

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
PO Box 104, WARRNAMBOOL VIC 3280

<https://www.catholicparish.app/southwestcoast>
www.facebook.com/southwestcoastparish

PARISH PERSONNEL

Parish Priest	Fr Matthew Thomas
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.

1/2 August 2026

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr Matthew New PP

Hello Everyone,

I am Fr Matthew Thomas, I thought I would give you the answers to the top questions which are normally asked of the new Priest.

I was ordained on St Patrick's Day 2006. (20 years ordained as a priest). I was at St Joseph's for 6 months as a deacon in 2005.

I was born in Geelong and yes, I do barrack for the 'Cats'. I have two brothers and one sister, and I have 3 nieces and 10 nephews. Mum and Dad both alive and live in Geelong.

I am a registered teacher and have taught for the past 19 years.

My favourite colour is blue, I like roast meals and I don't like anchovies, olives or coffee.

I know I look old, but I am only 51. I have been parish priest for 17 years at three different locations and I have partnered up in total 11 parishes into 3 major parishes.

I look forward to journeying with you in life and faith. I am happy to answer any questions you have, and I ask that you give me at least a couple of months to get to know your names. Remember you only have to say 'Father' but I cannot respond with 'parishioner'.

The big question may be - which Fr Matt did you speak to, the old, the new, the young or funny one.

A Special Retirement Gift for Fr John

As a token of our gratitude and appreciation for Fr John's long service, the Parish on behalf of all parishioners, has presented him with a beautiful leather reclining chair to enjoy in his retirement.

We understand he is already looking forward to settling into it to watch his favourite programmes, enjoy a good book, and perhaps even perfect the fine art of an afternoon nap - strictly for health reasons, of course. It is a small way of thanking Fr John for his years of faithful service, dedication and care for our parish community.

We wish Fr John every blessing as he begins this new chapter and trust that his new chair will quickly become his favourite place to unwind!

Thanks to Leon Ryan you can watch Fr John's last Mass as Parish Priest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GflrfCHxM3c&t=13s>

Recent Deaths: Cayat Gapyao, Charlie Dowd, Serafin Mendoca, Laurinda Mendoca

Anniversaries: Benita Trotter (Pavia), Geoff Dooley, Kath Watt, Joan Sinnott, Ron Warburton, Alfred Pasco

RCIA: We welcome Leesa Donovan who commenced her journey by being initiated into the Catholic Church and is now a Catechumenate.

'Eating with Jesus' Retreat

8 August 10:00am - 5:00pm at St Joseph's Hall

This Ignatian retreat invites participants to prayerfully experience selected Gospel meal stories where Jesus gathered with friends and strangers alike. Anna Schlooz

Reg: ecomyriad@gmail.com (see flyers in churches)



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

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

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

Rosary: OLHC (August) 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.

Bible Study with Geoff Russell will resume this week in St Joseph's meeting room at 7:00pm on Wednesdays.

Piety Stall

The Piety Stall previously located in St Patrick's Port Fairy has relocated to the Parish Office.

Catalogues of stock on hand have been distributed to parish churches and parishioners are welcome to call or come into the Office to order.

Office hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday - Friday. 5562 2231

We express our thanks to Marita Flannigan who managed the Piety Stall for many years.

There is also a small library of Christian books in the Office that you are welcome to borrow.

Warrnambool Organ Festival at St Joseph's

Saturday 8 August 6:00pm and **Sunday 9 August 2:30pm**

Tickets from Trybooking or cash & card at the door.

\$25 full, \$20 concession and U18 free.

Meetings this Week

Tuesday: Southern Zone Meeting 10:00am at St Joseph's

Wednesday: OLHC Pastoral Leadership Team at 6:30pm

CatholicCare Victoria Winter Appeal



This winter, your kindness can help someone rebuild their life. Across Victoria, many people are just one crisis away from homelessness. Your donation to CatholicCare Victoria provides safe housing, practical assistance and ongoing support.

Donate at <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/winter-appeal/>

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 August

For evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

Baptisms

This weekend **Arlic** and **Mila Lee** will be welcomed into our faith community.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

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Breaking Open the Word

JESUS NURTURES US

Have you ever experienced a time when you needed to rest, restore yourself and, perhaps, even reflect on the direction in which your life is moving? Today's Gospel can speak to this experience. Jesus, accompanied by his disciples, steps ashore from a boat and discovers a troubled crowd in need of healing. It is evening, a *lonely* (literally, 'a desert') place and the crowd needs to eat. Figuratively, this crowd represents how we might feel at times, in need of care, comfort, healing and sustenance.

The disciples have the solution. They want *him* to send the people off to purchase food from the local villages. But Jesus surprises the disciples with another solution: *they* are to find the food that is necessary. The Greek text can also be interpreted, 'You give them *yourselves* to eat!' This gets to the heart of the issue. The disciples retort that they don't have what is needed (either physically or personally?) to satisfy the hungry crowd, only five loaves and two fish, representative of the average food allowance for one household in the ancient world.

Jesus gets the crowd to sit down (literally, 'recline'—the dining posture in the Greco-Roman world) on the 'grass' (but isn't this a desert?) takes the meagre offering of the disciples, prays a eucharistic blessing over the loaves and fish, then gets the disciples to distribute to the crowd. They eat, are satisfied, and there remains enough leftovers, twelve baskets full, for the future. Our deepest need for spiritual restoration and nurture is met in today's celebration of Word and Eucharist. Jesus nurtures us.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

2 AUGUST 2026

FIRST READING

Isa 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread,
your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good
things to eat

and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me;

listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM

Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us,
he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, /
slow to anger, abounding in love. / How good
is the Lord to all, / compassionate to all his
creatures. **R.**

2. The eyes of all creatures look to you / and
you give them their food in due time. / You
open wide your hand, / grant the desires of all
who live. **R.**

3. The Lord is just in all his ways / and loving
in all his deeds. / He is close to all who call
him, / call on him from their hearts. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

*No creature can separate us from the love of God,
which is in Christ.*

Nothing can come between us and the love of
Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or
being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or
being threatened or even attacked. These are
the trials through which we triumph, by the
power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor
life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists,
nothing still to come, not any power, or height
or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come
between us and the love of God made visible in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia! / No one lives on bread
alone, / but on every word that comes from
the mouth of God. / Alleluia!