



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL
IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

26 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...

Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.

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: 1 Kings 3:5.7-12

Solomon is granted an understanding heart.

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

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30

God makes all things work for the good of those
who love him.

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 13:44-52

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive
mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they
shall see God.

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

1st: Isaiah 55:1-3

Resp Psalm: Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

2nd: Romans 8:35. 37-39

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

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 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

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E. elevatemythminister@gmail.com

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 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 29 Jul @ 7:30pm Cenacle Room
Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916
All are welcome ...



THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY SOLEMNITY MASS

@ ST CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH &
HOLY SAVIOUR PARISH

FRIDAY 14TH AUGUST : VIGIL MASS 7PM

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST : 9:15AM
(Only at St Christopher's Parish)

Ministry to the Sick and Elderly Information Session next Sunday 2nd August

To be held in the **Cenacle Room**,
11.30 am to 12.30 (after 10.30 am Mass)

As a result of interest shown at the Ministry Fair, an information session will be held for those that signed up.

For any others that may be interested in this Ministry, you are most welcome to attend.

Please contact Peter Natoli:

0468 671 630 or peter_natoli@hotmail.com to register.

Russo Estate Winery Outing, Diggers Rest

Thursday 3 September 2026
10:45AM

Seniors Lunch

2 Course \$23.90 | 3 course \$28.90

A la carte menu available for non-seniors

Transport can be arranged if required.

Sign up sheets in the Narthex or message Mary Tan 0420 712 972
by **9 August**.

World day for Grandparents and the elderly

Theme: 'I will never forget you'
Isaiah 49:15



The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly was instituted by Pope Francis in 2021. It is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young, to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them may the Lord always renew us in faith, hope and love — He who never forgets us!

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We thank **Brother Jacob Yang** for being part of our parish family these last three weeks. His presence has enriched our community, and we are grateful for the faith and kindness he shared with us. Brother Jacob returns to his studies this Monday, and we hold him in prayer, trusting that the Lord will continue to lead him faithfully in his vocation.

Melbourne synod 2026 – Theme Paper Release

Synod theme papers

The Synod theme papers are an important step in our journey of listening and discernment as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. The papers aim to foster a spirit of hope and imagination—trusting that, as we walk together, God is calling us into a future marked by faithfulness, renewal, and deeper communion.

Conversation in the Spirit process

The suggested reflection process is 'Conversation in the Spirit' or a Spiritual Conversation. This process is based in prayer and allows people to come together to both speak and to listen. Different from a discussion, it is an attentive listening process that aims to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us. A guide to this process is attached.

How do we provide feedback?

At the conclusion of each theme paper, there are prompt questions for reflection. Responses to these prompt question can be provided via the QR code or the website address which is at the end of the paper.

To access the Theme Papers, please click in the link below:

[Melbourne Synod 2026](#) | [Melbourne Catholic](#)

PARISH / OTHER NOTICES



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

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: syndal@cam.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
(Char Kuey Teow & Loh Shi Fun only)

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 on 8 & 9 August

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.

Choosing Humanity

Elevate Youth Groups
TERM 3, 2026

YOUTH Year 7-12
fridays 6:30 - 9pm

24 Jul 4 Sep
31 Jul 18 Sep
21 Aug

Youth Camp 2 - 4 Oct

CONNECT 18 - 30
fridays 6:30 - 9pm

17 Jul 11 Sep
14 Aug 25 Sep
28 Aug

Cordis Y.A. Event 26 Jul
whitelines@melb.catholicyouth

Connect Retreat 1 - 2 Aug

Special Events

Youth Mass 19 Jul
Sundays 10:30am 16 Aug 20 Sep

Worship Night 7 Aug

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 27 July 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	Mary Tan	Pauline Perrin	Graham Barker, Margaret Carr, Margaret Campbell
Thursday 9.15am	Ronnie Poskitt		
Saturday 9.15am	Phil Green		
Duty	6.00pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Paul Liew	Susan Lee	Chris De Silva
Altar Server	Evana D'Silva, Rashwin & Radesh Lenora	Klarissa Ryan 1 xVolunteers	Beatrice Li, Elisha Lai, Josiah Paiva
Commentator	Ronnie Poskitt	Volunteer	Ian Darmawan
Reader	Justin Tan	Jon Chavarria	Lena Peh
Eucharistic Minister	Christina Sorbello, Andy Lim	Shivanthi & Gerard Chitty	Catherine Drake, Harry Lim, Genny Leeworthy
Welcome Desk	-	-	Volunteer
Greeters	Volunteer	Mina Ierufi	Shireen Pires
Ushers	Volunteer	Eunice Wong	Lyn Lam, Anegla Yap
Videographer	-	-	Dilan Cooray
Music	CANTATE	EFRATA	REJOICE
Morning Tea		Shamalka & Family	Volunteers Required

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

Recently Deceased:

Death Anniversaries: Peter Thomas, Mary Hardie, Frances Young, Amelia Lyons, Kathleen Barnes, Howard Kemp, Ludek Novotny, Joan Kruger, Margot Harrison, Dorothy Johnson, Nella Fiscaro, Cecilia Ringrow, Carmen Fiorino, Gabriel Arboleda, Heather Claxton, John Lamerand, John Lamerand, Theresa Powell, Margaret Ho & Cecilia Ho, Anthony Kh'ng, John Brennan, Miroslav Fraczak, Vincent Hitchins, Antoinette Emmanuel, Kumar Amarasekara, David Anthony, Vincenza D'Angelo, Michael Hogan, Kum Eng Chiam, Mary Whelan, Hoch Teah Ng, Lawrence Johnson.

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