



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 14-15 Feb 2026:

St Johns: EFTPOS \$739.85 | St Joseph's: \$873.80
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://melbourne.catholic.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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 22 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 *Enrico Giammario* and *Elio Michelangeli*.

Mass Intentions: We pray for the soul of *Teresa Placidi*.

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.

The Don Bosco Youth Feast Day today has been cancelled due to the weather forecast and we will advise of a new date.

Mass Changes next Sunday

There will only be one mass on Sunday 1 March—the whole Parish celebration at St John's at 11am, for the founding of St John the Baptist Church. All other masses will **not** go ahead.

150th of Foundation St John's this week

Please try to be present for our two celebrations:
*Friday 27 February at 7.30pm Mass to commemorate the actual date the foundation stone was laid. Fr John Silvano, our former Parish Priest will be there.

*Sunday 1 March at 11am to join Archbishops Comensoli (Melbourne) and Costelloe (Perth) as we celebrate our first 150 years, and give thanks to God for our achievements and His guidance. Fr Ben Ho, a former Parishioner will be there on the day. *John Andrews*

Baptism at St John's

Please let us join in prayer for Adamo Salvatore Cucuzza who will be baptised by Fr Cassius this Sunday at St John's.

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
FEB 22: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT				
11am	Quyen	John Andrews	John Andrews	Gabrielle McMullen
5pm	Daniel Ryan	Marita Quinn	Marita Quinn	Rafelina DeDonato
MAR 1: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT				
11am	Celebration Readers	Celebration Readers	Celebration Readers	Celebration Readers
5pm	NO MASS THIS WEEK			

Resistance to Temptation

(Mt 4, 1-11)

Entering the Holy Season of Lent, a season in which the Church invites us to fast, repent, and renew our spiritual life. Even we only have two official days for fasting (Ash Wednesday and Good Friday).

Lent is called the "Season of Forty Days." It recalls the forty years the Israelites spent in the desert. Moses spent forty days and nights on the mountain before receiving the Law to the people. Elijah spent forty days and nights in the desert being tempted by the devil.

The Church traditionally calls it a season of spiritual training and combat through good deeds such as fasting, prayer, and almsgiving to resist temptation. The first reading from Genesis recounts the scene where Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan, "and so death spread to all people because they had sinned" (Romans 5:12). The Gospel according to Matthew recounts how Satan tempted Jesus not just once, but three times, but Jesus triumphed. This is a lesson for each of us.

Adam and Eve were tempted and felt

The first chapter of Genesis shows that our first ancestors rejected God's will. This arose from the "serpent," the devil, also known as Satan. The serpent wanted to tempt Adam and Eve not to follow God's will but to follow their own, to make its own laws, and to become equal to God, without God's power.

Adam and Eve were created by God, placed in the Garden of Eden, enjoying endless joy, even though there was a Tree of Life there. There is only one thing people must remember: this is a state of grace, but not one of dependence on God's goodness, always united with Him and loving Him. The serpent deceived Eve: "Did God say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?'" (Genesis 2), while God taught, "You may eat from every tree in the garden, except the tree of knowledge of good and evil." The serpent asserted, "No, you will not die! But God knows that on the day you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will know good and evil as God does" (Genesis 3:5).

This liar led people to do their own will, not God's will, stifling Adam's desire for communion with the divine life and severing their connection with God, leading to destruction "through one man sin entered the world" (Romans 5:12).

Jesus is tempted, He wins.

Just as Adam and Eve were tempted three times by Satan using various tactics to make them do their will, not God's, and even worse, Satan made Adam and Eve mistakenly believe that they were doing what was best for them, now Satan also attacks the father-son relationship between Jesus and the Father three times, with the same goal of making Jesus not do the Father's will.

Continued next column

The first temptation

Perhaps each of us has experienced hunger and thirst, and we long for a piece of bread to ease our hunger or a sip of water to quench our thirst! "Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. When he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was hungry" (Matthew 4:1-2). Hunger is a legitimate present need. The devil approached and offered, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread!" (Matthew 4:3). Turning stones into bread to eat was a task within the capabilities of the Son of God, but Jesus did not do it. He responded by quoting Deuteronomy: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." Clearly, what matters to us is not material food or our own desires, but doing God's will.

The second temptation

Faced with glory and power, which we all dream of, Satan took Jesus to the top of the Temple and proposed: "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written: 'He has commanded his angels to come to you, and they will lift you up in their hands'" (Psalm 91:11). In reality, what the devil demanded of Jesus was nothing more than tempting Him to force the Father to perform a miracle, to make God serve Him. Jesus did not do it. Jesus immediately recognized this temptation and countered it with another passage from Scripture: "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test" (Deuteronomy 6:16).

The third temptation

The sin of pride, which many of us, to varying degrees, are prone to self-satisfaction and possessiveness! Satan took Jesus to the Holy City and said, "I will give you all these things if you fall down and worship me." Jesus responded forcefully, "Go away, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God'" (Deuteronomy 6:13). Satan posed three "ifs" to Jesus. He wanted Jesus not only to disobey the Father but also to abandon the Father and worship him.

Following Jesus' example of following the guidance of the Holy Spirit

The devil's tricks used to tempt Adam and Eve are also used to tempt Jesus and us today. The environment we live in is where a real spiritual battle takes place. A battle against the devil, against the one who always sows division, the liar – "the Gospel calls him the father of lies," in Hebrew "Satan," the enemy of God and the enemy of mankind. Jesus teaches us that this battle cannot be won without the help of the Holy Spirit guiding us to do God's will.

Holy Spirit, guide us in our daily battles, especially as we enter the spiritual battle during this Holy Lenten Season. *Fr Anthony Nguyen SDB*

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