



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL
IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

22 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...

The First Sunday of Lent invites us into the wilderness with Jesus — not as a place of punishment, but as a space of clarity. In Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the desert, where He faces temptation. Each challenge from the tempter is met not with force, but with the steady truth of God's Word. This moment reminds us that temptation often comes when we are seeking to draw closer to God. It rarely appears as something obviously harmful; instead, it can disguise itself as something seemingly good but subtly self-serving. Jesus shows us that resisting temptation is not about sheer willpower alone, but about anchoring ourselves in God's promises and trusting His timing. Lent, then, becomes our own "desert time" — a season to strip away distractions, confront the false promises that pull us away from God, and rediscover the deep joy of living in His presence. Through prayer, fasting, and acts of love, we train our hearts to choose God over the easy or comfortable path. As we begin this journey, we might ask ourselves:

What voices compete for my attention? Where am I tempted to rely on my own strength instead of God's?

The desert may feel barren, but it is also where God speaks most clearly. May this Lent be a time of renewal, courage, and deeper trust in the One who walks with us through every wilderness.



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: Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

The Lord creates man and the garden of Eden.

Resp Psalm: Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R. see v.3
(R.) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Jesus has atoned for Adam's sin.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

1st: Genesis 12:1-4

Resp Psalm: Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

2nd: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

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
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RCIA: Alison Trudgett
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PARISH SECRETARY/VENUE HIRE:
T. 9802 8538
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Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals:
T. 9802 8538
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Children's Ministry & Sacramental preparation: Charles, Germaine
E. childrensministriesyndal@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

CHARISMATIC Prayer Group

Wednesday 25 February @ 7:30pm - Cenacle Room

Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916

All are welcome ...

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

The weekly Stations of the Cross followed by Mass during Lent will be held at
St Christopher's Church:

Friday evenings at 6.30pm followed by mass
27 February, 6, 13, 20, 27 March

ABORIGINAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS at Holy Saviour

Wednesday 25 March following 9.15am mass.

*St Christopher's Church
Sunday 1 March
at 3pm Fr Joby*

Healing Mass

Lunar New Year Celebration

Sunday 1 March 10.30am Mass
(followed by food and fellowship)

Pilgrimage to Bacchus Marsh
(outdoor Stations of the Cross & Mass)

****CURRENTLY POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE****

Save
the
Date



!! ATTENTION - St Christopher's Newsletter !!

Newsletter emails sent to the following Microsoft-managed email addresses: hotmail.com, outlook.com and live.com are not being delivered due to a current Microsoft restriction. The Archdiocese IT Support Team are actively working to resolve this issue as a priority. Newsletters to all other recipients such as gmail, yahoo etc are working normally.

In the meantime, you can access the newsletter via our website using the following link:

[St. Christopher's Catholic Parish Syndal](#)

GUIDED ADORATION

FRIDAY 6TH MARCH, 2026

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Come spend an hour with me ...

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.



**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

First Sunday of Lent

21-22 February 2026

Project Compassion 2026 shares four stories from around the world. We'll meet Sisilia from Tanzania, Monoranjon from Bangladesh, Manaini from Fiji and Ahmad from Gaza.

Each of this year's stories highlights unique challenges, yet they are united by the determination to rise above adversity and to build brighter, more hopeful futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



**UNITE
AGAINST
POVERTY**

this Lent

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.

Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate

Or by calling: 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent.*

OTHER NOTICES

PARISH COMMUNITY DAY

MONDAY 9 March 2026 (9am - 3pm)

PLEASE JOIN US!

FREE

Sausage Sizzle
 Jumping Castle
 Petting Zoo
 Line Dancing, Zumba &
 Fitness Sessions
 (In the Hennessey Hall)
 Free try-out at tennis club

FOR A DONATION

Fairy Floss
 Popcorn
 Drinks
 Barista Coffee

Walkathon Fundraiser (1.5km, 3km or 4.5km)

Walk whatever distance you can. Get your family and friends to sponsor you.

The Parish needs your help

every \$, no matter how big or small counts!

GET YOUR PLEDGE CARD TODAY OR RETURN YOUR COMPLETED CARDS. THANK YOU!

See us in the Narthex.

THE 54TH INTER-NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2028, SYDNEY

In 2028, Australia will host the 54th International Eucharistic Congress, a global encounter with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

As we enter 2026, the **Year of Prayer**, the church in Australia is given an opportunity to strengthen the foundations of our spiritual life. This year invites every community to renew its commitment to personal and communal prayer, preparing hearts to receive the deeper renewal that *Eucharist28* seeks to foster.

Yearly Eucharistic Themes (2026-2028)

Year 1 (2026) - Call to Prayer
A Mystery to be Encountered

Year 2 (2027) - Call to Worship
A Mystery to be Celebrated

Year 3 (2028) - Call to Mission
A Mystery to be Lived

Eucharist28 Prayer cards are available in the church foyer, please take one home with you after mass.

Please visit the website for more information:
<https://www.eucharist28.org/>

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

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: Year 7-12
CONNECT: 18-30
 *COMBINED: ALL



youth

30 JAN*
13 FEB
27 FEB
13 MAR
17 APR



connect

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



CONTACT US...

IG @elevateyouthgroups
 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

January 2025 : \$10,135.05

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

2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

January 2025 : \$14,545.00

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 23 February 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	Mary Tan	Anne & Fred Choy	Jack Krohn, Juan & Justinne Agapay
Thursday 9.15am	Ronnie Poskitt	Flowers	
Saturday 9.15am	Louise Pagliaro	-	

Duty	6pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Ida Wati	Felcon Gatab	Grace Lim
Altar Server	Shaina Chaugule, Rashwin & Radesh Lenora	Olivia & Cameron Lettice, Klarissa Ryan	Mikaela, Raphaella & Razel Reuben
Commentator	Ronnie Poskitt	David Whalan	Joella Fernando
Reader	Mary Tan	Jack Krohn	John Hackett
Eucharistic Minister	Kevin Widarja, Marie Murphy	Shivanthi & Gerard Chitty	Brian Worcester 2 x Volunteers
Welcome Desk	-	-	Cynthia Boudeville
Greeters	Cathy & Beng Lee	Sharon Gomes	Shireen Pires
Ushers	Volunteer	Susan Lee	Jeanette Alexander, Volunteer
Videographer	-	-	Dilan Cooray
Music	GRAE'S GROUP	EFRATA	REJOICE
Morning Tea	-	Jason Chia, Virginia Quek	Deepa Gurusinghe & Angela Yap

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

Recently Deceased: I M Koesnadi

Death Anniversaries: Joseph Rodriguez, Bernadette Choo, Eileen Murray, Fred Graf, Pat Hall, Ethel Incigneri, Pat Samford, Himawan Surya, Joseph Pryka, Bill Staunton, Harry Moloney, William Clarke, Kathleen Sim, Fred Bourke, Pasquale Foschetti, Charlotte Fernandez, Dinah Phoon, Eileen Murray, Bonifacio Dominguez Jr, Syd Briggs, Keith Currey, Helene Davis, Mona Davis, David Kruger.

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