



### 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](mailto:office@olsc.org.au) | Website: [olsc.org.au](http://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, 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

### Sacramental Reception:

**Baptism:** Booking form is at: [olsc.org.au/baptisms](http://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](http://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 29-30 November 2025:

**St Johns:** \$386.70 | **St Joseph's:** \$754.60

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

Second Sunday of Advent 7 December 2025 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 Philippe Falsone.

**Mass Intentions:** We pray for the souls of the 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.

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Tomorrow Monday December 8, we celebrate the gift of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and honour her in our life. There will be a mass at **St John's at 9:15am** and the usual mass at **St Joseph's at 8:30am**.

### St John's Saturday 6pm ends in 2026

To our parishioners of the St John's Saturday 6pm mass, we are sorry to advise that this mass will no longer be held from January 2026. The vigil mass will continue at St Joseph's on Saturdays at 6pm.

### Christmas Hampers

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Parish invites all parishioners to share the joy of the season by donating towards Christmas Food Hampers for those in need.

Your generosity will help bring comfort and festive cheer to families within our community. Donations may be made through EFTPOS at St John's, via the collection box located the beginning of the church aisle, or via direct funds transfer. If you wish to donate via funds transfer, or help in putting the hampers together, please call the parish office.

### Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
Dec 7	If a reader is not available, please step in if you can			
11am	Susan Smith/ John Samamito	Michael Black	Hugh McGinlay	Gabrielle McMullen
5pm	Daniel Ryan	Marita Quinn	Giuliana Alviano	Rafelina DeDonato
Dec 14	If a reader is not available, please step in if you can			
11am	Chau Nguyen	Claire Bradley	Gabrielle McMullen	Margaret Amarant
5pm	Giuliana Alviano	Rita Alviano	Abigail Berryman	Daniel Ryan

### Advent Reconciliation and Reflection

The next parish Reconciliation & Reflection during Advent will be for the Vietnamese Community at St Joseph's on Friday 19 December at 7pm.

### CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, 24 December	*St Joseph's	*English Family Mass at 6pm; *Vietnamese Carols & Mass at 8pm.
	*St John's	*Christmas Carols at 6pm followed by English Family Mass at 6:30pm; *Christmas Carols at 11.30pm followed by English Midnight Mass.
Christmas Day, Wednesday, 25 December	*St Joseph's	*Vietnamese Mass at 10am.
	*St John's	*Italian Mass at St John's at 9am; *English Mass at St John's at 11am. No 5 pm Mass.
New Year's Day, Wednesday,	*St John's	*English Mass at 9:15am.
	*St Joseph's	*Vietnamese Mass at 10am.

You are all are invited to join the **Good Shepherd Chapel** Community Carols & Peace Service, featuring songs of seasonal celebration and hope, and words of peace and justice on **Thursday 11 December, 7pm to 8pm** with refreshments afterwards.

Catherine Dillon, GSC

### Christmas Carols at Nursing Home

The Parish warmly invites all parishioners to join in our Christmas Carols at the Little Sisters of the Poor, Northcote this Saturday, **13 December 2025 at 2:30pm**. Let us come together in song and fellowship as we prepare our hearts for the joyful celebration of Christ's birth. Please contact the Parish office if you wish to join.

### Choirs for Christmas Eve Mass

Parishioners who wish to be part of the Choir for Christmas Services are warmly invited to participate. Please reach out to these parishioners when you see them at mass:

\*Janis for 6pm Carols & Mass at St Joseph's.

\*Daniel for 6pm Carols & Mass at St John's.

\*Clotilde for Carols & Midnight Mass at St John's.

### Call for Volunteers

The parish is seeking volunteers as Sacristans and to help with the preparation for the weekly 11am Sunday mass at St John's. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the parish community in a meaningful way, ensuring that our liturgies are prepared with reverence and care. If you feel like this is your ministry, please contact the parish office for further information.

### Christmas is for Growth into Adulthood

Dressed in a garment of camel hair and feeding on locusts and wild honey, John the Baptist gives a new meaning to words like fashion and diet. At the same time, unconcerned by political correctness, his statement is clear and disturbingly fiery: change or perish! The radical nature of John's proclamation and demand is matched only by his radical attire and lifestyle. His eye-catching behaviour is but an outward proclamation of his message; a statement leaving no doubt about the radical nature and absolute urgency of his call. His demeanour is fierce and his message fiery, as he challenges the status quo and the false expectations of those who feel secure in their personal agenda and with their self-styled Messiah.

John's message is one of 'God-with-us' and lack of awareness of this *Presence here and now* is the raison d'être of our Christmas celebration. The lack of this awareness destroys the very concept of Christmas, making a lie of our claim to faith whether we engage in festive orgies or not. John's expected Messiah is not someone far away in time and place, but One right here and now. Whether mingling with the same anonymous crowd or sharing the same cultural and religious rituals John points to a Messiah experiencing the same flow of time and years as we do, right here and now. Unrecognized maybe, yet actively present in our midst, living the very life *advent-ure* we live, doing what we do, and undergoing the very same process we undergo – an eternal presence that takes the shape and flow of our individual lives and collective story.

Once we accept this sense of *Awareness*, our lives become a *Reflection* of this presence and a lived and living *Proclamation* in our here and now. Celebrating Advent and Christmas leave no choice but to confront our reality, challenge our values, accept our limitations, and charter a new course of action in the journey of life. John uses words of fire to awaken total and absolute *Conversion* calling those satisfied with a personally styled rituals a brood of vipers, fruitless and dead branches destined for total destruction, and imposters who equate faith to belonging to a race, traditions or an exclusive club. He is relentless in condemning self-satisfaction and in his demands for change, because conversion is the only acceptable way of making room for God who yearns to enter our lives. If we celebrate Advent and Christmas, then things must change and be different, beginning with a total reversal of perceptions, of assumed values and of lived relationships and behaviour.

Does John's call find any resonance in us who claim belief in 'God-with-us'? In the midst of the hectic rush of the next few weeks, as we look at the plastic figurines of the crib, let us allow that presence to transform us and have the courage to look at ourselves and accept the call to review and renew our lives. Then Christmas will truly be that celebration of human and divine interaction which it was always meant to be: a commitment for us to grow into God and let God grow in us!

Fr Peter Varengo sdb