



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

3rd Sunday of Easter—Year A—18th/19th April, 2026.

PARISH CONTACT

DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Judy Deefholts

Pastoral Worker:
Deirdre Fennessy

**Office Hours: 9.30am-
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BAPTISM ENQUIRIES &

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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
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lege Vice Principal
Matthew Williams 5976 0100

VINNIES OP SHOP 83 High
St Hastings 5979 4373

St Vincent de Paul Help

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:14, 22-33

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

On the day of Pentecost, Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd in a loud voice: 'Men of Israel, listen to what I am going to say: Jesus the Nazarene was a man commended to you by God by the miracles and portents and signs that God worked through him when he was among you, as you all know. This man, who was put into your power by the deliberate intention and fore-knowledge of God, you took and had crucified by men outside the Law. You killed him, but God raised him to life, freeing him from the pangs of Hades; for it was impossible for him to be held in its power since, as David says of him:

I saw the Lord before me always, for with him at my right hand nothing can shake me. So my heart was glad and my tongue cried out with joy: my body, too, will rest in the hope that you will not abandon my soul to Hades nor allow your holy one to experience corruption. You have made known the way of life to me, you will fill me with gladness through your presence.

'Brothers, no one can deny that the patriarch David himself is dead and buried: his tomb is still with us. But since he was a prophet, and knew that God had sworn him an oath to make one of his descendants succeed him on the throne, what he foresaw and spoke about was the resurrection of the Christ: he is the one who was not abandoned to Hades, and whose body did not experience corruption. God raised this man Jesus to life, and all of us are witnesses to that. Now raised to the heights by God's right hand, he has received from the Father the Holy Spirit, who was promised, and what you see and hear is the outpouring of that Spirit.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 15:1-2, 5, 7-11, R. v.11

(R.) Lord, you will show us the path of life.

1. Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.
I say to the Lord: 'You are my God.
O Lord, it is you who are my portion and cup;
it is you yourself who are my prize.' (R.)
2. I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel,
who even at night directs my heart.
I keep the Lord ever in my sight:
since he is at my right hand, I shall stand firm. (R.)
3. And so my heart rejoices, my soul is glad;
even my body shall rest in safety.
For you will not leave my soul among the dead,
nor let your beloved know decay. (R.)
4. You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence,
at your right hand happiness for ever. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-21

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

If you are acknowledging as your Father one who has no favourites and judges everyone according to what he has done, you must be scrupulously careful as long as you are living away from your home. Remember, the ransom that was paid to free you from the useless way of life your ancestors handed down was not paid in anything corruptible, neither in silver nor gold, but in the precious blood of a lamb without spot or stain, namely Christ; who, though known since before the world was made, has been revealed only in our time, the end of the ages, for your sake. Through him you now have faith in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory for that very reason – so that you would have faith and hope in God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us:

make our hearts burn with love when you speak.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 24:13-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast.

Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'

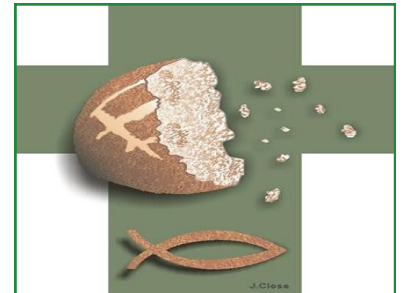
Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe the full message of the prophets! Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.

When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them. 'It is nearly evening' they said 'and the day is almost over.' So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'

They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions, who said to them, 'Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.' Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Luke 24:32



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Easter mystagogical instruction continues. Today we reflect on life as a journey. This theme expresses well the fact that life is not static, but is a movement from one point to another. Actually, we do not so much make the journey as we join one that is already in progress. Nor are we alone on it. We have companions who share their encouragement and support, their talents and insight. Like the two disciples travelling to Emmaus, we have certain expectations which Jesus does not seem to fulfil. They did not realise that through his death he had accomplished everything. They did not realise that the Risen Lord himself was their travelling companion.

As with them, so with us. We may not see the extraordinary in the ordinary. We may not see the hand of God in our lives. Perhaps we need someone to interpret for us both the tradition and the events of life. Despite appearances, something is happening beneath what we are able to observe. God is at work beneath and within our lives. Once we realise who this unique travelling companion really is, our hearts too will burn within us, our eyes too will be opened, and we too will look at life with the assurance of faith. Easter faith will transform our disillusionment into missionary zeal. Some of us may be called upon to give public witness, as did Peter. Most will preach with the example of our lives. All can enter this mystery as we recognise him in the breaking of the bread.

LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 20th—26th April.**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****10.00a.m.—10.30a.m. 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****ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL:**

We are in desperate need of your support. Our cupboard is depleted, and we need some more perishable items. If you can help with cans of Soup, Meat & Vegetables, Diced Tomatoes, Spaghetti, Baked Beans, Tuna or Salmon, Vegetables, tinned fruit. Pasta and Sauces, Vegemite, Peanut Butter, Jam. Packets of sweet and dry biscuits, two-minute noodles and cup of soup, long life milk. Tea and Coffee and toiletries. Please do not donate sugar or powdered milk.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

PRAYERS AND PETITIONS

Please pray for those who are sick, especially 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, Michael Pound, 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, especially Marie Dixon and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—25th & 26th April

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Christine Coleman	Michael Callaghan	Michael Smith	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Agnes Smith
Eucharistic Ministers	Val Baxter	Val Fakhry	Barbara Farley Dierdre Fennessy	Counters This Week	Derrick & Judy Deefholts
Commentator	Sandy Adolphus	Anthony Grimes	Val Coventry	Counters Next Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Altar Linen		APRIL—Val Fakhry		Sacristan	Leah Stokes
Mass Prep	Val Baxter	APRIL—Val Fakhry		Audio/Visual	Princes Jellyanne Manocan
Flowers	Sandy Adolphus	Somerville Maintenance—	Fred Arena	Communion to the Sick This Week	Judy Deefholts

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our Parish Sacramental Program for the preparation to receive the **Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist** will run for 6 weeks on Wednesday 13th & 20th May, at 4pm until 5.30pm at the Immaculate Conception Church, Hastings with the Sacrament of First Reconciliation to be held on **Saturday 23rd May at 10am**. The program will then continue on Wednesday 27th May, 3rd, 10th, & 17th June at 4pm until 5.30pm. A Commitment Mass on **Sunday 17th May & 31st May at 10am** at Hastings is a required attendance. The First Eucharist Mass will be held on Sunday 21st June in Hastings at 10am.

Our Parish Sacramental Program for the preparation to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** will run for 4 weeks on Wednesday 24th June, 15th, 22nd & 29th July at 4pm until 5.30pm at the Immaculate Conception Church, Hastings. A Commitment Mass on **Sunday 19th July at 10am** at Hastings is a required attendance. The only Confirmation Mass for the parish will be held on **Saturday, 1st August** at St. Brendan's, Somerville.

CONGRATULATIONS -Bishop Rene Ramirez RCJ!

Pope Leo has appointed Melbourne's Auxiliary Bishop Rene Ramirez as the ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Sandhurst.

On 8 November 2024, he was appointed by Pope Francis as an Auxiliary Bishop for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. He was ordained to the episcopacy on 1 February 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne, and became the bishop of the northern region of the largest diocese in Oceania.

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY.

Next Sunday we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday – the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. During this coming week, perhaps you may like to make a prayer each day for more vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Perhaps there is a young person you may know to pray for by name this week.

MIDDLE EAST EMERGENCY APPEAL – Aid to the Church in Need. This appeal is calling for urgent prayer and support for Christian communities affected by war in the Middle East. Your help will provide emergency food packages, support parishes sheltering displaced families, keep schools running, and supply vital medical and pastoral care.

To learn more or give today, please visit www.rebrand.ly/

CATHOLICCARE VICTORIA SUNDAY APPEAL: 2nd & 3rd May 2026.

CatholicCare Victoria is the Church's mission in action, empowering children and young people, strengthening families and individuals, providing safe housing and homelessness assistance and supporting refugees and asylum seekers.

This year, the Appeal focuses on homelessness. Our faith calls us to welcome the stranger and care for those in need. The support of parish communities helps open the door to safety, dignity and hope. Your support will make a real and lasting impact in the lives of vulnerable individuals and families in our communities.

PARISH MINISTRIES - MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It's that time of the year again when we are looking for volunteers to help with the Ministries at our Mass Centres. This commitment is for 12 months commencing on Pentecost Sunday. Many parishioners already assist by doing various tasks in our Parish and we are thankful for that. An increase in volunteers would alleviate the burden for all. **If you are already on a Roster this year, you still need to place your name on the new Volunteer List.** Please return your form by the **Sunday, 10th May.**

Working With Children Check

It is a **requirement** of the Archdiocese of Melbourne that all Parishes keep a Register of all those who volunteer within the Parish so you will need to have a current Working With Children Check. To apply for one as a volunteer or renew your WWCC is free, just go to <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> and the instructions. If you have any queries, please contact the - Parish Office 5979 4374.

NATIONAL COUNT OF ATTENDANCE.

The Catholic Church in Australia is gearing up for a nationwide measure of Mass attendance. This will take place in all Churches beginning 1st week of May for four weeks.

In May, the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's National Centre for Pastoral Research will conduct the sixth National Count of Attendance.

This year marks 25 years of collecting valuable insights into long-term trends within the Catholic Church and Mass attendance is perhaps the most basic measure of religious practice.

The National Count is conducted in the same year as the Australian Census (to be held on 11 August) so that the information collected can most effectively be used in association with results from the other project.'

PROJECT COMPASSION BOXES. Don't forget to return these by 30th May, 2026. Thank you!

Total giving from the week 11/4—12/4/2026

1st Collection – Presbytery - \$740.95

2nd Collection – Church Account (*Including Direct Debts, Credit Cards, cheques and Envelopes*) - \$1527.20

Tap Machine - \$235.97

Thank you for your ongoing support!

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