



## Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

**4th Sunday of Easter - Year C, 11 May 2025**

### PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

**Parish Priest:** Fr Shymon  
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

**Parish Secretary:**  
Hijacinta Svabelj

**Pastoral Worker:**  
Deirdre Fennessy

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

**Phone - 5979 4374**

### PARISH CENTRE:

71 Marine Parade Hastings

### POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 76 Hastings 3915

### Email:

[westernport@cam.org.au](mailto:westernport@cam.org.au)

### Parish Web Site:

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

[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

Acts 13:14. 43-52

#### A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to the synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats.

When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God has given them. The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said:

'I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.'

It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside. But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 99:1-3. 5

#### **R. We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness.  
Come before him, singing for joy. **(R.)**

Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him,  
we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **(R.)**

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love.  
He is faithful from age to age. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

Apocalypse 7:9. 14-17

#### A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

**The word of the Lord.**

## Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

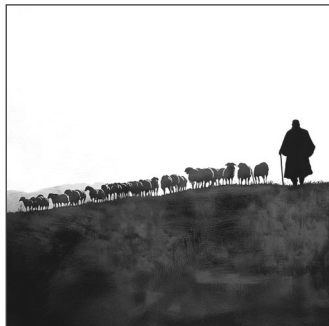
**Alleluia, alleluia!**

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me. **Alleluia, alleluia!**

## Gospel

John 10:27–30

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**



Jesus said: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me.

The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

### REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

This Sunday is traditionally referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. However, the readings for today focus more on the flock than on the shepherd. The overarching theme appears to be unity in diversity. Placing this theme within the context of the Easter season, we might refocus it slightly and suggest that today we celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord in communities of difference.

Unity in diversity is first found in the divine union of the Trinity. All other models of unity flow from it. Both the first and the second readings depict communities made up of people from every nation, race, people and tongue, Jews and Gentile alike. This is precisely the makeup of most communities today. Parishes and religious groups that were born with a particular cultural identity have changed in complexion and composition. Despite the obvious differences, all are children of the one God, all are joined in their common confession of faith.

Not everyone is happy with diversity. Some within the early community resented the success of Paul and Barnabas and they tried to turn the people against them. This sounds strangely familiar to us. Religious groups born out of struggle and hard work, that were lovingly nurtured and that grew strong, often resist what they perceived to be the invasion of foreigners. If these people could only take as their model the company of the blessed revealed in John's vision, they would see that those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb come from every nation and race and people and tongue.

### PARISH MINISTRIES

**Pentecost Sunday**, occurring on June 8th, serves as an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to volunteering within our Community. Numerous parishioners are already engaged in a variety of visible and less visible roles within our Parish. An increase in volunteers would alleviate the burden for all.

Additional volunteers are required, and the statistics for Hastings and Somerville as of Thursday, May 8th, are as follows:

Commentator – Hastings 2, Somerville 2

Lector – Hastings 5, Somerville – 2

Eucharistic Minister – Hastings 2, Somerville 4

Flowers – Hastings 0, Somerville 4

Hastings Mass Welcomer – 1     I Hastings Audio Visual - 0

Somerville Altar Linen –1     I Somerville Mass Preparation - 1

Somerville Cleaners - 1     I Somerville Maintenance Term – 0

Communion to the Sick – 0     I Counters – total 2

**If you are already on a Roster this year and you wish to continue for the next 12 months, you still need to place your name on the new Volunteer List.** Please return forms by Sunday, 18th of May.

### SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our **Sacramental Program** for children who do not attend our Parish Primary Schools will be commencing on 14<sup>th</sup> May for Reconciliation and First Eucharist and 2<sup>nd</sup> July for Confirmation. Enrolment forms and more details are on the Parish Website or contact the Parish Office.

Please get any interested families to contact the Parish.

**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, 12 May—18 May****MONDAY** No Service**TUESDAY 9.30am** Mass at Somerville**WEDNESDAY 9.00am** Mass at Shoreham**THURSDAY 9.30am** Communion Service at Hastings**FRIDAY 9.30am** Mass at Hastings**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 Bob Smith, Rebecca, Eddie and Marie Merezko, Stephen Charles, Halima, Sala, Agnes, Malia, Janelle Farley, Mary McCluskey, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Tommy Judge, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Pat Tagliabue, Frank Tagliabue, Michael Pound, John Kelly, Janice Danaher, Vicky Mathis, Edna Walsh, Jane Maria, Kathy Burke, Frank Howard, Mike Mason, Elaine Duyvestyn, James Smythe, Lucy Triffett, Helena Jaskolski, Oscar Dixon-Rotherham, Margaret Sherlock, Kathleen 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.*

**Thank you from CatholicCare Victoria!**

CatholicCare Victoria is deeply grateful for the support of our parish during last week's CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. The generosity of our parish community means that CatholicCare Victoria can continue the mission; to create transformational personal impact and empower every individual to reach their full potential and live life to the full.

