



## Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 29th/30th August 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

Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;  
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.

I am a daily laughing-stock, everybody's butt.

Each time I speak the word, I have to howl  
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'

The word of the Lord has meant for me  
insult, derision, all day long.

I used to say, I will not think about him,  
I will not speak in his name any more.

Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,  
imprisoned in my bones.

The effort to restrain it wearied me, I could not bear it.

**The word of the Lord.**

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

**(R) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;  
for you my soul is thirsting.  
My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary  
to see your strength and your glory.  
For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
3. So I will bless you all my life,  
in your name I will lift up my hands.  
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you  
with joy. **(R.)**
4. For you have been my help;  
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.  
My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **(R.)**

### Second Reading

Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

**The word of the Lord.**

## Gospel Acclamation

See Ephesians 1:17-18

Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
enlighten the eyes of our heart,  
that we might see how great is the hope  
to which we are called.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord,' he said. 'This must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.'

Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

'For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

## The Gospel of the Lord.

## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CS.

The gospel does not say that Jesus will gallantly step forward, take suffering upon himself, and thus demonstrate his power. Instead, his fate will be a demonstration of his vulnerability. He will be taken forcibly and will suffer at the hands of others. He will do this willingly, but not as a volunteer. Jesus will be a victim. This picture of Jesus carries implications for discipleship. Whoever follows him must follow him to the cross. If we participate in his success, we must also share in his shame. Disciples have a choice to follow or not to follow, but if they choose in his favour they must be ready for suffering and humiliation.

Paul exhorts us to reject the standards of the world. This is a very difficult path to follow, especially when it seems that those who conform to this age prosper. Following Christ can place barriers between ourselves and others. If we no longer share their values and their interests, we may feel alienated. Suffering is bound to invade our ministerial lives as well. We must remember that Jesus' message antagonised many people in his day. Those who proclaim the same message in their own contexts must be prepared for a similar reaction.

After witnessing the marvellous feats that Jesus accomplished, we discover that he is going to suffer and be put to death. How can this be? With Peter we protest. With Jeremiah we wonder: Have we been duped? The realisation that we too will have to suffer becomes a crucial test of our faith.

## A Marriage Encounter weekend is a gift for every married couple and priest.

Every married couple and priest deserves to experience this very special weekend. Time-out to focus on your most precious relationships. You will come away feeling more deeply connected and with tools to help keep it alive. No group sharing is required. The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome.

We have just one weekend remaining for 2026 - don't miss this opportunity to nurture your most precious relationship.

November 6-8th, 2026, St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm. Bookings: Please phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or Email: [vicbookings@wwme.org.au](mailto:vicbookings@wwme.org.au) Website: [wwme.org.au](http://wwme.org.au)

**LITURGIES THIS WEEK: 31/8 - 6/9****MONDAY:** No Service**TUESDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Somerville**FRIDAY:****9.00am** Eucharistic Adoration  
followed by Mass at Hastings**SATURDAY:****6.00pm** 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, Marie Mereszko, 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 Helen Gilpin and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—5th/6th September**

| <b>MINISTRY</b>              | <b><i>Somerville</i></b>    | <b><i>Shoreham</i></b>  | <b><i>Hastings</i></b>             |                                                |                                    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Lector</b>                | Garry McDonell              | Damien Ireland          | Lioba Robinson                     | <b>Mass Welcomer<br/>Hastings</b>              | Maggie Parsons                     |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b> | Val Baxter                  | Sean Crozier            | Barbara Farley<br>Deirdre Fennessy | <b>Counters This<br/>Week</b>                  | Heimann Sissing<br>Brian McAnallen |
| <b>Commentator</b>           | Tracey Clark                | Anne Marie<br>Wilkinson | Michael Smith                      | <b>Counters Next<br/>Week</b>                  | Judy & Derek<br>Deefholts          |
| <b>Altar Linen</b>           | AUGUST—Christine<br>Coleman | AUGUST - Sue<br>Ireland |                                    | <b>Sacristan</b>                               | Leah Marsh                         |
| <b>Mass Prep</b>             | Christine Coleman           |                         |                                    | <b>Audio/Visual</b>                            | Geoff Robinson                     |
| <b>Flowers</b>               | Paula Street                |                         |                                    | <b>Communion to<br/>the Sick This<br/>Week</b> | Anne-Marie<br>Lawson               |



## PARTICIPATING IN THE SYNOD.

**Thank you** everyone who took the time to fill in the Questions for Reflection and give their insights to the Synod 2026.

### Why the Church is embracing synodality now?

The call to synodality is a response to the signs of the times. In a fragmented world, God calls the Church to witness communion, dialogue, and hope.

### Synodality and trust

Trust grows when people know their voices matter. Synodality helps rebuild trust within the Church and between the Church and society.

### A listening Church is a credible Church

In a world where many feel ignored or dismissed, a Church that listens becomes a sign of hope. Synodality teaches us that listening can heal wounds and rebuild trust.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY** is observed annually by the Australian Catholic Church, traditionally on the last Sunday of August. In 2026, this date is **30 August 2026**.



The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has issued two statements for 2026: the first focusing on the **Cost of Living** and the second titled **"Living the Gospel in Times of Social Division"**, which focuses on building social cohesion and community solidarity.

Social Justice Sunday 2026 invites Catholics to respond to Australia's social challenges with compassion, solidarity, and a commitment to justice, emphasizing that peace grows from reconciliation and community-building.

The Archbishop's Campaign invites us to proclaim the Good News by supporting ministries that serve those in need across our Archdiocese. Your generous gift helps bring this mission to life – not only in word, but in action.

Thank you.



THE  
ARCHBISHOP'S  
CAMPAIGN  
2026



[melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign](http://melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign)

### ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

Thank you to everyone who has so generously already made a pledge or gift to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign. Every gift, large or small, is greatly appreciated! If you are yet to make a gift, you can still do so. This campaign supports the vital ministries of the Church in our Archdiocese. Online (direct debit or credit card) donations are the most secure and preferred method of donating, or you can use the campaign envelopes with tear-off pledge cards.

**LADIES LUNCH.** Friday, 4th September at 12 noon at Western-port Hotel.

Ring Diane: 0419 633 044

**Pope Leo** has expressed his sadness by the devastation wrought by a glacial collapse in the Nepal-China border, causing a deadly wave of floods and mudslides that killed 168 people with hundreds more feared dead.



Pope Leo has appointed Integral Ecology expert Jacqui Remond from Australian Catholic University as a consultant to the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Ms Remond, the only Australian among the 12 new consultants appointed by the pontiff this week, said she was honoured to accept the five-year appointment.

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

### THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES.

If you did not get your envelopes, ring the Parish Office - we still have a few that haven't been picked up.

### Total giving: 22nd/23rd August

1<sup>st</sup> Collection – Presbytery  
(Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)  
\$635.50

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques)  
\$1136.50

Tap Machine Donations  
\$152.15.

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.