In partnership with Holy Saviour, Vermont South



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 contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord.

Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment.

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

READINGS THIS WEEK (YEAR B)

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8
May the Lord come when we are doing good.

Resp Psalm: Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4
(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
The Lord will strengthen us to the end.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

READINGS NEXT WEEK:
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)
1st: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11
Resp Psalm: Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8
2nd: 2 Peter 3:8-14
Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

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. elevateyouthminister@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

Sunday 29 November | 10.30am Mass

Our parish community warmly invites **all children and their families** to join us for a special Children's Mass as we celebrate and give thanks for our children. We acknowledge our children as God's precious gift to our parish and thank them for the joy, faith and enthusiasm they bring to our community.

- **Special Children's Blessing**
- **Lolly Packs for all children**

Come along and celebrate with us as we pray, sing and give thanks together.
Everyone is Welcome!
We look forward to seeing you there.

Anointing Mass @ St Christopher's Parish

Wednesday 2nd Dec at 11.30am

All are welcome to join us after mass for our Christmas break up luncheon.
Contact Lorraine T. 9802 3183
***** there will be NO 9.15am Mass *****

CHARISMATIC Prayer Group

Wednesday 2 December @ 7:30pm Cenacle Room
Rosa: 0447 111 270 / John: 0407 182 916
All are welcome …

ADVENT DISCUSSION GROUPS 2026

Commencing 26 November 2026
(Program runs for four weeks)



Join us for our Advent Discussion Groups using the Brisbane Archdiocese resource;
" Take the Way of the Heart"

- **Thursdays, 7pm** (from 26 Nov), **and**
- **Fridays, 10am** after Morning Mass (from 27 Nov)

Location: Holy Saviour Café/Foyer
Booklet cost: $5.00

****Sign-Up*** sheets available at both Holy Saviour and St Christopher's narthex/foyer.

Enquiries: Connie; 0402 859 749, Selena: 0416 656 223

.. Everyone is welcome ..

st christopher's christmas caroling

Saturday, 12 December from 2–5 pm.

If you would like to join the singing group or invite our carolers to visit your home,
please contact the parish office: syndal@cam.org.au.
We look forward to sharing the joy of Christmas through song!



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Sunday 6 December - 7pm at St Christopher's

We invite you to pray, reflect and receive the sacraments to properly prepare our minds and hearts for the joyous celebration of Christmas. In the penitential aspect of this season of preparation, we are called to repent and convert so as to make room for Christ. Please take advantage of this opportunity to prepare well for Christmas.

ANOINTING MASS and CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

Wednesday, 9 December at 12 noon
@ Holy Saviour
All are welcome to attend.
A light luncheon will be provided.
For catering purposes,
RSVP to Rose 0411 706 016 by **6th December**.

HARK! THE PARISHES SING CHRISTMAS CONCERT

St Christopher's and Holy Saviour parishes are joining together to present a Christmas concert,
"Hark! The Parishes Sing,"
Friday, 4 December 2026 7–9 pm
St Christopher's Hennessy Hall.
Featuring musicians of all ages from both parishes, this special evening is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family to celebrate the joy of Christmas together, enjoy an evening of music and fellowship, and get to know our parish community in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.
Everyone is welcome!

Funeral of Piero Pagliaro

Date :	*Tuesday 8th December, 2026*
Rosary Time :	*10:30am*
Full Service:	*11:00am*
Location:	St Christopher's Parish, Syndal
Refreshments:	Fellowship Hub
Burial:	*Springvale Botanical Cemetery*

We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayers to Pagliaro's family and loved ones during this time of loss. May the comfort and peace of Christ be with them.

PARISH / OTHER NOTICES

Reflection …. By Fr Jacob

ADVENT: A SEASON OF HOPEFUL WAITING AND RENEWED EXPECTATION.

As we begin the sacred season of Advent, the Church invites us to pause, reflect and rediscover the deeper meaning of our Christian journey. Advent is not simply a preparation for Christmas; it is a season of spiritual awakening, hopeful expectation and renewed commitment to Christ. The word *Advent* means 'coming'. During these four weeks, we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming in Bethlehem, recognise his presence among us today, and look forward with hope to his glorious coming at the end of time.

The readings of Advent repeatedly call us to watchfulness and readiness. Jesus reminds us, "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" (Matthew 24:42). This invitation is not intended to create fear or anxiety, but to awaken our hearts to God's presence. In a world often distracted by busyness, material concerns and uncertainty, Advent challenges us to make room for what truly matters.

