



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 18th/19th July 2026

PARISH CONTACT

DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Judy Deefholts

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

PARISH CENTRE:
71 Marine Parade Hastings

POSTAL ADDRESS:
PO Box 76 Hastings 3915

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westernport@cam.org.au

Parish Web Site: [http://
westernportchurch.com.au](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

Wisdom 12:13.16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything,
to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.
Your justice has its source in strength,
your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.
You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned
and you expose the insolence of those who know it;
but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement,
you govern us with great lenience,
for you have only to will, and your power is there.
By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people
how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men,
and you have given your sons the good hope
that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 85:5-6. 9-10. 15-16. R. v.5

(R.) Lord, you are good and forgiving.

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.
Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice. **(R.)**
2. All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God. **(R.)**
3. But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

See Matthew 11:25



Gospel Matthew 13:24-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn."

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CS.

Today we hear how the Spirit of God dwells in all of us, helping us in our weakness. The first disciples had Jesus to explain the parables; we have the Spirit to enlighten us. It is the Spirit who helps us to interpret the teaching of Jesus and to be receptive to the challenges that they pose.

The presence of sinners in the kingdom of God is often a stumbling block to good people. There will be a time for separation and judgment, but the time is not now. This means that the righteous will have to live with the sinner and, even more challengingly, show them the same kind of concern that they show to others. The presence of sinners does not necessarily erode the quality of the kingdom. Rather, it provides disciples an opportunity to rise to the occasion of generosity and forgiveness.

There are two images of judgment in the readings. The one in the gospel is terrifying and decisive. The wicked are bound together into bundles and readied for burning. We must remember that this is a parable. In the first reading and in the psalm response the justice of God is said to be lenient, clement and kind. The power of God is demonstrated not in retribution but in mercy. God is said to be 'merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in kindness and fidelity', and repentance is a very real possibility. This is the image that gives us hope.

Help Jesus tell the story of the farmer sowing the seed. Add words and pictures to the story.



A farmer scattered
---- in a field.

Draw the farmer sowing seed.

Some seed fell on the road
and was...



Write down what happened to the seed.

Some seed fell on rocky
ground where the soil was not
deep; the plants that grew
withered in the ----.



Draw what happened to the seed
which fell on rocky ground.

Some seed fell among thorns,
which choked the plants that grew.



Draw thorns choking the plants.

But some seed fell on good ground and...

Write down what happened to the seed that fell on good ground and draw a picture of it.

LITURGIES THIS WEEK,: 20th - 26th July**MONDAY:** No Service**TUESDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Somerville**WEDNESDAY:****9.00am** Mass at Shoreham**THURSDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Hastings**FRIDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Hastings**SATURDAY:****10.00am–10.30am.** Reconciliation at Hastings**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 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 Bill Pope. May they rest in peace.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—25th/26th July

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Sandy Adolphus	Joan White	Brian McAnallen	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Brian McAnallen
Eucharistic Ministers	Louise Street	Sue Ireland	Barbara Farley Deirdre Fennessy	Counters This Week	Heimann Sissing Brian McAnallen
Commentator	Garry McDonell	Sylvia Falzon	Val Coventry	Counters Next Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Altar Linen	JULY—Christine Coleman	JULY—Val Fakhry		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Mary Marshall	JULY—Val Fakhry		Audio/Visual	Princes Jellyanne Manocan
Flowers	Sandy Adolphus			Communion to the Sick This Week	Anne Marie Lawson



MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026

What synodality is NOT

Synodality is not about changing doctrine according to popular opinion. The faith handed down through the centuries is not negotiable. What synodality seeks to renew is how we live, communicate, and embody that faith in changing times.

Westernport Parish response to the Synod .

Synod 2026 invites us to listen attentively to the Spirit speaking to the Church in the Archdiocese of Melbourne today. In the coming days, we will enter into a time of spiritual conversation as we reflect on the three themes offered by the Archdiocese of Melbourne: **Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership and Formation, and Participation**. As we, the Westernport Parish family prepares to respond, further details will be shared soon.

CONFIRMATION COMMITMENT MASSES. We welcome all our Confirmation Candidates and their families to our Commitment Masses this weekend.

ST. MARY'S NEWS - Sacrament of Confirmation

We warmly thank our parish community for your prayers, welcome and support of our Confirmation candidates during this special time in their faith journey.

Please continue to keep our candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Saturday 1st August at 6:00pm** at St Brendan's Somerville. This year, our three parish primary schools will come together to celebrate this special occasion in one Mass.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS.

Please note that from 3rd August, the Parish Office will not be open on Tuesdays. Office Hours are: 9.30a.m. to 3p.m. Wednesday to Friday.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CUPBOARD

Our cupboard is currently full, and we are using space in the Parish House to store food. We have never been in this position before and we thank everyone for their generous support.

ARCHBISHOP COMMONSOLI has issued a Pastoral Letter, and an English translation, of the Decree and Explanatory Notes issued by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith (DDF), regarding the Priestly Society of Saint Pius X.

There are copies of both on the table in the foyer.

ST CARLOS ACUTIS – The First Millennial Saint.

The Legion of Mary is hosting the Eucharistic Miracles Exhibition of St Carlo Acutis. Canonised by Pope Leo XIV in September 2025, St Carlo Acutis inspired millions around the world through his deep love for Jesus in the Eucharist and his creative use of technology to share the faith.

Thursday 16 July 2026 – Tuesday 28 July 2026: 10a.m. to 3p.m. Contact: 0423 838 756

Total giving from 11th/12th July

1st Collection – Presbytery - \$583.30
2nd Collection – Church Account - 1309.10
Tap Machine - \$227.48
Thank you for your ongoing support!

ENRICHMENT DAY FOR COUPLES.

The 5 Love Languages- The Secret to Love that Lasts: Enrichment Day for Couples is based on the international best-seller by Dr Gary Chapman (more than 10 million copies sold).

9 am-5 pm, Sat, 15 August 2026 @ St Eugene's Retreat & Conference Centre, 45 John Field Drive, Newborough (Gippsland) VIC 3825

Cost: \$60 per couple (includes course materials, lunch and morning & afternoon tea)

More information and booking: <https://www.trybooking.com/DMSUR>

Enquiries: Maria & Andre Rasquinha E: andrerasquinha@yahoo.com.au T: 0411 225 992

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