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)
Virginia Carter (Parish office Administrator & Finance Secretary)
Rafelina De Donato (Sacristan & Parish Office Assistant)
Natalia Tawaf Molini (Faith Formation Coordinator)
Jason Vu (Website Content Manager)

Parish House & Office:

Phone: 03 94817333 | Email: office@olsc.org.au
61 Queens Pde Clifton Hill Vic 3068
Website: olsc.org.au | Facebook:
facebook.com/people/Our-Lady-of-the-Southern-Cross/61560645217161
Our Clergy, Parish Pastoral Council and Parish Office, welcome any comments, feedback or suggestions from our Parishioners. It helps us all 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:

For a pastoral home visit, we invite you to contact the Parish office.

For Urgent Pastoral Need Call: 0401 887 115

Mass Times:

St John the Baptist Church:
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 (Vigil).
Sunday at 9:00am (Vietnamese).
The Chapel of Good Shepherd:
Sunday at 9:30am.

Sacramental Reception:

Baptism: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.
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 contact the Parish Office.
Marriage: Booking form is at: olsc.org.au/sacraments.
Reconciliation: Fridays 7:15pm—8:00pm except for 1st Friday of the month—Holy Hour 7pm-8pm.
Holy Communion, Reconciliation & Confirmation: Please contact the Parish office.

Envelopes & Loose Collections 17-18 October 2026:
St John's: $851.70 | St Joseph's: $767.50
Thank you for your thanksgiving 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

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time 24-25October Year A

For All Those We Remember

Condolences & Anniversaries: We pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Sebastiano Pulvirenti and *Irene Taylor.*

Prayers for Healing

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rachel Bartolo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Greg Andrews, Paul Sutherland, Joseph Bonnici, Nicholas, and all those who need prayers for their physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing.

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.

Salesians Youth Club: All Hallow's Eve

On Saturday 31st October, the Salesian Youth Club will celebrate the vigil of *the Solemnity of All Saints*. More than a night of costumes and celebration, it offers a beautiful opportunity to rediscover the Catholic meaning of holiness and to inspire our young people to live their faith with joy.

By celebrating All Hallow's Eve, our youth hopes to create a joyful space where we can learn about the Saints, deepen our understanding of Catholic traditions, strengthen friendships, and grow in our relationship with God. It is also an opportunity for our wider Parish community to pass on the richness of our faith to the next generation.

The Celebration will begin with a mass at 6pm in St Joseph's Church Collingwood, followed by dinner and a conversation on each other's Patron Saint.

Don Bosco reminded his young people through his life and teaching, that holiness and happiness belong together.

Deacon Foua sdb

Baptised in Christ

Layla will receive the Sacrament of Baptism from Deacon Silao sdb this Sunday 25 October at St John's. We pray for a faith filled life for Layla.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	*First Reading/Psalm*	*Second Reading/ Alleluia*	*Prayers of the Faithful*
25 Oct	**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**		
11am	**John Salamito**	**Susan Smith**	**John Andrews**
5pm	**Julia Manickam**	**Daniel Ryan**	**Clotilde Berryman**
1 Nov	**All Saints**		
11am	**Michael Black**	**Gabrielle McMullen**	**Claire O'Keeffe**
5pm	**Daniel Ryan**	**Giuliana Alviano**	**Eliza Manickam**

A "Magnificat" of Thanksgiving: 40 Years of Priestly Anniversary - A Ruby Anniversary

A reflection from Fr Anthony Nguyen sdb 25.10.2026

With a profound joy and deep sense of gratitude that dominates this Sunday's liturgy for me—a Mass offered to thanking God and pray on the occasion of Fr Anthony's 40th anniversary of priestly ordination—I wish to echo the "Magnificat" of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I offer thanks to God, to my brothers and sisters and friends, and to the whole parish community of Clifton Hill and Brunswick North.

Reflecting on my 40 years journey of priesthood ordination - and over 76 years of life in this world—I luckily find myself today, surrounded by loved ones and friends, to give thanks to God and to the people of God. This Holy Mass of Thanksgiving is, therefore, deeply meaningful and profoundly touching. It is not merely an expression of gratitude for "waking up each morning to another day in which to love," but, more importantly, an act of thanksgiving to God, who has lovingly watched over and sustained me throughout these years: in my priestly ministry, in my human existence, as a child of God, and as a brother within the community. Indeed, the grace of 40 years of priesthood, 56 years as a Salesian, and 76 years of human being is truly a "gift of God's mercy." As the Book of Exodus - in today's first reading, reminds us, God calls us to live in love and mutual care, grounded in justice, reflecting His own merciful nature.

