

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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9.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday
PO Box 104, WARRNAMBOOL VIC 3280

<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.

28 Feb/1 Mar 2026

2nd Sunday of Lent

Scrutinies

The word 'Scrutiny' belongs to those adults who are preparing for baptism or for full initiation into the Catholic Church.

The celebration of the scrutinies is held on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent because they celebrate the transforming power of Christ as captured in the readings for those Sundays.

First Scrutiny (3rd Sunday of Lent...OLHC)

Gospel: John 4/5-42: The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

Second Scrutiny (4th Sunday of Lent...Port Fairy)

Gospel: John 9/1-14: The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

Third Scrutiny (5th Sunday of Lent...St Pius X)

Gospel: John 11/1-45: I am the resurrection and the life.

Teddy Bears Picnic

Today: St John's Primary School: 11.30am to 2.30pm.

We warmly invite grandparents, parents, and carers to bring their children and grandchildren along to our Teddy Bears Picnic, a joyful & welcoming community event for families.

Children are encouraged to bring along their favourite teddy bear or other toy and enjoy an afternoon filled with fun, laughter and family-friendly activities in a relaxed outdoor setting. It's a wonderful opportunity for families to spend quality time together, meet other local families and enjoy a safe, welcoming environment.

Bring: Picnic rug, your teddy bears and smiles -it's a free event

Monday 2 March: Mass of Thanksgiving re: Bishop Paul Bird's retirement at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 7:00pm.

Tuesday 3 March: 2nd Rite of Reconciliation available for all parishioners after 5:30pm Mass at St Pius. Come along for an evening of prayer & healing

NB: This is **not** to be confused with the Communal Celebration of God's Mercy & Forgiveness on Tuesday evening of Holy Week at St Joseph's (31 March).

Friday 6 March: World Day of Prayer: OLHC at 2:00pm.

The theme **"I will Give You Rest: Come"** is drawn from Matthew 11:28-30 and it focuses on finding rest in God amidst life's burdens including shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair.

Project Compassion Second Sunday of Lent

Manaini's story (Fiji).

Life was hard for Manaini and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.

Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes, scanning the QR code, online at www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate or by calling 1800 024 413. Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty* this Lent.



St Vincent de Paul

West Warrnambool & Warrnambool are once again holding their Lenten Food Appeal - All donations are gratefully appreciated.

28 Feb/1Mar - Spaghetti/Baked Beans **7/8 Mar** - Tinned Fruit

Stations of the Cross

OLHC: 10:00am Monday (Holy Hour)

St Joseph's: 7:30pm Fridays

Port Fairy: 6:00pm Fridays

St Pius X: Prayer Group -Tuesdays at 1:15pm

St Patrick's: 'Cuppa' after Mass today

Holy Hour after 10:30am Mass today to pray for Eucharist28

Infant Jesus: 'Mothers who Pray for their Children' Frid at 10:45am.

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

Rosary: **St Joseph's** (March) on Mondays at 7:00pm.

: **Port Fairy** on Wednesdays at 11:00am

Baptisms: We welcome Isla & Ollie Martin into our faith community

Holy Hour

Port Fairy (Today after Mass) – Join Catholics all around Australia this Sunday by spending some time in Eucharistic Adoration, praying for the Eucharistic Congress 2028 in Sydney.

Stations of the Cross & Fish & Chips Port Fairy: 6:00pm Fridays in March at St Patrick's Church. All welcome!

Altar Server Training has commenced at St Pius in time for Easter. Parishioners from 8 to 18yrs are invited to be part of this important ministry. Register with Parish Office for more details. 5562 2231

Recent Deaths: Gloria Boemo (Ermacora), Rita McCarthy, Maria Eliza Lim

Anniversaries: Graeme Murrihy, Jean McMeel, Kevin Mugavin, Nellie Kennedy, Myra, Tommy & Willie Austen, Gerard Kelly

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
11:00am Mercy Place

Thur 10:00am OLHC

Fri 10:00am St Joseph's

Sat 10:00am St Pius X

Prayer for March

For Disarmament and Peace

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

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 March 2026

To book please call 5562 2231



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Up the Word

GOD'S BELOVED

On the Second Sunday of Lent the focus is on Jesus' transfiguration. This speaks into the experience in Matthew's audience of suffering and even death. With Jerusalem and Jesus' imminent suffering looming, he takes Peter, James and John on to a 'high' mountain, the place of divine encounter. The reference to 'high' celebrates the mountains' divine closeness. Here, alone, they are in the presence of God who comforts Jesus before what will shortly unfold in the Sacred City.

