

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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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.

21/22 March 2026

5th Sunday of Lent

Correspondence from Bishop Paul

Dear Fathers and Parishioners,

As you may recall, Parish Priests are requested to send the bishop a letter of resignation when they turn 75.

Fr John Fitzgerald will be turning 75 on July 4 this year.

In anticipation of that birthday, Fr John has indicated his readiness to retire as Parish Priest around that time.

In discussions with Fr John, we have settled on the last weekend of July for his retirement as Parish Priest of Star of the Sea Parish.

On behalf of our diocesan community, I offer our thanks to Fr John for his great service in the diocese, including his 22 years of ministry as Parish Priest in the Warrnambool region.

This advance notice of his retirement will allow us to have consultations in the coming months about the appointment of his successor as Parish Priest of Star of the Sea Parish.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

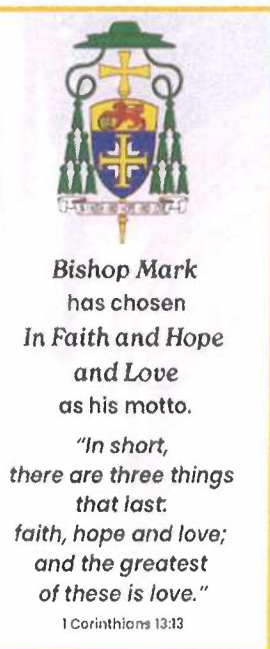
Welcome Bishop Mark

We welcome Bishop Mark Freeman as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Ballarat and wish him well as he begins his Episcopal Ministry.

We pray that Bishop Mark may faithfully fulfil this ministry and be a genuine sign of Christ's loving presence among the people of the diocese.



Bishop Mark greeting Simon Hogan, a parishioner of Star of the Sea Parish



HOLY WEEK

30 March **Mass of the Oils**
1:00pm Ballarat Cathedral
31 March **Celebration of God's Forgiveness and Mercy**
7:30pm St Joseph's
1 April **Holy Week Liturgy**
7:30pm Christ Church, Henna Street

Easter Triduum

2 April **Holy Thursday** *Mass of the Lord's Supper*
7:00pm St Joseph's, OLHC & Port Fairy
3 April **Good Friday** *Celebration of the Lord's Passion*
3:00pm St Joseph's, OLHC & port Fairy
4 April **Easter Vigil (Saturday)**
6:00pm St Joseph's & OLHC
8:00pm Port Fairy
5 April **Easter Sunday** *Resurrection*
9:00am St Pius X & Koroit
10:30am St Joseph's (NB: No 6:00pm Mass)
11:00am St Anne's Purnim

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 will be available in the Foyer

Stations of the Cross

During Lent	Good Friday
OLHC: 10:00am Monday	9:00am - Koroit
St Joseph's: 7:30pm Friday	10:00am - St Pius X
Port Fairy: 6:00pm Friday	11:00am - Port Fairy, Purnim
Good Friday: 11:00am Ecumenical Way of the Cross Walk - Cannon Hill to Lake Pertobe	

Baptisms: This weekend Beau Lewis & Margot Cassidy will be welcomed into our faith community.

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.

21/22 March -Tea/ Coffee **28/29 March** - Tinned Soup

Working Bee OLHC Presbytery

11:00am Saturday 28 March. All assistance to spruce the house up for the arrival of the next refugee family most welcome.
Ann Barker 0427 728 333.

Recent Deaths: Sr Pat O'Brien RSM, Felismina Abu Soares (Timor Leste), Elizabeth Hurley (Hamilton)

Anniversaries: Jim Rea, Elsa Lalor, Len Laylor, John Grayson

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
Thur	10:00am OLHC
Fri	10:00am St Joseph's
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 14 April 2026

To book please call 5562 2231

Jesus said:

‘I am the resurrection and the life.
If anyone believes in me, even though he dies
he will live,
and whoever lives and believes in me
will never die.

Do you believe this?

‘Yes, Lord,’ she said ‘I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.’

Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, ‘Where have you put him?’ They said, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept; and the Jews said, ‘See how much he loved him!’ But there were some who remarked, ‘He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man’s death?’ Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, ‘Take the stone away.’ Martha said to him ‘Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.’ Jesus replied ‘Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said:

‘Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer.
I knew indeed that you always hear me.

But I speak

for the sake of all these who stand round me,
so that they may believe it was you who sent me.’

When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, here! Come out!’ The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, let him go free.’

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Longer form, 11:1-45

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Breaking Open the Word

OUR SOURCE OF LIFE

As we come to the last Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the central meaning of Jesus’ life—his gift of life. The story involves Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary. These are Jesus’ friends who are from the village of Bethany. When Jesus gets the message about Lazarus’ dire illness, strangely, he does not go immediately to be with them but only after two days have passed.

The evangelist’s words at this point link to the story from last Sunday: One ‘can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this world to see by.’ It is this Light, Jesus, that then goes to Bethany, to bring the dead Lazarus to life. The interchange that Jesus has with Martha before he comes to Lazarus’ tomb summarises a theology which John wants readers to transcend. Rather than wait for the general resurrection at the end time, Jesus is ‘the resurrection and the life’ now. Faith in him will bring people to life.

Space prevents a detailed examination of the narrative dynamic at play and the depths of the Gospel’s symbolism behind the dialogues, Jesus’ weeping, the various reactions to Jesus, Jesus’ command to Lazarus to come from the tomb and the order to unbind Lazarus. On this final Sunday in Lent our gaze is squarely on Jesus. He is our source of life, now and into eternity. Today’s Gospel invites us into a deeper communion with Jesus, who is ‘the resurrection and the life’.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT / A

22 MARCH 2026

FIRST READING

Ezek 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 129. R. v. 7

R. With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, /
Lord, hear my voice! / O let your ears be
attentive / to the voice of my pleading. R.

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, / Lord,
who would survive? / But with you is found
forgiveness: / for this we revere you. R.

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, / I count
on his word. / My soul is longing for the Lord /
more than watchman for daybreak. / (Let the
watchman count on daybreak / and Israel on
the Lord.) R.

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy / and
fullness of redemption, / Israel indeed he will
redeem / from all its iniquity. R.

SECOND READING

Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead
is living in you, then he will give life to your own
mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been



justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the
Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

GOSPEL

Jn 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

I am the resurrection and the life.

The sisters sent this message to Jesus, ‘Lord, the man you love is ill.’ On receiving the message, Jesus said, ‘This sickness will end not in death but in God’s glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.’

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, ‘Let us go to Judaea.’

On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, ‘If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.’ ‘Your brother’ said Jesus to her ‘will rise again.’ Martha said, ‘I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.’