mercy.

After Mass we had lunch at Lake Daylesford and it was great to see our parishioners mingling with each other. A parish picnic lunch is not merely about sharing great food and having fun, but it is about creating deeper connections and building stronger bonds.

On the way home we visited St Mary of the Star of the Sea Church. Fr Cassius conducted a short reflection session. The reflection at the end of the day helped us to draw meaning from our experiences, make space for whatever the new day will bring, and especially prepare for the new day, a day of Hope.

It was a day of prayer and coming together, and more importantly to inspire hope. As in the eyes of Pope Francis, "Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring". May the Jubilee be an opportunity for all of us, as Christians, to be renewed in hope.

By Hung Xuan Chau, parishioner (St Joseph's).

Fr. Cassius, Fr. Peter, Fr. Anthony, and the whole parish are grateful to Hung for organising this spiritual occasion, and for his thoughtful reflection.

A heartfelt thanks also to all pilgrims who attended, and to all those who provided help and the picnic luncheon.

Faith: A Triple-A Shared Journey

Christian faith is not an academic assent to a body of statements codified in centuries-old traditions nor a convenient placebo for when things go wrong, but a journey into fullness of life with our God. By equating faith to a mustard tree, Jesus introduces us into a lived and living process of on-going growth and transformation from a miniscule speck of seed to fullness of life for self and an unavoidable source of life for others. A mustard seed is small indeed, almost insignificant fine dust, and yet it holds immense power as it responds to its environment of sun, water, and soil. A tree grows by responding to those specific stimuli enabling that small living seedling not only to grow into a spectacular and immense forest, but also by fostering its own creative power by producing fruits and seeds. Unless the tree produces its own fruit and seed, no further growth is possible, and the tree will die a fruitless and solitary lifeless stump.

Enlarging the imagery, faith as a living process of growth must respond to the stimuli of each living moment as the place of God, and in this response it will grow and produce its own fruit and seed for life all around. The tree of faith consists of living a *triple-A dimension of life* in relation to God in time and place: *Awareness* of God in self and others, *Acceptance* of God's life-giving presence in real time in the world, and *Action* of God for us and others in history and eternity. It does not take much for the seed of faith to explode into life beyond an awareness of the presence of God, an acceptance of this God in the ordinary and the unexpected of the humdrum of each day, and a commitment to meet people as they are and never as we would want them to be. Faith detached from daily life is an illusion, and in turn daily life devoid of faith is fraught with meaninglessness, enslavement, control, and loneliness. Faith is the energy by which the Mary MacKillop of our stories grows into the giants that she became, producing the seed of new life scattered in lavish handfuls throughout our world and time.

Servant or master, child or parent, professional or labourer, once we unite our own heart with the heart of God in the daily routine, our hands hold the God-energized power for transformation of self and others that we call faith. Then truly, our lives will have become that tree that gives life, shelter, and wellbeing all around, in spite of the smallness of its beginnings and the poverty of its means expressed by that seed. Then possibilities become endless—life will explode rich and healthy; fear will give way to courage; hope, struggle and suffering will no longer crush us; life values will take on a positive perspective; and our relationships will be life-giving – and all this because the God-energy hidden in the insignificant seed of ordinariness and commonality will have exploded into fullness of life.

Fr Peter Varengo sdb