

ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL

IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

3 MAY 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 Fifth Sunday of Easter opens with Jesus' tender words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled." He speaks these to His disciples on the eve of His Passion, knowing their fears and uncertainties. In this moment, He reveals something profound — that He Himself is "the way, the truth, and the life" — not just a guide to God, but the very path and presence of God among us. This passage invites us to trust, even when the road ahead feels unclear. Thomas voices the question many of us carry: "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus' answer is not a map, but a relationship — to know Him is to know the Father, to walk with Him is to be on the right path. In our own lives, we often long for certainty, yet faith calls us to lean into trust. The

"way" is not a distant destination but a daily journey of love, service, and openness to

God's presence. Jesus assures us that whoever believes in Him will do His works — and even greater ones — because His Spirit will be with us.



REGULAR MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 6.30 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: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7
Stephen is chosen as the first deacon.

Resp Psalm: Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22
(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9
Jesus, a living cornerstone.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 14:1-12

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says
the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him,
bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR A)

1st: Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17
Resp Psalm: Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1
2nd: 1 Peter 3:15-18
Gospel: John 14:15-21

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. childrensministrsyndal@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 ...

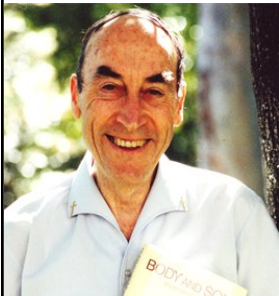
there is so much to see!

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

PARISH MINISTRIES AND NOTICES

NO MORNING MASS - Thurs 7th May 2026

Due to Rev Fr John Wilson's funeral, there will be NO mass that morning.



Funeral Details for Rev. Fr. John Winson SAC Thursday 7th May

10.30am Rosary
11.00am Mass
2:00 pm Burial at Melbourne
General Cemetery, Carlton
All are welcome

Beyond the Pews From Parishioners To Disciples By Paulist Evangelistic Ministries

**A Faith Formation program:
for those who seek a true life of discipleship in
Christ, beyond the pews!**

By: Fred Choy

Duration: **Tuesday 10.30am~12.30pm**

Sessions: May 12, 19, 26; June 2, 9, 16, 23;
[break]; July 28; August 4, 11, 18

Place: Presbytery, St. Christopher's, Syndal

Cost: approx. \$10/person / *12 pax max*

REGISTRATION MANDATORY

Please register **by 10 May** by submitting your name and contact number to (or for inquiries):
(PLS TEXT ONLY – I'll call back) 0431 950090
e: discipleship@stchristopherssyndal.com.au



WINTER APPEAL 2026

This weekend we are holding our annual Winter Appeal. Your support can change lives!!

By donating, you help provide assistance to those in need in our community. Every contribution, big or small, makes a significant impact. Donations \$2 and above are tax deductible and receipts will be provided. You can contribute by completing the envelopes provided in the church pews, or donations can be dropped off at the parish office at any time. Join us in our mission to give a hand up, not just a hand out to those in need. Together, we can make a difference. Thank you for your support!

CHARISMATIC Prayer Group

Wednesday 13th May @ 7:30pm - Cenacle Room
Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916

All are welcome ...

Anointing Mass @ St Christopher's Parish

Wednesday 13th May 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 ****

BIBLE STUDIES

*Practical Solutions for Sanctifying
Everyday Circumstances*

James An 11-part bible study featuring **Jeff Cavins**

Bible Study by Jeff Cavins and facilitated by Gwen O'Brien

St Christophers Parish - Cenacle Room

Thursdays at 7:30pm

(repeat on Saturdays from 10:00am—11:30am via zoom)

Commencing: Thursday 4th June, 2026

For Dates, please go to our website:

[Bible Study: Book of James | St. Christopher's Catholic Parish Syndal](#)

Or view the flyer in the narthex



CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). CatholicCare Victoria works with those facing homelessness, those experiencing mental health challenges, families struggling with relationship problems, newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers, and those experiencing grief and trauma. This year, the Appeal aims to give hope and support to people experiencing homelessness. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. Your compassion ensures individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives. Your generosity helps open the door to safety, dignity and hope. Please donate to CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal.

