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 24-25 October 2026:
St John's: $739 inc. EFTPOS | St Joseph's: $781.70
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

Feast of All Saints 31 October—1 November 2026 Year A

For All Those We Remember

All Soul's Day Monday 2 November



We pray for those who have died recently, those whose anniversary of death occurs around this time, and all those who have passed.

May they gain eternal rest and we be consoled.

As on the occasion of the day before, when we celebrate *All Saints*, this *Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed* reminds us of the spiritual union of those united in Christ—the saints, the living and those gone before us—we are the *Communion of Saints*.

Mass Times: St Joseph's: 8:30am;
St John's: 9:15am and **7:30pm.**

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.

Cambodia Salesian Immersion 2027

An exciting and special opportunity is coming up for you to immerse yourself in Khmer culture while contributing to the mission of an overseas Salesian community.

For ages 16 and over, the trip will be next year in June and July, and there is an information night on Wednesday, 24th February 2027.

For more information, please refer to the flyer on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

Full Initiation

Please pray for *David Boundy* as he is welcomed in the full communion of the Catholic Church this Sunday 1 November at St John's, as he receives the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist from Fr Cassius sdb.

Reading Roster—St John's

Date	*First Reading/ Psalm*	*Second Reading/ Alleluia*	*Prayers of the Faithful*
1 Nov	**Feast of All Saints**		
11am	**Michael Black**	**Gabrielle McMullen**	**Claire O'Keeffe**
5pm	**Daniel Ryan**	**Giuliana Alviano**	**Eliza Manickam**
8 Nov	**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**		
11am	**Doriana Penso**	**Vin Penso**	**Hugh McGinlay**
5pm	**Salesian Youth**	**Salesian Youth**	**Salesian Youth**

Feast of All Saints Sunday 1 November

Today's *Feast of all Saints* is an occasion for thanksgiving, honouring all the saints both known and unknown, who through compassion, courage, sacrifice, and service reflected God's love.

We too are called to holiness—to be saints.

On this feast, let's pray for all those persecuted for their faith; for those suffering injustice; and for those affected by any form of violence.

Happy Birthday to a Saintly Priest

Let us all pray together for **Fr John Gandini sdb**, our ever-faithful Parish Assisting Priest, on his birthday Sunday 1 November.

Dear Fr John, may God continue to gently accompany you and keep you well, in life and in your missionary work here at our Parish. Your presence, kindness, and the special way you celebrate the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist, uplifts us in our faith and daily life.

Thanksgiving Mass for 40 years of Priestly Mission
Fr Anthony Nguyễn Hữu Quảng, SDB

By Hùng Chau

Early in the morning, despite the rain, the grounds of St Joseph's Church in Collingwood, home to the Parish of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, were already bustling with the footsteps of the faithful.

A large number of parishioners from surrounding areas of Melbourne had gathered to celebrate this special occasion. A few non-Catholics also came to attend the Mass. All were united in deep respect and heartfelt gratitude for a shepherd and friend who had accompanied the People of God in Melbourne through the many joys and challenges of their journey.

Exactly 40 years earlier, on 25 October 1986, Deacon Anthony Nguyễn Hữu Quảng, SDB, was ordained to the priesthood. *Full article enclosed*



The rosary after weekday morning mass at St John's, will continue during this month of *All Souls*.

Called to Be Holy, Right Where We Are

For many of us, the word saint once felt far away. We pictured people in stained glass windows, with halos and long lists of miracles. All readings of today change that picture. They show us a crowd of ordinary people and they invite us to see ourselves among them.

The first reading from the Book of the Apocalypse speaks to our hearts. John writes, 'I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.' Think of the many different people we have met over the years, each with their own story and challenges in life. God knows every one of them. When John asks who these people are, he is told, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.' This brings us real comfort. Hard times do not mean God has forgotten us completely, and faithfulness in the middle of trouble is never wasted.

