



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

The Baptism of the Lord - Year A, 11 January 2026

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

Pastoral Worker:
Deirdre Fennessy

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

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Parish Web Site:

[https://
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 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations.

He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law.

I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10

R. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

O give the Lord you sons of God,
give the Lord glory and power;
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)

The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,
the Lord on the immensity of waters;
the voice of the Lord, full of power,
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)

The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!'
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.

'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ - but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened and the Father's voice was heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

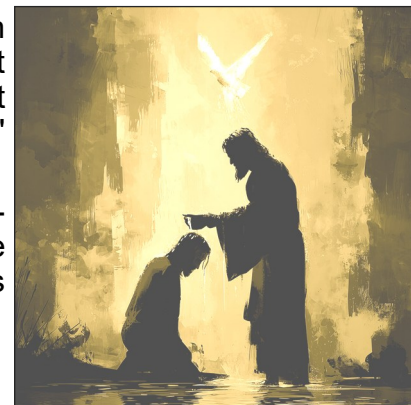
Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being; it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him. And a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

A Whisper Echoing Heaven

Let us focus on Jesus' mystical experience as he emerged from the waters of the River Jordan. 'Suddenly the heavens opened.' Heaven and earth are communicating again! If heaven appeared closed to human-kind it is now open again. 'And he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him.' Jesus experienced a sense of being hovered over by the Divine presence 'in dove-like fashion'.

'And a voice spoke from Heaven: "This is my Son, the beloved, my favour rests on him".' In the Jewish tradition this sort of intuitive sensation is called the bat qol, the daughter of a voice, a whisper echoing heaven.

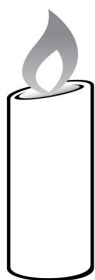
Each of us has shared in the baptism of Our Lord, been incorporated into *His* baptism. Divine love and power streamed from heaven to earth into each one of you; the Holy Spirit hovered gently over you; and deep down, at the intimate wellspring of your life, the Divine voice was heard whispering:

'You are my beloved daughter' or 'You are my beloved son,' 'My favour rests on you.'

We could pause for a moment to resolve to recall each morning the heavenly whisper at *our* baptism and then re-echo it in *our* lives.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Draw a line to connect each symbol with it's correct meaning.



Candle



Water

Symbolizes the Holy Spirit

Symbolizes life, cleansing and growth

Symbolizes purity and freedom from sin

Symbolizes the emergence from darkness into the light

Dove



White Gown



LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 12th January –18th January**MONDAY** No Mass**TUESDAY 9.30am** Mass at Somerville**WEDNESDAY—No Mass****THURSDAY—No Mass at Hastings***10.30am Funeral Mass for Henricus Hendriks in Shoreham***FRIDAY— 9.30am** 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 St Peter's Church, Shoreham**10.00am** Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Hastings**PRAYERS AND PETITIONS.**

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Mary Marshall, Ian Marshall, Bob Fels, Pat Pope, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Kees Meyer, Michael Smith, Danny McGeough, 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, 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 Henricus Hendriks and Barbara Schwarz, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Jeynelle Broatch. May they rest in peace.

WOMEN'S VOICES FOR SURVEY OF SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE

Are you interested in sharing your experiences of safeguarding practice in the Catholic Church? We are inviting women to take part in our **WISE project**, an international survey that is looking into **Women's Insights into Safeguarding Efforts in the Catholic Church**. Participants can include nuns, sisters, and lay women who are actively involved in Church life, and women working in the Church. The study will explore their experiences with current safeguarding measures, their ideas for improvement, and their views on the risks posed by both men and women within Church settings. Link to survey: https://acu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8qpH9CaiU6IICSW

Survey ends on 28 February @ 5:00 pm.**THANK YOU!**

Our Parishioner Sala from Somerville would like to thank all of you who prayed for her during her illness and recovery. It is most greatly appreciated! May God bless you!

