



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.

31st January/1st February 2026
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time



From our Pope (Leo XIV)

In his message for the 60th World Communications Day, Pope Leo XIV shares how AI and digital technologies are reshaping human communication, creativity and identity. And the greatest risks, he said, are not technical but deeply human.

The text was published on January 24 on the feast of St Francis de Sales, patron saint of the Catholic press.

By “simulating human voices and faces, wisdom and knowledge, awareness and responsibility, empathy and friendship, systems known as artificial intelligence not only interfere with information ecosystems, but also invade the deepest level of communication, that of relationships between human persons.”

Safeguarding faces and voices ultimately means safeguarding ourselves.

Pope Leo said, “face and voice are sacred” and were given to us by God, who created us in his image and likeness.

God impressed upon the human face a reflection of divine love. Therefore, “to safeguard human faces and voices” means to safeguard this seal, this indelible reflection of God’s love.

Pope Leo, in his message, challenged humanity not to give up one’s own thinking, empowering humans instead to use technology in order to assist, not drive, human life.

From our Bishop (Paul Bird)

Faith in Action



For more than fifty years, the Catholic Development Fund (CDF) has helped communities throughout our Diocese of Ballarat.

I thank all those who have made investments with CDF. These have provided a pool of resources from which parishes, schools and hospitals can draw in order to finance works that serve our Catholic and the wider community.

I look forward to the support that the fund will continue to provide throughout our Diocese.

Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.aucommunityfund, scan the QR code, or speak to us on 1800 134 135.




Seaside Community Kitchen Meals

Seaside Community Kitchen will recommence the service of meals on Monday 2 February. Take away & sit down hot meal from St Joseph's Church Hall on Mondays from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

What's on Offer for Lent

COMPASSIO Every Saturday in February & March after 10:00am Mass at St Pius X. Commences next Saturday.

'Our Hearts on Mission' booklets are helpful for personal or small group reflection and are available at the Office for \$8.00

Lent commences on Ash Wednesday (18 February)

St Pius X: Prayer Group recommences on Tuesday Feb 3 at 1:15pm beginning with rosary in the Chapel.

OLHC: Holy Hour: Mondays at 10:00am
Columban Calendars available to purchase (\$8:00)

St Joseph's: The Ministry Roster is available in the sacristy porch.

Infant Jesus: New Mass Roster commencing 15 Feb available in the sacristy or if you'd prefer an email please call the Parish Office.

St Patrick's: “cuppa” after Mass today.

Rosary: Month of February OLHC on Mondays at 7:00pm.

Men's Breakfast: OLHC Saturday 7 February at 8:00am

Parish Leadership Teams - Meetings

OLHC: Wednesday 4 February 7:00pm
St Pius X :Wednesday 4 February 7:00pm
St Patrick's: Tuesday 10 February 7:00pm
Infant Jesus: Wednesday 11 February 7:00pm
St Joseph's: Wednesday 11 February 5:00pm

St Brigid's Feast Day

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service for volunteers will be held at St Brigid's Church Crossley at 1:30pm today (Sunday) 1 February. Followed with refreshments in the Hall.
All welcome. Please bring a 'plate' to share.

The Anglican Parish of Warrnambool fundraiser 'The Choral' at The Capitol Cinema on Thursday 5 Feb 5:30pm for 6:00pm start. Tickets \$20 - Anglican Parish Office (5561 1687) or at the door.



