



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL
IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

19 JULY 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...

Today we hear how the Spirit of God dwells in all of us, helping us in our weakness. The first disciples had Jesus to explain the parables; we have the Spirit to enlighten us. It is the Spirit who helps us to interpret the teaching of Jesus and to be receptive to the challenges that they pose.

The presence of sinners in the kingdom of God is often a stumbling block to good people. There will be a time for separation and judgment, but the time is not now. This means that the righteous will have to live with the sinner and, even more challengingly, show them the same kind of concern that they show to others. The presence of sinners does not necessarily erode the quality of the kingdom. Rather, it provides disciples an opportunity to rise to the occasion of generosity and forgiveness.

There are two images of judgment in the readings. The one in the gospel is terrifying and decisive. The wicked are bound together into bundles and readied for burning. We must remember that this is a parable. In the first reading and in the psalm response the justice of God is said to be lenient, clement and kind. The power of God is demonstrated not in retribution but in mercy. God is said to be 'merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness and fidelity', and repentance is a very real possibility. This is the image that gives us hope.

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: Wisdom 12:13.16-19
God is mighty and gentle.

Resp Psalm: Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5
(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

2nd Reading: Romans 8:26-27
The Spirit overcomes our weaknesses.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of
the kingdom. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The Lord, the gracious, the merciful, has made a
memorial of his wonders; he gives food to those
who fear him.

READINGS NEXT WEEK: SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

1st: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

Resp Psalm: Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

2nd: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

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 SAC
E. jacob.alvares@cam.org.au

PARISH SECRETARY/VENUE HIRE:
T. 9802 8538
E. syndal@cam.org.au

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL: MR PATRICK GREEN
E. principal@scsyndal.catholic.edu.au

Elevate: Chelsea Lim
E. elevatemyouthminister@gmail.com

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals:
T. 9802 8538
E. syndal@cam.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 dePaul:
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 22 Jul @ 7:30pm Cenacle Room
Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916

All are welcome ...

St Christopher's Church

Sunday 2 August

Healing 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

July	Thursday 23rd;	30th	
	Saturday 18th;	25th;	1st August
August	Thursday 6th;	13th;	20th
	Saturday 8th;	15th;	22nd
September	Thursday 3rd;	17th	
	Saturday 5th;	19th	

Is there more to life than this

Alpha is a safe space to explore life, purpose and the Christian faith, ask questions and share your point of view. Alpha is free and everyone is welcome.

Where? St Christopher's Church, (Fellowship Hub)

Starts? Wednesday 15 July at 7:00PM
(runs for 10 weeks)

Contact: Catherine Drake/Shireen Pires
Parish Office: 9802 8538



To learn more about Alpha, visit

alpha.org.au



TENNIS CLUB @ St Christopher's will hold its Annual General Meeting at 11am on Saturday 25 July in the clubrooms. *All members and parish-ioners welcome.*

Learn about this year's activities and about plans for the coming year.



Fr Jacob's Reflection ...

Invitation for an honest discussion in the days ahead...

Dear Parishioners,

The Melbourne Synod 2026 invites the Archdiocese together with its Laity and Clergy to listen attentively to the Holy Spirit and renew the Church's mission through three interconnected themes such as: Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership, and Formation and Participation; intended to shape evangelical and missionary priorities of the Archdiocese and local churches for the years ahead.

Young Discipleship centres on helping young people build a real, living relationship with Jesus Christ and grow into missionary disciples. This unfolds as a lifelong journey through three key steps. *Encounter* is where it begins—young people meeting Jesus personally through prayer, Scripture, worship, and honest Christian witness, since many are open to faith and want to see people who truly live what they believe. *Engage* follows, as young people grow deeper through the sacraments, community life, learning, and open conversation, supported first by families and then by mentors, teachers, and parish leaders. *Embark* is the final step, where young people live as missionary disciples through service, leadership, and integrity. The Synod calls every parish to create places where young people can meet Christ, belong, and boldly share the Gospel.

Missionary Leadership recognises that every baptised person—not only clergy or those in formal roles—is called to share in Christ's mission through discipleship, witness, and service. Missionary leaders encourage participation rather than dependence, recognising and developing the gifts of others and forming new leaders across families, schools, workplaces, and parishes. The Synod calls parishes to move beyond maintaining existing structures toward becoming truly missionary communities that reach out intentionally and invite others to encounter Jesus.

Formation and Participation frames formation as the lifelong process of growing as a disciple, enabling every baptised person to live their faith more deeply. Rather than simply imparting knowledge, true formation is personal transformation through prayer, Scripture, the sacraments, discernment, and community life. The Synod acknowledges that many face barriers to formation and calls for approaches that are accessible, inclusive, lifelong, and responsive to today's pastoral realities—nurturing human, intellectual, spiritual, and pastoral growth together.

