



## Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

**30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 24th/25th October, 2026**

### PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

**Parish Priest:** Fr Shymon  
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

**Parish Secretary:**  
Judy Deefholts

**Office Hours:**  
**9.30am-3.00pm**  
**(Wednesday -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:** <http://westernportchurch.com.au>

**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  
Primary 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 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R. v.2

**(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.**

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,  
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.  
My God is the rock where I take refuge;  
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.  
The Lord is worthy of all praise:  
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me.  
He has given great victories to his king  
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere.

We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

**The word of the Lord.**

## Gospel Acclamation.

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!  
All who love me will keep my words,  
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

## The Gospel of the Lord.

## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Our religious tradition is founded on love. Actually, life itself is grounded in love. We may not always feel this love, but if we allow ourselves to reflect on life, we will realise this truth. We have been called into being by God's love; and we will only be happy if we live in that love. Thus, when we are directed to love God and love one another, we are not being asked to do something contrary to our nature. Rather, we are being told to live in accord with that nature. We come from God who is love, and so it is in our very nature to love and to be loved.

We may sometimes think that it is easier to love God than to love others. It may actually be just the opposite. Other people are tangible. We can see and hear them, interact with them. Their influence in our lives can permeate our consciousness. That is not the way it is with God. Like Moses on the mountain, we can only see the traces of divinity as God passes by (see Ex 33:23). However, we show that we love God in the way we love our neighbour.

Love, the foundation of the reign of God, is contagious. When we love others, the reign of God spreads throughout the world. The compassion that we show toward others is a form of evangelisation. It proclaims much louder than any words that the reign of God has been established.

Fill in the missing words to complete the story.

love  
second  
God  
answered  
yourself  
teacher  
heart  
first  
test  
commandment

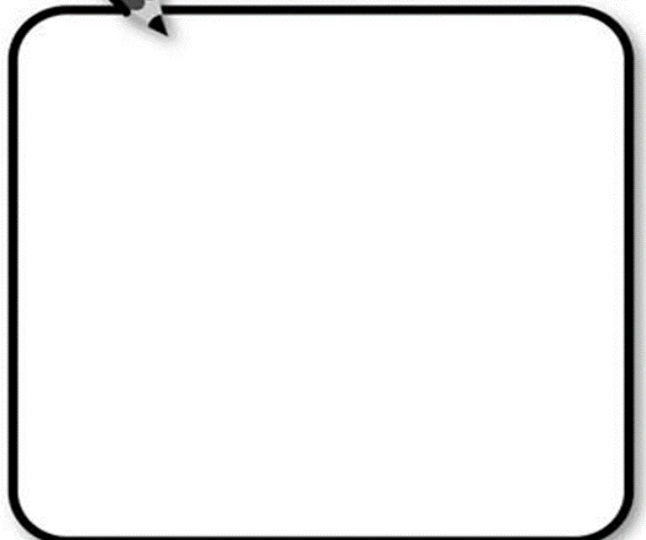
An expert in the Jewish law tried to \_\_\_\_ Jesus. He asked, "\_\_\_\_\_, what is the most important \_\_\_\_\_?"



Jesus \_\_\_\_\_: "Love the Lord your \_\_\_\_ with all your \_\_\_\_\_, soul and mind." This is the \_\_\_\_\_ and most important commandment. The \_\_\_\_\_ is like it: "\_\_\_\_\_ your neighbor as much as you love \_\_\_\_\_."



Whenever we show kindness, love and respect for others, we are loving God.  
Draw a picture of yourself doing something that shows love for God.



**LITURGIES THIS WEEK: 26/10 - 1/11****MONDAY:** No Service**TUESDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Somerville**FRIDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Hastings**SATURDAY:****5.30p.m.** Memorial Garden Service  
followed by Mass at Somerville**SUNDAY :****8.00am** Mass at Shoreham**10.00am** Mass at Hastings**PRAYERS AND PETITIONS**

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Jemima Middleton (McKillop), Kylie Wilman, Ann Wilson, Priscilla Pascual, Marcelina Pascual, Jacqueline Sharpley, Charles, Mary Marshall, Ian Marshall, Bob Fels, David Wirth, Michael Smith, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Halima, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Frank Tagliabue, 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 Brian Mitcham and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL:**

Once again our cupboards need refilling and we need some more non-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, Cup-a-soup, Long life milk, Tea, Coffee and toiletries. Please do not donate sugar or powdered milk. Thank you for your support!

