

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

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.

25/26 July 2026

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Message of Gratitude

In the book of Ecclesiastes (3:1-12) we read there is a time for everything. It's now time for me to begin my final chapter following my forty seven years of ordained ministry for the Diocese of Ballarat.

It was in 1970 I entered the seminary at Corpus Christi College, Werribee. Following nine years of formation I was ordained in Koroit in November 1978.



Over the past month I've celebrated the Eucharist in all the communities of the Star of the Sea Parish to express my gratitude to the parishioners for your support, friendship and for your faithfulness to the Gospel.

My ministry has not just been about serving - it has also been very much about receiving. Thank you all for showing me how to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.



Thank you to the many who have taken up a ministry to serve: whether as a liturgical minister, a member of a parish committee or as a minister serving the wider community.

There have been many challengers along the way... as well as many blessings.

What I'll miss the most is the community of God's faithful people.

You have been my 'family' over these past years.

I wish Fr Matthew Thomas and Fr Matt Restall all the best as they continue to share Christ's ministry with you.

May God bless you all. Fr John



World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV for the sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly – "I will never forget you" (Is 49:15) – reminds us that God's unwavering love is the ultimate answer to the isolation and neglect so often experienced by the elderly.

It brings comfort and hope, assuring us that the Lord knows each of us personally, forgets no one, and loves us unconditionally, even through the frailties of old age.

ABIDE

St Pius

5:30pm Mass

6:00pm Adoration

6:30pm Soup (Free & No RSVP)

7:00pm Video & Exchange

Tuesdays of August

Baptisms: This weekend Georgina & Roy Wright will be welcomed into our faith community.

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

Infant Jesus: 'Mothers who Pray for their Children' meet Friday at 10:45am

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

Rosary: St Pius X (July) on Mondays at 7:00pm

Planned Giving Envelopes and Taxation Receipts

These will be available at each of the communities for the next couple of weeks after which they can be collected from the Office. If you are unable to find yours please call the Office.

'Eating with Jesus' Retreat

8 August 10:00am - 5:00pm at St Joseph's Hall (Anna Schlooz)

This Ignatian retreat invites participants to prayerfully experience selected Gospel meal stories where Jesus gathered with friends and strangers alike. Reg: ecomyriad@gmail.com (see flyers at churches)

Men's Breakfast: OLHC on Saturday 1 August at 8:00am

Warrnambool Organ Festival

Saturday 8 August 6:00pm Featuring the Warrnambool Symphony Orchestra, organist Craig Doherty, a community and a children's choir. Supper afterwards.

Sunday 9 August 2:30pm- Young organist Joshua Walker will give a short recital followed by David Byrne. Tickets Trybooking or cash & card at the door: \$25 full, \$20 concession and U18 free

Recent Deaths: Stephen Kavanagh, Peter Smith (Camperdown)

Anniversaries: Mark Gladman, Teresa Grey, Jack Rowan, Alice Rowan, Mary Lane, Fr Barry Ryan, Rosemary Ryan, Richard McCarthy

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
Morriss 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

happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

26 JULY 2026

COMMUNION WITH GOD

Today we continue to hear from the central chapter in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus' parable teaching about the kin-dom of God. Over the past Sundays we have been hearing parables concerned with sowed seed (15th Sunday) and the mystery of the darnel sown among the wheat (last Sunday). Today we hear that the kin-dom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, a common banking technique by peasant farmers to protect their most valuable possessions. Someone discovers this treasure; hides it again and then sells every possession to buy the field and claim the treasure. Between the discovery and the purchase, the finder goes off "happy". The overwhelming joy of the discovery leads the merchant to sell everything to buy the field. This is an image of the disciple, of us, in discovering that the true encounter with God, the experience of the kin-dom, is most precious. Nothing can substitute it.

The second parable that concludes today's Gospel is like the first. It is about a merchant's search for valuable pearls and, in finding one, sells everything to have the pearl. In the ancient world, in the time of Jesus and Matthew, the pearl represented purity, beauty, power, wealth, even divinity. The discovery of the pearl by the parable's merchant leads, as in the first parable, to the selling of everything possessed to gain the pearl.

Both parables speak into our desire for ultimate and intimate communion with the God revealed through Jesus. When we experience such communion, we realise how valuable it is; nothing can compare to it. Intimate communion with God cannot be bought nor can anything else in human existence substitute for it. This communion is deepened in every celebration of the Eucharist.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this', the Lord said, 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 118:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130. R. v. 97

R. Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, / is to obey your word. / The law from your mouth means more to me / than silver and gold. R.
2. Let your love be ready to console me / by your promise to your servant. / Let your love come to me and I shall live / for your law is my delight. R.
3. That is why I love your commands / more than finest gold. / That is why I rule my life by your precepts: / I hate false ways. R.
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; / therefore I obey it. / The unfolding of your word gives light / and teaches the simple. R.



SECOND READING

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

■ 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 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off