The beautiful image of the Advent wreath, with its gradually increasing light, reminds us that Christ is the Light who shines in the darkness. Each candle we light expresses, our growing hope and our longing for the coming of God's Kingdom. Yet, this light must also become visible through our lives. We prepare for Christ not merely by decorating our homes and churches, but by allowing his love to transform our hearts and relationships.

Advent invites us to embrace three essential spiritual attitudes: **hope, conversion and compassion.** We are called to renew our hope in God's promises, turn away from whatever separates us from him, and reach out with greater love to those who are lonely, struggling or forgotten. Perhaps the greatest preparation for Christmas is to become a little more patient, forgiving, generous and attentive to one another.

As a parish community, let us journey through Advent with open hearts and expectant faith. May this season help us to recognise Christ in the Word of God, in the Eucharist, in our families and especially in those who need our love. **Come, Lord Jesus!** May our hearts become a welcoming home for him, not only at Christmas, but every day of our lives.



We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating

Jesus' Birthday,

if you find yourself spending Christmas Day on your own or far from family and friends.

Children welcome.

Let's share a joyful meal in good company with lots of festive cheer.

WHEN 25th of December (Christmas Day) at 12 Noon

WHERE St Christopher's Catholic Parish
Hennessy Hall
5 Doon Avenue, Syndal Victoria 3150

RSVP
by 5 of December, 2026
via Text ONLY to Maria (0419340308)
RSVP ONLY, Strictly NO WALK INs

CHRISTMAS LUNCH DONATIONS WELCOME

Please send your contribution to:
ST CHRISTOPHERS CATHOLIC CHURCH
BSB: [633000] **Account Number:** [210603015]
Reference: Christmas Lunch

Cash donations are also gratefully accepted at the Parish Office.

Prayer for the synod ….. *Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus*

We stand before you, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in your name.
With you alone to guide us,
make yourself at home in our hearts.
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.
Let us find in you our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of you, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son,

***** WORKING BEE *****

Saturday 5 Dec : 10am - 12.30pm

We need as many volunteers as possible to assist with cleaning the church in preparation for Christmas. No need to sign up or register, just show up in the Narthex! *Your time and effort will be greatly appreciated !!*

CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE in the Narthex ..

$5.00each (*pack of 5)*

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

October 2026 : $ 6,632.95

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

2ND COLLECTION - THANKSGIVING OFFERING

October 2026 : $ 11,797.95

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 30 November 2026

Prayer Leader	Reader	Prayers of the Faithful	Counters
Tuesday 9.15am	John Hackett	Pauline Perrin	Graham Baker, Margaret Carr, Margaret Campbell
Thursday 9.15am	Angela Chin		
Saturday 9.15am	Phil Green		

Duty	6.00pm	8:30am	10:30am
Sacristan	Paul Liew	Anastasia Darmawan	Pius Tang
Altar Server	Olivia Lettice, Rashwin & Radesh Lenora	Francesca & Vincenzo Purawinata, Benjamin Ho	Rachel Ng, Elisha Lai *Volunteer required*
Commentator	Kevin Widarja	Graham Perrin	Austin Swamy
Reader	Christina Sorbello	David Whalan	Lena Peh
Eucharistic Minister	2 x Volunteers	Betty Robinson, Marie Murphy	John & Cheryl Hackett, Genny Leeworthy
Welcome Desk	-	-	Lyn Lam
Greeters	Edna Louzado	*Volunteer*	Amy Noto
Ushers	*Volunteer*	*Volunteer*	Jeanette Alexander, Chris De Silva
Videographer	-	-	Olivia Lettice
Music	IGNITE	EFRATA	REJOICE
Morning Tea	-	Sharon Gomes, Luz Johnson	Marie & Gamini Fernando

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

Recently Deceased: Piero Pagliaro

Death Anniversaries: Lillian Steele, Frederick Steele, Shelley Seong, Pablo De Jesus Aviles, Thomas Barnes, Jessie Tuckett, Ida Prokop, Claire Dreaver, Javier Buena, Maureen Duffy, Angelo Sorbello, John Duffy, Helen Owens, Colin Gavan, Marge Beddoe, Brian Osborne, James Mulcahy, Edith Mulcahy, Patrick Ward, Stephen McMahon, Mary Knapp, Thomas Seong, Mari Heland, Eva Dragicevic.

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