



ST CHRISTOPHER'S SYNDAL PARISH

5 DOON AVENUE, SYNDAL
IN THE CARE OF THE PALLOTTINES

In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

20 SEPTEMBER 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...

Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the import of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment.

The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of divine judgment when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be

generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way, if God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy.

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 55:6-9
Seek the Lord.

Resp Psalm: Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18
(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:20-24. 27
Both in life and death, Paul finds joy.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be
carefully kept; may my ways be firm in
keeping your
statutes.

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

1st: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Resp Psalm: Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

2nd: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

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
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 23 Sept @ 7:30pm Cenacle Room

Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916

All are welcome ...

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

*Please text the hosts directly
if you'd like to attend.*

PRAISE AND WORSHIP CANCELLED

Please take note that there will be **NO**

First Friday Praise and Worship on

Friday 4th October.

Thank you for your understanding.

Seniors Mass @ Holy Saviour Parish

Wednesday 14 Oct - 12pm

Followed by lunch - please bring a plate to share.

Coffee/tea will be provided. **All are welcome !**

Contact Rose 0411 706 016

**** there will be NO 9.15am Mass ****

FR JACOB'S ANNUAL LEAVE DATES

Please note that Fr Jacob will be away for his annual leave from **Monday 12 October to Friday 20 November inclusive.**

For any pastoral matters, feel free to contact Fr Jacob prior to him leaving.

We wish him a safe and happy journey.

SRI LANKAN FOOD FEST

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the

Sri Lankan Foodfest last weekend. To all who contributed we cannot thank you enough!

\$ 6,579.00 was raised which will go towards the Parish loan.

This Saturday we celebrated the
Sacrament of Baptism of

Nina Ann Sarathchandra

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



Beyond the Pews From Parishioners To Disciples

By Paulist Evangelistic Ministries

**A Faith Formation program:
for those who seek a true life of discipleship in
Christ, beyond the pews!**

By: Fred Choy

For: Catholics

When: **Thursday 7.30pm~9.30pm**

Oct 8, 15, 22, 29; Nov 5, 11, 19, 26;
Dec 3, 10, 17

Where: Presbytery, St. Christopher's, Syndal

Cost: \$20 pp / * 12 pax max *

REGISTRATION MANDATORY

Please register **by 1 October** by submitting your
name and contact number to (or for inquiries):

(Pls TEXT ONLY – I'll call back) 0431 950090

e: discipleship@stchristopherssyndal.com.au

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY: 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

Social Services Sunday is observed in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne on the third Sunday of September. As we celebrate Social Services Sunday, we recognise the need for encounter. Passion for connection and meeting others creates the kinship that is imperative in times of hardship and for building strong communities. Through these encounters, we recognise the dignity of every person and stand alongside those who may otherwise go unheard. Catholic social services put this call into practice every day through accompaniment, advocacy, and practical support. This Social Services Sunday, we are invited not only to give thanks for this work, but to consider our own contribution: Who is experiencing hardship around us? Who is already walking beside them? How might we strengthen and support that work?



PARISH / OTHER NOTICES

Reflection ... Fr Jacob

The Dignity and Sacredness of Work

“Are you envious because I am generous?” (Matthew 20:15). Jesus’ question at the end of the parable of the workers in the vineyard challenges our tendency to measure fairness by comparing ourselves with others. The workers who laboured all day became resentful when those who worked only a short time received the same agreed payment. The parable reminds us that justice is not about begrudging another person what is good, and generosity does not take away from what is rightfully ours.

This Gospel also invites us to reflect on how we understand **work, wages and human dignity**. For the Catholic Church, work is never merely a commodity or a means of making profit. At the centre of every workplace is a human person, created in the image and likeness of God.

Pope Leo XIII, in *Rerum Novarum*, strongly defended the dignity of workers, warning that it is “truly shameful and inhuman” to treat people merely as instruments for gain. He insisted that workers have a right to what is justly owed to them.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “A just wage is the legitimate fruit of work. To refuse or withhold it can be a grave injustice” (CCC 2434). A just wage should enable a worker and family to live with dignity. The Church therefore reminds us that simply agreeing to a wage does not automatically make it morally just. The dignity of the person must always remain at the heart of economic decisions.

