



Western Port Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

4th Sunday of Advent Y-A—21 December, 2025

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

Pastoral Worker:
Deirdre Fennessy

**Office Hours: 9.30am-
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[www.melbcatholic.org/s/
westernport](https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/westernport)

**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 Pri-
mary 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 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult,

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David:
are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men
without trying the patience of my God, too?
The Lord himself, therefore,
will give you a sign.
It is this: the maiden is with child
and will soon give birth to a son
whom she will call Emmanuel,
a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 23:1-6

R. Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.
(R.)

He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. /Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

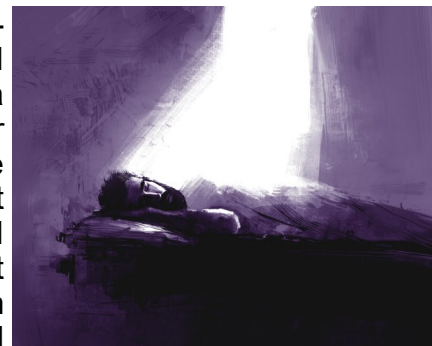
A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. **Alleluia!**

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:



The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living.

2026 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS You can now find 2026 Columban Art Calendars for \$10 each in the foyer of our churches.

GOD'S WORD 2026 - DAILY REFLECTIONS—AVAILABLE AGAIN

God's Word 2026 Daily Reflections is available again to purchase in the foyer of Hastings church at price: \$22.00.

Our job is to listen: Catholic prison ministry in Victoria

Last weekend we celebrated the Jubilee of Prisoners. For people behind bars, a conversation without judgment offers a rare opportunity for dignity and calm. 'So many of the people in prison just need someone to sit with them and not judge them,' says the head of CatholicCare Victoria's prison ministry, Deacon Jim Curtain. Continue reading: [Our job is to listen: Catholic prison ministry in Victoria](#)

gospel focus

What's in a name?

It appears from the passage that Mary's child is to be called both Jesus and Emmanuel. Emmanuel is not intended as a different name for Jesus but rather one of the many titles that will be applied to him. The title means God-is-with-us. That one word, Emmanuel, sums up the essence of Jewish and Christian belief. The Jewish people's faith in God was built on the basis that God travelled with them and through their lives. Christians believe that God took on an even closer sense of being with us through God's incarnation in the life of Jesus.

LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 22rd—28th December

MONDAY No Mass

TUESDAY 9.30am Mass at Somerville

11.00am Funeral Service at Shoreham for Adrian Del Lago

2.00pm Funeral Mass at Shoreham for Dorothy Callaghan

WEDNESDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE

5.00pm – FAMILY MASS at Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS

6.00pm – FAMILY MASS at St Brendan's Church, SOMERVILLE
preceded by Christmas Carols at 5.45pm

8.00pm – Mass at St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM

THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY

10.00am – Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS

10.00am – St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM

FRIDAY No Mass at Hastings

SATURDAY

6.00pm Mass at St Brendan's Church, Somerville

SUNDAY

8.00am Mass at St Peter's Church, Shoreham

10.00am Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Hastings

PRAYERS AND PETITIONS.

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Ian Marshall, Russell Petrie, Bob Fels, Pat Pope, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Kees Meyer, Michael Smith, Danny McGeough, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Marie Mereszko, Halima, Sala, Agnes, Malia, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Frank Tagliabue, Michael Pound, Janice Danaher, Vicky Mathis, Edna Walsh, 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, especially Dorothy Callaghan, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Ray Broatch (one year anniversary). May they rest in peace.

SOMERVILLE (24.12., 6.00pm) Lector: Sandy Adolphus. Eucharistic Ministers: Val Baxter, Anne-Marie Lawson, Commentator: Tracey Clark

SHOREHAM (24.12., 8.00pm) Lector: Anthony Grimes, Eucharistic Ministers: Marg Grant, Commentator: Ann Lorkin
(25.12., 10.00am) Lector: Damian Ireland, Eucharistic Minister: Kees Meyer, Commentator: Ann Lorkin

