



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD — Year A — 16th/17th 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
Primary School 5979 1959

SOMERVILLE St Brendan's
Primary School 5977 7277

MORNINGTON Padua
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Matthew Williams 5976 0100

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St Hastings 5979 4373

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Assistance Call Centre**
(9am-noon M-F) 5976 4974

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave **Jerusalem**, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.



Responsorial Psalm

Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CS.

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given.

MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026.

The New Synod Commission calls for prayers for missionary leaders. As the work towards the Archdiocese of Melbourne Synod continues, a new Synod Commission has been appointed. Having already met twice, it is calling on all the faithful to pray during the month of May for missionary leadership in our Archdiocese.

LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 18th—24th May

MONDAY:	No Service
TUESDAY:	9.30am Mass at Somerville
WEDNESDAY:	9.00am Mass at Shoreham
THURSDAY:	9.30am Mass at Hastings
FRIDAY:	9.30am Mass at Hastings
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, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. 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—23rd/24th May

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Mary Marshall	Anthony Grimes	Val Coventry	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Kayla Miller
Eucharistic Ministers	Maree Chapman	Kees Meyer	Lioba Robinson Isobel Wilson	Counters This Week	Heimann Sissing Brian McAnallen
Commentator	Sandy Adolphus	Peter Schreiner	Tom Leyden	Counters Next Week	Judy & Derrick Deefholts
Altar Linen		MAY—Maria Patane		Sacristan	Leah Marsh
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	MAY—Maria Patane		Audio/Visual	Princes Jellyanne Manocan
Flowers	Louise Street	Somerville Maintenance	Fred Arena	Communion to the Sick This Week	Mary Marshall

PENTECOST SUNDAY – Invitation for Multilingual Prayers of the Faithful

As we prepare for Pentecost this week, we hope to reflect the beautiful diversity of our parish community. Pentecost reminds us of the moment when the Holy Spirit enabled the disciples to speak in many tongues, and we hope to reflect that same spirit of unity in our liturgy.

If you speak a language other than English and would like to proclaim one of the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass, we warmly invite you to take part.

No experience needed — just your voice and your language.

Please contact the parish office or speak to Father after the Mass.

SHARE THE LIGHT: preparing for the Melbourne Corpus Christi Procession

On Sunday 7 June 2026, the Church in Melbourne will once again step into the heart of the city for the annual Corpus Christi Procession, as thousands of people walk together from St Patrick's Cathedral to Federation Square, bringing a public, prayerful and joyful witness to the streets of the Melbourne CBD. Across the Archdiocese, as they prepare to join the eucharistic procession, members of the faithful have been sharing with us what the Eucharist means to them.

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 3 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.

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING -

Wednesday, 20th at 5.00p.m.

MORNING TEA - after the Pentecost Mass at Hastings. All welcome.

COMMITMENT MASSES for First Eucharist.

We welcome our school families at:

6p.m. Saturday, 16th May: St. Brendan's,
Somerville

8a.m. Sunday, 24th May: St. Peter's,
Shoreham

10a.m. Sunday, 24th May: Immaculate
Conception, Hastings

Laudato Si':

The annual global celebration inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* will be held from May 17 to 24.

The theme is *Laudato Si'* invites individuals, communities, and institutions to reflect on the relationship between humanity, creation, and God, while encouraging strong measures to protect the environment. The week is both a spiritual and practical call to ecological conversion leading to more sustainable and compassionate ways of living on our planet.

Laudato Si' Week highlights the interconnection of all life. Pope Francis emphasised the strong link between environmental ruin and social injustice, with the poorest '*From Hope to Action*'.

communities often bearing the greatest burden of climate change. As such, people are urged to respond with solidarity, promoting justice and responsible environmental management.

Laudato Si' Week is a call to people of all backgrounds to work as one in protecting our common home and promoting hope for a more sustainable and fairer future for all.

More details at: (<https://laudatosiweek.org/>)

Total giving from 9th/10th May

1st Collection – Presbytery - \$864.50

2nd Collection – Church Account

\$1110.55

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.