Two Old Testament figures appear, Moses (the traditional author of the Torah—the first five books of the Bible) and Elijah (the first recognised prophet of the Old Testament). Their appearance confirms that what is about to take place for Jesus will reveal God's protective presence. That presence is confirmed by the 'cloud [that] covered them with shadow' and the heavenly voice that attests that Jesus will always be God's Beloved and delightful One. The disciples' response to this experience is palpable. They are overcome with 'fear' – a deep sense of reverential awe in what they have just witnessed and experienced with Jesus, even though Peter earlier wanted to capture it by building three tents.

The scene is not a literal 'twitter-feed' of what actually or historically happened to Jesus. It is a story of theology and religious meaning for disciples aligned with Jesus who know the experience of suffering and death in their own day. At those times, we, too, must go up on to our 'high' mountain, accompanied by faithful friends, and allow God's presence and word to accompany us. We, too, need to hear that we are God's Beloved and delightful Ones.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT / A

1 MARCH 2026

FIRST READING

Gen 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:

I will curse those who slight you.

All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 32:4-5, 18-20, 22. R. v. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.

1. The word of the Lord is faithful / and
all his works to be trusted. / The Lord loves
justice and right / and fills the earth with his
love. **R.**

2. The Lord looks on those who revere him, /
on those who hope in his love, / to rescue
their souls from death, / to keep them alive in
famine. **R.**

3. Our soul is waiting for the Lord. / The Lord
is our help and our shield. / May your love be
upon us, O Lord, / as we place all our hope in
you. **R.**

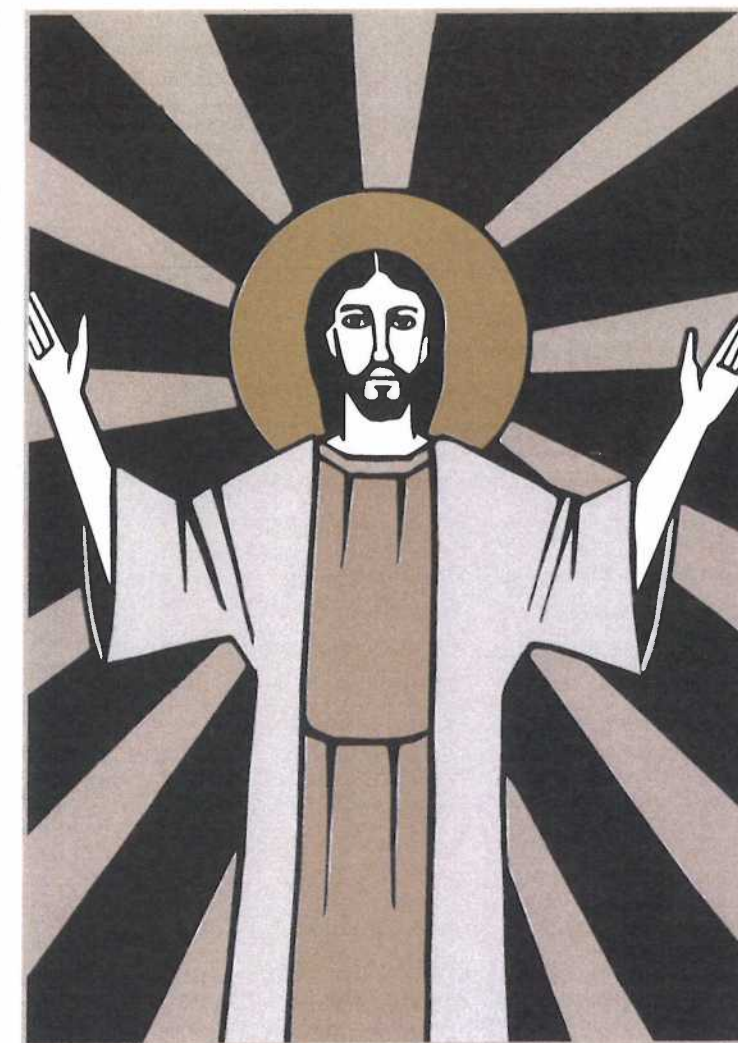
SECOND READING

2 Tim 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul
to Timothy

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of
the Good News, relying on the power of God
who has saved us and called us to be holy – not



because of anything we ourselves have done
but for his own purpose and by his own grace.
This grace had already been granted to us, in
Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but
it has only been revealed by the Appearing of
our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death,
and he has proclaimed life and immortality
through the Good News.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice
is heard:

this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!