You can donate using the appeal envelope available in our parish, donate online at www.catholiccarevic.org.au or call (03) 9967 2515. All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible. "For I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Matthew 25:35)

OTHER NOTICES

The Holy Dignity of Human Work : A Reflection on St. Joseph, Patron of Workers

“Is he not the carpenter’s son?” — Matthew 13:55

Every year, on the first day of May, the Church invites us to pause amidst the noise and demands of ordinary life and to contemplate a profound truth: work is holy. The feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, established by Pope Pius XII in 1955, is not merely a liturgical response to Labour Day. It is a bold theological declaration — that the toil of human hands, when offered with faith and love, participates in the creative work of God himself. Joseph of Nazareth was a carpenter — a craftsman who shaped wood, who measured and cut and joined and built. He was not a king, not a philosopher, not a priest in the temple. Yet God chose him to be the guardian of the Holy Family. In Joseph, we see that greatness in God’s eyes is not measured by title or salary or public recognition. It is measured by fidelity: the quiet, steadfast faithfulness with which we fulfil the duties entrusted to us each day. Joseph is a model for us precisely because his life was so ordinary. He rose early, worked with his hands, provided for his family, and did all of this in silence and in faith. The Gospels record not a single word spoken by him. His entire witness is written in deeds — in the workshop, on the road to Egypt, in the long years of Nazareth. For most of us, this is also how our lives are written: not in grand gestures, but in the small, repeated acts of duty, care, and love. In a world that often reduces work to a means of income or a measure of status, Joseph calls us back to a deeper vision. Whether we labour in a field or an office, in a classroom or a kitchen, in a hospital ward or at a factory bench — our work has dignity. It has dignity because through it we serve others, because it shares in God’s own creative love, and because when it is united to the cross of Christ, even its burdens become redemptive. Today, let us bring our work before God — its joys and its frustrations, its rewards and its weariness. Let us ask Saint Joseph to intercede for all who labour: for those who have lost their jobs, for those who are exploited or underpaid, for those whose work goes unseen and uncelebrated. And let us renew our commitment to see Christ in every person we serve through our daily toil.

A Worker’s Prayer to Saint Joseph *Saint Joseph, carpenter of Nazareth, patron of all who work with their hands and hearts, obtain for us the grace to labour faithfully, to serve generously, and to find in our daily work a path to holiness and a gift to God. Amen.*

Wedding Anniversaries

We praise you, O God, we bless you, Creator of all things, who in the beginning made man and woman that they might form a communion of life and love. We also give you thanks for graciously blessing our family so that it might present an image of Christ's union with the Church.

NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE 2026 will take place over the first four weeks of May, beginning this weekend on the 2nd and 3rd of May 2026. You will see a few volunteers roaming around the church undertaking the count.


WOMEN’S HEALTH EVENT
SATURDAY 16TH MAY, 2026 / 9.30am—
11:30am
 St Christopher’s Hennessey Hall,
(morning tea provided)*
 Guest Speaker: Unna Goldsworthy
 Theme: Midlife Well-being: Breathwork Tools
 Cost \$25 RSVP 14th May, 2026
 Book Online: <https://www.trybooking.com/DLIIP>
 Contact: Christina Sorbello on 0408 355 527
** please indicate any dietary requirements*

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 term, can we remind 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 * You will need your WWCC number.

This link is also available on the parish website under Safeguarding.

*(* Electronic link attached)*

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

March 2026 : \$ 7,831.40

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

2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

March 2026 : \$ 13,983.00

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 4 May 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	Mary Tan	Pauline Perrin	Mary & Charles Seong, David Whalan
Thursday 9.15am	Ronnie Poskitt	Flowers	
Saturday 9.15am	Louise Pagliaro	Jennie Johan	
Duty	6.30pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Paul Liew	Felcon Gatab	Robert Vecchio
Altar Server	Evana D'Silva, Rashwin & Radesh Lenora	Malone De Silva, Klarissa Ryan	Chrislyn & Celine Wawolangi, Beatrice Li
Commentator	Mary Tan	Volunteer	Julian Tan
Reader	Kevin Widarja	Jack Krohn	Lena Peh
Eucharistic Minister	Tony Hough, Ronnie Poskitt	Shivanthi & Gerard Chitty	Catherine Drake, Harry Lim, John Hackett
Welcome Desk	-	-	Loretta Stapleton
Greeters	Cathy & Beng Lee	Susan Lee	Carol Peters
Ushers	Catherine & Kelvin Loo	Alvennia Winata	Anne Boudeville, Angela Yap
Videographer	-	-	Jerome Tan
Music	CANTATE	Joe & Bernadette Fernandes	TRINITY
Morning Tea	-	Shivanthi & Gerrad Chitty	Sherin & Angelo Fernando

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

Recently Deceased:

Death Anniversaries: Alby Antonis, Les Lyons, Brian Sullivan, Helena Benda, Hartoyo Aulia, Patricia Borg, Patricia Pagliaro, Jim Smith, Bernadette Bradbury, Dorothy Cox, Laurie Johnson, Joan Heland, Sr Bernard (Amelia) Welsh PBVM, Fr Leo Curran, John Pike, Regina Ganlath, Ted O'Connor, Dawn Murphy (Doreen) & Allan Murphy, Rudolf Matusch, David Tan, Margaret San, Domenico Natoli, Owen Neville, Norma Mahony, Eileen Commons.

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