Pope St John Paul II expresses the deeper meaning of work in *Laborem Exercens*: “Work is a good thing for man—a good thing for his humanity.” Through work, we develop our gifts, serve others and contribute to the good of society. Work is therefore not only about what we receive; it is also about what we contribute. For Christians, labour can become a **sacred vocation**. Jesus Himself spent many years in the ordinary life of Nazareth, working as a carpenter. This shows us that holiness is not limited to the church or the moments we spend in prayer. Honest work, done faithfully and responsibly, can itself become an offering to God.

Employers therefore have a responsibility to provide fair conditions, respect workers and pay just wages. Workers likewise are called to honesty, diligence and responsibility. Both have a duty to promote the common good rather than allowing greed, exploitation or resentment to dominate the workplace.

The question of Jesus remains relevant today: “Are you envious because I am generous?” May we learn to combine justice with generosity, recognising that every person who works deserves dignity and respect. When work is just, honest and offered in service of others, labour becomes more than a way of earning a living—it becomes a participation in God’s work of creation and service.

MARCH FOR THE BABIES

THIS IS THE 17TH ANNUAL MARCH FOR THE BABIES, AND EVERY YEAR SINCE 2009, THOUSANDS OF VICTORIANS HAVE GATHERED PEACEFULLY WITH GRIEF AND HOPE TO REMEMBER THE EVER-INCREASING NUMBER OF BABIES KILLED BY ABORTION IN THIS STATE SINCE THE GOVERNMENT LEGALIZED ABORTION-TILL-BIRTH ON OCTOBER 10, 2008.

COME AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND MARCH FOR THE BABIES ON **SATURDAY, 10TH OCTOBER AT 1:00PM** AT TREASURY GARDENS, CNR SPRING ST AND WELLINGTON PARADE, MELBOURNE. WEAR PINK AND BLUE FOR THE BABIES!

www.marchforthebabies.com

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION: 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.

Tuesday, 22 September 2026: 7:00 – 8:00pm

Location: via ZOOM (link will be sent soon)

Attendance will be by invitation.

Please email Deacon Kevin Pattison at

Kevin.Pattison@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

August 2026 : \$ 6,457.10

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

2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

August 2026 : \$ 12,401.70

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 21 September 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	John Hackett	Angela Chin	Kate Foley, John Corin, Pauline Perrin
Thursday 9.15am	Angela Chin		
Saturday 9.15am	Louise Pagliaro		
Duty	6.00pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Ida Wati	Felcon Gatab	Robert Vecchio
Altar Server	Lukas & Cameron Lettice, <i>Volunteer</i>	Malone De Silva, Louraine Gatab	Maria Jose Valencia, Zoe Anthony, Amber Crasta
Commentator	Volunteer Required	Phil Green	Joella Fernando
Reader	Ronnie Poskitt	David Whalan	Myles Chen
Eucharistic Minister	Carlos & Carmine Escobar	Helen Au Yeung, <i>Volunteer Required</i>	Brian Worcester, John & Cheryl Hackett
Welcome Desk	–	–	Cynthia Boudeville
Greeters	<i>Volunteer</i>	Sharon Gomes	Amy Noto
Ushers	<i>Volunteer</i>	Susan Lee	Shireen Pires, Anne Boudeville
Videographer	–	–	Louie & Julian
Music	SHINE FOR CHRIST	RECORDED MUSIC	CHRISTY'S GROUP
Morning Tea	–	Graham & Pauline Perrin	John Fung & Eva Leung

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

Recently Deceased:

Death Anniversaries: Anthony Brittain, Ernest Dixon, Zofia Rychlik, Caterina Pulvirenti, Laurence Mahon, Seamus Gavan, Hyeun Ro Lee, Jacki Rotty, Bill Curren, Bill Naughton, John Gauder, Helen Jackson, Anthony Cini, John Foley, Grace Grove, Icolana Vincenza, Steve Fernandez, Eugenio Zanon, Ko Foen Wong, Jim Monaghan, Patricia Dorothy Ford, Graeme Clarke, Jimmy Lazzaro, Rock Grimes.

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