



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL

IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (YEAR A)

17 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 feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the

Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church). Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He

teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.



REGULAR MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 6.00 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 1:1-11
Jesus is taken up into heaven.

Resp Psalm: Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6
(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23
Christ is head of the church.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:

PENTACOST SUNDAY (YEAR A)

1st: Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11
Resp Psalm: Ps 103:1. 24. 29-31. 34. R. v.30
2nd: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13
Gospel: John 20:19-23

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

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SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: MR PATRICK GREEN
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Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals:
T. 9802 8538
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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



St Christopher's
CATHOLIC PARISH SYNDAL

— First Friday in June —

Mass and Adoration



Mass
7:00PM



Adoration
7:30PM



at St. Christophers Parish
5 Doon Avenue - Syndal

First Friday Mass

followed by Adoration



Celebrant:
Fr. Jacob Alvarez SAC



Music by
Holy Trinity Community



Missionary mandate: *Jesus said: "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20*

The Church is missionary by her very nature. This mission is not simply a strategy or activity of the Church; it is rooted in the very life of God. The Second Vatican Council's *Lumen Gentium* teaches that "the Church on earth is by her nature missionary, since, according to the plan of the Father, she has her origin in the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit" (LG 17). To belong to the Church, therefore, is to be part of God's movement of love and salvation toward the world. Pope Francis deepened this vision in *Evangelii Gaudium* when he called the whole Church to a "missionary conversion." He writes: "I dream of a missionary option, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today's world rather than for her self-preservation" (EG 27). A missionary parish is a parish that reaches out with courage, compassion, and joy, bringing people into an encounter with Jesus Christ. Mission, however, begins with discipleship. Not every person who attends Mass has made a personal and intentional decision to follow Christ, this is not a judgement. An intentional disciple is someone who freely says: "Lord, I choose to follow you." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that "conversion is first of all a work of the grace of God who makes our hearts turn to him" (CCC 1432), yet it also requires our free response. Discipleship is not simply inherited; it is embraced through a living relationship with Jesus. The *Directory for Catechesis* (2020) teaches that the goal of catechesis is to lead people into "a living, explicit and fruitful confession of faith" (DC 75). When we truly encounter Christ, faith becomes personal, transformative, and missionary. Jesus Himself says: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last" — John 15:16. The mission of the Church belongs to every baptised person. *Apostolicam Actuositatem* teaches that the laity are called to "sanctify the world from within like leaven" (AA 2). Through Baptism and Confirmation, all the faithful are called to be prophets, priests, and kings — bringing God's truth, mercy, and love into families, workplaces, communities, society and world wide itself. Being Christ to others is not simply an ideal; it is our vocation and mission. Pope Francis beautifully reminds us: "Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus" (EG 120). The deeper our encounter with Christ, the greater our desire to share Him with others. Today, as we celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, Jesus once again commissions us to go forth, proclaim the Good News, and make disciples of all nations. He assures us that He remains with us always. Strengthened by that promise, let us go out with missionary zeal and become, in the spirit of St. Vincent Pallotti, true apostles of the Eternal Father, bringing the light and love of Christ to the world.

PARISH / OTHER NOTICES

St. Christopher's FUNDRAISING 2026

Saturday, 30 May 2026
17:00 – 18:30 (Fried Vermicelli only)
Sunday, 31st May 2026
8:30 – 9:30 & 11:30 – 13:00
5 Doon Ave, Glen Waverley 3150



WARUNG INDO nesia



Menu



SATAY SENAYAN
NASI KUNING & FRIED CHICKEN
INDONESIAN FRIED RICE
PEMPEK (FISH CAKE)

INDO PRAWN CRACKERS

SWEET SNACK PACK (Cucur,
Dadar Gulung, Pisang Goreng)

NASI BAKAR **
(**Nasi Bakar Pre-order only!!
Form available at Narthex)

Supported by



Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession

Jesus himself came near
and was walking with them.
LUKE 24:15

**SUNDAY 7 JUNE, 2PM
STARTS AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
CONCLUDES AT FED SQUARE**

Together with Archbishop Peter A Comensoli, let us bring Christ in the Eucharist—our light—into the heart of the city of Melbourne.
Communities are invited to bring their banners!

CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026

New Synod Commission calls for prayers for missionary leaders
As the work towards the Archdiocese of Melbourne Synod continues, a new Synod Commission has been appointed. Having already met twice, it is calling on all the faithful to pray during the month of May for missionary leadership in our Arch-

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC DIGEST – OUT NOW

The latest edition of the Melbourne Catholic Digest (Easter) is now available. This free newspaper is published every two months by the Communications Office and is offered especially for elderly parishioners who do not have access to the weekly newsletter. You can also download a PDF version of the latest Digest from here:

<https://melbournecatholic.org/melbourne-catholic-digest-archive>

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)



ELEVATE YOUTH We are currently midway through a jam-packed term here at Elevate Youth, and it has already been an exciting season filled with faith, fellowship, and community! On the 22nd of May, we will be holding our Pentecost Evening for all youth. It will be a powerful night of worship, prayer, and encounter as we come together to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit. We encourage everyone to come along and invite a friend! We are also continuing our fundraising efforts for our upcoming Mission to the Philippines. After Youth Mass this Sunday, we will be selling food to help raise funds for the trip. These funds will not only help lower the cost for the youth attending the mission, but will also go towards supporting the people of Bacolod and the incredible work the Sisters are doing within the community there. Thank you to everyone for your continued prayers, generosity, and support. Please keep our mission team in your prayers as we prepare to serve and support those in need.
Elevate Youth.

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

April 2026 : \$ 9,099.10

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

2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

April 2026 : \$ 12,493.00

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 18 May 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	Mary Tan	Angela and Paul Liew	Graham Barker, Margaret Carr, Margaret Campbell
Thursday 9.15am	Ronnie Poskitt		
Saturday 9.15am	Louise Pagliaro		
Duty	6.00pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Ida Wati	Susan Lee	Chris De Silva
Altar Server	Shaina Chaugule, Kevin Saldana	Olivia & Cameron Lettice	Maria Jose Valencia, Beatrice Li, Klarissa Ryan
Commentator	Christina Sorbello	David Whalan	Jessica Fernando
Reader	Austin Swamy	Phil Green	Ian Darmawan
Eucharistic Minister	Ronnie Poskitt, Tony Hough	Brigid Chan, Volunteer	Justin Tan, Brian Worcester, Genny Leeworthy
Welcome Desk	-	-	Margaret Yap
Greeters	Anne Boudeville	Eunice Wong	Cynthia Boudeville
Ushers	Volunteer	Rianny Tjung	Shireen Pires, Lyn Lam
Videographer	-	-	Louie & Julian
Music	GRAE'S GROUP	RECORDED MUSIC	CHRISTY'S GROUP
Morning Tea	-	Graham & Pauline Perrin	Marie & Gamini Fernando

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

Recently Deceased: Raymond Lamerand

Death Anniversaries: James Jaiyaseelan, William Foley, Anna Rutishauser, Frank Mahon, Maria Kuncoro, Amalam Carvalho, Keith Beverley, Mathilda Ferella, Josephine Doyle, Evan Phokion, Barry Lauritz, Margaret Battersby, Sean Greene, Doris John, John McConvill, Fini Moser, Bryan Smith, Kathleen McDermott, Robert Murphy, Maria del Fatima Lee, Claire Nacard, Jee Leng.

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