



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 12th/13th September 2026

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Judy Deefholts

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

PARISH CENTRE:
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POSTAL ADDRESS:
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Parish Web Site: [http://
westernportchurch.com.au](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

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Resentment and anger, these are foul things,
and both are found with the sinner.
He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord,
who keeps strict account of sin.
Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.
If a man nurses anger against another,
can he then demand compassion from the Lord?
Showing no pity for a man like himself,
can he then plead for his own sins?
Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment;
who will forgive him his sins?
Remember the last things, and stop hating,
remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

**(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful;
slow to anger and rich in compassion.**

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'

'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

A distinctive feature of the teachings of Jesus is his exhortation to forgive. Very explicit about this, Jesus left us his own example by forgiving his executioners while he hung dying on the cross. Until recently we thought that forgiveness begins with the offender repenting of the offence and then asking for pardon. Today many maintain that reconciliation must begin with the one offended offering forgiveness. This willingness to forgive transforms a victim into a survivor. Such magnanimity might then touch the heart of the offender, who may thus be transformed from being an offender to becoming a friend.

If God has been so generous in forgiving us, surely we should be generous in forgiving others. The process of becoming a forgiving person takes time. For some, it may take a lifetime. Only little by little are our pettiness and indignation reduced and our desire to strike back diminished. Still, as disciples, we are expected to give the forgiveness that we have been given.

Such forgiveness does not provide an easy way out for offenders, for ultimately justice will prevail. If we remain untransformed by God's forgiveness of us, we will be liable to judgment. Our unwillingness to forgive can eat away at us, and we can carry hurts from childhood far into adult years. Forgiving others, as difficult as that may be, is in the long run much easier than bearing the weight of resentful-

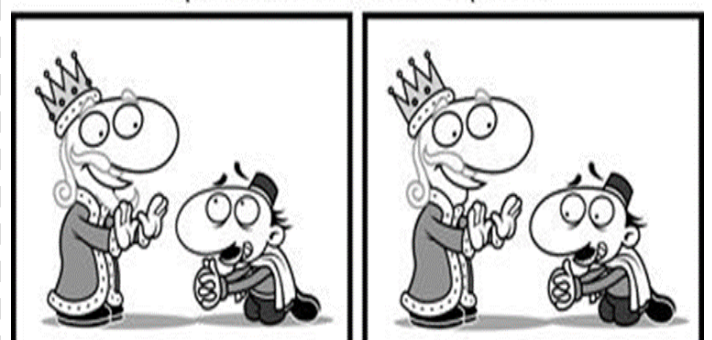
Draw a picture of Jesus talking to Peter about forgiveness.

Lord, if someone sins against me, how often should I forgive them? As many as seven times?

Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.



Spot the 7 differences between these pictures.



LITURGIES THIS WEEK: 14/9-20/9**MONDAY:** No Service**TUESDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Somerville**FRIDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Hastings**SATURDAY:****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 Jemima Middleton (McKillop), Kylie Wilman, Ann Wilson, Priscilla Pascual, Marcelina Pascual, Jacqueline Sharpley, Charles, Mary Marshall, Ian Marshall, Bob Fels, David Wirth, 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—19th/20th September

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Judy Deefholts	Joan White	Ted Fennessy	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Brian McAnallen
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Marshall	Marg Grant	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Kees & Genevieve Meyer
Commentator	Garry McDonell	Ann Lorkin	Val Coventry	Counters Next Week	Judy & Derrick Deefholts
Altar Linen	SEPT.—Christine Coleman	SEPT. Marg Grant		Sacristan	Leah Marsh
Mass Prep	Val Baxter			Audio/Visual	Jesele Baxter
Flowers	Val Baxter			Communion to the Sick This Week	Anne-Marie Lawson

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY: 13 September 2026

Catholics around Australia will mark Safeguarding Sunday on September 13.

The 2026 theme “**Love Protects**” recognises that safeguarding is a practical expression of Christian love.

When communities prioritise the safety, dignity, and wellbeing of children, young people and vulnerable adults, they embody the love and care that is at the heart of the Gospel.

It is a day to pray for all who have experienced abuse or harm, to support their healing, and to re-new our commitment to creating communities where every person is welcomed, respected and safe.

As we celebrate today, let us pray for all who continue to journey towards healing, give thanks for those who serve in safeguarding ministry, and re-commit ourselves to building parish communities where trust, compassion and care are evident in all we do.

MELBOURNE'S SYNOD JOURNEY CONTINUES...

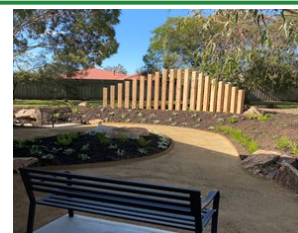


Thank you to all those who have participated in the consultation process for the Melbourne Synod.

Through regional meetings, parish gatherings, consultations with retired priests of the Archdiocese, priests in active ministry, and community organisations, we have come together to reflect prayerfully on the Synod themes for discernment.

We are grateful to the National Centre for Pastoral Research for their careful analysis of the consultation data. This work is now being prepared for the Synod Writing-Groups.

All Souls Day Memorial Service 2026 - St Brendan's Memorial Garden.



For All Souls Day in November this year there will be a short Memorial Service in the St Brendan's Memorial Garden before the Saturday evening Mass at a date to be confirmed.

In the meantime, we would like to invite applications for memorial plaques throughout September so that we may have time to order them and affix them prior to the service. Application forms are available at the Parish Office and at St Brendan's Church.

The cost for a plaque is \$200.00, (\$60.00 for the plaque and a one-time maintenance fee of \$140.00 for the upkeep and future requirements of the garden). There is also the opportunity to reserve an adjoining space for a future family memorial for an additional cost of \$30.00, (which is deducted from the cost of that future plaque). If you have any queries, please see Tracey Clark or leave your details with the Parish Office.

ROSTERS are being prepared for January to June 2027. If you are not on the roster this year and would like to put your name down please ring the Parish Office. We need more Commentators, Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers.



YOUNG PERSON'S SAFEGUARDING REFERENCE GROUP

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



ARE YOU 14-17?
DO YOU WANT TO HELP MAKE OUR CHURCH
SAFER AND MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?



WE WOULD LOVE TO
HEAR FROM YOU

Total giving: 5th/6th September

1st Collection – Presbytery: (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) : \$862.35

2nd Collection – Church: (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) : \$1394.15

Tap Machine Donations: \$53.92

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.