



# St Andrew's Parish News

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



## THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A - 21 & 22 MARCH 2026

### OUR PARISH

#### Parish Office

76 Springs Road  
Clayton South VIC 3169  
**Phone:** 9551 5666  
**Email:** [claytonsouth@cam.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:shibu.joseph@cam.org.au)

#### Parish Team Leader

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

#### Parish Secretary

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

#### Youth Co-ordinator

[SAYGCS21@gmail.com](mailto:SAYGCS21@gmail.com)

#### St. Andrew's Primary School

Principal: Brian Martin  
**Phone:** 9551 5094  
[principal@saclaytonsth.catholic.edu.au](mailto:principal@saclaytonsth.catholic.edu.au)

#### School R.E. Co-ordinator

Ange Walsh

### ONLINE SERVICES

#### Website:

[www.standrewsclaytonsouth.org.au](http://www.standrewsclaytonsouth.org.au)

#### Daily Reflections:

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

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/standrewsparishclaytonsouth](http://www.facebook.com/standrewsparishclaytonsouth)

### ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD - WED 25TH MARCH

On **Wednesday, 25th March**, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary and announced that she would conceive and bear Jesus, the Son of God. In that moment, Mary responded with humble faith, saying, "Let it be done to me according to your word."



This feast invites us to reflect on Mary's courage, trust, and openness to God's plan. In our own lives, we are called to say "yes" to God in small ways—through acts of love, service, and faithfulness.

As we honour Mary's example, let us ask for her intercession to help us follow God's will with confidence and joy, even when the path is uncertain. May her unwavering trust inspire us to live each day with faith and hope.

### HEALING MASS WITH ANOINTING

You are warmly invited to our Healing Mass with anointing of the sick on Wednesday, 25 March at 9:15 am. This Mass will be a special time to pray for physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. All are welcome to join in this prayerful celebration and experience the comfort and peace of God's loving presence.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS IN LENT AFTER 9.15AM MASS & AT 6.30 PM FOLLOWED BY MASS

### CONGRATULATIONS - THANK YOU



First, we congratulate the children of our parish who have completed their preparation for the First Reconciliation. Please continue to keep them and their families in your prayers.

Also, St. Andrew's parish sincerely thanks all the school and parish staff who generously contributed to the preparation and celebration of First Reconciliation. Your dedication, guidance, and prayerful support helped our children encounter God's mercy in a meaningful way. We are grateful for your time, care, and commitment in nurturing the faith of our young parishioners. Your efforts truly make a difference in their spiritual journey. May God bless you abundantly for your service.

### HARMONY WEEK - 16TH MARCH TO 22ND MARCH



Over the past 70 years,  
more than seven and a  
half million migrants  
have made Australia  
home

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

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

“A COMMUNITY THAT EMBRACES, CELEBRATES AND EMPOWERS ALL TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS”

PARISH NEWS

**PALM BRANCHES** Help needed on Wednesday the 25th and Thursday the 26th of March with washing and cleaning the palms branches for palm Sunday. Please contact George on 0451 011 949. Thank you.



**CHURCH WORKING BEE ON SATURDAY**

**MARCH 28TH** Volunteers are needed for the church working bee on Saturday 28th March from 10am to 12noon to prepare the church for Holy Week services. If you can offer a

helping hand, please put your name down on the sheet kept in the church foyer. Thank you.

**CHRISM MASS 2026** You are warmly invited to join the Chrism Mass on **Tuesday, 31st March at 10:00 am** at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Presided over by the Archbishop, this special celebration is a wonderful opportunity to come together in prayer.

During the Mass, the holy oils are used throughout the year for sacraments such as Baptism, Confirmation, and Anointing of the Sick will be blessed.

It is also a meaningful moment for priests, religious, and the faithful to renew their commitment to service and faith.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION NIGHT** The next baptism preparation night will be held on Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm in the parish house. To register, please contact the parish office.

**SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2026 – FIRST EUCHARIST**

We are pleased to support your children in their faith journey as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist.

Classes will commence on Tuesday, 21st April, from 4pm to 5pm in the parish house.

An Information Night will be held on Wednesday the 29th-May, 6pm at St. Andrew’s Primary School.

