

Star of the Sea Parish South West Coast

* Infant Jesus, Koroit * St Patrick's, Port Fairy * St Anne's, Purnim * St Joseph's, Warrnambool *
 * Our Lady Help of Christians, Warrnambool East * St Pius X, Warrnambool West *

CONTACT THE OFFICE

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 🕒 9.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday
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<https://www.catholicparish.app/southwestcoast>
www.facebook.com/southwestcoastparish

PARISH PERSONNEL

Parish Priest	Fr John Fitzgerald
Assistant Priest	Fr Matt Restall
Business Manager	Bruce Keeley
Accounts Manager	Louise Dryburgh
Maintenance	James Cronin
Admin Team	Karen Johnson Virginia Martin Trisha McGinness

SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

St John's Dennington	Ben van de Camp
St Patrick's Koroit	Tegan McDonald
St Patrick's Port Fairy	Tarryn Delaney
St Joseph's W'bool	Nick Murrell
St Pius X W'bool West	Tristan Fay
OLHC W'bool East	Stephen Madden
Emmanuel College	Rachel McGennissen

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

Star of the Sea Parish adheres to the Child Safe Standards of Victoria. Our policies are on display in each Church and website.

Parish Safeguarding Officers:

Infant Jesus, Koroit	Leisa McCosh
St Patrick's, Port Fairy	Peter Sanderson
St Joseph's, W'bool	Jill Haberfield
St Pius X, W'bool West	Karen Johnson
OLHC, W'bool East	Dion Bartlett

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We recognise the traditional custodians of parish lands. We acknowledge their ancestors with respect and we are committed to working for justice and reconciliation.

7/8 Mar 2026
3rd Sunday of Lent

A JOYFUL ANNOUNCEMENT

THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF FR MARK FREEMAN

9th Bishop of Ballarat

WATCH LIVE AT ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH WARRNAMBOOL

Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 11.00am

Refreshments will be available afterwards.

Scrutinies

The word 'Scrutiny' belongs to those adults who are preparing for baptism or for full initiation into the Catholic Church. The celebration of the scrutinies is held on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent because they celebrate the transforming power of Christ as captured in the readings for those Sundays.

First Scrutiny (3rd Sunday of Lent ... OLHC)
 Gospel: John 4/5-42: The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Sr Berenice Kerr RSM

Sr Berenice died peacefully this week following a short illness. She was widely known as a passionate supporter of Catholic education. She was a foundational member of the DOBCEL Board. Her wisdom and deep commitment to Catholic identity had a profound effect on many in the field of Catholic education. May she rest in peace.

Recent Deaths: Sr Berenice Kerr RSM, Carlos Castro De Aravjo (Timor Leste), Maureen Finnigan

Anniversaries: Mary Barling (Nirranda), Geraldine Carlin, Frank Clancey

Project Compassion

3rd Sunday of Lent

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes, scanning the QR code, online at www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate or by calling 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.

Seaside Community Kitchen - St Joseph's Hall on Mondays from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. (Not this Monday- **Public Holiday**)

St Vincent de Paul

West Warrnambool & Warrnambool are once again holding their Lenten Food Appeal - All donations are gratefully appreciated.

7/8 Mar - Tinned Fruit 14/15 Mar Pasta/Pasta Sauce

Bishop Paul Bird

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission thanks all those involved in the wonderful Mass of Thanksgiving to mark the retirement of Bishop Paul Bird CSsR on Monday evening. The Mass can be viewed at <https://youtube.com/live/yPV7UjsW00w?feature=share>.

Stations of the Cross

6:00pm
Fridays of March
St Patrick's Church Port Fairy
Followed by
Fish (\$10)
& Chips (Free)

Stations of the Cross

OLHC: 10:00am Monday (Holy Hour)
St Joseph's: 7:30pm Fridays
Port Fairy: 6:00pm Fridays
 (Order F&C on arrival)

St Pius X: Morning Tea after Mass next week. All Welcome Prayer Group -Tuesdays at 1:15pm

St Joseph's 'Cuppa' after Mass today

Infant Jesus: 'Mothers who Pray for their Children': Fri at 10:45am

Rosary: **St Joseph's** (March) on Mondays at 7:00pm.
 : **Port Fairy** on Wednesdays at 11:00am

Baptisms: We welcome Leo McCormick and Theo Yannakoudis into our faith community.

'Australian Catholics'

This publication comes to us four times a year. The Autumn issue is now available in all of our churches. Many of the articles in this issue are about the Eucharist from various perspectives. Enjoy

Parish Leadership Team Meetings

St Joseph's: Wednesday 11th March at 5:00pm
 Port Fairy: Wednesday 11th March at 7:00pm

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday Vigil

6:00pm OLHC, Warrnambool East

Sunday Morning

9:00am Infant Jesus, Koroit
 9:00am St Pius X, Warrnambool West
 10:30am St Joseph's, Warrnambool
 10:30am St Patrick's, Port Fairy
 6:00pm St Joseph's Warrnambool
 *11:00am St Anne's, Purnim
 2nd Sunday of the month (Eucharist)
 *All other Sundays
 Assembly of the Word with Communion

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tues	5:10pm St Pius X
Sat	9:40am St Pius X

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues	5:30pm St Pius X
Wed	10:00am St Joseph's 11:00am Mercy Place
Thur	10:00am OLHC
Fri	10:00am St Joseph's St Joseph's School Mass
Sat	10:00am St Pius X

Prayer for March

For Disarmament and Peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Baptisms

An information session takes place at 7:00pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the Gathering Space at St Joseph's.

Next session: Tues 10 March 2026
 To book please call 5562 2231

the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done,' so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form 4:5-42

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Breaking Open the Word



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT / A

8 MARCH 2026

FOR WHAT DO WE THIRST?

The first two Sundays of Lent are from Matthew's Gospel, the Gospel of this liturgical year. They recall Jesus' temptation (Mt 4: 1-11) and his experience of being transfigured (Mt 17: 1-9). For the remaining Sundays of Lent, we listen to John's Gospel. These Sundays will explore the central religious and theological questions especially relevant for contemporary disciples in their Lenten journey: For what do we truly thirst (today's Gospel)? How might our eyes be opened to Jesus (next Sunday)? What is the life for which we deeply desire (the final Sunday of Lent)?

In today's Gospel a Samaritan woman comes to a well at noon—the brightest moment of the day—and encounters the source of Light, Jesus. She comes to draw water and only later realises that she has met the one who can quench her deepest spiritual thirst. The whole scene is replete with theological symbolism, a characteristic of John, as Jesus invites the woman to explore the depths of her thirst that only he can address. We learn that she has had several 'husbands'. This is not an admission of the woman's adventurous liaisons, as many commentators have interpreted, but an acknowledgement of her attraction to the 'husbands' (the 'Baals') of religions that are 'not her own'. She is looking for the true one from God, not these other counterfeits.

Jesus reveals himself to her: He is the 'I AM', the Old Testament name for God. Through him the woman comes to encounter the Sacred and sets her on a journey back to her townspeople. Like the woman, we, too, thirst, for God and for a deeper religious life as we journey through Lent.



Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Ex 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Give us water to drink.

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 5:1-2, 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This

hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Jn 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! / Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; / give me living water, that I may never thirst again. / Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 4:4-5, 19-26, 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you:

Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: