



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL
IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

23 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...

The readings highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it. Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this liturgical context, the same question is posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah.

When Peter testified to Jesus' identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer?

Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they

were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter's failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God's grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God's ways unsearchable.

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 22:19-23

The Lord appoints Eliakim over the house of Judah.

Resp Psalm: Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8
(R.) Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Who knows the mind of God?

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church; the gates of hell will not hold out against it. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

READINGS NEXT WEEK: TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

1st: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Resp Psalm: Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

2nd: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

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. elevatemyyouthminister@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 ****

HOME MASS INVITATION

You are warmly invited to join our Home Masses:

Friday, 25 Sep | 7:30pm

Hosts: Gary and Cynthia McGrath

☐ Text/WhatsApp: 0402 636123

Festival Mass

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY
WAVERLEY REGIONAL COUNCIL
2026 FESTIVAL MASS AND GATHERING**

WHEN: 9:15am, Tuesday 1st September

WHERE: St Christopher's Catholic Church
5 Doon Ave, Syndal

Please join us after Mass for morning tea and the presentation of service badges. We look forward to celebrating this special occasion with you!

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

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 ****



ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2026

This is a final reminder to complete your pledge to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign and to play your part in supporting the vital ministries that serve our faith community across the

Archdiocese of Melbourne. The campaign invites all the faithful to support the formation of seminarians, the care of our retired priests, and the important charitable and evangelisation works of the Archdiocese. Further details, along with information on how to make a gift, can be found in the brochures available in the pews and foyer today. While recognising the challenges many may be facing, I encourage you to consider giving generously in whatever way you are able.

Note: There will be a 3rd collection this weekend and next weekend.



ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

The permanent diaconate is open to single and married men, aged from 30 into their 50's, who want to serve God and the Church as ordained ministers. The information session is open to everyone interested in knowing more about the permanent diaconate.

Online Diaconate information meeting

Tuesday, 22 September 2026 beginning 19:00 – 20:00

Location: via ZOOM

Attendance will be by invitation. Express your interest by emailing Deacon Kevin Pattison

Kevin.Pattison@cam.org.au

In the week before the session the ZOOM link will be sent to those who have expressed interest.

PRAYER SERVICE of LAMENT

15 September 2026

St Patrick's Cathedral Grounds, East Melbourne: 4.00pm

Parish Leaders and representatives are invited to join Archbishop Peter Comensoli on **Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 4.00pm** in the grounds of **St Patrick's Cathedral** to come before the Lord in prayer to lament. This occasion is to humbly stand alongside those who have suffered abuse, and all who continue to carry its lasting effects. It is for us, as the Body of Christ, to acknowledge and lament sincerely and with humility the failures that have caused such profound harm, and to place before the Lord our prayer for healing, justice and the ongoing conversion of His Church.

PARISH / OTHER NOTICES

Reflection ... Fr Jacob

Becoming a Catechumenal Church

Last Thursday, as partnered parishes, we began our RCIA process — the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults — hosted at St. Christopher's. But RCIA is far more than a programme for individuals preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It offers a vision of what our whole parish is called to become: **a Catechumenal Church.**

What does that mean? A Catechumenal Church does not simply invite people to attend its activities. It is the co-responsibility of every member of our community to accompany seekers on their journey toward Christ — listening to their questions, proclaiming the Gospel, leading them into the sacraments, and forming them as missionary disciples.

This journey unfolds across three dimensions: **Mystical, Eschatological, and Mystagogical.**

How Mystical?

At its heart, faith is not primarily assent to doctrine, but a personal encounter with the living Christ. The Catechism affirms that faith is first a relationship — a response to God who speaks, who calls, who draws us to Himself. It is entirely possible to know a great deal *about* Jesus without truly *knowing* Him. Scripture, prayer, community, worship, and the sacraments are not ends in themselves — they are the pathways along which we move from information to intimacy, from knowledge to love, from attendance to discipleship.

How Eschatological?

Our journey has a destination: the fullness of the Kingdom of God. Baptism is not enrolment in an institution; it is dying and rising with Christ into new life. This vision reshapes how we understand suffering, service, forgiveness, and hope — as a pilgrim people, making the Kingdom present here and now.

Why Mystagogical?

