



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

Easter Vigil & Easter Sunday - Year A, 4th/5th April 2026

PARISH CONTACT

DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

Pastoral Worker:
Deirdre Fennessy

Office Hours: 9.30am-
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PARISH CENTRE:

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Parish Web Site: [http://
westernportchurch.com.au](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 Pri-
mary School 5979 1959

SOMERVILLE St Brendan's
Primary School 5977 7277

MORNINGTON Padua Col-
lege Vice Principal
Matthew Williams 5976 0100

VINNIES OP SHOP 83 High
St Hastings 5979 4373

St Vincent de Paul Help



**Dear Parishioners
and visitors,**

**Because He lives, we
have hope.**

**May this Easter bring joy
to your hearts, renewing
your faith, hope and
love.**

MASS OF EASTER VIGIL

EPISTLE

Rom 6:3-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection. We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with him to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. When a man dies, of course, he has finished with sin. But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:1-2.16-17.22-23

(R.) Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' **(R.)**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. **(R.)**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

Gospel**Matthew 28:1-10****A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings,' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

MASS OF EASTER SUNDAY**First Reading****Acts 10:34.37-43****A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.' Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand. Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord.**Thanks be to God.****Responsorial Psalm*****(Please see the first page)*****Second Reading****Corinthians 5:6-8****A reading from the letter to St Paul to the Corinthians.**

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, then, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The word of the Lord.**Sequence**

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise. The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled. Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; I saw Christ's glory as he rose! The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting. Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee. That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show! Amen. Alleluia!

Gospel Acclamation**1 Corinthians 5:7-8**

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ has become our paschal sacrifice; let us feast with joy in the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel (see above)

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Easter is the season of mystagogical catechesis, that instruction that unpacks the hidden mystery of the experience of the sacraments of initiation received or renewed at Easter. The readings of each Sunday concentrate on some aspect of this mystery. The central theme of this Sunday is newness of life in Christ. This newness is not without its historical context. It burst forth first in the resurrection of Christ, and then through the preaching of the first Christians.

The readings testify that if we die with Christ, we will appear with him in glory; if we cast out the old yeast, we will be fresh dough. And when this wondrous transformation takes place, everything is new; everything is fresh. To what newness are we called? To what must we die in order to rise transformed? What old yeast of corruption must be cast out in order that we might be fresh dough? At Easter we renew our baptismal vows. What is it that we really renounce? Ours is a world of violence, of prejudice, of indifference. Too often we harbour feelings of anger and resentment, of selfishness and disdain. Easter proclaims that Christ has died and has risen; with him we die to all of the wickedness in our lives and in our world, and we set our hearts on higher things, on sincerity and on truth.

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.

For enrolment forms and more details please contact the Parish Office on 5979 4374.

LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 6th—12th April

MONDAY No Service

TUESDAY 9.30am No Mass

WEDNESDAY 9.00am No Mass

THURSDAY 9.30am Communion Service at Hastings

FRIDAY 9.30am Communion Service 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**

**This is the
day the Lord
has made.
Let us rejoice!**

What can you do to make
people glad today?

Fill in the missing words below to find out what the letters in the boxes spell.



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, especially Father Grant O'Neill (who was the Administrator in our parish before Father Michael) and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, May they rest in peace.

ROSTERS BELOW FOR SERVICES NEXT WEEK, 11th & 12th April

MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings		
Lector	Sandy Adolphus	Pauline D'Astoli	Lioba Robinson	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Kayla Miller
Eucharistic Ministers	Garry McDonnell	Marg Grant	Lioba Robinson Isobel Wilson	Counters This Week	Stephen Stewart Ian Marshall Derek & Judy Deefholts
Commentator	Judy Deefholts	Ann Lorkin	Jared McCartin	Counters Next Week	Heimann Sissing. Brian McAnallen
Altar Linen		APRIL— Catherine Russ		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	APRIL— Catherine Russ		Audio/Visual	Jesele Baxter
Flowers	Val Baxter	Somerville Maintenance—		Communion to the Sick This Week	Judy Deefholts



Happy Easter from all of us here at Caritas Australia! As we celebrate this season of hope and renewal, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion this Lent. As we reflect on the Easter message of love, compassion, and new beginnings, we are reminded of the incredible impact your contributions make. Together, we are building a world where no one is left behind. **Thank you for standing with us, as we Unite Against Poverty through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2026 Lenten appeal.**

If you still have your Project Compassion box or envelope at home, could please return them as soon as possible or visit make your donation online by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion. or by calling: 1800 024 413.

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

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

The weekend is based on Catholic values and couples of all faiths are very welcome.

Our next weekend is just a few weeks away.

Please check our website for more details and to book your special weekend: April 24 - 26th at St Paul's Retreat Centre, Wantirna South.

Starts Friday evening at 7pm and finishes Sunday afternoon around 4:30pm

Information/Bookings: Please phone **Mercy & James 0409 183 676** or

Email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au Website: wwme.org.au



2026 EASTER MESSAGE

Easter offers a way forward

Copies of Archbishop Peter Comensoli's Easter Message are in the foyer.

Total givings from the week 28/3 & 29/3/26

1 st Collection – Presbytery	\$1,258
2nd Collection – Church Account (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards, cheques, envelopes)	\$1,048.80
Tap machine	\$38.78