



## Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

**6th Sunday of Easter—Year A—9th/10th May, 2026**

#### PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

**Parish Priest:** Fr Shymon  
Thekkekalathungal IVDi

**Parish Secretary:**  
Judy Deefholts

**Pastoral Worker:**  
Deirdre Fennessy

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

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71 Marine Parade Hastings

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PO Box 76 Hastings 3915

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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

Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8. 14-17

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Philip went to a Samaritan town and proclaimed the Christ to them. The people united in welcoming the message Philip preached, either because they had heard of the miracles he worked or because they saw them for themselves. There were, for example, unclean spirits that came shrieking out of many who were possessed, and several paralytics and cripples were cured. As a result there was great rejoicing in that town.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, and they went down there, and prayed for the Samaritans to receive the Holy Spirit, for as yet he had not come down on any of them: they had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

#### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 65:1-7. 16. 20. R. see v.1

**(R.) Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.**

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.  
Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds! **(R.)**
2. 'Before you all the earth shall bow;  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!  
Come and see the works of God,  
tremendous his deeds among men. **(R.)**
3. He turned the sea into dry land,  
they passed through the river dry-shod.  
Let our joy then be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might. **(R.)**
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.  
I will tell what he did for my soul:  
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer  
nor withhold his love from me. **(R.)**

#### Second Reading

1 Peter 3:15-18

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Reverence the Lord Christ in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring. And if it is the will of God that you should suffer, it is better to suffer for doing right than for doing wrong.

Why, Christ himself, innocent though he was, had died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life.

**The word of the Lord.**

## Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

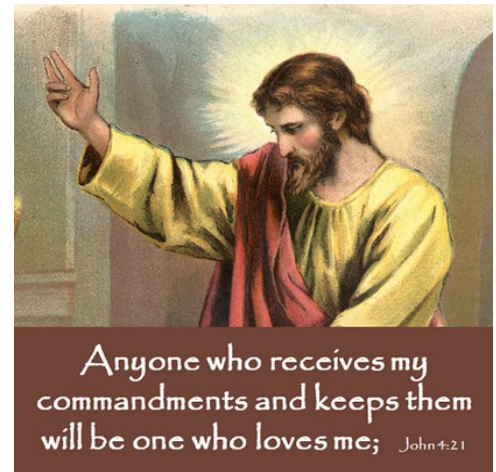
## Gospel

John 14:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

'If you love me you will keep my commandments.  
I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever,  
that Spirit of truth  
whom the world can never receive  
since it neither sees nor knows him;  
but you know him,  
because he is with you, he is in you.  
I will not leave you orphans;  
I will come back to you.  
In a short time the world will no longer see me;  
but you will see me,  
because I live and you will live.  
On that day  
you will understand that I am in my Father  
and you in me and I in you.  
Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them  
will be one who loves me;  
and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,  
and I shall love him and show myself to him.'



## The Gospel of the Lord.

### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CS

We live in hope because we have been blessed with the opportunity of participating in the exaltation of Jesus. This hope is based on promises: the promise that we will not be left orphaned when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that enables us to live in this world as if the promises have already been fulfilled, for in fact, it is precisely such living that fulfils them.

We have not celebrated the Ascension, and yet all three readings speak of the Spirit. The same Spirit, who quickened the resurrected life of Jesus, enlivens us. This Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. Life in the Spirit requires that we conform our lives to the commandments of God, not in a legalistic or constraining way but out of love. The love that comes to us through the Spirit will then overflow into the lives of others, and we will be agents of God's love in the world.

The Spirit given by Christ is mediated through the laying on of hands. This still happens in our day in the gentle touch of friends, in the loving touch of parents, in the healing touch of those who cure both the body and the spirit. The liturgical year is preparing us for the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and Jesus is preparing us for life in the Spirit here on earth. This is the reason for our hope.

### MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026.

#### Where does the word "Synod" come from?

The word *Synod* comes from the Greek ***syn-hodos***, meaning "walking together on the road."

