



# ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL  
IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)**

**1 FEBRUARY 2026**

**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...

To follow Jesus does not mean merely that one travels with him from place to place. It means that one learns from him, that one follows his manner of life and his way of thinking. To follow Jesus means to follow his example in the way he respects himself and other people, in his use of the things of the natural world. It means that one listens to what he says, and asks for an explanation when what he says is not understood. All of this requires that the disciple be a learner, one who can learn from the life of Jesus as well as from his teaching. The first lessons that the disciples must learn are found in the beatitudes. The same lessons are placed before us, the modern-day disciples. The setting of Jesus' teaching is so serene; a mountain apart, a teacher with his disciples gathered around him, simple statements that are coupled with glorious rewards. However, the reality of the lessons is in stark contrast with this tranquil scene. These beatitudes, these blessings call for profound inner transformation. The gospel outlines the kind of person the

disciple is to become; the psalm sketches the program to which the learner is called. The disciples of Jesus are not merely his followers; they also continue the work that he began. In whatever circumstance of life we find ourselves, as disciples of Jesus we work to sustain the good that is in the world and to transform whatever needs transformation.



### 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:** Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

The remnant of Israel will take refuge in the Lord.

**Resp Psalm:** Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit;  
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

**2nd Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

The Lord chooses the lowly.

### Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Rejoice and be glad;  
Your reward will be great in heaven.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:1-12

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be  
put to shame, for I call on you.

### READINGS NEXT WEEK:

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

**1st:** Isaiah 58:7-10

**Resp Psalm:** Ps 111:4-9. R. v.4

**2nd:** 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

**Gospel:** Matthew 5:13-16

## 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

### PARISH SECRETARY/VENUE HIRE:

T. 9802 8538

E. secretary@syndalcatholic.org.au

### SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: MR PATRICK GREEN

E. principal@scsyndal.catholic.edu.au

### Elevate: Louis Shu

E. elevateyouthminister@gmail.com

### Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals:

T. 9802 8538

E. secretary@syndalcatholic.org.au

### ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH ADDRESS:

184 BLACKBURN RD, SYNDAL

### RCIA: Alison Trudgett

E. rcia@stchristopherssyndal.com.au

### Children's Ministry & Sacramental preparation: Charles, Germaine

E. childrensministrysyndal@gmail.com

### 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



## CHARISMATIC Prayer Group

Wednesday 11 February @ 7:30pm - Cenacle Room

Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916

*All are welcome ...*

## Seniors Mass @ Holy Saviour Parish

Wednesday 11 February - 12pm

Followed by lunch - please bring a plate to share.

Coffee/tea will be provided.

**All are welcome !**

Contact Rose 0411 706 016

**\*\* there will be NO 9.15am Mass \*\***

## A THANK YOU NOTE FROM FR JACOB

I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your prayers, good wishes and visits. For those who have kept me well nourished .. I feel more healthy now than ever ..!

I am recovering very well and will be back next week celebrating mass at St Christopher's only at this stage due to health restrictions. Should be back in full swing the following week. Thank you all and God Bless!

**Fr Jacob**



**[Impacters]**  
EAST MELBOURNE

You're invited for worship and teaching every week followed by a time of community as we seek to grow deeper in our faith. All are welcome!

**Location:** St Christopher's Catholic Parish  
**Time:** Tuesdays @7:30pm

 **THE CATHOLIC GUY**  
BRUCE DOWNS

## 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)

Come and discover your God-given charisms and be inspired!

**Registrations close 1 February !**

Sign-up sheets in the Narthex or email Mary Tan ([mary@tuenproductions.com](mailto:mary@tuenproductions.com)), giving your full name and mobile number & dietary requirements.

## PARISH COMMUNITY FUN DAY

**MONDAY 9 MARCH 2026 : (9AM - 3PM)**

**COLLECT** your PLEDGE CARDS after the weekend

Masses this week.

*\* Please refer to the flyer in the Narthex or the Parish website for more information.*



## Lunar New Year Celebration

**Sunday 1 March 10.30am Mass**

(followed by food and fellowship)

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## Pilgrimage to Bacchus Marsh

(outdoor Stations of the Cross & Mass)

**Saturday 14 March**

(\* more details to follow.)

## 2026 LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUPS

This year's discussion groups will follow the Brisbane Archdiocese program "The Journey Home", which provides reflections on the daily Gospel readings in Lent. Books are available at \$5.00ea.

We will have two programs running and we invite both Holy Saviour & St Christopher's parishioners to join;

Thursday Group Discussion: 7.30pm

19, 26 Feb; 5, 12, 19, 26 Mar

Friday Group Discussion: followed after 9:15am mass

20, 27 Feb; 6, 13, 20, 27 Mar

**Location: Holy Saviour in the Cafe area.**

These discussion groups allow parishioners from Holy Saviour & St Christopher's to share reflections during Lent and will be a great opportunity for collaboration in our ongoing partnership. Signup sheets for group participation are available from this weekend.



## OTHER NOTICES

# Children's Ministry



Welcome to a new year in the Children's Ministry!

