

Pilgrims of Hope

Embark on a transformational and spiritual journey in this year of Jubilee

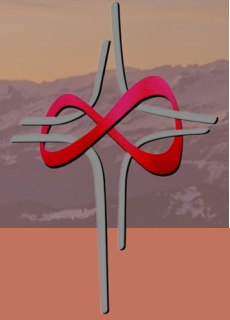


THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

14 DECEMBER 2025

WELCOME TO ST CHRISTOPHER'S

You are INVITED!



St Christopher's is a Missionary Parish of Intentional Disciples, passionate about being Christ to all, through our witness of God's love in action.

REFLECTIONS...

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning "rejoice." We mark this Sunday on our Advent wreath with a pink candle instead of a purple candle. It is a joyful reminder that our salvation is near. In today's Gospel, John sends word to Jesus from prison, asking if Jesus is the Messiah for whom he has been waiting. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles that he has worked and invites John and the other hearers to make their own determination. In his next breath, however, Jesus praises John for his role in preparing the way for the Messiah. He says that all who work for the Kingdom of God will be as great as John and even greater. Jesus' message to John recalls the salvation described by the prophet Isaiah. This passage is a reminder that the beginning of salvation is already mysteriously present to us, but also yet to be fulfilled. Salvation is already in our midst as manifest in the miraculous deeds of Jesus and in the Church. But salvation is also to be fulfilled in the coming reign of God. Even as we observe our world today, we can find glimpses of God's work among us. Even more, we help to prepare the way for God's Kingdom by our words and our deeds. This message is indeed a cause for rejoicing.



MASS TIMES

Next Week's Mass Times

Saturday Vigil 6 pm,

Sunday 8.30 am & 10.30 am

Livestream Sunday 10.30 am

Weekday Masses

Tues, Thurs & Sat 9.15am

Priest available for Confession on Saturdays after mass

READINGS THIS WEEK (YEAR A)

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

The desert will rejoice and blossom.

Resp Psalm: Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient, even in suffering.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel: : Matthew 11:2-11

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A)

1st: Isaiah 7:10-14

Resp Psalm: Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

2nd: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

New to St Christopher's? Connect with Us:

<https://stchristopherssyndal.com.au/welcome-from-our-parish-priest/pages/new-parishioner-registration-form>

PARISH PRIEST: FR JACOB ALVARES

E. jacob.alvares@cam.org.au

Elevate: Louis Shu

E. elevateyouthminister@gmail.com

RCIA: Alison Trudgett

E. rcia@stchristopherssyndal.com.au

PARISH SECRETARY/VENUE HIRE:

T. 9802 8538

E. secretary@syndalcatholic.org.au

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals:

T. 9802 8538

E. secretary@syndalcatholic.org.au

Children's Ministry & Sacramental

preparation: Charles, Germaine

E. childrensministrysyndal@gmail.com

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: MR PATRICK GREEN

E. principal@scsyndal.catholic.edu.au

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH ADDRESS:

184 BLACKBURN RD, SYNDAL

St Vincent de paul:

T. 1800 305 330 (M-F 10am-3pm)

Parish Office Opening Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am - 4pm

Fridays 9am - 4.30pm

5 Doon Ave, Syndal

St Christopher's website

We welcome you to browse through our new website ...

there is so much to see!

Link: <https://www.stchristopherssyndal.com.au>

PARISH MINISTRIES AND NOTICES

Meditation Group

Tuesday 16 December @ 7.30pm

For venue contact Claire on 0423 577 676

Advent
The Season of Hope and Expectation

Afternoon Tea in Advent

Saturday 4 p.m. : Nov 29 (Cenacle),
Dec 6, 13, 20 (Fellowship Hub)

Booking/Inquiries: Fred Choy
discipleship@stchristophersyndal.com.au
or Presbytery: 98028538

An hour of guided reflection on the themes of Advent, over cakes, bakes, tea and coffee, in a friendly and relaxed setting. Bring your friends or family – anyone who's not familiar with Hope, Peace, Joy and Love – and share what these themes mean to Christmas.

Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey

The Cause for sainthood for Australian-born medical missionary Dr Mary Glowrey has advanced after Pope Leo XIV recognised her 'heroic virtues' on 21 November 2025. Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey, as she will now be titled, is only the second Australian to be accorded this status. Born in the Victorian town of Birregurra in 1887, Mary Glowrey was an experienced doctor in Melbourne hospitals and private practice when she travelled to India in 1920, aged 32. In Guntur, located in present day Andhra Pradesh, she joined the Society of Jesus Mary Joseph. Known as Sr Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ, she provided medical care to hundreds of thousands of marginalised people, particularly women and children. She spent 37 years in this service to the most disadvantaged in society. For more information visit website: [Dr Sr Mary Glowrey JMJ - Home](#)

*Christmas
begins
with Christ*

This Gaudete Sunday calls us to find joy in God's presence and not in what is around us. It's a joy that doesn't ignore life's challenges but transforms them. It's a joy that moves us to look beyond ourselves, inviting others to experience this peace and encourages us to live with gratitude and compassion. In this Advent season, let us pray for a heart open to drawing deeply from the well of God's love, a heart that rejoices in God's presence, and hands willing to share that joy with others.



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

St Christopher's Church

Christmas Eve Masses - Wednesday 24 Dec

6.30pm Carols - 7pm Mass

11.30pm Carols - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day Mass - Thursday 25 Dec

10am

New Years Eve - Wednesday 31 Dec

10.30pm (followed by supper)

New Years Day - Thursday 1 Jan

10am

Funeral of George Dziejdz

Date: Friday 19th December, 2025

Time: 10.30am Rosary; 11am Service

Location: St Christopher's Parish, Syndal

Refreshments: Fellowship Hub

Burial: Private Service

Let us keep the Dziejdz family in our prayers..

St Christopher's Annual Christmas Luncheon

arrival 1130am - Lunch from 12 Noon

Bookings available *no walkins

Thurs 25th December 2025 Hennessey Hall

Contact Loretta - 0493 478 233 or

chrisTmasluncheon25@gmail.com

by 15th December

Calling for **VOLUNTEERS!**

For setup on the day ..

Contact Loretta 0493 478 233



ST CHRISTOPHER'S TENNIS CLUB

CHRISTMAS BBQ ** change of date **

Parishioners are invited to St Christopher's Tennis Club end of year BBQ function at the clubrooms on **Sunday 14 December, 5:30 for 6pm**. Food provided, BYO drinks. Vegetarian options available.

Please RSVP for catering to jackgkrohn@gmail.com.

Any questions, please contact Jack Krohn, St Christopher's Tennis Club President on 0433 124 473.

OTHER NOTICES

** WORKING BEE **

Saturday 20 Dec : 10am - 12pm

We need as many volunteers as possible to assist with cleaning the church in preparation for Christmas.

No need to sign up or register, just show up in the Narthex! *Your time and effort will be greatly appreciated !!*

CALLED AND GIFTED CHARISM DISCERNMENT - 2 DAY WORKSHOP

ST CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH, HENNESSY HALL

FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2026 (7.30PM - 9.00PM)

SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2026 (9.45AM - 5.00PM)

Cost: \$10 per person (*includes lunch and afternoon tea*)

SIGN UP NOW! Sign-up sheets in the Narthex or email Mary Tan (mary@tuenproductions.com), giving your full name and mobile number & dietary requirements. If you are interested but cannot make it for this session, please also email Mary Tan and let her know, as we are planning for a second run of the 2 Day Workshop.

Refer to the workshop flyer in the Narthex for full details.

1. *How can I be more enriched in my Christian life?*
2. *Which church ministry should I serve in?*
3. *Why am I more drawn to certain church ministries?*
4. *Why do some people serve with so much joy and energy?*

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas break from 9am Wednesday 24 December 2025 and re-open 9am Friday 2 January 2026.