The Need for Consultation: Since all three themes are rooted in Baptism and shared responsibility, their renewal cannot be discerned from the top down—it requires a genuine process of listening led by the Holy Spirit. Consultation is the very method by which the Spirit's direction becomes clear: it honours the co-responsibility of every baptised person, surfaces the lived experience and wisdom of parishioners themselves, and fosters the dialogue and shared discernment that synodality demands. Only through this participatory engagement can a pastoral plan take authentic root, ensuring the whole People of God—not merely its leaders—shapes the Church's missionary future together.

PARISH / OTHER NOTICES



*We exist to serve the people of God,
enabling the Gospel of Jesus Christ to
come alive in our community"*

Would you like to explore the Catholic Faith? The team of RCIA welcomes participants to join the 2026 program starting on **Thursday 20 August 2026**.

RCIA Co-ordinator: Alison Trudgett

Queries and registration via Parish Secretary

T: 9802 8538, E: secretary@syndalcatholic.org.au

Malaysian/Singaporean Foodfest Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 August 2026

Fellowship Hub

Saturday 6pm (Fried Vermicelli/Noodles only)

Sunday 8:30am and 10:30am masses

Pre-order your food packs and desserts by completing the order form located in the Narthex.

Limited food packs will be available for sale after each mass - 8-9 August

Choosing Humanity

YOUTH Year 7-12
fridays 6:30 - 9pm
24 Jul 4 Sep
31 Jul 18 Sep
21 Aug
Youth Camp 2 - 4 Oct

Special Events
Youth Mass 19 Jul
Sundays 10:30am 16 Aug 20 Sep
Worship Night 7 Aug

Elevate Youth Groups
TERM 3, 2026

CONNECT 18 - 30
fridays 6:30 - 9pm
17 Jul 11 Sep
14 Aug 25 Sep
28 Aug
Cordis Y.A. Event 26 Jul
www.melbournecatholicyouth.org.au
Connect Retreat 1 - 2 Aug

Repose of the souls of Alan McHenry and Joe Greene

We pray for the repose of the soul of **Alan McHenry** who passed away on **Sunday 12 July 2026** and **Joe Greene** who passed away on **Tuesday 14 July 2026**.

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Alan's family and Joe's family and loved ones during this time of loss. May the comfort and peace of Christ be with them.

Funeral of Joe Greene

Date: Friday 24th July, 2026

Held at: St Christopher's Parish

Time: 11:00 am funeral mass

Refreshments: Fellowship Hub

Cremation private

Funeral of Alan McHenry

Date: Thursday 23rd July, 2026

Held at: St Christopher's Parish

Time: 10:30 am funeral mass

Refreshments: Fellowship Hub

Burial: 1:30 pm Springvale Botanical Cemetery



catholic mission

Free call: 1800 257 298
catholicmission.org.au/united



For Yamikani*, getting to school means walking long distances in pain, often without enough food or strength to make the journey. For many families in vulnerable and remote areas like rural Malawi, education has become an impossible choice.

But there is hope. Led by Fr Matthew Semba, a new primary school is being built, offering children a safe place to learn, grow, and look ahead with renewed possibility.

This World Mission Month, you are invited to share in this mission, standing with families as they rebuild their lives and create a brighter future for their children.

*Name changed for privacy

Mass intentions

Those who would like a mass intention to be offered up during mass, please contact the parish office.

Mass Offering of min. \$10 welcome.

T. 9802 8538

E. syndal@cam.org.au

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

June 2026 : \$ 7,556.70

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

2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

June 2026 : \$ 11,507.10

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 20 July 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	John Hackett	Cheryl & John Hackett	Ashley D'Silva, Carmelle Claney, Volunteer
Thursday 9.15am	Phil Green		
Saturday 9.15am	Louise Pagliaro		
Duty	6.00pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Ida Wati	Anastasia Darmawan	Harry Lim
Altar Server	Oliva & Cameron Lettice, Klarissa Ryan	Leader Volunteer, Daniela Ho	Maria Jose Valencia, Evana D'Silva
Commentator	Mary Tan	David Whalan	Joella Fernando
Reader	Volunteer	John Stone	Jessica Fernando
Eucharistic Minister	Marie Murphy, Ronnie Poskitt	Graham Perrin, Brigid Chan	Genny Leeworthy, Justin Tan, Brian Worcester
Welcome Desk	-	-	Margaret Yap
Greeters	Angelina Cubinar	Sharon Gomes	Lyn Lam
Ushers	Catherine & Kelvin Loo	Rianny Tjung	Jeanette Alexander, Shireen Pires
Videographer	-	-	Louie & Julian
Music	GRAE'S GROUP	RECORDED MUSIC	CHRISTY'S GROUP
Morning Tea	-	Graham & Pauline Perrin	Olympia & Fred John

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

Recently Deceased: Joe Greene, Alan McHenry

Death Anniversaries: Eddie Moesbergen, Joseph Chan, Georgie Hughes, Eustachio Marino, John Hutchinson, Basil Chitty, Alec Kmiec, Nguyen Thi Thu, Bertha Carroll, Frank Stephens, Gerald Jones, Lucian Aponso, Florence Edith McMahon, Jacinta Visser, Yeo Ban Hong, Helen Tyler, Terence Chapman, Cherie Bastiens, Phillip La Fontaine, Les Thompson.

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