

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.

14/15 March 2026

4th 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.

NB: Fr Freeman's Installation will be live-streamed in St Joseph's Church at 11:00am with light refreshments following. Our three representatives who will be in attendance: Evelyn Gurry, Mary Lancaster and Simon Hogan.

Anointing Mass

At St Joseph's on Tuesday at 2:00pm with Afternoon Tea following. If anyone would appreciate a ride please call the office on 5562 2231.

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.

Today's '**Second Scrutiny**' is during 10:30am Mass in Port Fairy. Gospel: John 9/1-14: The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

Recent Deaths: Pat Hyland, Ian Coffey, Maureen Finnigan, Lyal Eales, Peter Lyons

Anniversaries: Elizabeth White, Bernie Shaw



Project Compassion

4th Sunday of Lent

Ahmad's story, Gaza

Since October 2023, Caritas Jerusalem staff in Gaza have endured displacement, personal loss, and danger alongside the communities they serve. Despite unimaginable challenges, they remain committed to providing lifesaving support, standing in solidarity with families enduring this conflict.

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.



Baptisms: We welcome Austin Watts, Niamh Nally and Alexander Mugavin into our faith community.

Stations of the Cross

OLHC: 10:00am Monday (Holy Hour)

St Joseph's: 7:30pm Fridays

Port Fairy: 6:00pm Fridays
(Order fish & chips on arrival)

Stations of the Cross

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

Parish Finance Council: Tuesday at 12:00 noon - St Joseph's

St Pius X: Morning Tea after Mass today. All welcome
Prayer Group - Tuesdays at 1:15pm

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

St Vincent de Paul

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

14/15 March - Pasta/Pasta Sauce **21/22 March** - Tea/ Coffee

Working Bee OLHC Presbytery

1:00pm Saturday 28 March. All assistance to spruce the house up for the arrival of the next refugee family most welcome.

More information Ann Barker 0427 728 333.

Easter Triduum Volunteers

OLHC & St Pius X The Easter Triduum will take place at OLHC this year and the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at St Pius X.

A sign up sheet for various ministries will be available in the Foyer after Masses at these communities over the next couple of weeks. Please have a look and see if there is a role in which you'd be willing to help.

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

Mon 11:00am Port Fairy
Ian Coffey RIP

Tues 9:30am Koroit
School Mass

12:45pm Port Fairy
School Mass

2:00pm St Joseph's
Anointing Mass

Wed 11:00am Mercy Place
1:00pm OLHC
Lyal Eales RIP

Thur 11:00am St Joseph's
Live Stream - Episcopal Ordination and Installation of the Ninth Bishop of Ballarat

Fri 1:00pm St Joseph's
Maureen Finnigan RIP

Sat 10:00am St Pius X

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 14 April 2026
To book please call 5562 2231

He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him'. The man himself said, 'I am the man'.

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see'. Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you'. The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 9:1-41

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Breaking Open the Word

'WE ARE NOT BLIND!'

The rich theological symbolism evident from last Sunday's Gospel of John continues in today's drama between light and darkness. Jesus meets a man born blind and tells him to wash in the sanctified pool of Siloam south of the temple. The blind man returns able to see. Over several scenes in one of the most dramatic and engaging stories in all the Gospels, the man who now has vision is consistently interrogated by the religious authorities who, though they are supposed 'to see', move into spiritual blindness.

The dynamic evident in the story is that each time the man is interrogated, he goes back to his experience of being healed by Jesus. Each reflection moves him to a deeper realisation of what has happened and who Jesus is: at first he calls Jesus simply 'a man', then later, that Jesus is 'from God', until finally, the man worships him. This movement of faith into light is accompanied by a similar movement into darkness by the religious leaders. They fail to see that they have become blind to Jesus and his deeds of healing (which John calls 'signs'). 'We are not blind, surely?' they retort.

This drama is acted out in our day. Jesus' final words to his antagonists and John's audience are forever relevant. 'Blind?' questions Jesus, 'If you were, you would not be guilty, but since you say, "We see", your guilt remains.' This clarity of understanding and insight is important in a world where truth is camouflaged as falsehood and lies proclaimed as truth. We need to journey with the man born blind, to reflect on our experiences, to be with Jesus and 'see'.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

15 MARCH 2026

FIRST READING

1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 22. R. v. 1

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; / there is nothing I shall want. / Fresh and green are the pastures / where he gives me repose. / Near restful waters he leads me, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**

3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**



SECOND READING

Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth.