



Western Port Catholic Parish

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

4th Sunday of Lent - Year A, 15 March 2026

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

Pastoral Worker:
Deirdre Fennessy

Office Hours:
**10.00am-3.00pm TUE &
9.30am—3.00pm WED-FRI**
Phone - 5979 4374

PARISH CENTRE:

71 Marine Parade Hastings

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 76 Hastings 3915

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Parish Web Site:
[https://
www.melbcatholic.org/s/
westernport](https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/westernport)

**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 Pri-
mary 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

1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R)**

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R)**

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R)**

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R)**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'



They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

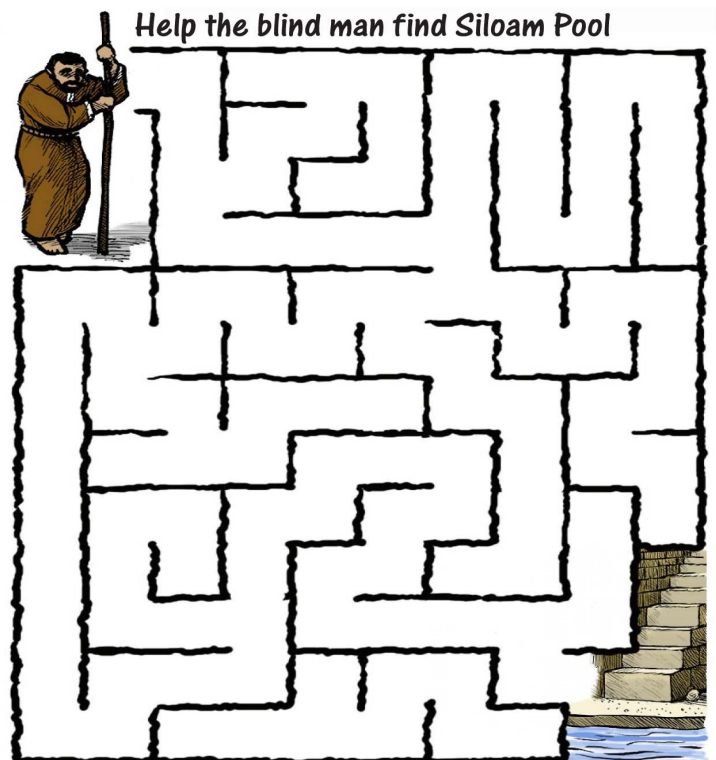
REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

We live in a world where appearances frequently matter more than they should. Contrary to this predominating tendency, Jesus teaches us that what we do flows from who and what we are. We can enlighten the world with the message of the gospel, because our lives have been transformed by that gospel and now we ourselves are light for others. We can serve others in various ways, only because we have been saved by God's grace and now we are agents of that grace in the lives of others. Our own renewal becomes the means through which God renews the world.

This may sound grandiose, but it isn't. It is the truth about the way God works. Extraordinary things are accomplished through ordinary people. Jesus grew up as the son of a carpenter; some of the apostles were fishermen; Paul was a tentmaker; we are clerks and teachers, bus drivers and doctors, bank tellers and engineers. Like Paul we come to ministry in weakness and fear and much trembling. It is the Spirit and power of God that work the wonders, and God works them through mundane elements of life such as light and salt.

As children, many of us learned the corporal and the spiritual works of mercy. We learned that we can practise them in every walk of life. Today's readings remind us of this. We may not be asked to perform extraordinary feats, but all disciples of Jesus are called upon to do the ordinary things of life in an extraordinary way.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET



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

LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 16th March –22nd March

MONDAY No Mass

TUESDAY 9.30am Mass at Somerville followed by Stations of the Cross

WEDNESDAY 9.00am Mass at Shoreham

THURSDAY 9.30am Communion Service at Hastings

FRIDAY 9.30am Mass at Hastings followed by Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY

10.00am-10.30am Reconciliation at Hastings

6.00pm Mass at St Brendan's Church, Somerville

SUNDAY

8.00am Mass at St Peter's Church, Shoreham

10.00am Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Hastings

PRAYERS AND PETITIONS

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Charles, Mary Marshall, Ian Marshall, Bob Fels, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Michael Smith, Danny McGeough, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Marie Mereszko, Halima, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Frank Tagliabue, Michael Pound, Janice Danaher, Edna Walsh, 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. May they rest in peace.

Lenten Discussion Group St Peter's Shoreham

On **Thursday 19 and 26 March**, we welcome you to attend a Lenten Discussion Group at 5.00p.m. - 6.00 p.m. at St Peter's.

