



St Andrew's Parish News

We are a Dynamic Faith Community in the Spirit of the Gospel

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR A - 27 & 28 DECEMBER 2025

OUR PARISH

Parish Office

76 Springs Road
Clayton South VIC 3169
Phone: 9551 5666
Email: claytonsouth@cam.org.au
Tuesday - Friday 10am - 3pm

Mass Times

Saturday: Vigil 6.00pm
Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am
Mon - Sat (except Tues): 9.15am
Tues: 7.00pm & Novena to St. Jude

Reconciliation

Saturday: 9.45 to 10.15am

Baptism & Wedding

Please contact the Parish Office

Funeral

Please contact the Parish Office

PARISH TEAM

Parish Priest

Fr. Shibu Joseph sac
shibu.joseph@cam.org.au

Parish Team Leader

Linda De Souza (Tues/ Thurs/Fri)
Email: claytonsouth@cam.org.au

Parish Secretary

Smita Pinto (Tue/Wed)
Luisa May - Bookkeeper (Thu)

Youth Co-ordinator

SAYGCS21@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Primary School

Principal: Brian Martin
Phone: 9551 5094
principal@saclaytonsth.catholic.edu.au

School R.E. Co-ordinator

Ange Walsh

ONLINE SERVICES

Website:

www.standrewsclaytonsouth.org.au

Daily Reflections:

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/standrewsparishclaytonsouth

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY



O Holy Family of Nazareth, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we place our families under your loving care. Jesus, teach us to love as you love, with patience, humility, and forgiveness. May your presence be the heart of our homes and your word the light that guides our lives. Mary, gentle Mother, help us to listen to God's voice with trust and faith.

Joseph, faithful guardian, guide us in times of uncertainty. Holy Family of Nazareth, make our homes places of prayer, peace, and compassion. Help us to grow together in love, to support one another in difficulty, and to reflect God's love to all we meet. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



WEDNESDAY 31ST DECEMBER 2025
5.00pm Thanksgiving Adoration & 6.00pm Mass
THURSDAY 1ST JANUARY 2026
Mary Mother of God: Mass 10am

As we come to the close of 2025, my heart is filled with deep gratitude for the many ways I have experienced your love throughout this grace-filled year. This year has been especially significant, as we celebrated the Jubilee Year and, for me personally, a milestone in my priestly life, the anniversary of my Ordination. I have truly felt embraced as one among your family and a friend, and for this I am sincerely thankful.



I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our parish staff and volunteers who have served the St Andrew's community with such dedication and love. Working together in a spirit of unity, we have supported one another as we reached out to our wonderful parishioners. I continue to be inspired by the generosity shown by so many. We are truly blessed with a large number of committed volunteers who make our liturgies, social gatherings, and many other aspects of parish life possible.

I firmly believe that our parish is truly "the place to be," enriched by the warmth of our welcoming and nurturing spirit. I am especially grateful that during this Jubilee Year we have sought to live out our calling as disciples of Jesus, and it is my hope and prayer that we continue this commitment in the coming year with renewed hope and enthusiasm. My sincere thanks also go to the priests who have generously assisted us with our pastoral needs throughout the year. As we enter the **New Year 2026**, I pray that the Lord bless you and your families with peace, joy, and good health. Please take care and stay safe. **Fr. Shibu Joseph sac**

St. Andrew's Parish, Clayton South is committed to the safety, wellbeing & dignity of all children, young people & vulnerable adults.

PARISH NEWS

New Year Dance Raffle Tickets will continue to be on sale at all weekend Masses. We also invite volunteers to help with setting up the hall on **Monday, 29 December at 10:00 am**, in preparation for the dance. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Thank you. (Janet D'Mello)



CHRISTMAS 2025 - THANK YOU

What a wonderful Christmas celebration we had! Our Masses were very well attended, and it was truly a joy to see our parish come together in such a spirit of love and community. I sincerely thank each one of you who contributed to making our Christmas celebrations so special and meaningful.

