



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

Immaculate Conception Hastings, St Peter's Shoreham and St Brendan's Church Somerville

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A - 25th/26th July 2026

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Judy Deefholts

**Office Hours: 9.30am-
3.00pm (Tuesday-Friday)**
Phone - 5979 4374

PARISH CENTRE:
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Parish Web Site: <http://westernportchurch.com.au>

**BAPTISM ENQUIRIES &
COMMUNION TO THE SICK:**
Parish Centre 5979 4374

PARISH SCHOOLS:

CRIB POINT: St Joseph's
Primary School 5983 9374

HASTINGS: St Mary's
Primary School 5979 1959

SOMERVILLE St Brendan's
Primary School 5977 7277

MORNINGTON Padua
College. Vice Principal:
Matthew Williams 5976 0100

VINNIES OP SHOP 83 High
St Hastings 5979 4373

**St Vincent de Paul Help
Assistance Call Centre**
(9am-noon M-F) 5976 4974

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **(R.)**
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. **(R.)**



Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

See Matthew 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They said, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.’



The Gospel of the Lord.

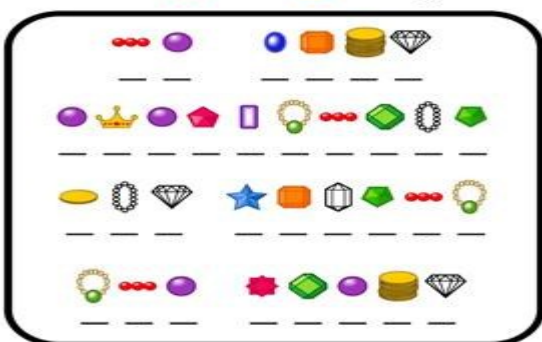
REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CS.

Two themes seem to weave through the readings for this Sunday: treasure and delight. The treasure is the extraordinary gift that comes from God; the delight is the joy that we experience when we realise that the treasure is ours. A third theme, which is found in the first reading, picks up a theme that we have considered several times during this period of Ordinary Time, namely, service of others.

The treasure is the kingdom of heaven. It is the prize that gives meaning to the present, and its fullest delight draws us into the future. The reign of God is the fulfilment of our deepest desires and our fondest hopes. Nothing in the world can compare with it, and that is why we are willing to sacrifice everything to attain it. The treasure that we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain the kingdom, nor can we earn it in any way. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is accept it.

Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price. What we have been given, we must now give to others. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the kingdom of God.

What did the man do after he found the treasure hidden in the field? Use the key below to decipher the code.



Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God is so valuable that we ought to be prepared to give up everything for it. What are some things in your life that you would be prepared to give up or change in order to enter God's Kingdom?

LITURGIES THIS WEEK: 27th July—2nd August**MONDAY:** No Service**TUESDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Somerville**WEDNESDAY:****9.00am** Mass at Shoreham**THURSDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Hastings**FRIDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Hastings**SATURDAY:****10.00am–10.30am.** Reconciliation at Hastings**6.00pm** Mass at Somerville**SUNDAY:****8.00am** Mass at Shoreham**10.00am** Mass at Hastings**PRAYERS AND PETITIONS**

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Priscilla Pascual, Marcelina Pascual, Jacqueline Sharpley, Charles, Mary Marshall, Ian Marshall, Bob Fels, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Michael Smith, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Marie Mereszko, Halima, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Frank Tagliabue, Janice Danaher, Jane, Maria, Kathy Burke, Frank Howard, Mike Mason, Elaine Duyvestyn, James Smythe, Lucy Triffett, Helena Jaskolski, Oscar Dixon-Rotherham, Margaret Sherlock and all those who need our prayers. May they receive the Lord's comfort and strength.

Please pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—1st/2nd August

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Maree Chapman	Anthony Grimes	Michael Smith	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Barbara Farley
Eucharistic Ministers	Garry McDonell	Catherine Russ	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Commentator	Judy Deefholts	Peter Schreiner	Agnes Smith	Counters Next Week	Genevieve & Kees Meyer
Altar Linen	JULY—Christine Coleman	JULY—Val Fakhry		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	JULY—Val Fakhry		Audio/Visual	Jesele Baxter
Flowers	Paula Street			Communion to the Sick This Week	Judy Deefholts



MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026

Westernport Parish response to the Synod .

This weekend we have sent out the three themes of the Synod:

Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership and Formation and Participation - to all parishioners via email, on the website and hard copies at the 3 Mass Centres.

Please take the time to review and discuss the 3 papers of the Synod and fill in the **Questions for Reflection**. Your responses can be left in the boxes provided in the Church foyer or sent to the Parish Office (by 9th August) on line via the QR code, the website, detailed in each paper or email to Synod2026@cam.org.au (by 21st August, 2026).

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.

Please continue to keep our candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next **Saturday 1st August at 6:00pm** at St Brendan's Somerville. This year, our three parish primary schools will come together to celebrate this special occasion at one Mass.

ARCHBISHOP COMMONSOLI has announced two key appointments for the Archdiocese.

Fr Luciano Toldo CS has been appointed Episcopal Vicar for the Northern Region, effective 1 August, and Monsignor Charles Portelli will take up the role of Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral from 1 September.

Continue Reading: melbournecatholic.org/news

(CSSV) Catholic Social Services Victoria is marking a significant dual milestone this year: 25 years since its formation as a state-wide body, and 45 years since its inception as a peak body for Catholic social and community organisations. It is an occasion for reflection, renewed connection and forward-looking discussions on social services within the Catholic tradition.

Continue reading: melbournecatholic.org/news

ST CARLOS ACUTIS – The First Millennial Saint.

The Legion of Mary is hosting the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition of St Carlo Acutis. Canonised by Pope Leo XIV in September 2025. **Thursday 16 July 2026 – Tuesday 28 July 2026: 10a.m. to 3p.m.** Contact: 0423 838 756

PARISH OFFICE HOURS.

Please note that from 3rd August, the Parish Office will not be open on Tuesdays. Office Hours are: 9.30a.m. to 3p.m. Wednesday to Friday.

WORLD GRANDPARENTS DAY.

POPE LEO has chosen **"I will never forget you"** (Is 49:15) as the theme for the Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly.

The World Day, instituted by the late Pope Francis in 2021, is celebrated every fourth Sunday of July and is presented as an opportunity to bring the closeness of the Church to the elderly and to enhance their contribution within families and communities. This year, the date coincides with the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Sunday, July 26.



Total giving from 18th/19th July

1st Collection – Presbytery - \$1,038.10

2nd Collection – Church Account - \$1,021.05

Tap Machine - \$128.25

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Western Port Parish is committed to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protect them from harm.