The First Eucharist celebrations will take place on the weekend of 13th–14th June.

For enrolment and further details, please contact the parish office Tuesday to Friday from 10am to 3pm on 9551 5666 or email: [claytonsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:claytonsouth@cam.org.au)

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Noah D’Cruz, Christian Camillo,  
Florence Gayen

**HOLY WEEK DONATIONS** Sponsors are invited to help with the preparation of our Holy Week and Easter liturgies, including decorations, flowers, and candles for the church etc. Your generosity will help make these sacred celebrations prayerful and meaningful for our parish community. Kindly contact the parish office for details. Thank you.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SET UP THE HALL FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES** This year, the school closes on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 3.15pm. Therefore, in order to take rapid action, we need lots of volunteers on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 3.30pm onwards to set up the hall for our Holy Week Services. A fair bit needs to be done within the short span of time before the Holy Thursday Service at 7.30pm. With your generous support as always, we will achieve this great work! To plan accordingly, please RSVP via email: [claytonsouth@cam.org.au](mailto:claytonsouth@cam.org.au) if you can lend a helping hand. Thank you.

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT** St Andrew’s Primary School is having a Family Fun Night fundraiser event on 27 March 2026. This year our fundraising efforts will directly support improvements to the school playground, which needs enhancements to create a safer space for students to play and connect. We are currently seeking donations of gift cards, merchandise, services or other prizes that can be used for our raffle. Any contribution big or small will be greatly appreciated. Please contact: or 0401 451 587

**OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS TO THE FERNANDEZ FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**

Rosary for late **Nigel Fernandes** will be prayed on Monday 23rd March at 7pm in St Andrew’s Church.

A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday 24th March at 11am in the church.

**May his Soul rest in Peace. Amen.**



**ST ANDREW’S PARISH FIRST TWO SOCIAL EVENTS 2026**

**1. Mother’s Day Bake Sale – 9 & 10 May 2026**

**2. Parish Luncheon – Sunday 19 July 2026**



**Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility.**

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

**CHILDREN MUST HAVE ADULT SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES**



## WEEKLY CALENDAR 23 MAR 2026

### Monday 23 March

09.15am Mass  
07.00pm Rosary—Nigel Fernandez  
07.00pm Choir Practice—8am Choir (Parish House)

### Tuesday 24 March

10.30am Friendship Group—Birthday celebration  
11.00am Funeral Mass—Nigel Fernandez  
04.00pm Sacramental Program  
07.00pm Mass / Novena to St Jude  
08.00pm Choir Practice—11am Choir

### Wednesday 25 March

09.15am Mass - Anointing of the sick  
07.00pm Choir Practice (6pm Choir)

### Thursday 26 March - The Annunciation of the Lord

09.15am Mass  
05.00pm Social Group Volunteers Meeting  
06.00pm Finance Committee Meeting  
07.00pm Lenten Reflection Program  
07.30pm Choir Practice (8am Choir)

### Friday 27 March

09.15am Mass / Stations of the Cross  
06.30pm Stations of the Cross / Mass

### Saturday 28 March

09.15am Mass  
10.00am Church Working Bee  
10.30am Choir Practice (9.30am Choir)  
02.00pm Altar Server's Practice  
06.00pm Mass  
07.15pm Good Shepherd Servant Comm—P & W

### Sunday 29 March - PALM SUNDAY

08.00am Mass  
09.30am Mass  
11.00am Mass  
02.00pm Altar Server's Practice

### REMEMBERING OUR COMMUNITY

**Pray For Healing:** Candice Walker, Alexander, Felipe & Anne, Dom Carlos Ximenes Belo, Oe Moe Jong, Eugene Roberts, Alyson, Alex D'Cruz, Ting Chung Sing, Lucy Lena Sing, Mary D'souza, Anna.

**Recently Deceased:** Nigel Fernandez, Leema, Ann Valles, Ann Mannigan.

**Birthday Remembrance:** Florence & George Weston, Gregoria Gatchalian.

**Monthly Remembrance:** Ivy D'Souza.

**Death Anniversaries:** Therese Lam Loong In, Andrea Rigley, Bernard Lazarus, Steven & Margeret Collins, Jenny Menon, James Patrick Roberts, Nicet Castel, Andresse, Francisco, Frederick Egan, Olia Vallevar, Valintin Vallevar, Lucrecia Buag, Antonietta, Albanese, Rita Mary Moss, Mercia Olive Johns, All Forgotten Souls & Souls in Purgatory.

