

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
southwestcoast@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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.

15th/16th August 2026
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from Our Parish Priest

Our psalm response for the weekend is '*O God, let all the nations praise you*', as people of the world, how do we support each other and how do we give praise to God. When we see all the people within the parish and from all the different parts of the world we can see the richness and beauty of God's love coming together.

This week ahead we have the celebration of St Pius X, on Friday. Next weekend we have First Holy Communion, at the Masses over the weekend (22nd and 23rd) we will be joining with our younger parishioners who will be coming to the Eucharist for the first time.

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.

Next week I will be to be in Mildura from Wednesday to Saturday for the celebrations of St Joseph's Colleges 120th Anniversary.

God Bless

Fr Matt

Volunteers

St Joseph's Community is looking for people who would like to try their hand at the I.T. on Sundays and during the week.

Anniversaries: James Byrne, Michael Pye, Aleida Bakker, Eileen Rowan, Louis Rowan, Julie Bartlett

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

Rosary: OLHC - not on this Monday evening due to Fr Matthew Thomas's Installation Mass

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



ABIDE
St Pius
5:30pm Mass
6:00pm Adoration
6:30pm Soup (Free & No RSVP)
7:00pm Video & Exchange
Tuesdays of August

St Pius X PLT meeting on Wednesday at 7:00pm

Season of Creation Diocesan Mass

 The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to listen and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to pray and protect our common home, the *Oikos* of God.

The Season "Celebration" begins 1st September, the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, and ends 4th October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology.

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invites all members of our parishes and schools to the Diocesan Season of Creation Mass on Friday, 21st August at 9.15am at St Joseph the Worker Catholic Church, 149 Calder Highway, Red Cliffs.

The Diocesan Season of Creation Mass is in its second year and it is planned to hold the Mass around the diocese every second year.

This event will be livestreamed for participation across the diocese – <https://evt.live/season-of-creation-mass>

Boarding School Seminar

Xavier College and Genazzano FCJ College Boarding schools based in Melbourne invite you to an information evening on: Friday 28th August 5:45pm - 7:15pm at The Cally, Warrnambool. Contact the Xavier College Admissions team on 03 9854 5376. Bookings essential.



Faith – FAMILY – Fellowship
Fish & Chips
5:30pm Mass -- 6pm Games -- 6:30pm Dinner
Friday 28 August 2026
Infant Jesus Catholic Church Koroit

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 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 Charlotte & Louis Goodall, Nellie Squires, Bella Farley, Huey, Lottie & Gia Graham and Charlotte Young 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 8th September 2026

To book please call 5562 2231

Alleluia, alleluia! / Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom / and healed all who were sick. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Woman, you have great faith.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply. 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

16 AUGUST 2026

BEYOND THE EXPECTED

In today's Gospel Jesus travels beyond his usual and familiar abode. He is in today's southern Lebanon, areas around Tyre and Sidon. This is foreign or pagan territory, unfamiliar to Jews. Here Jesus encounters a woman from the region who pleads for him to exorcise her demonically possessed daughter. Jesus' disciples want him to deal with her quickly so that they won't be bothered by her. Then comes the clear missionary statement of Jesus for Matthew's Jewish audience, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel', and, later, 'It is not fair to take children's food and throw it to house-dogs'. The focus of his ministry and healing is clearly on the Israelite people, the 'children', rather than on gentiles ('house-dogs'!). Jesus' derogatory comment to the woman is met by her witty repartee, 'Yes, sir, but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from the master's table'.

Her clever verbal joust meets his respectful acknowledgement. He affirms the woman's great faith in engaging him in a manner that respects the priority of his mission to the Jewish people (and Matthew's Gospel audience) while acknowledging that non-Jews can also be recipients of his ministry. This results in the Canaanite woman's request being granted. Her daughter is healed.

From this episode, it seems as though even Jesus had to learn and to extend his healing reach beyond the expected. That same insight is an invitation to us and our faith communities as we too are invited to offer hospitality and a welcome to the foreign and unexpected that we come across.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

■ **The word of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 66:2-3, 5-6, 8. R. v. 8

R. O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us / and let your face shed its light upon us. / So will your ways be known upon earth / and all nations learn your saving help. **R.**

2. Let the nations be glad and exult / for you rule the world with justice. / With fairness you rule the peoples, / you guide the nations on earth. **R.**

3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; / let all the peoples praise you. / May God still give us his blessing / till the ends of the earth revere him. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

■ **The word of the Lord.**