



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 30 Jan-1 Feb 2026:

St John's: \$582.35 | St Joseph's: \$839.70
 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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 8 February 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 Phillis Heslin-McGrath and Sebastiana Spampinato.

Prayers of Healing

Please pray for Tony Addamo, Cecily Hollingworth, Rachel Bartolo, Aldo Costanzo, Teresa Boetti, Ruzica Coric, Greg Andrews and Fr Peter Varengo.

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.

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 by the end of February to begin preparation (Confirmation preparation will be with our St Joseph's school).

The parish has begun the RCIA program for this year, and we already have interested adults dedicated to being baptised into the Catholic Church.

Sacraments at St John's

On Sunday Fr Cassius will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism at St John's for Ilaria Mae La Porta and Esmeralda Hicks.

Let us all pray for these children on this blessed occasion, as they are baptised with the Holy Spirit, for a life long Catholic faith.

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
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Feb 8:				
11am	Chau Nguyen	Claire O'Keeffe	Claire O'Keeffe	Gabrielle McMullen
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME				
Feb 15:				
11am	John Salamito	Sue Smith	Sue Smith	Michael Black
5pm	Berryman Family	Berryman Family	Berryman Family	Rafelina DeDonato

A heartfelt thanks to all our sacristans, altar servers, lectors, special ministers, musicians, collectors, council members, and all volunteers.

Vietnamese Catholic Lunar New Year

Masses at St Joseph's Collingwood

Monday, 16th February: New Year's Eve Mass at 7:30PM
 Thanksgiving Mass for the closing of the old year.

Tuesday, 17th February: New Year Mass at 7:30PM
 Mass to pray for peace and blessings in the New Year.

Celebrant: Bishop Thinh Nguyen. Refreshments at 8:30PM.

Wednesday, 18th February: Second Day of Tet at 7:30PM
 Mass in commemoration of ancestors.

Thursday, 19th February: Third Day of Tet at 7:30PM
 Mass for the sanctification of work.

ALL ARE WELCOME

On this special occasion, we wish all parishioners a very happy New Year, the year of the Fire Horse.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love. May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Xuân Hùng

150th Anniversary of the Foundation of St John The Baptist Church

Exhibition

Check out the historic photographs at the back of St John's. Can you find the foundation stone? It IS there! All will be revealed on 1 March.

History of St John's: Talk

If you are intending to attend on 21 February at 2pm, please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

Don't forget to keep 27 February at 7.30pm & 1 March at 11am free.

John Andrews

Salesian Youth on Bosco Feast Day

22 February, 61 Queens Pde, Clifton Hill

Please register with the QR code on the noticeboard at the back of the church.

Parishioner Register

Please take some time if you can to fill out a Parish census form supplied at the back of the church. You can also take it home and return it to the church or Parish office in the next week or so.

Knowing who are parishioners are and how we can contact them, helps continue the Parish mission for an inclusive, vibrant and supported community.

If you have any questions or prefer an online form, please contact the Parish office and we will be happy to help.

Thank you all for your faithful valued presence at St Joseph's and St John's.

Salt and Light of the World

Carrying global connotations of universal superabundance in land and sea, salt is still one of the cheapest items on the family shopping list. However, hidden in its cheap commonality, that insignificant and harsh-tasting substance holds a universal potential for goodness, healing, and wellbeing, drawing and preserving excellence and adding richness as no other element or ingredient is capable of providing.

That is what Jesus is driving at in addressing us as salt. Hidden in our ordinary, unassuming, and even unrecognized selves, God sees preciousness, richness and great potential. We may not think much of ourselves, feeling helpless in our needs and incapable of reaching out to others, but God still thinks us precious, a valuable and necessary commodity for his mission of healing, peacemaking, and life-giving. God needs us to achieve his plans precisely through our weakness, helplessness and the ordinary unpretentious routine of daily life. That is our identity in God's eyes and dream.

The Christian is one who affects and infects others with joy, hope, healing and a taste for life, or our claim to faith is useless empty words. Nevertheless, as for the ubiquitous use-by-date, Jesus warns us that salt can become tasteless through abandonment or lack of use and its potential is lost. We may resent being qualified as useless, but that is just what Jesus calls us when we stifle the potential that God has gifted each of us. Unless this giftedness is released to bring out the taste of life around us, we both vilify our God-given energy to touch others, and our very lives become meaningless, chocked by unimaginative self-preoccupation and loneliness.

Like the flickering light that breaks the darkness and brings warmth to cold hearts, the personal experience of darkness can ignite a conflagration of rich humanism, and committed solidarity, a beacon on the hill screaming hope and courage. By accepting the insignificance of one's saltiness and yet reach out to others in self-giving, as believers we have no choice but let light and warmth well up from that inner energy for good that dwells deep in our heart and enable the conflagration of God's love to explode into every life that intertwines with our journey.

Jesus is very direct and personal:

 You are salt and flickering light—that is our identity and our mission. Anything else is useless and good for nothing.

The disciple cannot be otherwise, because God names us by those very elements of life and wants us to be energy of salt and light to the whole world in spite of and beyond the signs of death and darkness in a world that yearns for God's dream of peace, joy, and selfless, eternal and unconditional love.

Fr Peter Varengo SDB