Looking back today on our individual journeys—with hardships and challenges involving society, friends, family, our religious community, and even ourselves - I recall the period following the events of 1975 (Saigon fall). I was sent to a "New Economic Zone" in Sông Buông, Long Thành, where I worked in the deep rice paddies and exhausted, in the corn and sugar fields. I strove to live wholeheartedly with my brothers and sisters, as Saint Paul urges us in the second reading - living in such a way that others might recognize the Lord in our lives. At that time, the aim of priesthood seemed shrouded in darkness—if not entirely beyond reach. Through the relations, I managed to connect with a boat builder and quietly organised an escape. In late 1981, I fled the country on a six-meter boat, packed with 75 people.

Continued next column

One unforgettable memory when I was transported by a small boat with ten others. We had to hire ourselves under the coconut palms, while the boatman paddled along the beach... Among us there was a woman holding a one-year-old girl. The child began to cry, prompting the boatman to shout, "You must quiet her! If the police hear the cries, they'll catch us all!" Terrified, the woman pleaded with me, "Please, help me—to kill her!" I was horrified and replied, "No, don't! Try giving her a sleeping pill, or put a cloth in her mouth to keep her quiet…" Oh, God – she was screaming even louder, demanding meat to eat… Luckily the child eventually cried herself into exhaustion and felt to sleep. By evening, our boat reached the shore, and early the next morning - around 4:00 AM—we boarded to a big boat and to heading out to high sea. We departed from the Xâm Bồ coastal area; the boat was six meters long and three meters wide, it held 75 people—packed in like sardines tin. On board there were two priests, two seminarians, and 71 others.

Later, when we met each other in the small island, we learned that three boats had attempted to escape from Xâm Bồ that morning. The first, equipped with a powerful engine, was pursued by a police patrol boat; as the escape vessel pulled further and further away, the police eventually gave up the chase. Meanwhile, our own boat—powered by a sluggish, old diesel engine - managed to get away, while the third boat, which departed later, was captured.

We trust that life and death truly in God's hands. Our boat was incredibly fragile. I remember being deathly seasick. Sitting by the gunwale, I would often trail my hand in the water - looking back now, I realize how foolish I was! Thankfully, God watched over us; we encountered no sharks and faced no major disasters. After a week on the high sea, we realized that we got lost on the high sea! Finally, after a week, we spotted a point… we went toward it and discovered an oil platform, where we were taken aboard...After spending two days on the oil platform, we were picked up by an oil tanker and brought to the island of Kuku. We lived there on that isolated island for three months, waiting until a ship arrived to take us to the Galang refugee camp where I spent seven months in the refugee camp.

In mid-July 1982 – I arrived in Melbourne airport in a very cold, frosty morning in the middle severe winter. After spending a week at the Eastbridge hostel, I was picked by Salesian Fathers to Oakleigh; I studied English for six months, then began my studies of Theology. On Sundays I went to Vietnamese Masses in Springvale and Collingwood, and soon became involved in youth ministry, inspired by the Focolare movement, I established the "Youth of Hope" (Thanh Niên Hy Vọng) group.

Continued overleaf

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! / All who love me will keep my words, / and my Father will love them and we will come to them. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**



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Breaking Open the Word

...continued on from inside reflection.

Weekly we gathered for Mass then studied the Gospel and supported each other in the new life in Australia. In the absence of their parents and families, under the care of Brother Anthony, the group organised Youth Masses for young people across Melbourne, seminars, excursions, and summer camps. Four years of theology studies gone quickly; in 1985, Brother Anthony was ordained a deacon. That same year, the publication of "Dân Chúa" Magazine was published and distributed throughout Australia.

From Easter 1994, Father Anthony was the president and editor of "Dân Chúa" Catholic Monthly Magazine, which was flourished until the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. With the digital technology and smartphones, the print edition of *Dân Chúa* was permanently discontinued. Nevertheless, driven by the zeal, I have remained active online - as our Church leaders encourage to use all technic means in proclaiming the Gospel.

As a Salesian of Don Bosco, even while I take the responsibilities within the Congregation, I have always been involved in the activities with the Vietnamese Catholic community in Melbourne, across Australia, and beyond - most from 2007 to 2025, as parish priest of St. Margaret Mary's in Brunswick and through my work in media.

Following a serious illness - kidney failure - I stepped down from my primary duties and moved to Clifton Hill to live with the students, while continuing to maintain close with the Vietnamese communities in Collingwood and Brunswick.

And in the spirit of "leaning upon our Mother with the devotion of a child," this Mass of thanksgiving - celebrated on the occasion of my priestly jubilee - takes on a deeper meaning when united with the "Magnificat". Together with her, I proclaim: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God... for He has looked upon His lowly handmaid... and has done great things for me."

- Fr. Anthony Nguyen, SDB



THE SAVING WORD

MATTHEW

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A — 25 OCTOBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v. 2

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, / my rock, my fortress, my saviour. / My God is the rock where I take refuge; / my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. / The Lord is worthy of all praise: / when I call I am saved from my foes. **R.**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! / Praised be the God who saves me. / He has given great victories to his king / and shown his love for his anointed. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Thess 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

■ **The word of the Lord.**