



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

(03) 5562 2231
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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.

25/26th April 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Bishop Mark Freeman's Visit to the Star of the Sea Parish

On the weekend of the 16/17th May, Bishop Mark will visit our parish as our chief shepherd and servant. The following excerpts are from his address on the occasion of his ordination and installation as the 9th Bishop of Ballarat.

- I ask you to teach me how to be your bishop. Every time I have begun a new appointment, I have said to the community that you are the people whom God has given me to love. As I begin this new ministry among you, I say the same to the whole diocese, people and priests of Ballarat – *You are the people whom God has given me to love.* As I received this ring during today's Mass, I made that commitment with all my heart...
- I willingly stretch out my arms to be led to where I didn't expect to go. I am willing because I know that I do not take this journey alone. We will journey together, and we will journey with our Christ...
- I conclude these remarks by quoting Pope Leo XIV: *'The supreme rule in the Church is love. No one is called to dominate; all are called to serve. No one should impose his or her own ideas; we must all listen to one another. No one is excluded; we are all called to participate. No one possesses the whole truth; we must all humbly seek it and seek it together...'*

Sunday Celebrations

May Racing Carnival Mass

This annual Mass will be celebrated at St Joseph's next weekend at 10:30am. The committee of the Warrnambool Racing Club will be present, along with the trophies of the major races. Refreshments to follow.

Irish Festival Mass

This annual Mass will be celebrated at the Infant Jesus Church, Koroit next weekend at 9:00am. This will be followed by the 'Concert in the Church' at 11:00am.

Recent Deaths: Jason Pierce (England), Nikolaos 'Niko' Douris, Monica Lyons

Anniversaries: Albert Stainsby, John Brown

Annual Vacation and Retreat

Fr Matt will be away from 4th - 30th May. Enjoy your break Fr Matt.

RCIC – Children who would like to begin or complete their sacramental journey are invited to express interest for a short program which will run in a couple of months' time. Please call the Parish Office or register with Fr Matt by email matt.restall@ballarat.catholic.org.au

DOBCEL

Fr John will be attending the DOBCEL meeting in Ballan this Tuesday and Wednesday

Rosary: St Pius X (April) on Mondays at 7:00pm.
: Port Fairy on Wednesdays at 11:00am

Baptisms: This weekend we welcome Dustin Stevens, Adeline Monigatti and Eloise Monigatti into our faith community.

OLHC: Holy Hour every Monday at 10:00am
Men's Breakfast 6th May

St Joseph's: Warrnambool Symphony Orchestra Concert Sunday 10th May at 2pm (Mothers Day)

Bible study resumes this Tuesday at 7:00pm in St Joseph's Meeting room. All welcome.

Parish Deep Clean – May Schedule

During May, a deep clean will be carried out across all churches in the Parish. This is part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining welcoming, safe, and well-presented worship spaces for all.

The schedule is as follows:

- 4–5 May: St Joseph's
- 6–7 May: St Pius X
- 11–12 May: St Patricks, Port Fairy
- 13–14 May: Infant Jesus, Koroit
- 21–22 May: Our Lady Help of Christians

We appreciate your support and understanding during these times. If you notice anything in particular that may require attention, please let the office know.

Thank you to everyone involved in helping care for our facilities.

St Vincent de Paul Festival Mass

Glenelg Regional Council 2026 Festival Mass and Gathering. Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Our Lady Help of Christians Conference, Warrnambool East. All welcome and please invite family and friends to attend Mass.

When: Thursday 30 April
Time: 11:30am
Where: Our Lady Help of Christians Church



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 Lay-Led Liturgy
Thurs	11.30am OLHC
Fri	11:00am St Joseph's Brian Kelly RIP 3:30pm St Joseph's Nikolaos 'Niko' Douris RIP
Sat	10:00am St Pius X

Prayer for April

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

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 12 May 2026

To book please call 5562 2231

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 10:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.'

Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly,

I am the gate of the sheepfold.

All others who have come

are thieves and brigands;

but the sheep took no notice of them.

I am the gate.

Anyone who enters through me will be safe:

he will go freely in and out

and be sure of finding pasture.

The thief comes

only to steal and kill and destroy.

I have come

so that they may have life

and have it to the full.'

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / A

26 APRIL 2026

THE BEAUTIFUL SHEPHERD

The Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally from John 10, about the 'Good (or, literally, 'beautiful') shepherd'. Today's selection focuses on the image of the *gate* of the sheepfold. In our culture, gates and doors are important. They provide us with security and access to what is inside—a house, a building, a room. And through entering the door or gate, we come to be with others, with whom we (usually) identify or know, perhaps family members and friends. In the Gospel, the one who enters this gate is the shepherd of the flock—an image familiar to John's Mediterranean audience and in a world where shepherds were male and female. The shepherd is a protecting and loving figure who is familiar with each sheep—calling each one by name. The shepherd leads the sheep who follow because 'they know his voice'. This image of the sheep 'knowing' the voice of the shepherd accentuates the deep and abiding intimate relationship between the sheep and shepherd.

In the final part of the Gospel, Jesus reaffirms his mission of protection and his intent to bring freedom to those who listen to his voice. Perhaps, by the time of the Gospel's writing, the community was already experiencing division, difficulty and others presuming to speak in ways that claimed authority but were in fact 'thieves and brigands'. The Gospel concludes: Jesus has come 'so that they may have life and have it to the full.' This desire for the fullness of life echoes in each of our hearts as we allow the voice of the 'Beautiful Shepherd' to guide, protect and nurture us.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Acts 2:14, 36-41

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.'

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

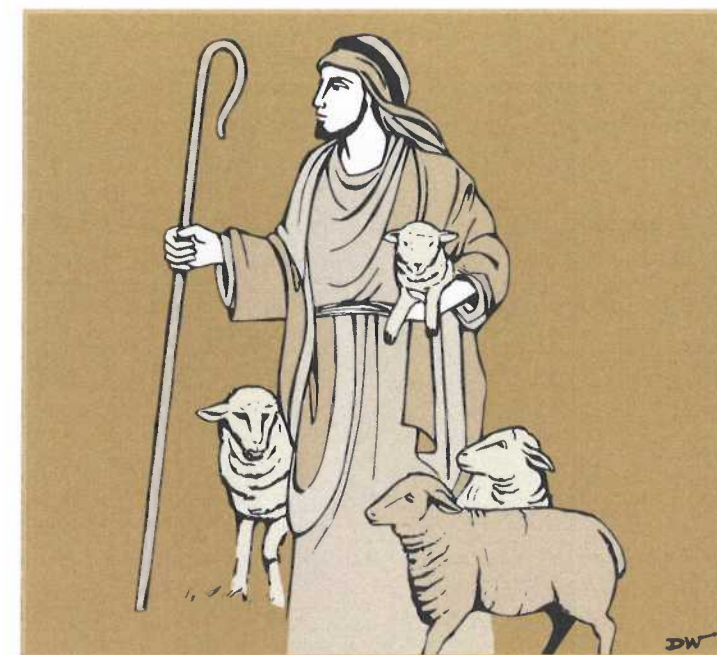
Ps 22:1-6. R. v. 1

**R. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want. (or Alleluia!)**

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

1 Pet 2:20-25

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

You had gone astray but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you are called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

■ **The word of the Lord.**