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: 17th & 18th January 2026

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Christine Coleman	8.00am Pauline D'Astoli 10.00am Damian Ireland	Michael Smith	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Kayla Miller
Eucharistic Ministers	Garry McDonell	8.00am Joan White 10.00am Sue Ireland	Lioba Robinson Isobel Wilson	Counters This Week	Kees & Genevieve Meyer
Commentator	Judy Deefholts	8.00am Peter Schreiner 10.00am Ann Lorkin	Agnes Smith	Counters Next Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Altar Linen		JAN. - Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Marie Ernestine
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	JAN. - Margaret Grant		Audio/Visual	Jesele Baxter
Flowers	Maree Chapman	Somerville Maintenance—		Communion to the Sick This Week	N/A

POPE LEO APPOINTS FR MARK FREEMAN AS NINTH BISHOP OF BALLARAT



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has welcomed the appointment of **Fr Mark William Freeman** as the ninth Bishop of Ballarat.

Pope Leo XIV announced the appointment in Rome on Wednesday night. Fr Freeman, 66, currently serves as parish priest in Bellerive-Lindisfarne, in the Archdiocese of Hobart. He will succeed **Bishop Paul Bird CSsR**, who has led the Diocese of Ballarat since late 2012. Fr Freeman will be ordained to the episcopacy and installed as the ninth Bishop of Ballarat in March. Continue reading: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/pope-leo-appoints-fr-mark-freeman-as-ninth-bishop-of-ballarat>

(Melbourne Catholic)

'CONTINUE TO BE PILGRIMS TOGETHER!' POPE LEO'S EPIPHANY HOMILY FOR THE CLOSE OF THE JUBILEE OF HOPE

Pope Leo XIV presided over the rite of the closing of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica on 6 January 2026, officially ending the Jubilee of Hope, which began on Christmas Eve 2024.

He also presided over Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord in the basilica, stating: "Yes, the Magi still exist today. They are the people who sense the need to go out and search, accepting the risks associated with their journey, especially in a troubled world like ours that may be unpleasant and dangerous in many ways."

The full text of Pope's homily is available at the link: ['Continue to be pilgrims together!' Pope Leo's... | Melbourne Catholic](#) (Melbourne Catholic)

PARISH VOLUNTEERS

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND ONLINE TRAINING

Is your Working With Children Check registered with our Parish Secretary? Please forward your current card details to the Parish Secretary at the office in Hastings or via email to westernport@cam.org.au.

Training online and signed Code of Conduct should be completed at the link below and details posted/emailed to the Parish Secretary: [Login](#)

Thanks to all those who already provided their details and completed their online training.

Western Port Parish

Fundraising and Social Dinner

Friday 13th Feb 2026

6.30pm - 10.00pm

Westernport Parish Community Room

Tickets \$30.00 per head

(All tickets purchased last year remain valid.)

Donations of food and/or raffle prizes are very welcome, please let us know when you purchase your tickets. They will be available after Mass at all Mass centres from 17th Jan.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

2026 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

You can still find 2026 Columban Art Calendars for \$10 each in the foyer of our churches.

PRAYERS & REFLECTIONS

For Your Sacred Day 2026, Compiled and Written by JULIETTE HUGHES, ANN RENNIE

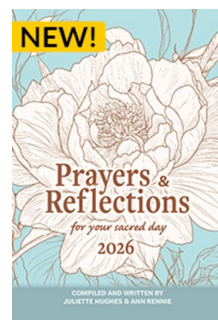
Whether you're seeking a quick pause from the daily stresses, or wanting to start your day with a quiet reflection, *Prayers & Reflections for Your Sacred Day 2026* is the perfect book for you. Compiled for Australian readers, inside you will find a contemporary Christian prayer or reflection for each day of the year, as well as major Feast days, commemorative days, and Australian holidays.

RRP \$34.95, Sophia \$29.71

9781923095144

For more information please visit:

[Prayers & Reflections for Your Sacred Day 2026 – Garratt Publishing](#)



Total giving from the week 29th Dec. 2025—4th Jan. 2026

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$1031.05

2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques) \$1186.50

Tap Machine Donations - \$128.03

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.