

# 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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<https://www.catholicparish.app/southwestcoast>  
[www.facebook.com/southwestcoastparish](https://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<br>Virginia Martin<br>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.

16/17 May 2026

## The Ascension of the Lord

### Bishop Mark Freeman's Visit

This weekend, Bishop Mark is present in our parish as our shepherd and servant. It's not an official visit as such but a way a of getting a feel of the diocese.

The following excerpt is from his address on the occasion of his ordination and installation as the 9<sup>th</sup> 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.*

- He concludes his 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...'*

## Catholic Development Fund (CDF)

The CDF Community Fund team will be visiting our parish next weekend to speak at Masses.

The CDF assists the Bishop of Ballarat to meet the needs of the Diocese in growing and fulfilling its mission. Funds invested with CDF are used to support the Church by providing low-cost funding for Catholic capital building projects in parishes, primary schools, secondary colleges, religious orders, diocesan agencies, health & aged care providers and social service facilities.

Opened in 2025 the Edmund Rice Centre at Emmanuel College was built with an \$8 million loan from CDF.

To help CDF continue to meet strong loan demand from the Catholic community, you too can put your faith in action. Not only will you earn a competitive rate of interest, but your savings will assist schools like Emmanuel College and other Catholic organisations to continue the work the Gospel calls on them to do.



Help fund projects across Catholic organisations, including parishes, hospital wings and classrooms, with a CDF Community Fund savings account.

With competitive interest rates, it's a greater reward than money alone.

Visit [www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund) or call our team on 1800 134 135 for more information.



## Welcome

Fr Lawrie O'Toole is supplying this weekend for Fr Matt who is presently on vacation. Fr Lawrie will preside at the Masses in Koroit and Port Fairy.

## Presentation of Candidates

At the Koroit and St Pius X Masses this weekend the candidates preparing for the sacrament of confirmation will be given a blessing.

| FAITH - FAMILY - FELLOWSHIP<br>FISH & CHIPS<br>Infant Jesus Catholic Church Koroit | Friday 29 May 2026 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
|                                                                                    | 5:30pm Mass        |
|                                                                                    | 6:00pm Games       |
|                                                                                    | 6:30pm Dinner      |

**Baptisms:** This weekend Bodhi Henry, Leo Serra and Molly Kelly will be welcomed into our faith community.

**Rosary:** OLHC (May) on Mondays at 7:00pm.  
: Port Fairy on Wednesdays at 11:00am

**OLHC:** Holy Hour every Monday at 10:00am  
**St Joseph's:** Br Michael Herry, FMS presents simple and beautiful music for the liturgy and parish celebrations of Mass. Thurs 4 June 7:30pm Everyone is welcome.

Bible Study Tuesday at 7:00pm in St Joseph's meeting room.

Special Ministers - If you'd like a hard copy of the new roster please collect it from the sacristy porch.

**St Pius X:** 'Cuppa' after Mass today

## CRISP Update

CRISP welcomes Maria, Mohamad & children who are due to arrive in Australia on 20 May. The family will be residing at OLHC presbytery. Please keep their driveway clear.

## Parish Deep Clean – May Schedule

The schedule for this week is as follows:

**Mon 18 & Tues 19 May:** St Joseph's  
**Thurs 21 & Fri 22 May** OLHC

NB: Apologies for any disruptions this may cause.

## Meetings this Week:

**Finance Council:** Tuesday at 12:00 noon

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Wednesday at 7:00pm

**Recent Deaths:** Jim Giblin, Tom Kelly, Jason Parkinson

**Anniversaries:** Ron Earl, Ronald Richards, Len Jackman, Mollie Jackman, Noel McNamara, Olive O'Donnell, Chris King, James Doyle (Sandford), Annie Fitzgerald, Joe & Vera O'Donnell, Mary-Ellen Hickey, Frank Toohey

## 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month (Eucharist)  
\*All other Sundays  
Assembly of the Word with Communion

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION



## WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues 11:00am OLHC  
Jim Giblin RIP  
Wed 10:00am St Joseph's  
Fri 10:00am St Joseph's



## Prayer for May

That everyone might have food

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

## 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 9 June 2026

To book please call 5562 2231

how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

#### ■ The word of the Lord.

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 28:19, 20

**Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!**

#### GOSPEL

Mt 28:16-20

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

#### ■ The Gospel of the Lord.

#### A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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# Breaking Open the Word

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD / A

# THE SAVING WORD

17 MAY 2026

## I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

When reflecting on Jesus' Ascension, our liturgical focus has been heavily influenced by Luke's double version of the Ascension; one set on Easter Day in the concluding scene in Luke's Gospel (24:50-52) as Jesus' blesses his disciples at Bethany and departs from them; the other in the opening chapter of Acts (Acts 1:6-11) as Jesus leaves the disciples and is carried into heaven.

Our Gospel today is quite different. It is the concluding verses of Matthew's Gospel. The Risen Jesus gathers with the Eleven on 'the' mountain, the place of divine encounter, already familiar from earlier in the Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). Here, at the Gospel's conclusion, Jesus is with the *Eleven*—not the Twelve, a reminder of the failure of one of the key members of the apostolic leadership group (Judas). It is to this group of failed leaders that Jesus, God's authoritative agent, entrusts his final teaching and missionary endorsement. They are to make disciples of all nations. This is an important injunction, given that Matthew's audience which is predominantly Jewish is now encouraged to move into the gentile world.

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus offers a universal vision. Baptism and Gospel ethical teaching will become key notes for incorporating members into this renewed community of Jesus. The Gospel concludes on a promise of divine companionship. Jesus, called 'Emmanuel' ('God with us') in the birth narrative (Matthew 1:23), reminds his audience that 'I am with you always ... to the end of time.' This affirmation of Jesus' eternal presence is comforting to Matthew's audience, and us, dealing with life's struggles and cultural challenges.

Fr Michael Trainor

## FIRST READING

Acts 1:1-11

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?*

*Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom of Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

#### ■ The word of the Lord.



## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v. 6

**R. God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

*(or Alleluia!)*

1. All peoples, clap your hands, / cry to God with shouts of joy! / For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, / great king over all the earth. **R.**

2. God goes up with shouts of joy; / the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. / Sing praise for God, sing praise, / sing praise to our king, sing praise. **R.**

3. God is king of all the earth. / Sing praise with all your skill. / God is king over the nations; / God reigns on his holy throne. **R.**

## SECOND READING

Eph 1:17-23

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians**

*He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.*

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and