The Chosen
8pm
Friday Nights in February
St Pius Church Foyer
85" TV, Sound System Popcorn Provided

Recent Deaths: Archie Barber, John Kowalczyk, Michael Kavanagh

Anniversaries: Kevin Lynch (KM), Barry Kelly, Shirley Warren, David Nelson, Josheph Kiet Nguyen, Sybil O'Callaghan

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	10:00am St Pius X St John's School Mass 5:30pm St Pius X
Wed	10:30am St Joseph's Archie Barber RIP 11:00am Mercy Place
Thur	10:00am OLHC
Fri	10:00am St Joseph's
Sat	10:00am St Pius X

Prayer for February

For children with incurable diseases:

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

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 10 February 2026
To book please call 5562 2231

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Happy are the poor in spirit.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for
what is right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the
cause of right:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Upen the Word

TRUE BLESSEDNESS

What is discipleship about? This becomes the focus of Matthew's Gospel over the next few Sundays as we turn to Jesus' first major moment of teaching, what we know as the 'Sermon on the Mount'. Jesus, like Moses in the Old Testament, gathers with his disciples on a mountain. They surround him and listen to his teaching. He teaches them about blessedness in eight 'Beatitudes'. Each Beatitude begins with 'Blessed are those...' and then names those who are blessed by God.

Some translations unhelpfully have 'Happy are those...' There is a theological distinction between being 'blessed' and 'happy'. Being happy relies on one's self-referential internal disposition. The focus of 'blessedness' is different. It is God. The Greek (*makrios*) is about God's action to those who are without status ('poor in spirit'), know their own humble status ('gentle'), seek comfort amidst life's sadness ('mourn'), are passionate for justice ('hunger and thirst for what is right'), show compassion to others ('merciful'), are thoughtfully genuine and authentic ('pure of heart'), seek to bring about peace where there is division ('peacemakers') and who suffer for their conviction to act justly with integrity ('persecuted in the cause of right').

Those named as blessed have an ultimate openness to God in all life's experiences. God will respond to them, will bless them and will allow the Kingdom (rather 'Kin-dom') to be revealed in them. The Beatitudes are framed with the promise, 'the kin-dom of God is theirs'. A final Beatitude is tacked on to the original eight. It acknowledges the suffering and persecution now experienced by Matthew's community. A lingering contemplation of any of these Beatitudes can remind us how much we are blessed by God now.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

1 FEBRUARY 2026

FIRST READING

Zeph 2: 3; 3: 12-13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

In your midst I will leave a humble and a lowly people.

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity, seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge
in the name of the Lord.

They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.

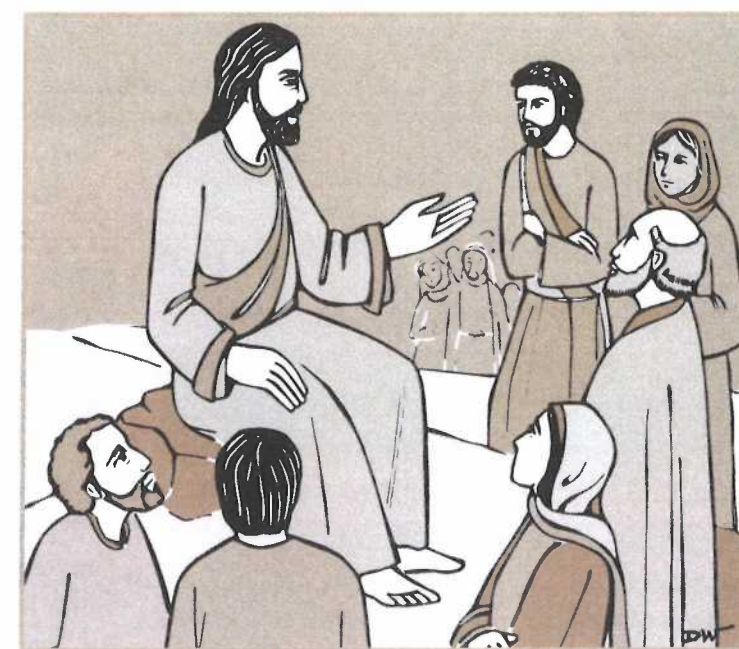
■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145: 7-10

R. Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down, / the Lord, who protects the stranger / and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**



SECOND READING

1 Cor 1: 26-31

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

God has chosen what is weak by human reckoning.

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 5: 12

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad:
your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!