



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.

12th/13th September 2026

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Safeguarding Sunday: "Love Protects"

Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-sunday-2026-september-13-2026/>

Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday

*You guard us, Lord God, beneath the shelter of your wings
till the storms of destruction pass by (Psalm 57:1).
The storms of abuse have struck and have not yet passed by.
We see the damage done and we seek shelter in you.
Beneath your wings we gather the survivors and their loved ones,
all the victims, living and dead.
We gather those who work to bring healing
and to make the Church a safe place for all.
We gather all the faithful, the Body of Christ,
bearing the wounds of the Cross.
May the Church grow more like you,
wings spread wide to provide shelter for all,
till the storms of destruction pass by
and peace without end has come.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Archbishop Mark Coleridge.



Recent Deaths:

John Condon, Keith Wallace, Nancy Gilchrist, Brian Gavin (Hamilton), Maria Linke, Nola Rea, Elise Harris

Anniversaries:

Travis Hyland, Shae Johnson, Margaret Beattie, Pat & Nell Glover, John Glover, Patricia Toleman, Loretto Willis, Pat Lawlor, Ross McCann, Des Jackman, Claire Jackman, Michael Jackman

OLHC:

Could parishioners please park in the designated car parks and not on the grassed areas.
Holy Hour, Rosary and Adoration every Mon at 10:00am.

St Joseph's:

Cuppa after Mass today served by Family Groups

St Pius X:

'Cuppa' next week after Mass

Rosary:

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

Baptisms:

This weekend George Murrihy and Sunny Fleming will be welcomed into our faith community.

Meetings

PLT Meeting: St Joseph's 5:00pm Wednesday
Safeguarding Meeting at St Joseph's Wednesday at 7:00pm

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 if you'd like to register your child to be part of it, or interested in helping.

Welcome to Fr Matthew Thomas

Next Saturday evening, after 6:00pm Mass at Our Lady Help of Christians, we will be have supper to welcome Fr Matthew Thomas Please bring a 'plate' to share.

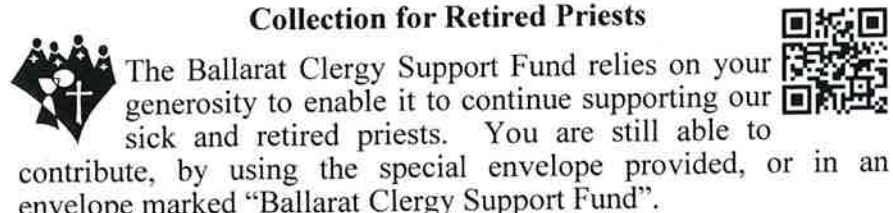


Volunteer Recognition Afternoon Tea

Join us for afternoon tea and a relaxed afternoon of catching up with good company. Our annual Volunteer Recognition Afternoon Tea will be held at St Pius X Function Room (just up from the Church) on Sunday 25th October 2.00pm–4.00pm.

It's a small way for us to say thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for the time, energy and support you give to our Parish throughout the year.

RSVP: Monday 19th October. Sign up sheets in the foyers or call 5562 2231. If you need a lift please let us know.



Ballarat Clergy Support Fund

Collection for Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund".

Caring for those Who Cared for Us
THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

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

Mon	11:00am OLHC John Condon RIP 2:00pm OLHC Nola Rea RIP
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 School Mass 1:00pm St Joseph's Maria Linke RIP
Fri	10:00am St Joseph's
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 11th October 2026

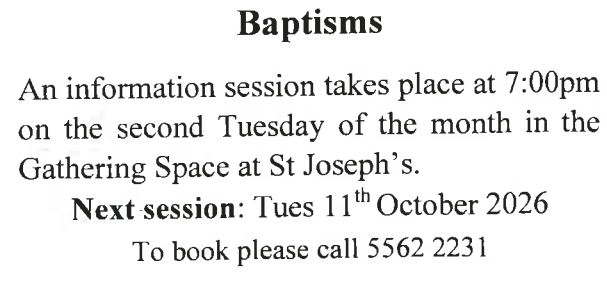
To book please call 5562 2231

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'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

✠ The Gospel of the Lord.

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FORGIVE FROM THE HEART

Have you ever been hurt by another? How do you act? Can you forgive? Hurts, misunderstanding and at times serious ruptures can occur amongst Jesus' members. The question which Peter asks Jesus is relevant: 'How often should one forgive another? Seven times?' Jesus replies, 'Seventy times seven,' meaning forgiveness is beyond calculation.

Jesus then offers a parable to highlight the essential truth about forgiving others 'from the heart'. The story involves two servants. One owes his king 1000 talents. In Matthew's day a talent was worth a year's wage. The servant owes the king 1000 years' wages! An impossible debt to honour, even though the servant promises to pay it in time. The king, out of compassion, cancels the debt. Whew! Leaving the judgement hall, that same servant comes across a fellow servant who owes 100 denarii. A denarius is a day's wage, so the debt is a hundred days' wages, a paltry sum by comparison. But in this second scenario, compassion and debt cancellation are absent. The king gets to hear of this and imprisons the first servant for his lack of forgiveness.

Meanness of spirit and forgiveness of heart will have their divine repercussions, the point of the final words of today's Gospel. Matthew's Jesus invites us to reflect upon our own forgiving and compassionate spirit towards those who have hurt or wronged us. As we pray in the Lord's Prayer, '...forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.' The measure of our forgiveness is ultimately not God but our own hearts.

Fr Michael Trainor

FIRST READING

Sir 27:30-28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

✠ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 102: 1-4, 9-12. R. v. 8

R. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, / all my being, bless his holy name. / My soul, give thanks to the Lord / and never forget all his blessings. **R.**

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, / who heals every one of your ills, / who redeems your life from the grave, / who crowns you with love and compassion. **R.**

3. His wrath will come to an end; / he will not be angry for ever. / He does not treat us according to our sins / nor repay us according to our faults. **R.**

4. For as the heavens are high above the earth / so strong is his love for those who fear him. / As far as the east is from the west / so far does he remove our sins. **R.**



SECOND READING

Rom 14: 7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord.

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

✠ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 13: 34

Alleluia, alleluia! / I give you a new commandment: / love one another as I have loved you. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 18: 21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven.

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times.'