



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

**Immaculate Conception Hastings, St Peter's
Shoreham and St Brendan's Church Somerville**

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 15th/16th August 2026

PARISH CONTACT

DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Judy Deefholts

Office Hours:
9.30am-3.00pm
(Wednesday -Friday)
Phone - 5979 4374

PARISH CENTRE:
71 Marine Parade Hastings

POSTAL ADDRESS:
PO Box 76 Hastings 3915

Email:
westernport@cam.org.au
Parish Web Site: <http://westernportchurch.com.au>

**BAPTISM ENQUIRIES &
COMMUNION TO THE SICK:**
Parish Centre 5979 4374

PARISH SCHOOLS:

CRIB POINT: St Joseph's
Primary School 5983 9374

HASTINGS: St Mary's
Primary School 5979 1959

SOMERVILLE St Brendan's
Primary School 5977 7277

MORNINGTON Padua
College. Vice Principal:
Matthew Williams 5976 0100

VINNIES OP SHOP 83 High
St Hastings 5979 4373

**St Vincent de Paul Help
Assistance Call Centre**
(9am-noon M-F) 5976 4974

First Reading

Isaiah 56:1.6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

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.4

(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

Romans 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

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.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CS.

The overarching theme derived from today's readings is the question of insider-outsider. We see here that the divisions and barriers that emerge out of human experience have been shattered by the graciousness of God. Jesus' openness to 'the other' finds a precedent in the prophetic tradition. Isaiah spoke of a time when outsiders would join insiders in worshipping God, thus dissolving the categories of insider and outsider. He was, of course, referring to the age of eschatological fulfilment. This age dawned with the coming of Jesus. Jesus himself moved out of the constraints of his own cultural worldview, and he directs us to do the same. People are either excluded because of gender, culture or religious perspective, or included only because they are able and willing to conform to discriminatory standards. In the reign of God, this should not be the case. People are accepted along with their own cultural profiles.

God's embrace first enclosed even those who rejected Jesus, and then God's plan of salvation unfolded in a new way. An invitation to enter the kingdom was issued to the Gentiles, those who had been considered outsiders. If outsiders are now insiders, what has happened to the former insiders? Paul insists that they are still insiders. God has not simply shifted the identifying boundaries; God has dissolved them. In the interim between the dawning of the eschatological age and the end of time, the invitation to be included remains open to all.

The Canaanite woman persisted because of her strong belief that Jesus would cure her daughter. Use the words below to find out what Jesus said.



_____, you have

____ your _____
be _____.

granted wish
faith Woman
Let great

Who are the outcasts in our community?
Write them in the footprints.



LITURGIES THIS WEEK: 17th - 23rd August**MONDAY:** No Service**TUESDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Somerville**FRIDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Hastings**SATURDAY:****6.00pm** Mass at Somerville**SUNDAY:****8.00am** Mass at Shoreham**10.00am** Mass at Hastings**PRAYERS AND PETITIONS**

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Kylie Wilman, Ann Wilson, Priscilla Pascual, Marcelina Pascual, Jacqueline Sharpley, Charles, Mary Marshall, Ian Marshall, Bob Fels, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Michael Smith, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Marie Mereszko, Halima, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Frank Tagliabue, Janice Danaher, Jane, Maria, Kathy Burke, Frank Howard, Mike Mason, Elaine Duyvestyn, James Smythe, Lucy Triffett, Helena Jaskolski, Oscar Dixon-Rotherham, Margaret Sherlock and all those who need our prayers. May they receive the Lord's comfort and strength.

Please pray for those who have died recently, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially John Dogerly. May they rest in peace.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—22nd/23rd August

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Tracey Clarke	Catherine Clancy	Jesela Baxter	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Brian McAnallen
Eucharistic Ministers	Maree Chapman	Joan Whiter	Barbara Farley Deirdre Fennessy	Counters This Week	Stephen Stewart Ian Marshall
Commentator	Sandy Adolphus	John Paterson	Val Coventry	Counters Next Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Altar Linen	AUGUST—Mary Marshall	AUGUST - Sue Ireland		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Mary Marshall			Audio/Visual	Princes Jellyanne Manocan
Flowers	Sandy Adolphus			Communion to the Sick This Week	Anne-Marie Lawson



PARTICIPATING IN THE SYNOD.

Make a submission. Gather your fellow parishioners, family, friends or colleagues to a spiritual conversation to reflect on the themes for the Synod. Scan the QR code at the end of each paper to submit your reflections. Submissions will be accepted until **21 August 2026**. Or your submission via the questionnaire to be at the parish office by the **17th August**, to ensure that they can be submitted on time.

Synod membership. If you are interested in nominating a parishioner to become a Synod member: Parishes are invited to nominate 1-2 parishioners to be considered as a regional member for the Melbourne Synod, There will be 15 Participants from each of the 4 areas of the Archdiocese. Member application forms are available and need to be in by **27 August** to the Archdiocese.

(CSSA) Catholic Social Services Australia says it is profoundly honoured to receive a significant and heartfelt message of recognition from Pope Leo XIV, marking the organisation's 70th anniversary year of 2026.

This rare and distinguished acknowledgment from the Holy Father underscores CSSA's enduring witness to the Gospel and its vital contribution to Australian society over seven decades.

Central to the Pope's message is the Gospel passage from Matthew 25:40: *'as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'* This Scripture lies at the heart of CSSA's mission.

The Archbishop's Campaign invites us to proclaim the Good News by supporting ministries that serve those in need across our Archdiocese. Your generous gift helps bring this mission to life – not only in word, but in action.

Thank you.



ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

The 2026 Archbishop's Campaign is now underway, and we ask everyone to consider a one time or monthly pledge to support the vital ministries of our Archdiocese. Brochures with more information can be found around the church. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating and can be made via the QR code. You can also donate via the supplied campaign envelopes or anonymously via cash directly into the collection plate during the campaign weekends.

This weekend is Giving Weekend and there will be a special collection for the campaign after the Homily.

The Cagliero Project - Salesians of Don Bosco

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region. We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers for January 2027 departure. Our volunteer placements run for 6-12 months and are centered around working with young people in educational settings. We are currently recruiting for volunteers for Cambodia, Samoa, Timor Leste, Mongolia and the Solomon Islands. Cagliero volunteers work in the Salesian way, placing young people at the centre of all they do and approaching life with joy, compassion, and respect. While the focus is on those we serve, the experience is often deeply rewarding for volunteers as well. **Applications close October 31st, 2026.** Send us an enquiry - www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaaba@salesians.org.au.

WORLD YOUTH DAY.

Preparations are in full swing for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where Pope Leo XIV is expected to join young Catholics from around the world for the second World Youth Day ever held in Asia.

The gathering, which will take place on 3–8 August 2027, comes more than three decades after the first World Youth Day in Asia, which drew between four and five million people to Manila with Pope John Paul II in 1995, setting a Guinness World Record for largest attendance at a papal event at the time.

Continue reading:
melbourne.catholic.org.au

Total giving - 8th/9th August.

1st Collection: Presbytery - \$ 544.85
2nd Collection: Church Account - \$1,456.15
Tap Machine: \$ 103.05

Thank you for your ongoing Support!

Western Port Parish is committed to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protect them from harm.