



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 20th/21st September 2026

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Judy Deefholts

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(Wednesday -Friday)
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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

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the
Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:20-24. 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation.

See Acts of the Apostles 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

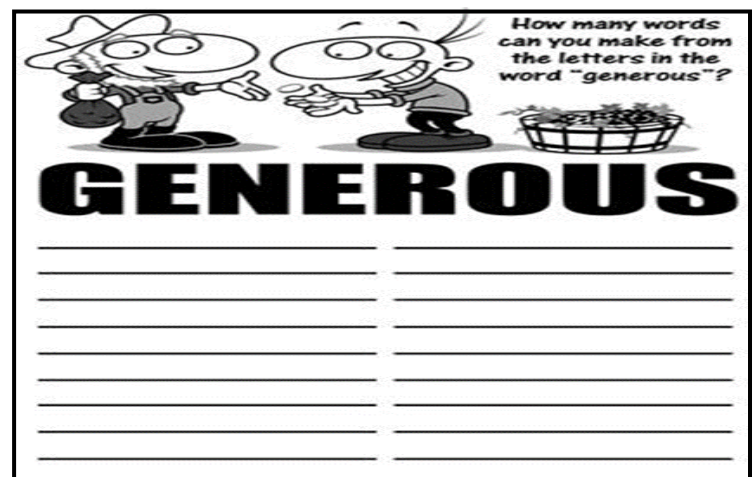
Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the import of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment.

The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of divine judgment when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way, if God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy.



LITURGIES THIS WEEK: 21st-27th**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, especially Madeleine Hackett. May they rest in peace.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—26th/27th September

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Maree Chapman	Anthony Grimes	Mei Lyons	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Barbara Farley
Eucharistic Ministers	Sandy Adolphus	Sylvia Falzon	Barbara Farley Deirdre Fennessy	Counters This Week	Judy & Derrick Deefholts
Commentator	Judy Deefholts	John Patterson	Agnes Smith	Counters Next Week	Stephen Stewart Ian Marshall
Altar Linen	SEPT.—Christine Coleman	SEPT. Marg Grant		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman			Audio/Visual	Princes Jellyanne Manocan
Flowers	Louise Street			Communion to the Sick This Week	Judy Deefholts



What is Social Services Sunday?

Social Services Sunday is observed in the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne on the third Sunday of September. It is an opportunity to give thanks, pray for and stand with the thousands of dedicated staff and volunteers who serve those who are poor, disadvantaged and marginalised in our communities. It also provides us with the opportunity to reflect on what **our role** might be in this work of service and justice.

As we celebrate Social Services Sunday, we recognise the need for encounter. Passion for connection and meeting others creates the kinship that is imperative in times of hardship and for building strong communities.

Through these encounters, we recognise the dignity of every person and stand alongside those who may otherwise go unheard. Catholic social services put this call into practice every day through accompaniment, advocacy, and practical support.

This Social Services Sunday, we are invited not only to give thanks for this work, but to consider our own contribution: Who is experiencing hardship around us? Who is already walking beside them? How might we strengthen and support that work?

MORNING TEA - Sunday, 27th September.

There will be a Morning Tea after Mass at Hastings to 'bid farewell' to Fr. Geoff. All welcome!



Synodality and young people

Young people long to be heard and taken seriously. Synodality invites the Church to listen attentively to their questions and hopes.

Synodality and prayer

Without prayer, synodality loses its soul. Every step must be rooted in prayer.

Synodality is about relationship

At its heart, synodality is relational - walking with God and with one another.

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.

Total giving: 12th/13th September

1st Collection – Presbytery: (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) : \$608.75

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

\$1551.05

Tap Machine : \$142.17



Advent begins Year B and the Gospel of Mark, you are invited to

Zoom in to Meet Mark, His Gospel & His Jesus

7.00 to 9.00pm, 3 Wednesday evenings: 11, 18 & 25 November

Book at: <https://www.trybooking.com/DPJZO>

Or Click:



Donation only



For further information contact: sandraellenbishop@gmail.com

This course is offered by the Catholic School of Evangelisation.

MELBOURNE CATHOLIC.

Copies of the Digest for September/October are in the foyer. Lots of interesting articles!

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