



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/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 Reconciliation:

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 6pm-7pm.

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

Collections & EFTPOS 9-10 May 2026:

St Johns: \$942.00 | St Joseph's: \$1,064.85

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.

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE SOUTHERN CROSS

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 16-17 MAY YEAR A

For All Those We Remember

Condolences: We pray for the soul and family of our beloved parishioner *Aldo Costanzo* who passed away last week. Aldo and his wife *Vittoria*, who passed away one year ago, and their family, have been a dedicated part of the St John's Italian community for over 60 years.



Aldo's requiem mass will be held this Friday 22 May at 11am at our St John's church. The rosary is being held at White Lady Funerals (741 High Street Kew East) the evening before on Thursday 21 May 2026 at 6.30pm.

Aldo will dearly be missed, and we are grateful for his presence at our Parish.

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

Anniversaries: *Salvatore Addamo, Sebastian Speranza.*

Mass Intentions: *Aldo Costanzo.*

Prayers For Healing

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

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.

Parish Faith Formation Coordinator

Our parish is seeking a faith-filled, creative, and compassionate person to support the spiritual formation of children, youth, families, and adults.

This part-time role is ideal for someone who loves the Church, values community, and desires to help others grow in their relationship with Christ.

If you feel called to serve in this ministry, please contact the Parish office, and Rafelina or Virginia will put you in touch with Fr Cassius.

Full Initiation—St John's

Please let us pray for *Benjamin Paul Dowling* who has completed his preparation to receive the Sacraments of Initiation from Fr Cassius on Sunday 17 May.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	First Reading/ Psalm	Second Reading/ Alleluia	Prayers of the Faithful	Special Minister
May 17	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD			
11am	Samoan Comm.	Samoan Comm.	Samoan Comm.	Samoan Comm.
5pm	Charlotte Berryman	Eliza Manickam	Eliza Manickam	Daniel Ryan
May 24	PENTECOST SUNDAY			
11am	Our Lady Feast Day confirmed readers			
5pm	Any usual readers attending the 5pm mass please step in			

Our Lady Feast Day next Sunday

Our Parish will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Southern Cross and Help of Christians next Sunday 24 May, which is also Pentecost Sunday, at the St John's 11am mass. This will be a whole Parish occasion including the Italian, Vietnamese and Samoan communities. Please let us all come together to worship Mary, and enjoy lunch afterwards in her honour.

There will be no 9am Italian or 9am Vietnamese mass on this day.

Preparations for these celebrations are underway and we need volunteers in the kitchen before and after mass, and invite you to contact the office if can provide much appreciated help.



Getting To Know The Bible

The first session of our Parish bible studies last Wednesday was attended by a vibrant and diverse group of parishioners.

A reminder that the second session is open to all and is on this Wednesday 20 May from 7:30pm to 8:30pm, at the Parish Hall (St John's Presbytery), next door to the church. Our host Hugh McGinlay explains that this session will explore the four gospels—Mark, Matthew, Luke and John: Their origins, their connections with one another, the early Christian communities in which they were composed, the centrality of Jesus in their stories, and how their key gospel messages can make sense in our contemporary world.

We are most grateful to Hugh for helping animate our Parish by inviting people to come together to get to know the Bible, and presenting a thoughtful, engaging and knowledgeable talk.

Youth Group Mass—St John's Sunday 17 May 5pm followed by refreshments and faith conversation.

Giving Warmth

A gentle reminder that our Parish is collecting winter items to give to those in need, at our next Food Outreach at St Joseph's. If you wish to donate new socks, scarves, beanies, and/or gloves, please place items at the back of the each church in the basket.

May-July 2026 Parish Events Calendar

The next three months of our calendar can now be viewed on the noticeboard at the back of our churches. You also view the full calendar on the Parish website at www.olsc.org.au. Please try to keep important dates free if you can to allow you, your family and friends to participate in Parish life.

Three Blind Sheep

It is amazing to see how vision impaired people can "see" without physical eye-contact. They can read using the Braille code and move with the guidance of a hand-held stick or presence of a guide-dog that "sees" for them. Other senses and talents are also finely tuned to assist them in detecting obstacles that many hinder them as they move about or warn them of whatever danger may occur, and in developing essential survival skills.

Vision impaired people have achieved so many wonderful things that clearly shows how the mind can govern the body. Let me mention one gifted vision impaired person among the many thousands and is our contemporary, the renowned singer Andrea Bocelli.

Andrea is an Italian tenor and has recorded over 20 pop and classical albums, as well as seven complete operas. He has sold over 65 million albums worldwide. It was evident at birth that he had problems with his sight, and after visits to many doctors Bocelli was diagnosed with glaucoma. In 1970, at the age of 12, he completely lost his sight after an accident during a soccer game. As a young boy, Bocelli showed a great passion for music. At the age of six he started piano lessons before he also learned to play the flute, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, harp, guitar and drums. Bocelli has sung with so many other great singers and has only been further admired due to his blindness.

You might be asking yourselves what has all this got to do with the title of this reflection. Well on the back wall of the Salesian community chapel in Chadstone there is a stained-glass window depicting Christ the Good Shepherd with His crook, a typical Easter image, looking down upon three sheep at His feet and tending His hand to lead these sheep who are without eyes and cannot see.

Would the artist have forgotten to draw in the eyes or would there be another meaning for this missing detail? After all, how can the sheep follow the shepherd if they cannot see him! Of course, the Gospel has an answer to this question. He (the Good Shepherd) calls them by name, they (the sheep) recognize His voice and follow Him...they don't need to physically see Him! "Blessed are those who cannot see and yet believe (follow)"!

I think we can all learn from the artist's hidden message. We are all blind followers of the Lord to some extent. The Shepherd's crook helps us to move on just like the guiding stick of the blind person, but the harmony of His voice, which is far more enriching in our lives than the beauty of Andrea Bocelli's inspiring compositions, gives us the true power of the Spirit.

The Gospel message is that Braille code permits us to "see" the light and to show us "The Way"! It is the work of the Good Shepherd that transforms us from Blind Sheep to Guide Dogs leading people to open pastures by our love and example.

Fr John Gandini SDB