## ROSTERS

### THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

21 & 22 MARCH 2026	MASS TIMES			
	Saturday	Sunday		
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Eva Alexia Ryan S		Brandon	Ryan Gavin
<b>Comm</b>	Edwin B	Jennie D	Oka G	Beatriz C
<b>Readers</b>	Esther T Lota F	Victor T Lynette F	Jan Van R Angela H	Anna L <b>Volunteer</b>
<b>Special Ministers</b>	Cheryl R Anne L F Jenny C Pearl B	Marguerita Marlene E Marcelle J Victor T	Hanna T Carol N Linda M Rodolfo G	Beata G Pat I Linda K Gloria A
<b>Welcomers</b>	Pearl B	Santosh S	Carol N	Joanna D
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Oreen T Dona P	No C. L.	Helena N Annette S	No C. L.
<b>Altar L.</b>	Claudette Chung			
<b>Counters Team</b>	Marian J, Eugene G, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L, Laurence Bernard.			

### PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD - YEAR A

28 & 29 MARCH 2026	MASS TIMES			
	Saturday	Sunday		
	6.00pm	8.00am	9.30am	11.00am
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Eva Ryan S		Brandon	Ryan Gavin
<b>Comm</b>	<b>Volunteer</b>	Santosh S	Dewi M	Anna L
<b>Readers</b>	Cora D Xavier F	Victor T Rubina R	Allen S <b>Volunteer</b>	Linda K <b>Volunteer</b>
<b>Passion Narrator</b>	Kim D	Tricia S	Esther T	Colette D
<b>Special Ministers</b>	Kim D Burl D Pearl B Xavier F	George V Riekie V Atanasio J Rima J	Carol N Angela H Jan Van R Charles C	Ean B Beatriz C Rada P Gloria A
<b>Welcomers</b>	Veronica D	Peter F	Laurence B	Claire R
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>	Oreen T Dona P	No C. L.	Romain S Lota F	No C. L.
<b>Altar L.</b>	Candy Allen			
<b>Counters Team</b>	Marian J, Eugene G, Peter F, Basil H, Glenda L, Laurence Bernard.			



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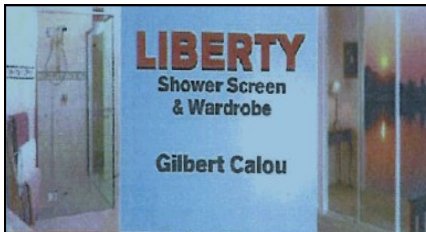
**A WELL WISHER FOR THE PARISH  
 OF ST. ANDREW'S**

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 05TH SUNDAY  
OF LENT - YEAR A  
22ND MARCH 2026**



**FIRST READING** Ezekiel 37:12-14

**A reading from the prophet Ezekiel**

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

**RESP PSALM Ps129.**

**(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.**

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak.  
(Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. (R.)

**SECOND READING** Romans 8:8-11

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION JOHN 11:25. 26**

**Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!**

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.

**Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

**GOSPEL** John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said:

'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.'

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

## SUNDAY REFLECTION

**Rage against Death:** This Gospel tells us that Our Lord was moved with compassion in an almost violent way, raging against the seeming finality of death. The raising of Lazarus was a demonstration of his power to rob death of its supposed supremacy.

But, Our Lord did not set Lazarus completely free! You may think that to be raised from the dead was not a bad start, but Lazarus was still shuffling: bound, constrained, constricted by the past. To those gathered around the tomb Jesus issued the command: 'Set him free, unbind him.' It was the collective effort of others which enabled Lazarus to walk as a liberated son of God. You may find yourself commanded by the Lord to help unbind a person who has had a deadening experience which has drained them of life. We get the courage to respond because it is the command of the One who definitively conquered death.



We could pause for a moment to resolve to help liberate others already helped by the grace of Him whom we believe to be *the Resurrection and the Life*.

