



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

5th Sunday of Easter—Year A—2nd/3rd May, 2026

PARISH CONTACT

DETAILS

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Thekkekalathungal IVDei

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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

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lege Vice Principal
Matthew Williams 5976 0100

VINNIES OP SHOP 83 High
St Hastings 5979 4373

St Vincent de Paul Help

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Phillip, Prochrus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. **(R.)**
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

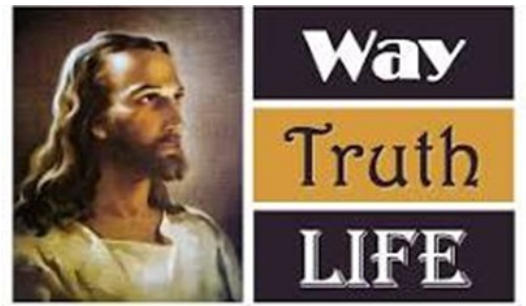
The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.
Alleluia!



Gospel

John 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.'

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said:

'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'

If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CS

The gospel readings for the Sundays just before the feast of Pentecost are all taken from Jesus' last discourse in the Gospel of John. In them, Jesus prepares his followers for his death and resurrection and his ultimate exaltation.

This Sunday Jesus says that it is through his death that he goes to God. However, it is as he is raised up in crucifixion that he is exalted. The author of the epistle declares him 'chosen and precious in the sight of God' but it is as the stone that was rejected that he is so honoured. If we ever wonder how the exaltation of Jesus will effect us, we have Jesus' own words of explanation. He promises to go ahead of us and make arrangements for us to share in his exaltation in the house of the one he calls Father. All we need do is follow him.

Today's readings suggest that the exaltation of Jesus is most dramatically manifested in the character of the community of those called by his name. It is revealed in the way Christians settle their differences so that all parties are treated fairly. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which this community is built, and the community mirrors his influence in its life. Christians also participate in the exaltation of Jesus by spreading the good news to others. In Acts we see how the witness of life and the preaching of the word of God increased the number of believers.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026.

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?"

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our Parish Sacramental Program for the preparation to receive the **Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist** will run for 6 weeks on Wednesdays 13th, 20th & 27th May, 3rd, 10th, & 17th June and for the **Sacrament of Confirmation** for 4 weeks on Wednesdays 24th June, 15th, 22nd & 29th July.

For enrolment forms and more details please contact the Parish Office on 5979 4374.

LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 4th May—10th May

MONDAY: No Service

TUESDAY: **9.30am** Communion Service at Somerville

WEDNESDAY: **9.00am** Mass at Shoreham

THURSDAY: **9.30am** Mass at Hastings
11.30a.m. Mothers' Day Mass at Somerville

FRIDAY: **9.30am** Mother's Day Mass at Hastings
12 noon. Funeral Mass for Teresa Clarke at Shoreham
2.00p.m. Mothers' Day Mass at St. Joseph's Crib Point.

SATURDAY: **10.00a.m.—10.30a.m.** 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 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, Michael Pound, 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, especially Teresa Clarke and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time., especially Alberto Panggapalan. May they rest in peace.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL:

We are in desperate need of your support. Our cupboard is depleted, and we need some more perishable items. If you can help with cans of Soup, Meat & Vegetables, Diced Tomatoes, Spaghetti, Baked Beans, Tuna or Salmon, Vegetables, tinned fruit. Pasta and Sauces, Vegemite, Peanut Butter, Jam. Packets of sweet and dry biscuits, two-minute noodles and cup of soup, long life milk. Tea and Coffee and toiletries. Please do not donate sugar or powdered milk. Thank you for your ongoing support!

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—9th & 10th May

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Tracey Clarke	John Patterson	Dierdre Fennessy	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Barbara Farley
Eucharistic Ministers	Garry McDonell	Genevieve Meyer	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Kees & Genevieve Meyer
Commentator	Judy Deefholts	Sylvia Falzon	Michael Smith	Counters Next Week	Stephen Stewart Ian Marshall
Altar Linen		MAY—Maria Patane		Sacristan	Leah Marsh
Mass Prep	Mary Marshall	MAY—Maria Patane		Audio/Visual	Geoff Robinson
Flowers	Maree Chapman	Somerville Maintenance		Communion to the Sick This Week	Judy Deefholts

MORNING TEA. There will be a Morning Tea after 11a.m. Mass today. All welcome.

MOTHERS' DAY MASSES at our Parish Schools.

All parishioners are warmly invited to join us for our Masses for Mums and all those who are like Mums to us.

Thursday, 7th May: 11.30a.m. at Somerville

Friday, 8th May: 9.30a.m. at Hastings
2.00p.m. at St. Joseph's Crib Point.

We would love to see you there as we gather together as a community.

CATHOLICARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL

This weekend is the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal (previously held during the month of August). This year, the Appeal aims to give hope and support to people experiencing homelessness. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those most in need. Your compassion ensures individuals and families are supported with safe housing, practical assistance, and compassionate care as they rebuild their lives. Your generosity helps open the door to safety, dignity and hope. Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. You can donate:

- Using the appeal envelope available today
- Online - www.catholiccarevic.org.au
- Phone - (03) 9967 2515

All gifts of \$2 and above are tax deductible.

"For I was a stranger and you welcomed me."
(Matthew 25:35)

Pope Leo to new priests: keep Church door open, don't be an obstacle

Priests are called each day to leave the doors of the Church open to a 'suffering humanity' in need and not 'be an obstacle to those who wish to enter', Pope Leo XIV told ten deacons just before ordaining them to the priesthood on the World Day of Vocations.

Continue reading: [Pope Leo to new priests: keep Church door open, don't be an obstacle](#)

St. Joseph the Worker is the patron saint of workers, celebrated by the Catholic Church on **May 1st**. Instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1955, this feast day highlights the dignity of human labour, honouring Joseph as the carpenter foster-father of Jesus who provided for the Holy Family through honest work



PARISH MINISTRIES - MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A reminder to please fill in the Volunteer forms which are at all Mass centres.

If you are already on a Roster this year, you still need to place your name on the new Volunteer List. Please return your form by **next Sunday, 10th May.**

Working With Children Check

It is a **requirement** of the Archdiocese of Melbourne that all Parishes keep a Register of all those who volunteer within the Parish so you will need to have a current Working With Children Check. To apply for one as a volunteer or renew your WWCC is free, just go to <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> and the instructions. If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Office on 5979 4374.

NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE.

This will take place in all Churches beginning this weekend for the four weekends in May.

This year marks 25 years of collecting valuable insights into long term trends within the Catholic Church and Mass attendance is perhaps the most basic religious practice.

Total giving from 25/4 & 26/4/26

1st Collection – Presbytery - 898.30

2nd Collection – Church Account - 734.40

Cheque—\$1,000.

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.