

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 McGenniken

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.

5th/6th September 2026

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from Our Parish Priest

Today's Psalm response is *'O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts'* when we truly listen to God's voice though the people we are around, through the reading and contemplating of Scripture, through the environment in which we live and journey through, we should be open to listening with our ears and our heart to what he is saying to us. Within the parish we have great opportunities to put this into action, this could be done in the church foyers before and after mass meeting new people who might be visiting or new to the parish. For the scripture to talk to us, we listen during mass then we take it in our hearts to the world by our actions as that valuable sign to others.

For example let us assist with prayer or support for the people affected by the flood in Nepal.

Have a great week and may

God Bless you all

Fr Matt



Here in Australia, Catholic Mission serves as the Pope's official mission agency, supporting the work of the local Church in more than 160 countries. In his message for the 100th World Mission Sunday, Pope Leo XIV reminds us that we are "One in Christ, United in Mission." It reminds us that every parish, no matter its size or location, shares in Christ's mission to proclaim the Gospel and accompany our sisters and brothers throughout the world.



BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Collection for Retired Priests



The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for nineteen retired priests.

This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our retired priests. Your generous support has enabled us to continue *'caring for those who cared for us'*.

Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up today. You may also return your envelope next week. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible and receipts are available for contributions of \$10 & over.

OLHC: Spring Newsletter available in the foyer.

St Patrick's Port Fairy: Join us for a 'cuppa' after Mass today.

St Joseph's: Cuppa after Mass next weekend served by Family Groups

Rosary: Monday evenings at 7:00pm in September at St Joseph's

PLT Meeting: Port Fairy 7:00pm Wednesday

Recent Deaths: Bruce Donohue, Clare Dalton, David McDonough, (Allansford), Breeda Kelly (Ireland), John Condon, Margaret Couch, Elizabeth Hickey

Anniversaries: Daniel Clapham, Gerard Sinnott, Peter Lenehan, Richie Doyle, Fr Pat O'Keefe, Geraldine Lourey, Till Paterson (Doyle)



Water East Timor (WET) Fundraiser

Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings on this Sunday (today) to raise funds for Water East Timor. WET, through fundraising, provides clean water and sanitation systems to rural villages in Timor Leste. Please come and support this very worthy cause.

Caelestis Splendor Concert

Sunday 6th September at 7:00pm St Joseph's Church

RCIC (Children's Sacraments)

A shortened Sacramental program for children in year four and above who have not received the Sacraments of Baptism, Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation will begin in mid-September. Please contact the Parish Office this week if you'd like to register your child to be part of it, or interested in helping.

Fathers Day Prayer

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise for fathers young and old.

We pray for young fathers, newly embracing their vocation; may they find courage and perseverance to balance work, family and faith in joy and sacrifice.

We pray for our own fathers around the world whose children are lost or suffering; may they know that the God of Compassion walks with them in their sorrow.

We pray for men who are not fathers but still mentor and guide us with fatherly love and advice. We remember fathers, grandfathers, great grandfathers and father figures who are no longer with us, but who live forever in our memory and nourish us with their love. Amen,

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	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 11:00am St Patrick's Port Fairy Bruce Donohue RIP 2:00pm St Patrick's Port Fairy Clare Dalton RIP 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 1:00pm OLHC Margaret Couch RIP
Sat	10:00am St Pius X

Prayer for September

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

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

Mt 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

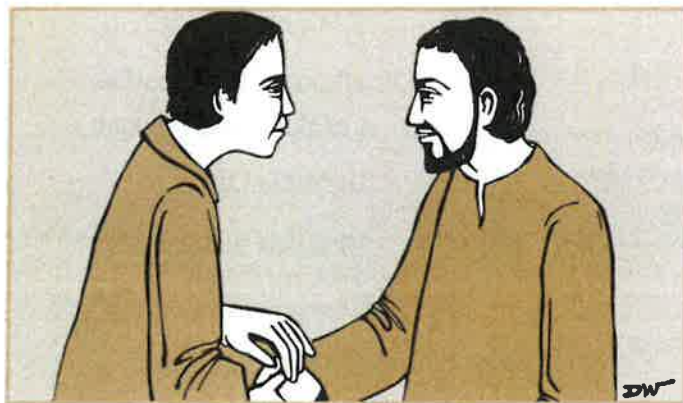
If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.



A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

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Breaking Open the Word

SEEK RECONCILIATION

Last Sunday reminded us that following Jesus is not free from struggle. Challenges, even misunderstandings, will be part of the disciple's vocation. This Sunday, the evangelist moves deeper to highlight further concerns that beset the community of disciples—internal struggles, tensions, even rejection.

The evangelist draws on the wisdom of Jesus to address these realities and suggests a three-step process towards reconciliation. It begins with personal dialogue. The one wronged seeks to invite the wrongdoer to reconciliation. If this fails, witnesses to what has happened verify the authenticity of the issues and encourage resolution. If this fails then the whole faith community, the *ekklesia*, witness to the wrong that has created the division, inviting the wrong doer to a change of heart and reconciliation.

Even if this third step fails then Matthew advises to treat the wrong doer 'like a pagan or tax collector.' In other words, as Jesus welcomed strangers and invited a tax collector to become one of his disciples, the door must always be left open. The final words of the Gospel contain Jesus' assurance that he is always present to even a small discipleship gathering, of even two or three, no matter what they are dealing with.

Today's Gospel is as relevant for our day as it was in the time of Matthew. No faith community is tension free. Disagreements arise and, sometimes, are not easily resolved by faith leaders. Rather than gossiping or character assassination, personal approaches that invite conflict resolution and community building are essential. In everything, Jesus is present.

Fr Michael Trainor

THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

6 SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRST READING

Ezek 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v. 8

**R. O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; / hail the rock who saves us. / Let us come before him, giving thanks, / with songs let us hail the Lord. **R.**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; / let us kneel before the God who made us / for he is our God and we / the people who belong to his pasture, / the flock that is led by his hand. **R.**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! / 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, / as on that day at Massah in the desert / when your fathers put me to the test; / when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia! / God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself; / and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us. / Alleluia!