



# ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL

IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)**

**8 MARCH 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 Gospel for the Third Sunday of Lent (Year A) presents the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:5-42). It's a deeply human and profoundly spiritual moment — one that speaks of thirst, truth, and transformation. At first, the woman comes to the well for ordinary water, but Jesus offers her something far greater: *living water* — the grace of God that satisfies the deepest thirst of the soul. This living water is not just a promise for the future; it's a present reality for those who open their hearts to Him.

The conversation reveals layers of truth:

- **Breaking barriers** – Jesus speaks to a Samaritan woman despite cultural and religious divisions, showing that God's love crosses every boundary.
- **Honest encounter** – He gently uncovers her life story, not to condemn, but to invite her into healing and renewal.
- **Mission born from encounter** – Once she experiences His truth, she leaves her jar behind — a symbol of her old life — and becomes a witness, bringing others to meet Him. In Lent, this passage invites us to ask: *What are the "empty jars" we need to leave behind?* Where are we still thirsty for meaning, peace, or forgiveness? Jesus meets us in our ordinary routines and offers us the living water of His Spirit — a gift that transforms not only us, but also those we encounter.

### REGULAR 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:** Exodus 17:3-7

The Israelites complain to Moses in the desert.

**Resp Psalm:** Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

**2nd Reading:** Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Christ laid down his life for us.

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!  
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world;  
give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel:** John 4:5-42

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

## READINGS NEXT WEEK:

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

**1st:** 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

**Resp Psalm:** Ps 22 R. v.1

**2nd:** Ephesians 5:8-14

**Gospel:** John 9:1-41

## 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. elevatemyouthminister@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. 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

## 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  
March: 6, 13, 20, 27

## ABORIGINAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS at Holy Saviour

Wednesday 25 March following 9.15am mass.

### **Anointing Mass @ St Christopher's Parish**

Wednesday 11th March at 11.30am

followed by lunch in the fellowship hub .... **All are welcome !**

Contact Lorraine T. 9802 3183

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

### **CHARISMATIC Prayer Group**

Wednesday 11 March @ 7:30pm - Cenacle Room

Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916

**All are welcome ...**

### **Meditation Group**

**Tuesday 17 March @ 7.30pm**

**For venue contact Claire on 0423 577 676**

## HOME MASS INVITATION

All are warmly invited to join our Home Masses:

**Friday, 13 March | 7:30pm**

Host: Virginia & Nam Quek

☎ Text/WhatsApp: **0438 225 211**

**Friday, 27 March | 7:30pm**

Host: Cheryl & John Hackett

☎ Text/WhatsApp: **0407 182 916**

Please text the hosts directly if you'd like to attend.

### **From the Vocations Office—Melbourne Archdiocese**

We had 3 new seminarians enter Corpus Christi this year:

**George Becerra, Luke Rochford and Ambrose Meehan.**

Please keep them in your prayers.

## 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

12, 19, 26 Mar

Friday Group Discussion: followed after 9:15am mass

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.



## Third Sunday of Lent

7-8 March 2026

**Monoranjon** lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



**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](http://www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate)

**Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

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

### **Interested in Altar Serving ??**

If you have received the sacrament of reconciliation and First Eucharist you can apply to serve at our Parish.

Feel free to contact the parish office for further information.

T. 9802 8538 E. [secretary@syndalcatholic.org.au](mailto:secretary@syndalcatholic.org.au)

# OTHER NOTICES

## Parish Community Day Mon 9 Mar (9am – 3pm)

### Gentle reminders

*Parents are responsible for the safety and well-being of their children at all times during the event.*

- \* First aid station is located at front entrance of the church in Doon Avenue.
- \* Toilet facilities in the Hennessy Hall and Church.



### Walkathon

- \* Walk: 9:00am to 10:30am (all walkers to return by 10.30am to church grounds)
- \* Bring water and sun protection (hat, sunscreen).
- \* Anyone feeling unwell before the walk, should not participate.
- \* If feeling unwell during the walk, inform the organisers or marshals (in high vis vests), or call 0420 712 972.
- \* In case of emergency, call 000.
- \* The route does not include crossing Burwood Highway.

