



Western Port Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

2nd Sunday of Lent - Year C, 1 March 2026

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

Pastoral Worker:
Deirdre Fennessy

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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

Genesis 12:1-4

A reading from the book of Genesis

The Lord said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name so famous that it will be used as a blessing.

'I will bless those who bless you:
I will curse those who slight you.
All the tribes of the earth
shall bless themselves by you.'

So Abram went as the Lord told him.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love.(**R.**)

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.(**R.**)

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you. (**R.**)

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:8-10

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

With me, bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News, relying on the power of God who has saved us and called us to be holy - not because of anything we ourselves have done but for his own purpose and by his own grace. This grace had already been granted to us, in Christ Jesus, before the beginning of time, but it has only been revealed by the Appearing of our saviour Christ Jesus. He abolished death, and he has proclaimed life and immortality through the Good News.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

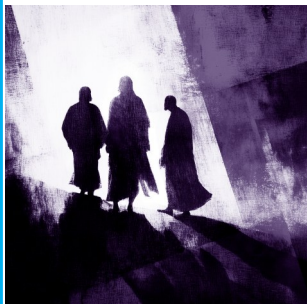
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

Matthew 17:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.



As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The blessings upon which we meditate today are undeserved gifts from God. They were not earned. The graciousness of God transforms us in such a way as to effect new beginnings. It can be seen in the promises made to Abram. He leaves the past behind and moves into a new future. It can be seen in the psalm response. The Lord delivers us from death and inspires us to look to the future. It can be seen in the reading from 2 Timothy. Through Christ Jesus we are called to a new life of holiness; we escape the fetters of death and are brought into the freedom of the resurrection. We see it in the gospel, a glimpse into the future glory of Jesus which, through grace, we will be able to share. Lent is a time of new beginnings which find their origin in the abundant blessings of God.

The ultimate blessing of God is Jesus himself. As Abram was called to be the source of blessing for all others, as Peter, James and John were chosen to witness the transfiguration of Jesus, so today we too are invited to look to Jesus for inspiration during this holy season. Paul speaks of the salvation that Jesus brings as having come, not because of any works of righteousness that we might have performed, but because of the grace of God. Once again the Lenten readings focus on the merciful action of God in our lives, and in the end they point to Jesus.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET



God wants us to listen to Jesus. Draw a picture of each of these different ways we can listen to Jesus.

Reading my bible

Listening to my teachers

Praying to Jesus

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, 2nd March –8th March

MONDAY No Mass

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

WEDNESDAY 9.00am Mass at Shoreham

4.00pm Staff Commissioning Mass at Somerville

THURSDAY 9.30am Mass at Hastings

1st FRIDAY 9.00am Eucharistic Adoration in Hastings

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,

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, especially Max Paganoni, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Kevin Paganoni (2 years anniversary). May they rest in peace.

STATIOS OF THE CROSS

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

Congratulations to our St Vincent De Paul Conference Members,

who have been honoured for their long and faithful service, especially to —

Catherine Russ - 5 years service award

Ann Lorkin, Bill Grant, Kathy Robinson and Tom Leyden—10 years service awards

Ross Smyrk—20 years service award

and **Laurie Hull** (Val Coventry's brother) on his 35 years service award.

Your generosity and compassion continue to bless our community. We thank you for your dedication!

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: 7th March & 8th March 2026

MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings		
Lector	Christine Coleman	Anthony Grimes	Geraldine Prescott	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Brian McAnallen
Eucharistic Ministers	Louise Street	Marg Grant	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Stephen Stewart, Ian Marshall
Commentator	Garry McDonell	Peter Schreiner	Jared McCartin	Counters Next Week	Heimann Sissing, Brian McAnallen
Altar Linen		MAR.—Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Mary Marshall	MAR. - Sue Ireland		Audio/Visual	Geoff Robinson
Flowers		Somerville Maintenance—		Communion to the Sick This Week	Judy Deefholts
		Sharon Judd			

MORNING TEA AT HASTINGS

There will be a Morning Tea after the 10.00am Mass at Hastings this Sunday, 1st March. All are welcome.

LADIES LUNCH

Friday 5th March 12 pm at the Westernport Hotel. Please call **Diane - 0419 633 044** —if you would like to attend.

WELCOME, FIRST RECONCILIATION CANDIDATES

We welcome the candidates of **St Brendan's**, **St Joseph's** and **St Mary's school** who are preparing for the sacrament of First Reconciliation for their Commitment Masses this weekend. We also welcome their parents/guardians.

FR SHYMON'S 17th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION THIS SUNDAY

Dear Parishioners, I'm humbled by your kindness and support on this ordination anniversary. Please continue to support me through your prayers. Fr Shymon

Eramos Spirituality Group 2026

Tuesday, 10th March at St Peter's Church, 10.00am—12.30pm

PROJECT COMPASSION

Sisilia is a 13-year-old girl living in remote Tanzania, who had to walk long distances to collect water every day. Thanks to Project Compassion, Sisilia's school and village now have safe clean water close by and she can spend more time studying so she can fulfil her dream of one day becoming a pilot.



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



Caritas
AUSTRALIA

**PROJECT
COMPASSION**

EUCHARIST28 Prayer



Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you for the gift of your real presence in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Grant us the grace to receive you reverently, worship you truly and serve you with hearts renewed.

By the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen us, so that as you gave yourself to the Father and to us, we too may offer our lives to God and to others.

Inspire and help us to serve you in those who are in need, especially the defenceless and homeless, the lonely and lost. Unite us with your sacrifice of the Mass, so that we may truly become what we have received, the Body of Christ. Amen

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION IN OUR PARISH THIS WEEKEND

As a part of preparation for Eucharistic Congress 2028 in Sydney, there will be Eucharistic Adoration in our Parish this weekend. **Let us seat in silence, prayer and adore Our Lord in front of the Blessed Sacrament for half an hour before the Mass.**

St Brendan's— 5.45pm-6.15pm; St Peter's —7.45am –8.15am;

Immaculate Conception Church—9.45am-10.15am

Lenten Discussion Group St Peter's Shoreham

On **Thursday 12, 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. This year, the bishops have chosen to release two statements: one in February and another in August ahead of Social Justice Sunday (30 August 2026). The February statement is entitled: *The Cost of our Living: Economic and Social Justice for the Common Good*.

See article in Melbourne Catholic with links to the Statement <https://melbourncatholic.org/news/bishops-seek-focus-on-cost-of-living-crisis>

A REAL HUNGER FOR GOD': RECORD NUMBERS AT THIS YEAR'S RITE OF ELECTION

This year's Rite of Election has seen record numbers, with around 550 people preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) this Easter. It's the largest number ever recorded for the Archdiocese, and reflects a steady increase in recent years of those seeking the sacraments. There was barely a seat left in the Cathedral, as



Archbishop Peter A Comensoli welcomed everyone gathered—'all of God's holy people'—to their 'spiritual home ... the mother church of Melbourne'. Catechumen from our Parish **James** was also there, with his family, our Pastoral Worker **Deirdre Fennessy**, our RCIA Team and **Fr Shymon**.

Continue reading: ['A real hunger for God': record numbers at this year's Rite of Election](#)

Total giving from the week 16th Feb. 2026—22nd Feb. 2026

1 st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)	\$827.35
2 nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques)	\$914.40
Tap Machine Donations	\$171.97