A special word of gratitude goes to our Liturgy Team for their dedicated Advent preparations, to everyone involved in Christmas decorations inside and outside the church, the Cribs and Nativity scenes, the star in front of the church, sacristans, altar servers, parish staff, flower arrangers, choir groups, readers, special ministers, care for the sick, and those who participated in the 'Working Bee.' Your time, effort, and dedication made a real difference.

I also deeply appreciate your generous donations towards the Christmas celebrations. Your generosity and love have made our Christmas celebrations both special and grand, and we are truly grateful.

Finally, I want to personally thank you for your love, kindness, and support expressed through Christmas gifts, cards, wishes, and offerings. Each one of you is remembered in my prayers and Masses. Thank you, once again, for making this Christmas so memorable.


Fr. Shibu Joseph SAC

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Oreen Tannen, Eugene Simon, Raymond Lancelot,
 Oscar del castillo, Imelda D Campo,
 Christina Madeira

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

David and Shihalini, Edwin and Janet D'mello,
 Errol and Natasha D'mello, Adolph and Mary D'
 Rozario, Ean and maria Brewty, Pam and Nigel,
 Tina and David Podesta, Martin and Divya Nellivila

	NEW YEAR EVE	NEW YEAR DAY
		Wed 31.12.25 5.00pm Adoration 6.00pm Mass
ALTAR SERVERS		Sophia
COMMENTATOR	Jenny Conyers	Edwin B
READERS	Cora D, David G	Betty C Janet D
SPECIAL MINISTERS	Oreen T Jenny	Felecia F Cheryl R Ean B Pearl B
WELCOME	Peter F	Treasure

SOLEMINITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD



On the first day of the New Year, the Church celebrates the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. This beautiful feast reminds us that Mary is not only the Mother of Jesus, but also the Mother given to us by Christ himself. By saying "yes" to God with trust and humility, Mary became the

bearer of God's greatest gift to humanity—Jesus, our Saviour.

As we begin a new year, Mary invites us to place our lives, our families, and our parish under her loving care. She teaches us to ponder God's work in our hearts, to trust in His promises, and to walk forward with faith and hope.

This feast is also observed as the World Day of Peace. We pray that, through Mary's intercession, the Lord may bless our world with peace, compassion, and unity, and guide us throughout the year ahead.

May Mary, Mother of God, accompany us in 2026 and lead us ever closer to her Son.



CHILDREN MUST HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES



WEEKLY CALENDAR 29 DEC 2025

Monday 29 December

09.15am Mass
07.00pm Choir Practice (11am Choir)

Tuesday 30 December

07.00pm Mass / Novena to St Jude

Wednesday 31 December - New Year's Eve

05.00pm Eucharistic Adoration
06.00pm Thanksgiving Mass

Thursday 01 January 2026 NEW YEAR DAY

10.00am Mass - Mary, Mother of God

Friday 02 January St. Basil the Great

09.15am Mass

Saturday 03 January

09.15am Mass
10.30am Choir Practice (9.30am Choir)
06.00pm Mass
08.00pm Good Shepherd Servant Comm - P & W

Sunday 04 January - The EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

08.00am Mass
09.30am Mass
11.00am Mass
01.00pm Filipino Mass

WORLD DAY OF PEACE – 1 JANUARY 2026

The Church observes the **World Day of Peace** on **1 January** each year. In his Message for 2026, Pope Leo XIV invites us to build peace through justice, dialogue, and love. Let us pray for peace in our world and commit ourselves to being peacemakers each day. Follow [THIS LINK](#) to read the full message of His Holiness Pope Leo XIV.

REMEMBERING OUR COMMUNITY

Pray For Healing: Candice Walker, Alexander, Felipe & Anne, Dom Carlos Ximenes Belo, Oemoe Jong, Eugene Roberts, Alyson, Uttam Sharma, Alex D'Cruz, Julie Kanta.

Recently Deceased: Maria Mascarin, Robert Besterwitch, Stella Kut, Noeline Vassou, Hastoma Raharja, Petro Rocque.