### Jumping Castle

- \* Adhere strictly to the number of children allowed on the inflatable. Socks must be worn.

### Petting Zoo

- \* Be cautious of possible allergy to the pets and pet food.

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our Shepherd Archbishop, Peter A Comensoli will formally convoke a Synod for the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 11.00AM Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Archbishop Peter, has addressed a Pastoral Letter to all priests, deacons and faithful of the Archdiocese regarding this important Synodal initiative of the Archdiocese. I would like to offer this brief summary of the Pastoral letter for our prayerful reflection. In his letter, Archbishop Peter reflects on the Church's ongoing journey of renewal through a synodal way of being. This renewal has been shaped by the experience of the **Fifth Plenary Council of Australia**, the **Synod of Bishops on Synodality**, and our own Archdiocesan initiative, **Take the Way of the Gospel**. Synodality means **"journeying together"** as the People of God — listening attentively to the Gospel, to one another, and to the Holy Spirit. Recognising a deep desire across the Archdiocese for stronger communion, renewed missionary zeal, deeper formation, and a greater sense of belonging, the Archbishop has formally called this Synod to discern our path forward. The purpose of the Synod is to prayerfully identify the evangelical and missionary priorities that will guide our Archdiocese in the years ahead. Every parish, community, ministry, and Catholic organisation is invited to take part through prayer, dialogue, and reflection. The Synod will concentrate on three important themes: **Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation and Participation**. We are encouraged to reflect on where the Holy Spirit is leading our Archdiocese, whom we are called to accompany more intentionally, and how we can more clearly reflect the face of Christ in our local Church. The letter concludes by entrusting this Synodal journey to Mary, Mother of the Church, praying that we may listen with faith, love with generosity, and follow Christ with renewed confidence and hope. This Pastoral letter will be read during the weekend masses, published in the noticeboard and in our website too. May I request each one of your prayers for this spiritual & pastoral initiative of our Shepherd. **Yours in Christ. Fr. Jacob Peter Alvares, SAC.**



### **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

February 2026 : \$ 7,755.50

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

## 2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

February 2026 : \$ 11,916.80

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 9 March 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	Mary Tan	Margaret Foley, Pat Culloch, Louise Pagliaro	Kate Foley, John Corin, Pauline Perrin
Thursday 9.15am	Ronnie Poskitt	Flowers	
Saturday 9.15am	Louise Pagliaro	-	

Duty	6pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Paul Liew	Mary Seong	Pius Tang
Altar Server	Evana D'Silva, 2 x Volunteer	Malone De Silva, Klarissa Ryan, Daniela Ho	Chrislyn & Celine Wawolangi, Beatrice Li
Commentator	Andy Lim	Phil Green	ELEVATE
Reader	Ronnie Poskitt	Jon Chavarria	ELEVATE
Eucharistic Minister	Pat Barnes, Volunteer	Betty Robinson, Brigid Chan	ELEVATE, Volunteer
Welcome Desk	-	-	ELEVATE
Greeters	Edna Louzado	Eunice Wong	ELEVATE
Ushers	Catherine & Kelvin Loo	Alvencia Winata	ELEVATE
Videographer	-	-	Kevin Widarja
Music	CANTATE	Joe & Bernadette Fernandes	ELEVATE
Morning Tea	-	Buddhi & Lakshitha Reginald	ELEVATE

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

### Recently Deceased:

**Death Anniversaries:** Rose Carter, Joseph Su, Maria Pagliaro, Bill Cosgrove, Paola Staffieri, William Song, Budiman Harianto, Carlton Crouch, Paul Staffieri, Wong Sin Fah, Violet Feilafe, John Adams, Dennis Green, Johanna Visser, John Walsh, Brother Eddie Wishart SAC, Roslyn Bell, Margaret Dalton, Emmanuela Bugeja, Kieran Kelly, Edna Carroll, Harry Morrow, Joe Brozic, Bunnie Lim, Helen Comello, Sheila Cameron, Concetta D'Sario, Thomas Tyler, Rita Fayd'herbe, Mary Gill, Victor Manuel Fernandez Alvarez.

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