



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph -Year A, 28 December 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

Parish Web Site:

[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 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

Sirach 3:2-6

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy; with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays.

Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! (R.)

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you.
Alleluia!

Gospel**Matthew 2:13-25. 19-23****A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt.



After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled:

He will be called a Nazarene.

The Gospel of the Lord.**REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA**

All of the major themes found in today's readings highlight the relational character of family life. In Sirach some of the dynamics of family living and responsibility as exercised in the ancient world unfold before our eyes. The rewards of faithfully observing these family codes are showcased in the responsorial Psalm. Paul directs our attention to the manner of relational living to which we are summoned as members of the family of God, a manner of living that flows from the bond of perfection that unites us. The gospel narrative paints a picture of a family that follows the directives of God.

So much has been said recently about family values. But what exactly are they? The specifics of family customs and roles played within the family may be culture-bound, but it seems that the values out of which they emerge and that inform them are not. They include mutuality, respect and service between wives and husbands, between parents and children, and between the young and the old.

Mutuality, respect and service become characteristics of the Church or the ecclesial family as well. What binds the family of God together are virtues that are as relational as are the ties that bind the members of the natural family together. It may be more challenging to live out these values within the church, for those who are called to put on Christ, bearing with one another in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience must relate in this way with people who may be strangers.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Draw the angel speaking to Joseph in his dream.

**Scriptural
Context****Out of Egypt**

The gospel of Matthew uses the recount of the genealogy of Jesus and the infancy narrative in its first two chapters to establish a context for the main part of the gospel. This gospel presents Jesus as a new Moses-figure: firmly in the Jewish tradition and bringing about a new Law. Just as Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt to a new life and new relationship with God, so too Jesus is portrayed as coming out of Egypt to bring about a new life and new relationship with God. The account of the flight to Egypt is predominantly to bring Jesus out of Egypt again!

LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 29th December—4th January**MONDAY** No Mass**TUESDAY 9.30am** Mass at Somerville**WEDNESDAY—No Mass at Shoreham****THURSDAY 9.00am** Eucharistic Adoration followed by
9.30am Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass at Hastings**FRIDAY— No Mass at Hastings****SATURDAY****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 Ian Marshall, Russell Petrie, Bob Fels, Pat Pope, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Kees Meyer, Michael Smith, Danny McGeough, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Marie Mereszko, Halima, Sala, Agnes, Malia, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Frank Tagliabue, Michael Pound, 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, 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 Jack Danaher. May they rest in peace.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CUPBOARD

The demand for non-perishable food is significant and the Conference is currently purchasing items to give to those in need in our Community. We are in desperate need of the following food items. Long Life Milk, Pasta and Pasta sauces, tins of Soup, Baked Beans, Spaghetti, Tuna, diced Tomatoes, tins of Vegetables and tinned Fruit . Spreads such as Peanut Butter, Jam, Vegemite, Sweet and Dry biscuits and Two-minute noodles and Cup of soups . Any type of toiletries would be most welcome Thank you for your ongoing support!

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: 3rd & 4th January 2026

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Maree Chapman	8.00am Marie Hall, 10.00am Pauline D'Astoli	Agnes Smith	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Barbara Farley
Eucharistic Ministers	Maree Chapman	8.00am Ann Lorkin, 10.00am Ann Lorkin	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Judy & Derrick Deefholts, S. Stewart, B. McAnallen
Commentator	Garry McDonell	8.00am Anthony Grimes 10.00am Ann Lorkin	Tom Leyden	Counters Next Week	Heimann Sissing, Brian McAnallen
Altar Linen		JAN. - Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Leah Marsh
Mass Prep	Mary Marshall	JAN. - Catherine Russ		Audio/Visual	Geoff Robinson
Flowers	Sandy Adolphus	Somerville Maintenance—Fred Arena		Communion to the Sick This Week	N/A

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Let's welcome New Year and celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, by asking God's grace with

9.00am Adoration and

9.30am Holy Mass on

Thursday 1 January

at Immaculate Conception Church, Hastings



A THANK YOU NOTE

I express my gratitude to our committed parish staff, volunteers, sacristans, ministers, readers, and parishioners who collaborated in organizing the beautiful celebrations for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses. Your hard work has made these events truly remarkable. I extend special thanks to everyone for their support, Christmas greetings, and considerate gifts. Your contributions have significantly enhanced the joy of this season. Please note I'll be away in January and Fr Michael Miles and Fr Geoff Barron will be celebrating Masses in my absence.

Blessings to you all. *Fr. Shymon.*

ARCHBISHOP'S COMENSOLI CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

When we wish someone a 'Happy Christmas', there's a quiet gift that comes with those words. Hope is that gift. We are saying, I hope that you and those you love may be well, whatever your circumstances. 'Happy Christmas' is more than a seasonal greeting. It's a small ritual of kindness that says, 'I want what is good for you, even if life is imperfect.' Hope is a kind of glue. It binds our relationships together across time. To continue reading Archbishop's Peter A. Comensoli's Christmas Message, please visit: ['What is this hope we wish each other?' A... | Melbourne Catholic](#)

Tap Machine Donations

Please note, Tap Machine Donations will be available only at Somerville and Hastings churches for the next six weekends.

NEW YEAR'S PRAYER FOR FAMILY UNITY



Heavenly Father,

I dedicate my family to

You this year. Protect us from division, misunderstanding, and strife. Let Your love bind us together in peace and understanding. Teach us to forgive quickly, support one another, and live in harmony. May our home be a dwelling of Your presence, a refuge of joy, and a testimony of Your grace. Lord, let unity reign in our family throughout this year and beyond. Amen.

Psalm 133:1 *"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"*
Lord, unite my family this year in love and peace. Amen.

2026 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

You can find 2026 Columban Art Calendars for \$10 each in the foyer of our churches.

GOD'S WORD 2026 - DAILY REFLECTIONS—AVAILABLE AGAIN - *God's Word 2026 Daily Reflections* is available again to purchase in the foyer of Hastings church at price: \$22.00.

PASTORAL LETTER ON CONCLUSION OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

As we conclude the Jubilee Year of Hope, Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli has written a Pastoral Letter about Jubilee Year journey. You can find copies of this letter in the foyers of our three churches.

Total giving from the week 15th Dec.—21th Dec. 2025

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) - \$1008.80

2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques) - \$882.60 Tap Machine Donations - \$93.26

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