HASTINGS (24.12., 5.00pm) Lector: Agnes Smith, Eucharistic Ministers: Maggie Parsons, Deirdre Fennessy, Commentator: Michael Smith, Mass Welcomer: Barbara Farley, A/V: I
(25.12., 10.00am) Lector: Michael Smith, Eucharistic Ministers: Lioba Robinson, Isobel Wilson Comm. Val Coventry, Mass Welcomer: Agnes Smith, A/V: Geoff Robinson

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: 27th & 28th December

MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings		
Lector	Mary Marshall	8.00am J. Patterson, 10.00am T. Dyer	Jesela Baxter	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Michael Smith
Eucharistic Ministers	Sandy Adolphus	8.00am M. Grant 10.00am A. M. Dyer	Lioba Robinson Isobel Wilson	Counters This Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Commentator	Tracey Clark	8.00am Anne-Marie Wilkinson, 10.00am Ann Lorkin	Jared McCartin	Counters Next Week	Judy & Derrick Deefholts
Altar Linen		DEC. - Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	DEC. - Marg Grant		Audio/Visual	Jesele Baxter
Flowers	Louise Street	Somerville Maintenance—Bill & Anne-Marie Lawson		Communion to the Sick This Week	Anne-Marie Lawson
Cleaning					

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER: LOVE

Heavenly Father, as we light the fourth Advent candle of love, may your love inspire us to love one another as you have loved us. Let your love guide our actions and words. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Conclusion of the Jubilee Year – Christmas Masses

At our Christmas Masses, Western Port Parish will joyfully conclude the Jubilee Year, Pilgrims of Hope. A short report will be shared, highlighting the Jubilee initiatives lived out in our parish throughout the year. During the Mass, Jubilee bookmarks will be blessed and distributed to parishioners as a lasting reminder to continue living with hope. As a special symbol of faith passed on, a parish family will hand the Jubilee candle to a young family, encouraging them to remain hopeful and connected to our local Church, where God continues to bless us through the sacraments. All parishioners are warmly invited to join in this meaningful moment of thanksgiving and renewal.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL NOTICE

Westernport Conference would like to thank & congratulate the three Parish Mass Centres for their wonderful contributions to our Christmas Appeal.

We banked \$3720 earlier this week.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulation to graduates and all the children, teachers, and staff at our three schools - St Mary's, St Joseph's, and St Brendan's School and Padua College for another productive year. Wishing you a wonderful holiday and hoping you return revitalized and reenergized. May God bless you!

PARISH OFFICE

Please note, Parish Office will be closed from 26 December until 30 December. Phone messages will be monitored.

CHRISTMAS TEA

Are you short of going somewhere for a tea this Christmas day 2025 after 4pm? If so, I would like to invite you to join me for a small cold meal and salad in my garden. You are most welcome to contact me on 5979 8379. Hilary



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - 2025

Wednesday, 24th December, 2025– CHRISTMAS EVE

- * 5.00pm – FAMILY MASS at Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS
- * 6.00pm – FAMILY MASS at St Brendan's Church, SOMERVILLE preceded by Christmas Carols at 5.45pm
- * 8.00pm – Mass at St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM

Thursday, 25th December, 2025– CHRISTMAS DAY

- * 10.00am – Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS
- * 10.00am – St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM



BUILDING A SYNODAL CHURCH IN MELBOURNE

In recent years, we have been gently encouraged to take the practice of synodality into our hearts. As we prepare for the upcoming Melbourne Synod in 2026, **Cathy Jenkins**, Synod Program Lead for the Archdiocese of Melbourne, reflects on how we might build a synodal Church here in Melbourne.

Continue reading: [Building a synodal Church in Melbourne \(Melb. Catholic\)](#)

ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI CONDEMNS 'COLLECTIVE COMPLICITY' IN BONDI ATTACK AT RECONCILIATION MASS

In response to the shocking act of violence and desecration at Bondi Beach on Sunday evening, members of the Catholic, Jewish and broader ecumenical communities came together on Tuesday 16 December at a special Mass of Reconciliation at St Patrick's Cathedral to pray, remember and renew their commitment to peace. Continue reading: [Archbishop condemns 'collective complicity' in Bondi attack at Reconciliation Mass \(Melbourne Catholic\)](#)

Total giving from the week 8th Dec.—14th Dec. 2025

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) - \$680.35
2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques) - \$1215.05
Tap Machine Donations -
-\$113.03 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.