This reminds us that the Christian life is never meant to be lived alone. Faith is a shared journey, where we support one another, listen to one another, and discern together how best to follow Christ.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

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

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

### LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 11th May—17th May

|                   |                                                          |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY:</b>    | No Service                                               |
| <b>TUESDAY:</b>   | <b>9.30am</b> Mass at Somerville                         |
| <b>WEDNESDAY:</b> | <b>9.00am</b> Mass at Shoreham                           |
| <b>THURSDAY:</b>  | <b>9.30am</b> Mass at Hastings                           |
| <b>FRIDAY:</b>    | <b>9.30am</b> Mass at Hastings                           |
| <b>SATURDAY:</b>  | <b>10.00a.m.—10.30a.m.</b><br>Reconciliation at Hastings |
|                   | <b>6.00pm</b> Mass at Somerville                         |
| <b>SUNDAY :</b>   | <b>8.00am</b> Mass at Shoreham                           |
|                   | <b>10.00am</b> 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, Fr. Peter Foley and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Peter Bird. 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—16th & 17th May

| <b>MINISTRY</b>              | <b><i>Somerville</i></b> | <b><i>Shoreham</i></b>        | <b><i>Hastings</i></b>             |                                        |                                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                | Garry McDonell           | Damian Ireland                | Princes Jellyanne Manocan          | <b>Mass Welcomer Hastings</b>          | Maggie Parsons                     |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> | Mary Marshall            | Sue Ireland                   | Barbara Farley<br>Deirdre Fennessy | <b>Counters This Week</b>              | Stephen Stewart<br>Judy Deefholts  |
| <b>Commentator</b>           | Tracey Clarke            | Pauline D'Astoli              | Jared McCartin                     | <b>Counters Next Week</b>              | Heimann Sissing<br>Brian McAnallen |
| <b>Altar Linen</b>           |                          | MAY—Maria Patane              |                                    | <b>Sacristan</b>                       | Paula Stokes                       |
| <b>Mass Prep</b>             | Val Baxter               | MAY—Maria Patane              |                                    | <b>Audio/Visual</b>                    | Jesele Baxter                      |
| <b>Flowers</b>               | Val Baxter               | <b>Somerville Maintenance</b> | Bill & Anne-Marie Lawson           | <b>Communion to the Sick This Week</b> | Anne-Marie Lawson                  |
|                              |                          |                               |                                    |                                        |                                    |

## A PRAYER FOR MOTHERS.

All-loving God, we give you thanks and praise for mothers young and old.



We pray for young mothers, who give life and count toes and tend to our every need; May they be blessed with patience and tenderness to care for their families and themselves with great joy.

We pray for our own mothers who have nurtured and cared for us; May they continue to guide us in strong and gentle ways.

We remember mothers who are separated from their children because of war, poverty, or conflict; May they feel the loving embrace of our God who wipes every tear away.

We pray for women who are not mothers but still love and shape us with motherly care and compassion.

We remember mothers, grandmothers and great-grandmothers who are no longer with us but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. **Amen.**

**HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY** to all Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers and all those who are like Mothers to us!

## POPE LEO'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY: that everyone might have food.

**Pope Leo** has dedicated his prayer intention for the month of May to one of humanity's most persistent challenges: hunger.

In a video message released by the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#), the Pope calls on Catholics worldwide to confront the problem of food insecurity with both prayer and concrete action.

Continue reading: [That everyone might have food : the Pope's intention for May](#)

## NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE.

This weekend is Week 2 of the National Count.

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.

## MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY



May is traditionally dedicated in a special way to honouring and seeking the intercession of Mary as the Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

*"She is that woman who rejoiced in the presence of God, who treasured everything in her heart, and who let herself be pierced by the sword. Mary is the saint among the saints, blessed above all others. She teaches us the way of holiness and she walks ever at our side. She does not let us remain fallen and at times she takes us into her arms without judging us."* —Pope Francis

## PARISH MINISTRIES - MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered for ministries in the parish. If you haven't returned your Volunteer sheet yet, please do so this week.

If you need to apply for a Working with Children Check, the website is: <https://www.vicgov.au>working-with-children-check>.

## RAISING KIDS WITH CONFIDENCE IN A DIGITAL AGE.

Kristen Roe from Real Talk, a Christian-based organisation focusing on wellbeing, e-safety, relationships and sexuality education, wants parents to know they are more equipped than they think. She shares some personal insights on how to help young people negotiate the world of digital media, as well as some the thorny questions and issues she will be covering in the very first 'Anchored' parenting webinar next week.

Continue reading: [Raising kids with confidence in a digital age](#)

## Total giving from 2nd/3rd May

1<sup>st</sup> Collection – Presbytery - \$840.65  
2nd Collection – Church Account \$907.65

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.