Birthday Remembrance: Ivor Steiner, Rita Geer, Catherine Dolby, Dennis Fredricks.

Death Anniversaries: Jenny Menon, Ivor Steiner, Vivian Fernandes, Gladys Fernandez, Lexie Baldrey, Marie Louise Valayoodum, Neil Peiris, Bertha Fernandez, Jean Correya, Frank Chiappetta, Vernon Hendricks, All Forgotten & Souls in Purgatory.

ROSTERS

THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR A

27 & 28 DEC 2025	MASS TIMES			
	Saturday	Sunday		
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
Altar Servers				
Comm	Edwin B	Philippe D	David G	Beatriz C
Readers	Esther T Lota F	Patricia C Marcelle	Jan Van R Angela Ho	Maria B Colette
Special Ministers	Cheryl R Anne L F Pearl B Jenny C	Marguerita Marlene E Marcelle J George V	Hanna T Linda M Rodolfo G Angela Ho	Beata G Pat I Linda K Rodney N
Welcomers	Pearl B	Riekie V	Laurence B	Peter F
Altar L.	Claudette Chung			
Counters Team	Marian J, Maureen H, Eugene G, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L, Laurence Bernard, Pearl Braganza			

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR C

3 & 4 JAN 2026	MASS TIMES			
	Saturday	Sunday		
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
Altar Servers				
Comm	Cheryl R	Lynette F	David G	Linda K
Readers	Marilyn Ado F	Tanasha S Tricia S	Adam D Allen S	Rohini T Arputha V
Special Ministers	Oreen T Cheryl L Marilyn Pierre W	George V Riekie V Rebecca G Volunteer	Angela H Jan Van R Linda M Rodolfo G	Ean B Beatriz C Rada P Rodney N
Welcomers	Francis D	Santosh S	Laurence B	Beatriz C
Altar L.	Laurence Bernard			
Counters Team	Marian J, Maureen H, Eugene G, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L, Laurence Bernard, Pearl Braganza			

Parish Office Christmas Break: Please note that the Parish Office will be closed for the Christmas break **from 24 December to 12 January**, both dates inclusive. Normal office hours will resume on **13 Jan 2026**.



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**A WELL WISHER FOR THE PARISH
 OF ST. ANDREW'S**

From the depths of my nothing-
 ness I prostrate myself before
 you O most Sacred Divine Ador-
 able Heart of Jesus to pay to
 you all the homage of love praise
 and adoration in my power.
 Amen

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**THE FEAST OF
HOLY FAMILY - YR A
28TH DEC 2025**



FIRST READING Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.

My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

RESP PSALM Ps 127:1-5.

**(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! (R.)

SECOND READING Col 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this

that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION COL 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-15. 19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet:

I called my son out of Egypt.

After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Two Holy Families: Herod is seeking to annihilate all the male children in Bethlehem. The child Jesus is in mortal danger. 'Arise, take the child and his mother, and flee into Egypt.' And Joseph did so. *That* night and *by* night, such was the urgency.

Have you ever thought: What if Egyptian border guards had turned back this refugee family? What if, instead of finding safe haven and sanctuary, this desperate family had been denied entry? The Divine plan to rescue Jesus from a murderous tyrant depended not only on Joseph but, also, on the Egyptian people.

And so we discover two Holy Families in this Gospel episode. One is the little Holy Family with Joseph, Mary and Jesus. The other is the larger Holy Family of humanity embodied in those Egyptians who provided sanctuary, who opened their land to allow Joseph, Mary and Jesus to settle out of danger.

We might pause for a moment to ask: Can we be as hospitable and open as the Egyptians of today's Gospel? Another baby in another family of refugees may depend on our answer!

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



PIETY STALL AT ST ANDREW'S



Come visit our Parish Piety Stall after Mass and explore our new arrivals! It includes beautiful religious items, rosaries, medals, prayer cards, Bibles, and gifts for all occasions. We have a lovely selection perfect

for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Baptisms, or simply to enrich your personal prayer life. Your purchase supports the parish and helps spread the faith in simple ways!!

