



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL
IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

16 AUGUST 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's readings highlight a powerful message: **God's love and mercy are for everyone.** Isaiah proclaims that God's house will be "a house of prayer for all peoples," while St. Paul reminds us that God's gifts and call are irrevocable. In the Gospel, Jesus responds to the persistent faith of the Canaanite woman and grants healing to her daughter. The Canaanite woman stands as a remarkable example of faith. She was an outsider, not a member of Israel, yet she approached Jesus with humility, courage, and unwavering trust. She persisted, believing that God's mercy was greater than any barrier. Jesus ultimately praises her, saying, "O woman, great is your faith!"

This Gospel challenges us to examine our own faith. How often do we become discouraged when our prayers are not answered immediately? Faith is not merely believing when everything is going well; it is continuing to trust when God's timing and plans are not yet clear. The readings also invite us to widen our hearts. God does not exclude people because of their background, nationality, status, or past mistakes. His invitation extends to all who seek

Him sincerely. As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect that same openness, welcoming others with compassion rather than judgment. As we celebrate this Eucharist, let us pray for the grace to have the persistence of the Canaanite woman, the openness of heart described by Isaiah, and the confidence in God's mercy proclaimed by St. Paul. May we trust that God's love is wide enough to embrace all people, and may we become instruments of that love in our families, parish, and community.

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: Isaiah 56:1-7

The Lord's justice is about to be revealed

Resp Psalm: Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

2nd Reading: Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

God's gifts are irrevocable.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the living bread that came down from
heaven, says the Lord.
Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.

READINGS NEXT WEEK: TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY

IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

1st: Isaiah 22:19-23

Resp Psalm: Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

2nd: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

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. 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 26 Aug @ 7:30pm Cenacle Room
Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916

All are welcome ...

GUIDED ADORATION WITH FIRST FRIDAY MASS & ADORATION

4 September, 2026

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

come spend an hour with me ..

Anointing Mass @ St Christopher's Parish

Wednesday 9 September 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 ****

Cheese and Wine evening : Fri 4 Sept: New Parishioners Welcome!

We would like to invite our new parishioners to an informal Wine and Cheese evening on
Friday 4th September at 6-7 pm, Cenacle.

The purpose of the evening is to welcome all new parishioners to our parish family.

If you wish to attend , please RSVP to our Hospitality Co-ordinator Cynthia via email cboudev@gmail.com

THANK YOU TO THE MALAYSIAN/SINGAPOREAN TEAM



What an absolute amazing, dedicated and motivated team we had for the Malaysian/Singaporean Foodfest.

RAISED: \$9,486.00

This will go towards repayment of the parish loan.
Thank you to all who have made this happen to support our parish. God Bless!



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: syndal@cam.org.au

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2026

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to

support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code located on the campaign material. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends.



ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

IN THE CHURCH AT 11AM

To Register, please email the

parish office: syndal@cam.org.au

**** must have received 1st Holy Communion to participate ****



Sri Lankan Foodfest

12 and 13 September

...Preordering will be taken from next weekend.



St Christopher's Tennis Club's excellent *en tout cas* courts are now available for casual bookings - use the Booking button at <https://play.tennis.com.au/stchristopherssyndaltennisclub>.

Cost is just \$10 per hour per court for a special introductory period. Lights are available using \$2 coins - six coins per hour. **Come and try!**
Any questions contact Club President Jack Krohn on 0433 124 473.

PARISH / OTHER NOTICES

Melbourne Archdiocesan Synod

What is the Holy Spirit saying to us and the Archdiocese?

Let's come together and share our collective wisdom led by the Holy Spirit.

Schedule of Conversations in the Spirit Sessions
(One and a half hours)

NOTE:

Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 August - final weekend to submit your feedback for the Synodal Online Consultation Process

Venue: Fellowship Hub

Tuesday 18 August 10am

Theme: Young Discipleship

Wednesday 19 August 10am

Theme: Formation and Participation

Zoom Sessions

Thursday 20 August 7.30pm

Theme: Formation and Participation

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83996811555pwd=rbCnD2bA3udHoCNBCaAM4N4nHtbA2V.1>

Fr Jacob's Reflection ...

