



Western Port Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

3rd Sunday of Lent -Year A, 8 March 2026

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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Thekkekalathungal IVDei

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**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

Exodus 17:3-7

A reading from the book of Exodus

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R)**

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R)**

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me,
though they saw my work.' **(R)**

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

The word of the Lord.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

John 4:4-5. 19-26. 39-42

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already -when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'



The Gospel of the Lord.

LIVING the gospel

Personal encounter

The Samaritan woman's personal encounter with Jesus compels her to start spreading the good news about the amazing man she has met. She meets Jesus face to face and feels compelled to act on what she has felt. Lent is a time for each of us to again - or for the first time - seek out a face to face encounter with Jesus. Through prayer, contemplation on scripture or reflection on encountering Jesus in the face of others, we build a one to one relationship with Jesus. When we acknowledge this relationship, like the Samaritan woman, we are compelled to act on it.

Collaboration: Growing Vital Parishes

Saturday 28 March 2026, 10am - 3.30pm, Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne
Guest Faciliator: Sr Cathy Solano RSM

As we continue our *Take the Way of the Gospel* journey, parish clergy and leadership teams are invited to a practical workshop focused on collaboration — an essential part of being a vital parish.

Our parishes are made up of many backgrounds and experiences. Yet, we are one Body of Christ. This day is a time to be formed, so we can better understand our communities and work together as disciples for the mission of the Gospel. **If you would like to register, please contact the Parish Office.**

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, 9th March –15th March

MONDAY No Mass

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

WEDNESDAY 9.00am Mass at Shoreham

THURSDAY 9.30am Mass at Hastings

FRIDAY 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, Hastings

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, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Jim Egan (1 year anniversary). and Miro Valenta. 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

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: 14th March & 15th March 2026

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Judy Deefholts	Joan White	Jared McCartin	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Michael Smith
Eucharistic Ministers	Val Baxter	Genevieve Meyer	Barbara Farley Deirdre Fennessy	Counters This Week	Heimann Sissing, Brian McAnallen
Commentator	Tracey Clark	Pauline D'Astoli	Tom Leyden	Counters Next Week	Judy & Derrick Deefholts
Altar Linen		MAR.—Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Marie Ernestine
Mass Prep	Val Baxter	MAR. - Sue Ireland		Audio/Visual	Princes Jellyanne Manocan
Flowers		Somerville Maintenance—		Communion to the Sick This Week	Anne-Marie Lawson

Prayer for the Synod

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote
disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down
the wrong path

nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth and what
is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in
every place and time, in the communion of the
Father and the Son, forever and ever.
Amen.

VOLUNTEER SHEETS FOR THE HOLY WEEK

Dear Parish volunteers, in the foyers of our churches you will find the sheets for the liturgies of the Holy Week. If you are available, please add your name to the ministry that you would like to volunteer for and return form by 22nd April. Thank you!

PROJECT COMPASSION

Monoranjon lives in a village in Bangladesh close to the sea, where floods and storms often damage his crops and his home. With support from Project Compassion, he learnt climate-resilient farming techniques and new ways to diversify his income, helping his family survive and build a safer, more sustainable future.



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

SYNOD FOR ARCHDIOCESE IN MELBOURNE

On the third Sunday of Lent, **Archbishop Peter A Comensoli** will formally convoke a Synod for the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The synod calls the Melbourne Church to journey together in communion, participation and mission, echoing **Pope Francis'** vision of a 'listening Church' (Evangelii Gaudium, §31). Informed by Vatican II's teaching, the Church is 'a people made one with the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit' (Lumen Gentium, §4).

There are three themes about which the church of Melbourne is being invited to discern:

- young discipleship
- missionary leadership
- formation and participation.

The synod assembly will be held across the weekend of 4–6 December 2026. Over these next months, a range of opportunities will be available for Melbourne Catholics to be part of the consultation process toward the synod. In the meantime, further information can be accessed at melbournecatholic.org/synod2026. In the synodal Church 'the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions (ITC 68) for mission' (Final Document, §87).

You can find Archbishop's Pastoral Letter regarding the Synod on the welcoming tables of our churches.

THANKSGIVING MASS, PRESENTATION AND REFLECTIONS

The Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga, together with the Mary Glowrey Museum, warmly invite you to a celebration of **Venerable Mary of the Sacred Heart Glowrey**, following **Pope Leo XIV's** recognition of her heroic virtues. Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Melbourne.



FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2026 5PM: Mass, St Patrick's Cathedral 6PM: Presentation and reflections at Cathedral hall, 20 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy. All welcome. More information: melbcath.org/maryglowrey

THE PATRICK ORATION 2026

Tuesday 17 March 2026, 7.15pm–8.30pm

Join us on the feast day of St Patrick, the patron saint of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne! All are welcome to a special feast day Mass followed by the annual Patrick Oration, to be delivered by the Most Rev Peter A Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne.

- 6pm: Mass for the feast of St Patrick
- 7.15pm: The Patrick Oration

Watch the live broadcast on TV or online: on TV via C31 (digital channel 44) online via the Archdiocesan YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/archmelb)

If you would like to register for any of these 2 events, please contact our Parish Office.

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.

Eramos Spirituality Group 2026

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

Total giving from the week 23rd Feb. 2026—

1 Mar. 2026

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$737.50

2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques) \$1050.40

Tap Machine Donations \$62.62

Thank you for your ongoing support!