

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
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.

11/12 July 2026

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sea Sunday: July 12

Stella Maris had its humble beginnings through the St Vincent de Paul Society more than 100 years ago in Scotland. Formerly known as the Apostleship of the Sea, the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church operates in over 300 ports around the world. Through helping and supporting their spiritual and material needs, advocating for their dignity and human rights and also championing strengthened international relations, Stella Maris continues to serve

our human family no matter the nationality, creed or background.

To give go to: <https://stellamarisaustralia.org/>



Prayer for Sea Seafarers from Pope John Paul II

*Mary, Star of the Sea, light of every ocean,
guide seafarers across all dark and stormy seas
that they may reach the haven of peace and light prepared
in Him who calmed the sea.*

*As we set forth upon the oceans of the world and
cross the deserts of our time, show us, O Mary,
the fruit of your womb, for without your Son we are lost.*

*Pray that we will never fail on life's journey,
that in heart and mind, work and deed,
in days of turmoil and in days of calm,
we will always look to Christ and say,*

"Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?"

Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!

Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!

Our Lady, Star of the Sea, pray for seafarers, pray for us.

Fr John's Farewell Itinerary

- ♦ Today - 12 July: St Pius X 9:00am
- ♦ Saturday 18 July: Our Lady Help of Christians 6:00pm
- ♦ Sunday 19 July: St Joseph's 6:00pm
- ♦ Sunday 26 July: St Joseph's 10:30am

Father John takes the opportunity to express his gratitude to the parishioners of the Star of the Sea Parish over a cuppa at the above venues & times after Mass.

Recent Deaths: Reminton Soares, Sr Carmel O'Dwyer RSM, Chris Francis

Anniversaries: John O'Keefe, Jack Ryan, Kevin McNamara

This Weekend

Fr Patrick Mugavin is supplying this weekend while Fr Matt and five young people from our parish are on Pilgrimage to The Ignite Conference in Sydney.

We warmly welcome and thank Fr Patrick for his generous assistance.

Fr Michael Linehan and Fr Lawrie O'Toole will also be celebrating a Mass in the Parish this weekend. Thank you to all.

Next Weekend

OLHC (Sat 18 July) and **St Joseph's** (Sun 19 July 6:00pm) farewell to Fr John - Please bring a plate to share with a 'cuppa' after Mass.

Baptisms: This weekend Rose Henriksen 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: Prayer Meeting every Tuesday: 1:15pm -3:00pm.

St Joseph's: Family Group will be hosting a 'cuppa' after 10:30am Mass next Sunday.

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

Safeguarding Meeting at St Joseph's on Wednesday at 7:00pm

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) offers adult religious education and faith formation online.

With 28 subjects to choose from please register by July 14.

Scan the QR code for more information or email fran.peterkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7154

Marriage Encounter: The 5 Love Languages - The Secret to Love that Lasts: Enrichment Day for Couples *see flyer Notice Boards*

Bulletin via Email: If you would like to receive the bulletin via email, please go to the Star of the Sea Parish website:

✉ <https://www.catholicparish.app/southwestcoast> and subscribe.



**Talking
The Mass**

Pasta with Bishop Barron

6:30pm – 8pm
Tuesday Nights in July
St Pius Church Foyer

85" TV, Sound System, Pasta & Rice provided
No RSVP – All Welcome

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
Lay-Led Assembly

11:00am Infant Jesus Koroit
Christopher Francis RIP

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 14 July 2026

To book please call 5562 2231

You will listen and listen again, but not understand,
see and see again, but not perceive.
For the heart of this nation has grown coarse,
their ears are dull of hearing,
and they have shut their eyes,
for fear they should see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their heart,
and be converted
and be healed by me.

'But happy are your eyes because they see,
your ears because they hear! I tell you solemnly,
many prophets and holy men longed to see
what you see, and never saw it; to hear what
you hear, and never heard it.