The format will be prayer, gospel reflection and discussion of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement for February 2026.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays after the 9.30am Mass in Hastings and Tuesdays after the 9.30am Mass in Somerville during Lenten season

SPECIAL MASSES AT NURSING HOMES:

WEDNESDAY, 18 March

11.00am Mass at Somerville Gardens Care Community

FRIDAY, 20 March

10.45am Mass at Western Port Bay Care Community, Tyabb

THURSDAY, 26 March

11.00am Mass at Bays Aged Care, Hastings

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: 21st March & 22nd March 2026

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Tracey Clark	Damian Ireland	Michelle Claudio	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Agnes Smith
Eucharistic Ministers	Sandy Adolphus	Val Fakhry	Lioba Robinson Isobel Wilson	Counters This Week	Judy & Derrick Deefholts
Commentator	Judy Deefholts	Anthony Grimes	Val Coventry	Counters Next Week	Kees & Genevieve Meyer
Altar Linen		MAR.—Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Virginia Carey
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	MAR. - Sue Ireland		Audio/Visual	Jesele Baxter
Flowers		Somerville Maintenance —Bill & Anne-Marie Lawson		Communion to the Sick This Week	Mary Marshall

What is a Synod?



The word synod originates from the Ancient Greek word *synodos* meaning “assembly” or “meeting” In our context, specifically implying journeying together.

A Synod is a moment when the Church deliberately pauses to listen, pray, and discern together. It is not simply a meeting or a conference, but a spiritual process rooted in faith that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today. In a Synod, we ask not only “What do we think?” but more importantly, “What is God asking of us at this moment in our mission?”

NEW OFFICE HOURS

From 17th March:

TUESDAYS 10.00am-3.00pm

WED-FRI 9.30am—3.00pm

Please note Judy Deefholts and Theresa Colard will temporarily take over office duties.

THANK YOU NOTE

I sincerely thank to all those lovely Parishioners who approached me with their kind words and wishes regarding my upcoming trip to Croatia and my mother's health. Words cannot fully express my gratitude. May God bless you! Hijacinta

PROJECT COMPASSION

Life was hard for **Manaini** and her children living in rural Fiji. With the support from Caritas Australia's partner, FRIEND, she learnt food processing and gardening skills, improving nutrition and creating new income opportunities to support her children's education.



Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2026 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code.
Or online at: www.projectcompassion.org.au/donate **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

COMMISSIONING STAFF MASS



Last Wednesday, we celebrated a Commissioning staff Mass at St Brandan's church, Somerville. Many thanks to all those who attended—Principals, teachers and school support staff from our three primary schools and Padua College. May God bless you and keep you in the wonderful work you're doing for our young ones. Fr Shymon

PARISH LEADERSHIP TEAM

MEETING

Wednesday,

18th March at 5.00pm-6.00pm

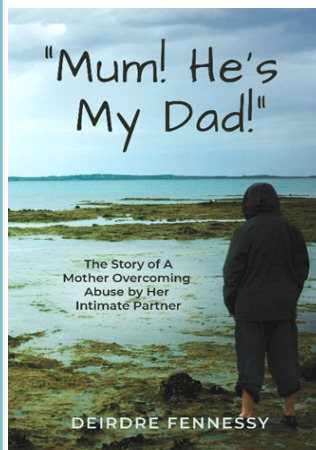
Topic: The Working in Mission with catholic schools and parish Document, Archdiocese of Melbourne.

Speaker: Jennifer Hawkins, Senior Manager School Excellence | Education Excellence

STELLA MARIS HASTINGS—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Stella Maris Hastings is seeking volunteers to help at the Seafarers Mission in Hastings. If you're able to help, please contact **Eddie Tearle** (edtearle@hotmail.com or 03 5983 9556. Thank you!

BOOK LAUNCH



Deirdre Fennessy is releasing her debut book. For years she had concealed the abuse from her first husband, but on an occasion while feeling overwhelmingly depressed when walking out on the rocks at her local beach at an unusually low tide, she realised she was walking across rocks and sand that were rarely exposed. She knew to achieve healing she had to expose her story.

Mum, He's My Dad is a deeply personal memoir exposing the impact of intimate partner abuse that offers strength to others to achieve their own healing.

ers to achieve their own healing.

Where: Immaculate Conception Activity Centre,
71 Marine Pd, Hastings

Date: Saturday 21st March

Time: 2pm - 4pm Refreshments will be served.

MACS launches a distinctly Catholic vision for leadership

Teachers and staff in Australia's largest Catholic school system are set to receive a boost to professional development and career progression opportunities following the launch of the Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) *Vision for Leadership*.

Continue reading: [MACS launches a distinctly Catholic vision for leadership \(Melbourne Catholic\)](#)

Pope Leo XIV prays for leaders to 'abandon projects of death' in peace prayer video

Pope Leo XIV prayed for world leaders to 'abandon projects of death' in a video message released by the Vatican on 5 March, calling on people around the world to pray for peace. The selection of prayer intention for March was announced in 2025 but takes on added significance following the recent outbreak of the US/Israel-Iran war.

Continue reading: [Pope Leo XIV prays for leaders to 'abandon projects of death' in peace prayer video](#)

Total giving from the week 2nd Mar. 2026—

8th Mar. 2026

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$929.70

2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques) \$1839.15

Tap Machine Donations \$98.39

Thank you for your ongoing support!