

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
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<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

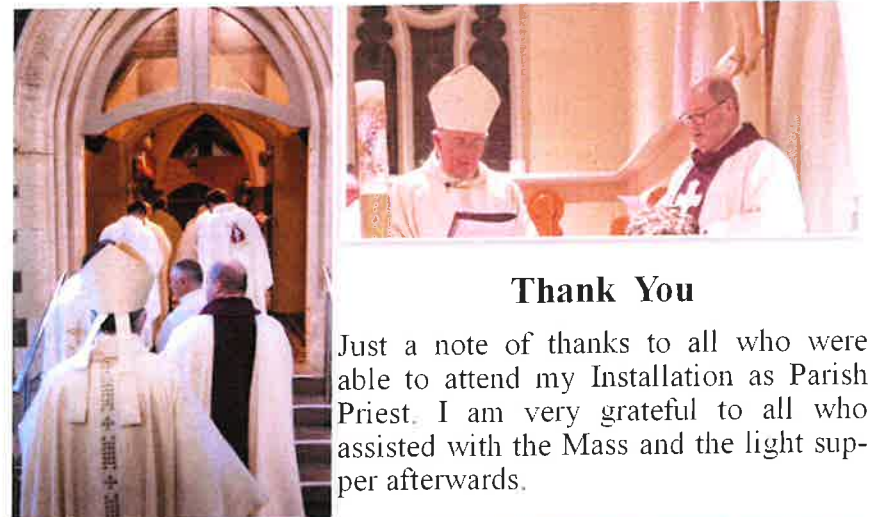
We are a Christ-centred community who gather with open hearts to recognise Christ in one another. In the Catholic tradition, we journey together in faith, hope and service to bring life to the church and to the wider world.

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.

22nd/23rd August 2026
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from Our Parish Priest



Thank You

Just a note of thanks to all who were able to attend my Installation as Parish Priest. I am very grateful to all who assisted with the Mass and the light supper afterwards.



First Eucharist

Congratulations to all our children celebrating their First Eucharist this weekend. Thank you to all who have helped prepare them for this special sacrament.



Recent Deaths: Laureen O'Brien
Anniversaries: Leigh Clarke, Heath Bishop, Ian Slockwitch, Anne McKenna, Bridie Ritchie, Gerry O'Brien

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) - Monday evenings at 7:00pm
Parish Pastoral Council meeting Wednesday 23rd at 7:00pm

Tuesday Afternoon Cards

After many years, Tuesday Cards will no longer meet and play at St Joseph's. An invitation is extended to parishioners to join the remaining players for a farewell 'cuppa' in St Joseph's Hall at 2:00pm on 1st September.

Social Justice Statement

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has released the second Social Justice Statement for this year ahead of Social Justice Sunday August 30. "Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division". The Church can and must be a sign of unity: a community where every person feels at home and all are encouraged to use their gifts to build a more just, peaceful and cohesive Australia. To view the Statement go to: <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/service-and-agencies/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement-current/>.

Eating with Jesus Retreat

On 8th August at St Joseph's 14 people participated in the 'Eating with Jesus' Retreat with Anna Schlooz, Spiritual Director. Some comments from the day are below.

"Something to hold onto from the retreat was that we can continue to deepen our relationship with God."
"A highlight was the experience of being immersed in scripture, truth, insights, art and creativity to encounter God in our lives."
"Taking time for silence and contemplation."

Working with Children Cards

A reminder to all parishioners who volunteer in our parish to present updated WWC cards to the Parish Office. Please call the office to check if current details are on file if you are unsure. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited

Expressions of interest are now open for membership of the DOBCEL Catholic Identity & Mission Committee, Assurance & Risk Committee or Finance Committee. Applications close Sept 18th.
<https://www.dobcel.catholic.edu.au/expressions-of-interest-dobcel-board-committees>



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
2 nd Sunday of the month (Eucharist)	
*All other Sundays	
Assembly of the Word with Communion	

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION	
St Pius X Church	Tue 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
Fri	10:00am St Joseph's 1:00pm OLHC Laureen O'Brien RIP
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
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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia! / You are Peter, the rock
on which I will build my Church / the
gates of hell will not hold out against it. /
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

*You are Peter, to you I will give the keys of the
kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea
Philippi he put this question to his disciples,
'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And
they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist,
some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of
the prophets.' 'But you,' he said, 'who do you
say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You
are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living
God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you
are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and
blood that revealed this to you but my Father
in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter
and on this rock I will build my Church. And
the gates of the underworld can never hold
out against it. I will give you the keys of the
kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth
shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever
you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in
heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders
not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

■ **The Gospel of the Lord.****A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL**

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Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

23 AUGUST 2026

WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?

Who is Jesus? What would I want to say
to him? Today's Gospel brings us to one of
the most important questions posed by the
evangelist to the Gospel's audience – and to
us: Who is Jesus for us?

Jesus first asks the disciples about the gossip
circulating concerning him and who they
believe him to be. Their response reflects
how the disciples understand Jesus and how
they will follow him as they draw closer to
Jerusalem, the city where Jesus' ministry will
conclude in his death and resurrection. The
disciples respond to Jesus' question as to what
others say about him: He is John the Baptist,
or Elijah who will return at the end of time,
or one of the prophets. Then Jesus asks them,
'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter, speaking for the group,
acknowledges Jesus as 'the Christ', the Greek
for the Hebrew word 'Messiah', literally 'the
anointed one'. Jesus is God's emissary anointed
with the Spirit. Jesus affirms Peter's response
as divinely inspired and declares that Peter –
Petros, 'rock' – will be the foundation or 'rock-
base' for the growth of the Jesus movement.

For Matthew's audience, this is an affirmation
of the movement's authority through time and
history. It is within this graced community that
we gather today. As contemporary followers
of Jesus, we are invited to give our response
personally and communally as to Jesus' identity:
Who do you, who do we say Jesus is? Our response
will shape how we act, with whom we engage
and the kind of community of Jesus' followers we
will be.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Isa 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I place the key of the House of David upon his
shoulder.*

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the
master of the palace:

I dismiss you from your office,
I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant
Eliakim son of Hilkiah.

I invest him with your robe,
gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority;
and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem
and to the House of Judah.

I place the key of the House of David
on his shoulder;

should he open, no one shall close,
should he close, no one shall open.

I drive him like a peg
into a firm place;

he will become a throne of glory
for his father's house.

■ **The word of the Lord.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 137:1-3, 6, 8. R. v. 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, / you
have heard the words of my mouth. / Before
the angels I will bless you. / I will adore before
your holy temple. **R.**

2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love /
which excel all we ever knew of you. / On the
day I called, you answered; / you increased the
strength of my soul. **R.**



3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly /
and the haughty he knows from afar. / Your
love, O Lord, is eternal, / discard not the work
of your hands. **R.**

SECOND READING

Rom 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans

From him, through him, and in him are all things.

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his
wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible
to penetrate his motives or understand his
methods! Who could ever know the mind of
the Lord? Who could ever be his counsellor?
Who could ever give him anything or lend him
anything? All that exists comes from him; all is
by him and for him. To him be glory for ever!
Amen.

■ **The word of the Lord.**