'You, therefore, are to hear the parable of
the sower. When anyone hears the word of the
kingdom without understanding, the evil one
comes and carries off what was sown in his
heart: this is the man who received the seed
on the edge of the path. The one who received
it on patches of rock is the man who hears the
word and welcomes it at once with joy. But he
has no root in him, he does not last; let some
trial come, or some persecution on account of
the word, and he falls away at once. The one
who received the seed in thorns is the man who
hears the word, but the worries of this world
and the lure of riches choke the word and so he
produces nothing. And the one who received the
seed in rich soil is the man who hears the word
and understands it; he is the one who yields a
harvest and produces now a hundredfold, now
sixty, now thirty.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

ABUNDANT BLESSINGS

For the next several Sundays we will be in the
very heart, the centre, of Matthew's Jewish-
oriented Gospel. Jesus absorbed Jewish wisdom
and sayings and taught them to his followers
He wanted to teach them about God's 'kin-
dom'. Today's Gospel has Jesus surrounded
by a large crowd. He gets into a boat, sits
down in the posture of a rabbinic teacher and
instructs the crowd on the lakeside.

The parable that he offers is the most
important in the whole Gospel. The principal
agent is a sower scattering seed in typical
fashion of the time. The farmer is oblivious to
where the seed falls but intent that a harvest
comes. The seed falls in places characteristic
of the Galilean countryside: on the edge of
paths and eaten by birds, on rocks, amongst
thorns and in places with little depth of soil.
But the seed also falls in rich soil and produces
an extraordinarily abundant harvest. To a
Galilean farmer, a twelve-fold harvest would
be a wonderful gift. It would offer food for the
coming year and pay off the taxes imposed by
Rome and the Jewish religious authorities for
the support of the Temple. The production
is not twelve-fold, but a *hundred-fold, sixty or
thirty!* This would be like a farmer winning the
mega-lottery!

And this, says Jesus, is what the Kin-
dom is about. Despite apparent signs of
frustration and even death, God's reign will
be spectacularly rich
and abundant. Jesus'
parable teaching is
an invitation to the
Gospel audience and
to us to believe in the
ongoing abundant
blessings of God's
presence despite
what appears to the
contrary.



Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

12 JULY 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The rain makes the earth give growth.

Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow
come down from the heavens and do not return
without watering the earth, making it yield and
giving growth to provide seed for the sower
and bread for the eating, so the word that goes
from my mouth does not return to me empty,
without carrying out my will and succeeding in
what it was sent to do.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk. 8:8

R. The seed that falls on good ground
will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, / you
fill it with riches. / Your river in heaven brims
over / to provide its grain. **R.**

2. And thus you provide for the earth; / you
drench its furrows, / you level it, soften it with
showers, / you bless its growth. **R.**

3. You crown the year with your goodness. /
Abundance flows in your steps, / in the
pastures of the wilderness it flows. **R.**

4. The hills are girded with joy, / the meadows
covered with flocks, / the valleys are decked with
wheat. / They shout for joy, yes, they sing. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

*All creation is waiting for the revelation of the
children of God.*

I think that what we suffer in this life can never
be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed,
which is waiting for us. The whole creation is
eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was
not for any fault on the part of creation that it
was made unable to attain its purpose, it was
made so by God; but creation still retains the
hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to
decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory
as the children of God. From the beginning till

now the entire creation, as we know, has been
groaning in one great act of giving birth; and
not only creation, but all of us who possess the
first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly
as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! / The seed is the word of
God, Christ is the sower; / all who come to
him will live for ever. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

A sower went out to sow.

Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but
such crowds gathered round him that he got
into a boat and sat there. The people all stood
on the beach, and he told them many things in
parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow.
As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of
the path, and the birds came and ate them
up. Others fell on patches of rock where they
found little soil and sprang up straight away,
because there was no depth of earth; but as
soon as the sun came up they were scorched
and, not having any roots, they withered away.
Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew
up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil
and produced their crop, some a hundredfold,
some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who
has ears!'

Then the disciples went up to him and asked,
'Why do you talk to them in parables?' 'Because'
he replied 'the mysteries of the kingdom of
heaven are revealed to you, but they are not
revealed to them. For anyone who has will be
given more, and he will have more than enough;
but for anyone who has not, even what he has
will be taken away. The reason I talk to them
in parables is that they look without seeing and
listen without hearing or understanding. So
in their case this prophecy of Isaiah is being
fulfilled: