



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL
IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

30 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...

In last Sunday's Gospel, Peter made a profound confession of faith: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Yet today we see a very different Peter. When Jesus begins to speak about His coming suffering, death, and resurrection, Peter cannot accept it. He rebukes Jesus, convinced that such suffering should never happen to the Messiah. Jesus responds strongly: "Get behind me, Satan!" These words may sound harsh, but they reveal an important truth. Peter's thoughts are shaped by human expectations rather than God's plan. He wants glory without sacrifice, victory without the cross. The challenge Jesus gives Peter is also directed to us. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." Following Christ is not simply about believing in Him when life is comfortable. It means trusting Him even when discipleship demands sacrifice, forgiveness, service, and perseverance through suffering. In today's world, many crosses are not dramatic. They may be the daily burdens of family life, caring for an elderly parent, living with illness,

remaining faithful during difficult times, or choosing honesty when dishonesty would be easier. Jesus does not ask us to seek suffering, but He invites us to carry life's challenges with faith, love, and hope. The paradox of the Gospel is that when we try to save our life for ourselves alone, we lose it. But when we give ourselves generously to God and to others, we discover true life. The cross is not the end of the story. Beyond the cross lies resurrection. Every act of self-giving love brings us closer to the life that Christ promises.

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: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Despite discouragement, God's word burns in Jeremiah's heart.

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

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2

Offer yourself as a living sacrifice.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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

1st: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Resp Psalm: Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

2nd: Romans 13:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

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. 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

GUIDED ADORATION

WITH FIRST FRIDAY MASS
& ADORATION

4 September, 2026

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

come spend an hour with me ..

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 ****



HOME MASS INVITATION

You are warmly invited to join our Home Mass:

Friday, 25 Sep | 7:30pm

Hosts: Gary and Cynthia McGrath

☐ Text/WhatsApp: 0402 636123

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 ****

CHARISMATIC Prayer Group

Wednesday 9 Sept @ 7:30pm Cenacle Room

Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916

All are welcome ...

This Sunday we celebrate the Sacrament
of Baptism of **Mia Tan**

May this sacred occasion mark the
beginning of a beautiful and fulfilling
spiritual journey. God bless you always.



ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN 2026

Thank you to everyone who has so
generously already made a pledge or gift
to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign.

Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to
make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital
ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Online (direct debit or
credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method
of donating, or you can use the campaign envelopes with tear-off
pledge cards.



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 pro-
found harm, and to place before the Lord our prayer for
healing, justice and the ongoing conversion of His Church.

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.

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

PARISH / OTHER NOTICES

Reflection ... Fr Jacob

A Reflection for FATHER'S DAY Fatherhood — A Gift to Family and Church

Every year, on the first Sunday of September, we pause to celebrate and honour fathers. We give cards, share meals and express our gratitude. Yet behind these simple gestures lies something much deeper: the human desire to be loved, protected, guided and valued by a father who is present.

For us as Christians, Father's Day is more than a cultural celebration. It is an opportunity to recognise **fatherhood as a vocation and a sacred responsibility**. Through the gift of life, fathers are entrusted with the beautiful task of nurturing, guiding and helping their children discover their identity and purpose as beloved children of God.

A father's role is not simply to provide materially. He is called to be a **protector, guide, encourager, teacher, companion and witness of faith**. Perhaps his greatest gift is his presence. Children need to know that their father is there—not only physically, but emotionally and spiritually.

Fathers teach their children through their everyday example. A father demonstrates courage when he faces difficulties with faith; integrity when he keeps his word; compassion when he listens; and love when he places the needs of his family before his own. He teaches faith when he prays, participates in Sunday Mass and encourages his family to remain close to Christ.

Christian fatherhood finds its deepest meaning in God Himself. Jesus teaches us to pray, **"Our Father."** God is the source and model of all fatherhood. Human fathers are called to reflect something of God's faithful, generous and unconditional love within their families.

No father is perfect. Every father carries weaknesses, regrets and moments when he wonders whether he has done enough. Yet fatherhood is not about perfection; it is about **faithfulness, perseverance and love**. A father who keeps trying, who asks forgiveness, who forgives and who continues to serve his family is already giving a powerful witness.

On this Father's Day, let us therefore say **thank you** to our fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers, godfathers and all those who have been father figures in our lives. Let us appreciate them not only with gifts, but with our time, gratitude, forgiveness and prayer.

And let us remember to pray for fathers who carry heavy burdens, for those who are separated from their children, for fathers who have died, and for those whose experience of fatherhood has been difficult or painful.

May every father know that his quiet sacrifices, faithful presence and loving service matter deeply. May God strengthen them in their vocation and help them become living witnesses of the Father's love.

Happy Father's Day to all the fathers and father figures in our parish community. May God bless you and your families with love, faith and joy.

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.

Social Justice Sunday 2026 in Australia (30 August 2026), the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement focuses on "Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division."

The statement calls Catholics to promote social cohesion, encounter, reconciliation, and solidarity in an increasingly divided society.



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.

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 31 August 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	John Hackett	Cheryl & John Hackett	Graham Baker, Margaret Carr, Margaret Campbell
Thursday 9.15am	Ronnie Poskitt		
Saturday 9.15am	Phil Green		
Duty	6.00pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Ida Wati	Susan Lee	Grace & Harry Lim
Altar Server	Lukas & Cameron Lettice, Kevin Saldana	Francesca & Vincenzo Purawinata	Maria Jose Valencia, Beatrice Li, Elisha Lai
Commentator	Christina Sorbello	Anne Boudeville	Jessica Fernando
Reader	Tony Hough	John Stone	Mikhail Santosa
Eucharistic Minister	Carlos & Carmine Escobar	Helen Au Yeung, Marie Murphy	Harry Lim, John & Cheryl Hackett
Welcome Desk	-	-	Margarat Yap
Greeters	Cynthia Boudeville	Eunice Wong	Laura Warren
Ushers	Volunteer	Eunice Wong	Jeanette Alexander, Chris De Silva
Videographer	-	-	Olivia Lettice
Music	IGNITE	EFRATA	REJOICE
Morning Tea	-	Virgina Quek, Ruchika Aggrawal	Marie & Gamini Fernando

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

Recently Deceased:

Death Anniversaries: Gabriel Ting, Patrick McNerney, Michael Hannah, Smiljka Sadler, Constance Donohoe, Sean Sutherland, Hasan Wahyudi, Lorelei Jelly, Jadwiga Brojer, Martha Purana, Andrew Boudeville, Merle Jenks, Teresita Martin Ocampo, Anthony Cameron, Marianne Murray, Brian Johnson.

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