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—31st October/1st November**

| <b>MINISTRY</b>              | <b><i>Somerville</i></b> | <b><i>Shoreham</i></b> | <b><i>Hastings</i></b>         |                                                |                                 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                | Garry McDonell           | Marie Hall             | Agnes Smith                    | <b>Mass Welcomer<br/>Hastings</b>              | Maggie Parsons                  |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> | Mary Marshall            | Ann Lorkin             | Paula Stokes<br>Maggie Parsons | <b>Counters This<br/>Week</b>                  | Judy & Derrick<br>Deefholts     |
| <b>Commentator</b>           | Tracey Clark             | Peter Schreiner        | Michael Smith                  | <b>Counters Next<br/>Week</b>                  | Stephen Stewart<br>Ian Marshall |
| <b>Altar Linen</b>           | OCT: Mary Marshall       | OCT: Catherine<br>Russ |                                | <b>Sacristan</b>                               | Virginia Carey                  |
| <b>Mass Prep</b>             | Val Baxter               |                        |                                | <b>Audio/Visual</b>                            | Jesele Baxter                   |
| <b>Flowers</b>               | Louise Street            |                        |                                | <b>Communion to<br/>the Sick This<br/>Week</b> | Anne-Marie<br>Lawson            |

## GREETINGS FROM FR. SHYMON...from Rome!

The week before the Pope was admitted to hospital, Fr. Shymon was very lucky to be able to concelebrate Mass with the Pope at the St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.

## COMPULSORY VOLUNTEER TRAINING.

The Archdiocese requires all parish volunteers to participate in safety training (Child Safe-guarding) every three years – either on line or in person. The Archdiocese will be providing training at our Parish Centre on **Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2026 from 10a.m. to 12 noon.** ***All volunteers who have not done training in the last three years will be required to attend (unless they update their training online before 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2026 and notify the Parish Office in writing with a copy of their Training Certificate).***

## All Souls Day Memorial Prayer Service

**October 31st, 2026 - St Brendan's Memorial Garden.**

For the weekend of All Souls Day in November this year we would like to invite parishioners to join us as we hold a short Memorial Service in the St Brendan's Memorial Garden at 5.30 pm before the Saturday evening mass. All welcome.

**ALL SOULS DAY - Monday, 2nd November.**

There will be a 9.30a.m. Mass **at Hastings** on this day.

## OCTOBER MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY



**Please come join us in prayer at:  
Immaculate Conception Church Hastings:  
25 minutes before Mass on Sundays.  
Also at St Brendan's Church Somerville:  
on Tuesdays.**

## POSITIONS VACANT.

We have two Vacant Positions in the Parish and applications are invited for the positions of:

- **Parish Secretary**
- **Pastoral Worker & Youth Co-Ordinator.**

Further details of the above positions can be found on the Archdiocese website at:

[Job vacancies | Melbourne Catholic.](http://Jobvacancies.MelbourneCatholic.org.au)

Applications close on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2026.

**POPE LEO.** One week after the Pope first revealed to the world that he would be undergoing lung surgery, he returned to the window of the Vatican's Apostolic Palace on 18 October, thanking Catholics worldwide for their prayers five days after undergoing lung cancer surgery.

*'I would like to thank all those who have prayed for me in recent days. I have truly sensed your support,'* the Pope said after leading the crowd in St Peter's Square in the prayer of the Angelus.

[Continue reading: melbournecatholic.org.au](http://Continue reading: melbournecatholic.org.au)

**VICAR GENERAL.** Archbishop Comonsoli has advised that Fr Tony Kerin will conclude his term as Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Melbourne on 31 January 2027. Fr Binh Le will succeed him and will commence as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia on 1 February 2027, for a term of six years.

## MELBOURNE SYNOD.....what's been happening?

The organisers of the upcoming Melbourne Synod would like to thank everyone who contributed to the synod's consultation phase, during which a total of 224 responses were received from parishes, individuals and groups across the Archdiocese. As the number of participants involved in group submissions was not recorded, this figure doesn't reflect the many people who gathered in groups to participate in 'conversations in the Spirit'.

[Continue reading: melbournecatholic.org.au](http://Continue reading: melbournecatholic.org.au)

## Total giving: 17th & 18th October

1<sup>st</sup> Collection – Presbytery: (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques): \$959.45

2nd Collection – Church: (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) : \$1,345.14

Tap Machine : 108.37

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.