We are excited to begin another year of faith formation with children from kinder to Year 6. Enrolment is now open for all children who are interested in joining the Children's Ministry community.

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAMME & ACTIVITIES 2026

- Weekly classes for Kinder-Yr 6 children during school terms: 9.20-10.20a.m.

#### Special Events

Welcome Tea	8 Feb, 9:30-10:15am
Lenten Preparation	22 Feb, 9.20 -10:20am
Retreat for YR 5-6	7-8 March
Easter Movie Night	25 <sup>th</sup> April, 6:30 - 8:30pm
Family Day	17 May 12 noon
Bible Knowledge Quiz	23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug, 9:20 - 10:20am
Community Service Day	25 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 9.20 - 12 pm
Thanksgiving Camp	5-6 Dec

- Sacraments of First Reconciliation & First Eucharist
- Children's Liturgy during 10.30am mass

#### ENROLMENT:

Link for enrolment: <https://forms.gle/55X3ALZJbK59r7a47>

Children receiving sacraments need to be enrolled and should attend the sessions from the beginning of the year to be fully prepared to receive the sacraments

Children who have previously enrolled in Children's Ministry will need to enrol again for a new school year.

**Deadline for enrolment: 8 February 2025**

**Annual enrolment fee: \$40 per child, \$60 for 2 children, \$80 for 3 children or more**

**Sacrament fees: 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation (\$20), 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist (\$30)**

We look forward to having your child/children with us on their faith journey!

### Safeguarding – All Volunteers

**St. Christopher's is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and adults at risk.**

As we begin a new year, a reminder for all volunteers to ensure that you have a Working With Children Check (WWCC), have signed a Code of Conduct Declaration (CoC) and have completed the Safeguarding Essentials Training (SET).

The SET and CoC have an expiry of three years and many of the original certificates for volunteers who completed these early in the process have started expiring. Log in and check your expiry dates.

You can complete the training module, as well as signing the CoC Declaration, by going to the Archdiocese

website - [www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org](http://www.safeguarding.melbournecatholic.org)

**This link is also available on the new parish website under Safeguarding.** (\* Electronic link attached )

**As Archbishop Comensoli said – 'Safeguarding is not just about compliance but about developing a Safeguarding Culture within the parish.'**

### ELEVATE YOUTH GROUPS

## Term 1, 2026



### >> "The Call to Discipleship"



#### events

**FAST 24**  
20 MAR, 6PM - 21 MAR, 7:30PM

**YOUTH MASS**  
15 FEB, 15 MAR  
@ 10:30AM

**fridays**  
6:30-9:00 >>



#### youth

**30 JAN\***  
**13 FEB**  
**27 FEB**  
**13 MAR**  
**17 APR**

**YOUTH: Year 7-12**  
**CONNECT: 18-30**  
**\*COMBINED: All**



#### connect

**30 JAN\***  
**6 FEB**  
**20 FEB**  
**6 MAR**  
**27 MAR**  
**10 APR**



**CONTACT US...**  
IG @elevateyouthgroups  
[elevateyouthminister@gmail.com](mailto:elevateyouthminister@gmail.com)

#### 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

December 2025 : \$7,215.60

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

## 2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

December 2025 : \$13,290.60

*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 2 February 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	John Hackett	Cherly & John Hackett	Graham Baker, Carmelle Claney, Volunteer Required
Thursday 9.15am	Justin Tan	Flowers	
Saturday 9.15am	Marquetta Manokaran	Elvira D'Lima	

Duty	6pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	David & Erlin Tenggara	Felcon Gatab	Harry Lim
Altar Server	Shaina Chaugule, Rashwin & Radesh Lenora	Malone De Silva, Daniela Ho, Klarissa Ryan	Vincent & Rachel Ng, Elisha Lai
Commentator	Mary Tan	Alvennia Winata	Grae Widarja
Reader	Tony Hough	David Whalan	Gwen O'Brien
Eucharistic Minister	Andy Lim, Marie Murphy	Shivanthi & Gerard Chitty	John & Cheryl Hackett, Brian Worcester
Welcome Desk	-	-	Margaret Yap
Greeters	Amy Noto	Susan Lee	Shireen Pires
Ushers	Volunteer	Mina Ierufi	Angela Yap, Jeanette Alexander
Videographer	-	-	Jerome Tan
Music	SHINE FOR CHRIST	Joe & Bernadette Fernandes	TRINITY
Morning Tea	-	Graham & Pauline Perrin	Salome Christy & Chris Nallarattam

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

**Recently Deceased:** Bernard (Bernie) O'Dea

**Death Anniversaries:** Bob MacDonald, Carwyn Bradley, Lois Formaini, Joseph Sans, Piero Morgante, Ted Maslen, Karl Visser, Brendan Atkinson, Len Walters, Linda Stoker, Jack Ferguson, Victoria Jones, David Poskitt, Sidney Mackay, Yolanda Mantello, Bruce Barnes, Rose Fung, Eric Hurt, Sreetheran Karupiah, Barry Carr.

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