ANNOUNCEMENT: MELBOURNE ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD 2026

Archbishop Peter Comensoli has initiated preparations for a Synod to be held in the Archdiocese of Melbourne in 2026. Bishop Ramirez will be assisting in leading this process and Cathy Jenkins will be the Synod Program Lead.

Three themes will be taken up in the Synod process:

- ◇ *Young Discipleship*
- ◇ *Missionary Leadership*
- ◇ *Formation and Participation*

More information will be shared in 2026.

HOLY SAVIOUR PARISH Calling all declutterers!

Holy Saviour is creating a new hang-out space for teens to connect and share their faith journey.

To help transform storage space into comfort, we need **cushions, rugs, beanbags, blankets and other cosy décor.**

If you have unused items to donate, please email HolySaviourPPC@gmail.com to arrange collection.

Spread the word! Family, friends, neighbours can donate too.

Connect Group Update

Our Connect Group gathered this past Friday for a powerful and reflective session centred on each person's own faith journey. We explored where God has been moving in our lives, whether we feel we have taken steps forward, faced moments of struggle, or even felt like we've taken a step backward. It was a beautiful time of honesty, sharing, and encouragement, reminding us that faith is not a straight line but a life-long journey walked with Christ and supported by community.

As we head into the Christmas season, we're excited to keep building this sense of connection, growth, and belonging within Elevate.

Elevate Christmas Party December 19th!

We're thrilled to announce our Elevate Christmas Party coming up on the 19th of December! It's going to be a joyful, fun-filled celebration as we wrap up the year together. We would love to see all our young people there, come ready for laughter, games, and a whole lot of Christmas cheer!



Acknowledgment of Country -

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respect to them and their cultures.



PARISH MINISTRIES & NOTICES

1ST COLLECTION - PRESBYTERY

November 2025 : \$7,935.55

Supports the Parish Priest, Supply Priests, Priests of the Archdiocese and Archbishop's fund

2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

November 2025 : \$12,458.60

This collection goes towards the running costs of the Parish and supports all the Ministries

THANKSGIVING CONTRIBUTION TO ST CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH

Your kind donation helps support our community



ROSTER

Week Beginning Monday 15 December 2025

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	John Hackett	Fred Choy	Kate Foley, John Corin, Pauline Perrin
Thursday 9.15am	Justin Tan	Flowers	
Saturday 9.15am	Louise Pagliaro	-	
Duty	6pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	David & Erlin Tenggara	Susan Lee	Pius Tang
Altar Server	Shaina Chaugule, Naomi Thomas, Volunteer	Leader Required, Francesca & Vincenzo Purawinata	Isaiah, Immanuel & Ignatius Png
Commentator	Kevin Widarja	Jack Krohn	ELEVATE
Reader	Ronnie Poskitt	John Stone	ELEVATE
Eucharistic Minister	Andy Lim, Marie Murphy	Brigid Chan, Graham Perrin	ELEVATE, Justin Tan
Welcome Desk	-	-	ELEVATE
Greeters	Volunteer	Alvencia Winata	ELEVATE
Ushers	Volunteer	Volunteer	ELEVATE
Videographer	-	-	Kevin Widarja
Music	SHINE FOR CHRIST	Joe & Bernadette Fernandes	ELEVATE
Morning Tea	-	Lyn Lam, Margaret Yap	ELEVATE

In Faith, Hope and Love, let us pray for repose of the souls of

Recently Deceased: George Dziedzic.

Death Anniversaries: Raymond Wills, Regina Abfalter, Barry Gallagher, Harold Carr, Andrea Parkes, Matthew Howard, Paul Yong, Vincent Gifford, Josephine Gurusinghe, Annette Atkinson, Lim Sek Heng, Bruce Meers, Col Ebert, Victor Maslen, Heed Meng Foo, Peter Thai, Alphonsus Tan Snr., Simon Martanata.

St. Christopher's is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children and vulnerable adults