Thank you for helping those in need! For more information about CatholicCare Victoria, please visit:

[www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au)

**NAMES ON ROSTERS BELOW FOR SERVICES NEXT WEEK, 17/5 & 18/5/2025**

| <b>MINISTRY</b>              | <b><i>Somerville</i></b> | <b><i>Shoreham</i></b>                | <b><i>Hastings</i></b>          |                                        |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                | Tracey Clark             | Damian Ireland                        | Jesela Baxter                   | <b>Mass Welcomer Hastings</b>          |                          |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> | Maree Chapman            | Genevieve Meyer                       | Lioba Robinson<br>Isobel Wilson | <b>Counters This Week</b>              | Kees & Genevieve Meyer   |
| <b>Commentator</b>           | Judy Deefholts           | Pauline D'Astoli                      | Val Coventry                    | <b>Counters Next Week</b>              | Barbara & Gerald O'Brien |
| <b>Altar Linen</b>           |                          | MAY—Anne<br>Maree Dyer                |                                 | <b>Sacristan</b>                       | Leah Marsh               |
| <b>Mass Prep</b>             | Val Baxter               | MAY—Margaret Grant                    |                                 | <b>Audio/Visual</b>                    | Jesele Baxter            |
| <b>Flowers</b>               | Val Baxter               | <b><i>Somerville Maintenance—</i></b> |                                 | <b>Communion to the Sick This Week</b> | Group 2—Fr Shymon        |
| <b>Cleaning</b>              | MAY—Christine Coleman    | Bill & Anne-Marie Lawson              |                                 |                                        |                          |

## HABEMUS PAPAM! – WE HAVE A NEW POPE! WELCOME, POPE LEO XIV!

We are filled with joy and excitement as we welcome our new Holy Father, **Pope Leo XIV!** From the community of Western Port Parish and School, we offer our warmest congratulations and prayers. This is a special moment in the life of the Church, and we look forward with hope and faith to Pope Leo XIV's leadership. May the Holy Spirit guide him as he leads the Church with love, wisdom, and humility.

Let us keep Pope Leo XIV in our hearts and prayers as he begins this important mission.  
Viva il Papa! Long live the Pope!

### A Prayer for Pope Leo XIV:

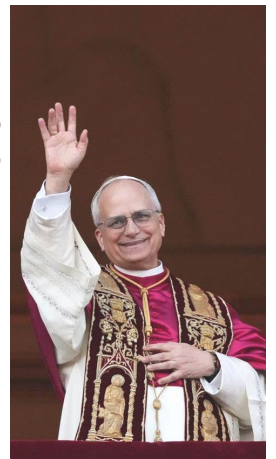
**Lord God, we thank You for our new Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.**

**Fill him with Your wisdom and strength as he guides Your Church.**

**May he be a faithful shepherd, a voice of peace, and a sign of Your love to the world.**

**Bless him in every step of his mission. Amen.**

Pope Leo XIV has opened his pontificate with words of peace and hope. 'Peace be with you!' the Holy Father said as he stepped out on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica. The newly elected leader of the Catholic Church, who was born as **Robert Prevost** in Chicago, greeted the faithful in his *Urbi et Orbi* blessing and spoke of the need to 'build bridges with dialogue and encounter' as a 'missionary church'. Continue reading: [Pope Leo XIV opens his pontificate with peace | Melbourne Catholic](#)



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. **Pope Francis** told us: *There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him.* Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood. You might know of a young person in the parish, in your family or an acquaintance whom you think would make a good priest or religious. Why not pray for them by name on a regular basis? Carry them with you 'spiritually' to Mass on Sunday and place them on the altar at the offertory. Sometimes the Lord uses us as his instruments to encourage vocations.

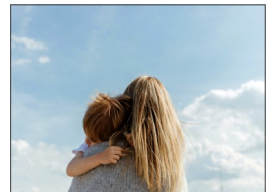
## MAY, THE MONTH OF MARY



## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

May God bless all mothers with all the happiness in the world on this special day!

*Mother Mary, pray for us!*



## TURN DEBT INTO HOPE LAUNCH - 16th May 12 pm AEST

Join us in this **Year of Jubilee** to launch the **Turn Debt into Hope** campaign. The *Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office for Justice Ecology and Peace*, and *Caritas Australia* invite you to join us in tackling the global debt crisis. Countries like Samoa and Malawi struggle because their debts are too high. But this isn't just about money—it's about people. Unjust debt crushes hope, steals opportunities, and leaves communities struggling to survive. **Register for the Launch Webinar:** On **May 16, 2025, at 12:00 PM (AEST)**, Caritas Australia and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Office for Justice, Ecology and Peace will host a webinar to launch this campaign. Register to learn more about the crisis, why this campaign is crucial during the Jubilee Year, and how you can take action to support global economic justice. To learn more and register for the launch visit: [www.caritas.org.au/debt](http://www.caritas.org.au/debt)

## LAUDATO SI WEEK (16th May – 24th May)

In 2015, **Pope Francis** wrote his encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The letter expresses praise to God and, recognising the beauty and wonder of creation, urges us to address the ecological crises facing the planet. The Australian Catholic Bishops urge all Australian Catholics to join the *Laudato Si'* Action Platform – "a shared space where the Church develops a bold and active response to the ecological crisis". They also urge Australian Catholics to develop and implement their own *Laudato Si'* Action Plan. More information is available at <https://www.caritas.org.au/media/jxmndxsd/caritas-australian-guide-to-laudato-si-action-planning.pdf> and spiritual resources are available at: [Eco-Spirituality Resources - Laudato Si' Movement](#).

## ARCHBISHOP COMENSOLI'S LETTER REGARDING WELCOMING THE PLEDGE FOR CATHEDRAL RESTORATION

Last week we published how **Archbishop Peter A Comensoli** has welcomed a bipartisan pledge of \$60 million from Australia's two major political parties to kickstart the restoration of Melbourne's St Patrick's Cathedral. Archbishop's Letter to Clergy, Religious and Laity is now available on the welcoming tables of our churches.

## Total givings from the week 28/4-4/5/25

|                                                                                             |          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) | \$840.70 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)     | \$1164   |
| Tap Machine                                                                                 | \$53.61  |