



CONTACT THE OFFICE

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9.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday
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<https://www.catholicparish.app/southwestcoast>
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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 McGennicken

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.

8th/9th August 2026

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from Our Parish Priest

This weekend the psalm response is *Lord, show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation.* To have God offering his love and mercy encourages us to do the same to others. Sometimes it's harder to offer love and mercy than it is to receive it. The Gospel has Jesus walking out to the disciples who where in trouble on the lake, he was able to calm the disciples by his presence and once the sea calmed they were all reminded of having faith and confidence in times of trouble that God will quell the doubt in most situations and allow our hearts to fill again with his love.

An Invitation to Fr Matthew Thomas's Installation

You are invited to the
Installation
of
Fr Matthew Thomas

as the new
Parish Priest of Star of the Sea Parish
South West Coast
by Bishop Mark Freeman

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Warrnambool
Date: Monday 17th August
Mass at 6:00pm with a Light Supper to follow.

RSVP by Friday 14th August.
Ph 5562 2231
Email: southwestcoast@ballarat.catholic.org.au or
Sign up sheets in each of the churches.

A Word of Thanks

Over the past few weeks I've celebrated 'final' Masses in all the communities of the 'Star of the Sea' Parish. I've been deeply moved by each of them.

Thank you to all who attended and for your good wishes.

I hope to embrace this next chapter of my life (retirement) and may you all embrace your next chapter as parishioners of 'Star of the Sea' with the support of Frs Matthew Thomas and Matt Restall.

I sign off with deep gratitude and heartfelt humility.

God bless you all. Fr John

Feast of the Assumption

Saturday August 15th is the Feast of the Assumption - a Holy Day of Obligation in Australia. We celebrate Mary being taken body and soul into heaven. It offers hope for our own resurrection where like Jesus and Mary, we too are offered the opportunity of being reunited with our own glorified bodies.

Mass options in the Parish are St Pius 10:00am & OLHC 6:00pm

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

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

Pius X: Cup of tea after Mass next week

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 St Joseph's meeting room at 7:00pm on Wednesdays



Meetings this Week

St Joseph's PLT meeting 5:00pm Wednesday

Koroit PLT meeting at 7:00pm on Wednesday

Faith – FAMILY – Fellowship Fish & Chips

5:30pm Mass -- 6pm Games -- 6:30pm Dinner

Friday 28 August 2026

Infant Jesus Catholic Church Koroit

OLHC Prayers of Petition

Please place your (anonymous) prayer requests in the Prayers of Petition Box at the back of OLHC. These will be prayed for monthly. Contact Susan 0419 670 114

Recent Deaths: Jessica Darmanin

Anniversaries: Helen Laufer, Jim Stacey, Kevin Mugavin (Purnim)
Darren Hilliard

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
St Joseph's Church	Fri 10:30am
St Pius X Church	Sat 9:40am

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues	10:00am St Joseph's 5:30pm St Pius X
Wed	10:00am St Joseph's 11:00am Mercy Place
Thurs	10:00am St Joseph's 10:00am OLHC 12:45pm Port Fairy School Mass
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 **Remi Blair, Tully Coote, Vincent and Charlotte Sproules** and **Olympia Beks** 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.

Command me to come to you over the water.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side while he would send the crowds away. After sending the crowds away he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, while the boat, by now far out on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea, for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch of the night he went towards them, walking on the lake, and when the disciples saw him walking on the lake they were terrified. 'It is a ghost' they said, and cried out in fear. But at once Jesus called out to them, saying, 'Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid.' It was Peter who answered. 'Lord', he said 'if it is you, tell me to come to you across the water.' 'Come' said Jesus. Then Peter got out of the boat and started walking towards Jesus across the water, but as soon as he felt the force of the wind, he took fright and began to sink. 'Lord! Save me!' he cried. Jesus put out his hand at once and held him. 'Man of little faith,' he said 'why did you doubt?' And as they got into the boat the wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed down before him and said, 'Truly, you are the Son of God.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

9 AUGUST 2026

TOWARDS UNKNOWN SHORES

There are times when we struggle, as though we are personally battling against a strong headwind and can't move out of our physical or spiritual slump. Today's Gospel reflects something of this experience. Jesus makes his disciples get into a boat (a symbol of Matthew's Gospel household) to sail to the 'other side'. This 'side' is unfamiliar and frightening. Jesus spends time on the land praying while the boat, in the meantime, is battling heavy seas and a strong headwind.

All this is a powerful image of the community of Jesus' disciples and, at times, like us or our experience of Church: battling, trying to move forward as we feel alone. At this point in the story, Matthew draws on imagery used of God from the First Testament to describe Jesus walking on the water, coming towards a boat filled with terrified disciples. When they see Jesus, their terror heightens thinking he is a ghost. Jesus reassures them.

Peter, the leader and spokesperson, then asks to come out to be with Jesus on the water. While Peter's focus is on Jesus all is safe as he steps from the boat on to the water. But when he becomes distracted by the wind and waves and takes his gaze off Jesus, he begins to sink. Jesus responds immediately to his plea for rescue and the scene concludes with the disciples worshipping Jesus as God's saving agent. This story speaks forcefully to our community of struggling believers. Jesus seeks to be with us in this 'boat' called 'Church' as we sail together, in that synodal spirit, towards unknown and frightening shores while subject to fearful and unsettling conditions.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

I Kings 19:9, 11-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings

Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord God.

When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain of God, he went into the cave and spent the night in it. Then he was told, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' Then the Lord himself went by. There came a mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains and shattered the rocks before the Lord. But the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire there came the sound of a gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he covered his face with his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 84:9-14. R. v. 8

R. Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, / a voice that speaks of peace. / His help is near for those who fear him / and his glory will dwell in our land. **R.**

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; / justice and peace have embraced. / Faithfulness shall spring from the earth / and justice look down from heaven. **R.**

3. The Lord will make us prosper / and our earth shall yield its fruit. / Justice shall march before him / and peace shall follow his steps. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

I would willingly be condemned if it could help my people.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it in union with Christ – it is the truth – my conscience in union with the Holy Spirit assures me of it too. What I want to say is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental anguish so endless, I would willingly be condemned and be cut off from Christ if it could help my brothers of Israel, my own flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons, they were given the glory and the covenants; the Law and the ritual were drawn up for them, and the promises were made to them. They are descended from the patriarchs and from their flesh and blood came Christ who is above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 129:5

Alleluia, alleluia! / I hope in the Lord, / I trust in his word. / Alleluia!