© Fr Michael Tate; mtate@bigpond.com



### 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT 22 MARCH AHMAD from GAZA

When war intensified in Gaza in late 2023, Ahmad, a Caritas Jerusalem employee in their Media and Communications team, was forced to flee his home in northern Gaza. Like thousands of families, his family carried almost nothing as they sought safety in Khan Younis. Two months later, disaster struck again when the house where they were sheltering was bombed at night. Ahmad was buried under rubble, his eardrum ruptured. His brother survived with devastating injuries, including the loss of a leg.

For two months Ahmad stayed with his brother in an overwhelmed hospital with few doctors and scarce supplies. His family was displaced several more times, sometimes living in tents, sometimes in borrowed homes, often leaving behind the few belongings they had managed to gather.

Despite personal suffering, Ahmad continued his role with Caritas Jerusalem, helping to support families in need.

"Thank God we work at Caritas, allowing us to serve people in the most challenging conditions despite the lack of medicine," he explains.

"I hope this ordeal ends so we can go back to rebuild Gaza, our children's future, our country, and our organisation."

If you wish to donate online to Project Compassion 2026 this year, St Andrew's Parish has a parish fundraising platform:

<https://www.projectcompassion.org.au/fundraisers/claytonsouthcatholicparish>

or use the QR code (using your mobile), which takes you directly to Clayton South Catholic Parish donate page. Thank you.



### 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!!

### 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, forever and ever. Amen



**What is a Synod?** A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only "What do we think?" but more importantly, "What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?"

**Who participates in a Synod?** A Synod involves the whole People of God: bishops, priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful. Each has a distinct role, but all share responsibility for the Church's mission. Synodality does not blur roles—it helps each vocation flourish in service of the Gospel.

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# St. Andrew's Catholic Parish

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

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER PROGRAM 2026

<b>Saturday</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Departure: 7am	Lenten Pilgrimage to Bacchus Marsh
<b>Wednesday</b> 25 <sup>th</sup> March	09.15am Mass for the sick	Anointing within Mass & Holy Communion to the housebound ( <i>Kindly contact Parish Office to register</i> )
<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>		
<b>Sat &amp; Sunday</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> March	06.00pm 08.00am 09.30am 11.00am	Blessing of the Palms, Procession Mass in the Church
<b>EASTER TRIDUUM – in School Hall</b>		
<b>Holy Thursday</b> 02 <sup>nd</sup> April	07.30pm	<u><b>NO MORNING MASS</b></u> Mass of the Lord's Supper in the school hall followed by Repose of the Altar in the Church. Silent Adoration until midnight in the Church
<b>Good Friday</b> 03 <sup>rd</sup> April	10.00am 03.00pm	Stations of the Cross – Bald Hill Park ( <i>PTO for details</i> ) Commemoration of the Passion & Death of our Lord Jesus Christ in the School Hall
<b>Holy Saturday</b> 04 <sup>th</sup> April	07.30pm	Easter Vigil Mass in the School Hall
<b>Easter Sunday</b> 05 <sup>th</sup> April	08.30am 10.30am	Mass in the Church Mass in the Church
<b>DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY</b>		
<b>Divine Mercy Feast</b> 12 <sup>th</sup> April	1pm – 3pm 03.15pm	Confessions / Holy Rosary / Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. <b>Celebrant: Fr. Elmer Ibarra SVD</b> <b>Divine Mercy Mass followed by afternoon tea.</b>



ST. ANDREW'S PARISH CLAYTON SOUTH

## GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS



The custom of walking the Stations of the Cross is a revered devotion which has its origins in the early Christian pilgrimages to the holy places of Jerusalem.

*"...as we walk with Jesus, and believe in Jesus, and become friends and companions with him as Saviour and friend, may we grow in a greater faith in him, and also to love and care for one another."*

- ♦ **START & CONCLUSION: ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH**
- ♦ **WALKING TO BALD HILL PARK FROM 10AM**
- ♦ **STATIONS AND REFLECTIONS ARE LED BY FAMILIES**
- ♦ **KINDLY BRING THE JUBILEE CROSS ALONG**

**GOOD FRIDAY  
10AM**

**YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO JOIN US IN THIS JOURNEY**



TO MAINTAIN A SPIRIT OF REVERENCE AND SOLEMNITY, PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING PHONES AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS