



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 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: 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month—9:00am
Vietnamese Mass, or by appointment.

Marriage: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/weddings.
Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm except for 1st Friday of the month.

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

Collections & EFTPOS 21-22 Feb 2026:

St Johns: \$591.70 incl. EFTPOS | St Joseph's: \$1,084.20
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 LENT 1 March 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 *Giuseppe Marinelli* and *Ellen Hart*.
Mass Intentions: We pray for the souls of Thomas and Eliza Verga and all the *St John the Baptist Church benefactors*, especially on the 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone, 27 February.



Prayers of Healing

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, 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.

Mass Changes Today

There will only be one mass held today Sunday 1 March. This is for our whole Parish celebration at St John's at 11am for the anniversary of the foundation of St John the Baptist Church.

All other masses will **not** go ahead.

Baptism at St Joseph's Today

Please pray for Emilio Pierantozzi who is receiving the Sacrament of Baptism at St Joseph's today from Fr Peter Tran SDB.

Wedding at St John's

Please pray for Toni Bell & Mark Govic as they were united in the Sacrament of marriage on Saturday, celebrated by Fr Cassius.

Reading Roster—St John's

If a reader is not available, please step in if you can

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
Mar 1:	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT			
11am	Celebration Readers	Celebration Readers	Celebration Readers	Celebration Readers
5pm	NO MASS THIS WEEK			
Mar 8:	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT			
11am	Bill Fitzsimons	Quyen Pham-Nguyen	Claire Deery	Gabrielle McMullen
5pm	Diana Akkerman	Justine Akkerman	Diana Akkerman	Martita Quinn



A heartfelt thanks to all our sacristans, altar servers, lectors, special ministers, musicians, collectors, pastoral and finance council members, and all our volunteers who through service nurture our Parish.

Today We Celebrate the 150th of Foundation of St John's

With Archbishop Peter Comensoli (Melbourne) and Archbishop Tim Costelloe (Perth) con-celebrating this blessed occasion, let us all enjoy today's celebration, give thanks for our church and Parish for the past 150 years, and work together to grow and strengthen our Parish life.

Please see our story posted by the Archdiocese: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/the-lasting-legacy-of-heartbroken-couple-turns-150>

Lenten Retreat at St Joseph's

Lenten Retreat for the Vietnamese Community will be on this week at St Joseph's:
*Tuesday 3 March, 7:30pm: Retreat & Mass;
*Thursday 5 March, 7:30pm: Retreat & Reconciliation.

Adoration on Fridays at St John's

You are warmly welcomed to the Eucharistic Adoration every Friday from 7.15pm to 8.00pm, with the first Fridays from 6.00pm to 7.00 pm when the focus is on prayer for vocations.

It is a special time for reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

It is also an opportune time to pray for our relatives and friends who are unwell. Please join us to experience the peace and grace that comes from this encounter with the Lord.



Our 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 to begin preparation (Confirmation preparation is with St Joseph's school).

Let Us Unite Against Poverty this Lent

Your donations to this Lent's Project Compassion will help Caritas Australia work alongside vulnerable communities around the world, supporting long-term development and providing urgent relief when emergencies happen.

To learn more or to donate, please see the noticeboard or collect a donation box from the back of the church.

A Church that still transforms lives

Over the past two years, I have accompanied many visitors to St John the Baptist Church, and without exception they have been struck by its beauty. People often describe it as "stunning" or "magnificent." More than 150 years ago, a small group of faithful Catholics living in this area wanted to offer the very best to the God they believed in. Alongside husband and wife Thomas and Eliza Verga, many generous Parishioners contributed their time, effort, and financial support to build what has become one of Melbourne's most beautiful churches.

Today, 27 February 2026, as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone by the then Archbishop of Melbourne, Most Rev James Alipius Goold, we acknowledge with deep gratitude the committed and faith-filled men and women who initiated the construction of this church and brought it to completion. Through their vision and sacrifice, they gifted us a sacred place in which to encounter the God who transforms our lives. We are also grateful to everyone over the past 150 years – every simple child, energetic youth, pious woman and man, generous benefactor, dedicated religious, and caring priest – who has preserved the beauty of this church and nurtured the life of this Parish.

While our hearts are filled with gratitude for the great gift entrusted to our generation, we also recognise that every gift carries its responsibilities. We undoubtedly bear the responsibility of caring for the aesthetic treasures of this church. At the same time, we are called to make this sacred place a welcoming home for all who seek an encounter with the divine. Whoever enters this church should experience something of the transfiguration that Peter, James, and John witnessed on the mountain. And the external beauty of this building should inspire us to allow our inner lives to be transformed, so that they radiate the brilliant light of the love of the Good Shepherd.

As the majestic presence of the church draws the attention of every passerby, each of us who walks out through its doors is called to draw the gaze of others toward the amazing love of God, a love capable of transforming their lives. This sacred place does not exist only to inspire admiration from the outside; it sends us forth as living witnesses, carrying into the world the same light and grace that we ourselves have encountered here.

May everyone who joins the Parish community in celebrating this wonderful milestone be blessed in abundance.

Fr Cassius Correya SDB, Parish Priest

