



Western Port Catholic Parish

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

5th Sunday of Lent - Year A, 22 March 2026

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

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Deirdre Fennessy

Office Hours:
10.00am-3.00pm TUE &
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[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
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.

Ezekiel 37:12-14

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **(R.)**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **(R.)**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord, more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) **(R.)**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.'

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone.

Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, '**Lazarus**, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in Him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

All three readings for this Sunday, as well as the psalm response, point out our inability to raise ourselves out of the deaths that afflict us. In the passage from Ezekiel, it is God who promises to open the graves of the people; the people are helpless to do anything. The psalmist cries to God from out of the depths of pain and helplessness. Acknowledging human propensity to sin, Paul credits the Spirit of God with transforming death into life. Finally, it is Jesus who calls Lazarus out of the grave and returns him to his life. We can see that God does not leave us to languish in our various deaths. Instead, God offers us new life out of the tombs. All of this is accomplished through the mercy and compassion of God.

PROJECT COMPASSION.

When war intensified in Gaza in late 2023, **Ahmad**, a Caritas Jerusalem employee in their Media and Communications team, was forced to flee his home in northern Gaza. Like thousands of families, his family carried almost nothing as they sought safety in Khan Younis. Two months later, disaster struck again when the house where they were sheltering was bombed at night. Ahmad was buried under rubble, his eardrum ruptured. His brother survived with devastating injuries, including the loss of a leg. Despite personal suffering, Ahmad continued his role with Caritas Jerusalem, helping to support families in need.

Ahmad's story is a reminder that Caritas' mission of accompaniment is lived not only through its programs, but through the courage and resilience of its frontline staff.

Together, we can *Unite Against Poverty this Lent* by donating to Project Compassion, **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



LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 23rd March –29th March

MONDAY No Mass

TUESDAY: Mass at Somerville followed by Stations of the Cross

WEDNESDAY: 9.00am Mass at Shoreham

THURSDAY: 9.30am Mass at Hastings

11.00am Mass at Bays Aged Care, 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.

THE VEILING



The traditional Catholic practice of covering Crosses and images throughout the Church is to be observed: Crosses remain uncovered until the end of the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil. It helps us to concentrate on the great Essentials of Christ's work of absolute Redemption. .

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: 28th March & 29th March 2026

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Gary McDonell	Sylvia Falzon	Jesela Baxter	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Barbara Farley
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Marshall	Kees Meyer	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Kees & Genevieve Meyer
Commentator	Sandy Adolphus	John Patterson	Agnes Smith	Counters Next Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Altar Linen		MAR.—Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Leah Stokes
Mass Prep	Mary Marshall	MAR. - Sue Ireland		Audio/Visual	Geoff Robinson
Flowers		Somerville Maintenance: Fred Arena		Communion to the Sick This Week	

LITURGIES DURING HOLY WEEK 2026

PALM SUNDAY - 28/29 April

Blessing of the Palms, followed by Mass.

SAT 6.00pm at Somerville

SUN 8.00am at Shoreham

SUN 10.00am at Hastings

MONDAY - No Service

TUESDAY

9.30am Communion Service at Somerville,
followed by Stations of the Cross

10.00am Chrism Mass at St Patrick's
Cathedral

WEDNESDAY - 9.00am Mass at Shoreham

HOLY THURSDAY—2 April

7.00pm Mass of the Last Supper at
HASTINGS

(washing of the feet and Reposition of the
Blessed Sacrament) **The Church will be
open for a private prayer until 10.30pm*

GOOD FRIDAY – 3 April

10.30am Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at
Uniting Church Hastings (Cnr. Hodgins
Rd & Marine Parade)

3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion –
HASTINGS

3.00pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion –
SHOREHAM

HOLY SATURDAY - 4 April

Vigil Masses begin with the Service of the
Light (outside)

6.00pm at St Brendan's, SOMERVILLE

7.30pm Immaculate Conception Church,
with coffee and tea afterwards in Hastings

**Daylight Savings ends.*

EASTER SUNDAY—5 April

8.00am Easter Mass at St Peter's
SHOREHAM

10.00am Easter Mass at St Peter's
SHOREHAM

10.00am Easter Mass at Immaculate
Conception Church HASTINGS

COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION at Hastings.

6.30p.m. Tuesday, 24th March.

LITURGY MEETING

2p.m. Tuesday, 24th March.

Lenten Discussion Group

St Peter's Shoreham

On **Thursday 26th 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 Con-
ference 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 the
Lenten season.

VOLUNTEER SHEETS FOR HOLY WEEK

Dear Parish volunteers, in the
foyers of our churches you
will find sheets for the liturgies
of Holy Week. If you are
available, please add you
name to the ministry that you
would like to volunteer for by
22nd April. Thank you!

RECONCILIATION. Please pray for the children in our parish
who will be making their First Reconciliation this week.

ANNUAL CHRISM MASS. You are warmly invited to join us for
the annual Chrism Mass, which will be celebrated at St Patrick's
Cathedral on Tuesday 31 March.

In this ancient and beautiful liturgy, Archbishop Peter
Comensoli, together with all of Melbourne's priests, will bless
the oils being used in the sacraments for the year ahead.
For all enquiries, email: communications@cam.org.au.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL. The transformation of St Pat-
rick's Cathedral and its surrounds on Melbourne's
Eastern Hill has begun, with Archbishop Peter Comensoli
launching Light into the City as part of the annual Patrick Ora-
tion. The ambitious new project will reimagine the Cathedral pre-
cinct as a welcoming place of faith, culture, service and civic life
for future generations.

For more information— <https://melbournecatholic.org>

THE PASSION OF CHRIST: 2nd March to 25th March.

This Lent you are invited to ACU Melbourne Campus to an ex-
hibition of "The Passion of Christ by Australian artist Terry
Ffyffe. BYO headphones and smart phone to
engage in a self guided 30 min audio Retreat.

Bookings necessary:

Contact jeremy.ambrose@acu.edu.au

Total giving from the 14th & 15th March 2026.

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and
cheques) \$780.20

2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques)
\$1,555.25

Tap Machine Donations \$78.73

Thank you for your ongoing support!