Now, the second reading helps us see our own identity more clearly. John says, 'Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.' Some days we feel small, tired, or unnoticed, and we begin to measure our worth by what others think of us. John reminds us that our worth comes from God. We are already God's children, even before we have everything figured out.

And the Gospel of Matthew reminds us where true blessing is found. Jesus sits on the hill and begins to teach: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' Jesus does not bless the people the world admires most. He blesses those who know they need God. This is a lesson we often have to learn again and again. When we are honest about our weaknesses and our failures, we make more room for God to work in us.

We see these readings at work in our everyday experiences. A friend who forgives after a long silence. A volunteer who keeps showing up, week after week, for people who may never thank them. None of them will be remembered in a church window, yet each one reflects the true light of Christ. Holiness is often quiet and ordinary, found in small acts of patience and kindness.

So what does this mean for us this week? It means we do not need to wait until we feel ready. We can each take one small step: a kind word to someone who is struggling to find peace and love, or five minutes of prayer before the day gets busy. Each of these is a way of living the call to holiness.

As we celebrate All Saints, let us thank God for the saints we have known by name and for the countless others known only to God. Jesus ends his teaching with the words: Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. May that joy give us strength as we live our calling today. ***Deacon Afia sdb***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 11: 28

Alleluia, alleluia! / Come to me, all you that labour and are burdened, / and I will give you rest, says the Lord. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 5: 1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage;
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted;
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:
they shall be satisfied;
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them;
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God;
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God;
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word

BLESSED ARE YOU

Today's Feast of All Saints beautifully recognises our communion with all who have died and gone before us in faith. As we gather around the Eucharist, and as the Presider gives thanks to God over the bread and wine, we remember those whose lives continue to touch and shape us. They remain part of the Communion of Saints, a rich and enduring tradition in Catholic theology.

The Gospel presents Jesus' familiar teaching on the Beatitudes, highlighting the source of their holiness—and ours. The Beatitudes recognise people who struggle with the realities of life and, rather than relying solely on themselves, look beyond their circumstances trusting God's action. The Beatitudes address those who are poor in spirit, whose lives are not controlled by what they possess; the gentle, who choose compassion rather than aggression; those who mourn and grieve the sadness and tragedy of life; those who hunger and thirst for justice amid injustice; those who are 'pure of heart', living with authenticity and integrity; those who seek to build communion and peace; and those who endure persecution because of their faith and discipleship. Matthew's account adds a final, ninth Beatitude, reflecting the experience of Jesus' followers in Matthew's day who were themselves facing persecution.

One final distinction is important. Some translations begin each Beatitude with 'happy', but the more faithful translation is 'blessed'. Happiness is something we seek and experience, but it can come and go. Blessedness is different. It is God's gift and action within us, whether we are feeling happy or not, orienting our lives towards holiness. And that is lasting.

Fr Michael Trainor

The Saving Word

MATTHEW

All Saints / A — **1 November 2026**

FIRST READING

Apoc 7: 2-4, 9-14

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse.

I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language.

I, John, saw another angel rising where the sun rises, carrying the seal of the living God; he called in a powerful voice to the four angels whose duty was to devastate land and sea, 'Wait before you do any damage on land or at sea or to the trees, until we have put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God.' Then I heard how many were sealed: a hundred and forty-four thousand, out of all the tribes of Israel.

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words: 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

One of the elders then spoke, and asked me, 'Do you know who these people are, dressed in white robes, and where they have come from?' I answered him, 'You can tell me, my Lord.' Then he said, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 23: 1-6. R. cf. v. 6

R. Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm. **R.**



2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things. **R.**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob. **R.**

SECOND READING

1 Jn 3: 1-3

A reading from the first letter of John

We shall see God as he really is.

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us,
by letting us be called God's children;
and that is what we are.
Because the world refused to acknowledge him,
therefore it does not acknowledge us.
My dear people, we are already the children of God
but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed;
all we know is, that when it is revealed
we shall be like him
because we shall see him as he really is.
Surely everyone who entertains this hope
must purify himself, must try to be as pure as Christ.

■ **The word of the Lord.**