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, St Francis of Assisi reminds us in his beautiful prayer: **“For it is in giving that we receive.”** These simple words express one of the deepest truths of our Christian faith. Every gift we offer to God returns to us in ways far greater than we can imagine. Generosity is never a loss; it is an investment in God's Kingdom. Jesus Himself tells us, **“Courage! Do not be afraid.”** (Matthew 14:27). These words are the theme of this year's Archbishop's Campaign. They remind us that when we place our trust in God, He can accomplish extraordinary things through ordinary people like us.

The Archbishop's Campaign is much more than a fundraising appeal. It is an invitation to participate in the mission of Christ across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. Through your generosity, we help to form our future priests, care for our retired and sick priests who have faithfully served God's people for many decades, strengthen the ministries of our Church, support chaplaincies, Catholic Care, overseas missions, the John Pierce Centre for the Deaf, theological education, and many other charitable works that bring Christ's love to those most in need.



Today we also give thanks for the gift of vocation. At present, our Archdiocese has **17 seminarians** preparing to become priests, with **three new seminarians entering this year**. They are saying “yes” to God's call. They need our prayers and our practical support. At the same time, we honour our retired priests whose lifetime of sacrifice has nourished our faith. Many baptised us, celebrated our marriages, comforted us in times of grief, and faithfully preached the Gospel. Supporting them is not simply an act of charity; it is an act of gratitude.

Saint John Chrysostom once said, **“Not to share our wealth with the poor is to steal from them.”** He reminds us that everything we possess is ultimately God's gift, entrusted to us for the good of others.

Saint Mother Teresa also said: **“It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.”**

God does not measure the size of the donation but the generosity of the heart.

And Saint Paul encourages us: **“God loves a cheerful giver.”** (2 Corinthians 9:7)

Each of us may not be called to become a priest, a religious, or a missionary, but every one of us is called to be a partner in the Church's mission. Through our prayers, our witness, and our generosity, we become co-workers in spreading the Gospel.

Today I invite you to prayerfully consider making a gift to the Archbishop's Campaign. If you are able, a monthly recurring gift provides ongoing support for these important ministries. Whether your contribution is large or small, it becomes part of something much greater than ourselves—the continuing mission of Christ in our Archdiocese.

As we reflect on the blessings God has given us, let us remember the words of our Lord:

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35)

May our generosity today become a sign of our gratitude to God and a blessing for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued generosity, your faith, and your support. May God bless you abundantly.

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

July 2026 : \$ 7,442.90

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

2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

July 2026 : \$ 13,094.80

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 17 August 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	John Hackett	Paula Eales	Mary & Charles Seong, Carmelle Claney
Thursday 9.15am	Justin Tan		
Saturday 9.15am	Louise Pagliaro		
Duty	6.00pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Paul Liew	Anastasia Darmawan	Chris De Silva
Altar Server	Mikaela & Raziel Reuben, Naomi Thomas	Olivia & Cameron Lettice	Chrislyn & Celine Wawolangi, Beatrice Li, Klarissa Ryan
Commentator	Ronnie Poskitt	David Whalan	Grae Widarja
Reader	Carmen/Carlos Escobar	Alvennia Winata	Ian Darmawan
Eucharistic Minister	Andy Lim, Christina Sorbello	Graham Perrin, Brigid Chan	Justin Tan, Brian Worcester, Harry Lim
Welcome Desk	-	-	Shireen Pires
Greeters	Volunteer	Sharon Gomes	Amy Noto
Ushers	Catherine & Kelvin Loo	Mina Ierufi	Jeanette Alexander, Angela Yap
Videographer	-	-	Louie & Julian
Music	GRAE'S GROUP	RECORDED MUSIC	CHRISTY'S GROUP
Morning Tea	-	Harendra, Ruchika Aggrawal	Salome Christy & Chris Nallararatnam

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

Recently Deceased:

Death Anniversaries: Shelagh Maureen Gleeson, Les Donohoe, David Smith, Joseph McInerney, Stella Mildred Gabriel, Pat Thompson, Sr Margaret Atkins, Stella Gabriel, Anis Gunawan, Paul Donohue, Victor Bailey, John Moesbergen, Mary Dowd, Theresia Sumanty, Aline De Chaumont, Chen Yuk Lan, Eileen Barnes, Naomi Duff, Rex Shelley, Charles Leeworthy, Br. Bob Bradley SAC, John Grimes, Rita Simon.

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