

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
 ✉ southwestcoast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
 🕒 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
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

Our 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

PARISH VISION STATEMENT

We are a Christ-centred community who gather with open hearts to recognise Christ in one another. In the Catholic tradition, we journey together in faith, hope and service to bring life to the church and to the wider world.

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.

18/19 July 2026

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Farewell

Fr John expresses his appreciation to the various communities he has attended in the past few weeks.

This weekend he expresses his gratitude to the OLHC's community 6:00pm (Vigil Mass) as well as the 6:00pm Sunday community at St Joseph's.

Next weekend he says his final Mass at 10:30am as our Parish Priest at St Joseph's.

All welcome for a "cuppa" after each of these Masses.

Pilgrimage to Sydney

Last week, five young adults and I travelled on pilgrimage to the Ignite Youth Conference in Sydney.

We departed on Wednesday morning, beginning our journey with Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat, followed by a private tour of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bendigo.

On Thursday we travelled via Canberra, where we drove around Parliament House and attended Mass at St Christopher's Cathedral, arriving in Sydney later that afternoon.

Friday and Saturday were full 12-hour days at the Conference, filled with talks, rallies, and providential encounters. Saturday's 7:30am Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of the Rosary Cathedral, Broken Bay and before leaving Sydney on Sunday we attended Mass at St Mary's Cathedral.

We concluded our pilgrimage with a small thanksgiving Mass on Monday.

The Pilgrimage was a time of blessing and joy, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to the Parish for all your prayers and support.

Fr Matt

Br Frank Chappell RIP

Br Chappell was a past principal at CBC Warrnambool. He spent ten years here and will be remembered as a passionate advocate for the College and its students.

May he rest in peace.

Funeral Requiem Mass: Tuesday 21 July at 10:00am Parade College Chapel, 1436 Plenty Road Bundoora

Mass will be livestreamed on Tobin Brothers website.

Faith – FAMILY – Fellowship

Fish & Chips

5:30pm Mass -- 6pm Games -- 6:30pm Dinner

Friday 24 July 2026

Infant Jesus Catholic Church Koroit

Baptisms: This weekend Armani Rhyne, Luna Dent and Ivy Jones will be welcomed into our faith community.

OLHC: Holy Hour, rosary and adoration Mondays at 10:00am

Infant Jesus: Special Ministers - please pick up the roster from the sacristy or call the Office to have it emailed.

'Mothers who Pray for their Children' meet Friday at 10:45am - except over school holidays.

St Pius X: Morning Tea after Mass today.

Prayer Meeting every Tues: 1:15pm - 3:00pm.

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

Meetings this Week

Finance Council Meeting: Tuesday at St Joseph's at 12:00noon.

Parish Pastoral Council: Wednesday at St Joseph's at 7:00pm

CRISP Meeting

Saturday 25 July at OLHC in the Meeting Room at 5:00pm prior to Mass. Please call Katherine if you'd like to be involved in any way or would like more information. 0459 615 564

Pasta with Bishop Barron

6:30pm – 8pm

Tuesday Nights in July

St Pius Church Foyer

Foster Care Information Session

Change a life by opening your heart and home to vulnerable children and young people in your community.

Come along to a free information session and learn more about the process of becoming a foster carer. You will have the opportunity to talk with experienced carers and learn first hand what it's about.

Monday 20 July 5:30pm

Mackillop Family Services Office - 202 Lava Street, Warrnambool

Ph: Alana Umbers 5500 2000
Email: alana.umbers@mackillop.org.au

Recent Deaths: Br Frank Chappell, Anthony Gleeson

Anniversaries: Maggie McKinnon, Margaret McNamara, Roma Greene, Brooke Spetch, Norma Magpeyo, Darryl Leddin

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

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues	5:30pm	St Pius X
Wed	10:00am	St Joseph's
Thurs	10:00am	OLHC
Fri	10:00am	St Joseph's
Sat	10:00am	St Pius X

Prayer for July

For respect for human life

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

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 11 August 2026

To book please call 5562 2231

kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable, 'The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy:

I will speak to you in parables
and expound things hidden since the
foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

19 JULY 2026

GOOD AND EVIL

Why do bad things happen to good people? It is a question often expressed in different ways. Bad people seem to get away easily with their bad deeds. Today's Gospel teaching speaks into this perspective. Jesus' parable teaching from last Sunday with his focus on seed continues today. Grain was an important agricultural commodity in the ancient world. It was the source of food and the means of addressing stressing taxation demands. Like last Sunday, the parable is about the Kin-dom of God. In the parable, the farmer sows good seed but, unbeknown, a nighttime enemy sows darnel in the same field. Both seeds sprout and produce. The workers query the farmer about the reason for the presence of the darnel. It is the classic query of life: why is there evil in a world that is essentially good? Why darnel among the wheat when only wheat was sown?

The solution offered by the farmer recognises the presence of 'an enemy' and the need to allow both seeds to grow until the harvest when the wheat could be gathered into the barn and darnel destroyed. Jesus' wisdom in this parable is salient. We live in a world and faith communities where good and bad co-exist. The coexistence of 'darnel' and 'wheat' should not surprise us—but it is not forever. There is the harvest time when justice will be meted out. This awareness of a definitive act of divine justice at time's end, one for which we pray in every celebration of the Eucharist for the coming of Jesus at the end of time, allows us to live in this in-between time as we seek to do good but, at times, experience the presence of evil and the agency of the 'enemy'. Nevertheless, God's kin-dom will be ultimately fruitful.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Wis 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In the place of sin, you give repentance.

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, / to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. / Your justice has its source in strength, / your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. / You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned / and you expose the insolence of those who know it; / but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, / you govern us with great lenience, / for you have only to will, and your power is there. / By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people / how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, / and you have given your sons the good hope / that after sin you will grant repentance.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16. R. v. 5

R. Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, / full of love to all who call. / Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer / and attend to the sound of my voice. **R.**

2. All the nations shall come to adore you / and glorify your name, O Lord: / for you are great and do marvellous deeds, / you who alone are God. **R.**

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, / slow to anger, O Lord, / abounding in love and truth, / turn and take pity on me. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit himself pleads for us in a way that could never be put into words.

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our



hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

cf. Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia! / Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; / you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:24-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Let them grow together until the harvest.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this," he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."'

He put another parable before them, 'The