The journey does not end with the sacraments; in many ways, it begins there. The newly initiated ask: *What has happened in me? How is the Spirit at work in my life now?* This deeper reflection reveals that the sacraments are not ceremonies concluded, but mysteries that continue to unfold and transform us.

A Catechumenal Church, therefore, cultivates a **culture of accompaniment** — through mentors, sponsors, small faith communities, and ongoing opportunities for prayer, formation, and mission. The journey flows as: *Encounter → Conversion → Formation → Sacramental Life → Mystagogy → Discipleship → Mission.*

RCIA, then, becomes a model for the whole parish. When someone walks through our doors, do they simply attend Mass — or are they accompanied? Do they encounter Christ? Find communion with His Body? Discover their gifts, and in time, help others do the same?

A Catechumenal Church moves from **maintenance to mission**, from programmes to relationships, from information to formation, and from spectators to disciples.

This year, with that conviction, we have opened our RCIA Faith Journey to *all* parishioners — not only those preparing for reception into the Church, but existing Catholics who wish to refresh and deepen their faith. When seekers look around and see that everyone is still seeking, still being formed, still being converted — it changes everything. The journey becomes not a rite of passage for the few, but the very posture of the whole Church.

The goal is not more people in the pews, but people who can say: *"I have encountered Christ. I belong to Him. And now He is sending me to others."* **We are all still learning what it means to say: I believe.**

St Christopher's Sri Lankan Foodfest

Saturday 12th 6:00 pm
Sunday 13th Sept 2026,
8:30 am & 10:30 am masses

PRE-ORDER
NOW!
Order Forms
available in the
Narthex.

Authentic home-made dishes not to be missed out! Funds will be raised for the loan repayment on the Church renovation.

Menu located in the Narthex for pre-ordering. Thanks you for your continued support to our Parish.

DID YOU KNOW?

Points of interest and Catholic lore

1. Caesarea Philippi is north of the region of Galilee. It was given to Herod the Great by Augustus Caesar, and Herod built a white stone temple there, dedicating it to his patron. After Herod's death, it passed into the hands of his son, Philip, who built his capital here—hence the name, Caesarea Philippi.

2. The great stone temple built by Herod was at the natural spring that is the source of the Jordan River. The temple was dedicated to the Roman god of nature, Pan. The cave of Pan is housed in a high natural edifice of rock, and it was here that Jesus reputedly told Peter that he, too, would be a rock on which the Church is built—not dedicated to a pagan god but to the one true God.

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 24 August

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	Mary Tan	Margaret Foley Pat McCulloch Louise Pagliaro	Ashley D'Silva, Brian Incigneri David Whalan
Thursday 9.15am	Justin Tan		
Saturday 9.15am	Louise Pagliaro		
Duty	6.00pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	David & Erlin Tenggara	Felcon Gatab	Robert Vecchio
Altar Server	Gabriella & Raphaella Reuben, Klarissa Ryan	Malone De Silva, Daniela Ho	CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Commentator	Mary Tan	Alvennia Winata	CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Reader	Grae Widarja	David Whalan	CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Eucharistic Minister	Jonathan & Carrie Ng	Shivanthi & Gerard Chitty	Catherine Drake, John Hackett, Genny Leeworthy
Welcome Desk	-	-	Margaret Yap
Greeters	Volunteer	Eunice Wong	CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Ushers	Volunteer	Rianny Tjung	CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Videographer	-	-	Phil Eales
Music	RENEWED	RECORDED MUSIC	CHILDREN'S CHOIR
Morning Tea	-	Lyn Lam, Jason Chia	CHILDREN'S CHOIR

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

Recently Deceased:

Death Anniversaries: Francesca Biviano, Evelyn Johnston, Maurice Ferns, Isola Pagliaro, Chris Poskitt, Norm Lauritz, Angelo Martiniello, Antonio Colla, Veronica Worcester, Doreen Brook, Iocolano Vincenza, Terry Carr, Domenica DeGennaro, Mick Ferguson, Irene & Mariano Garcia, Barbara Stanton, Herminio Ocampo, Reginald Ludekens, Luis Aniban, William Gaunt, Caterina Carnovale, Gao Xing Hua, Marlene Ellis, Hannah Morton, Angelo Salvitti, Angela Gill, Ted Bamber, Adam Lancaster, Mary-Anne Smith.

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