ENROL NOW! SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026

It's time to enrol for St. Andrew's Parish Religious Education Program 2026. This program is designed for children who will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation in 2025. Classes are held on Tuesdays during school terms from 4:00pm to 5:00pm and are intended for children who do not attend a Catholic school. The program provides both general religious education and specific preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation in Year 3, First Eucharist in Year 4, and Confirmation in Year 6. These are the minimum age requirements for each Sacrament; however, older children who need to prepare are most welcome to join. For more details or to enrol, please contact the Parish Office on 03 9551 5666 or email claytonsouth@cam.org.au.



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GIVING via QR CODE To financially support our parish, you can make a donation by scanning this QR code which is unique to St. Andrew's Church, Clayton South. It will give you direct access to the CDF pay webpage by following a few easy steps. The QR code is also displayed in the Church foyer. Thank you.



FINANCE

20 January, Tuesday
7:00 PM - Healing Mass
St. Andrew's Church
76 Springs Road
Clarinda



WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW'S PARISH



Are you new to St. Andrew's? We welcome you! Please take a moment to look at our welcome kit which is available in the church foyer. You are invited to complete the registration form and return it to the Parish office. THANKS.

FEASTS & SAINTS OF THE WEEK

Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory - 2 January

St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory of Nazianzus were close friends and leading Fathers of the fourth-century Church. Together, they defended the true faith during the Arian controversy. St. Basil served as Bishop of Caesarea and guided the Church with courage and compassion. St. Gregory, known as the "Theologian," expressed deep truths of faith with clarity and beauty. Both emphasized the mystery of the Holy Trinity in their teaching. They promoted prayer, learning, and holiness of life. Their friendship strengthened their mission and witness to Christ. They are honoured as saints and doctors of the Church.





*'We proclaim a crucified Christ
1Corl.23*

23 December 2025

Pastoral Letter on the Conclusion of the Jubilee Year 2025

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
Peace be with you.

As the Jubilee Year 2025 journeys toward conclusion in our local churches on 28 December, I write to you with gratitude — gratitude to God above all, and gratitude to you, the people of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, for the way you have received this year of Jubilee with faith, trust, hope and generosity.

From the initiation of this Jubilee, we have been invited by Pope Francis to be Pilgrims of Hope. This invitation has been about recognising that our Christian life itself is a pilgrimage — lived day by day, step by step, often quietly, always together. Across our Archdiocese, many have taken up this invitation through prayer, reconciliation, pilgrimage, service, and renewed participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

I have been especially heartened by the response of our Pilgrim Places — parishes, shrines, and communities who opened their doors and their hearts to welcome pilgrims from across the Archdiocese and beyond. In offering spaces of prayer, reflection, hospitality, and mercy, these communities reminded us that the Church is most fully herself when she is a place of welcome, encounter, and hope. I thank the clergy, religious, parish leaders, volunteers, and all the faithful who made this possible through their generosity and care.

What has marked this Jubilee most clearly for me has been the faithfulness of ordinary people: people who prayed, who welcomed, who listened, who served, and who walked with one another. In these simple but profound acts, the hope that does not disappoint has been made visible — not as an idea, but as a lived reality grounded in Christ.

As we now mark the formal conclusion of the Jubilee Year, we do not bring its spirit to an end. Rather, we are invited to carry it forward. The call to be pilgrims of hope remains with us — in our families, our parishes, our workplaces, and our communities. We are sent forth to continue walking together, attentive to the presence of the Lord who journeys with us, and responsive to the needs of those we meet along the way.

I encourage you to hold fast to the practices that have sustained you during this year: prayer that opens the heart, the sacraments that nourish and heal, and a generosity of spirit that reflects the mercy of God. May the seeds sown during this Jubilee continue to grow, bearing fruit in lives shaped by faith, hope, and love.

With every grace and blessing,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli
Archbishop of Melbourne