



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 1st/2nd 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:
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POSTAL ADDRESS:
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Email:

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

Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty;
though you have no money, come!
Buy corn without money, and eat,
and, at no cost, wine and milk.
Why spend money on what is not bread,

your wages on what fails to satisfy?
Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat
and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me;
listen, and your soul will live.
With you I will make an everlasting covenant
out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **(R.)**
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.
You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. **(R.)**

Second Reading Romans 8:35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

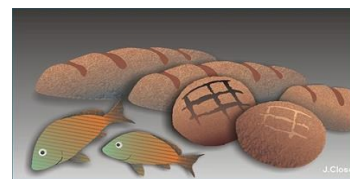
Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand.



The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CS.

Jesus nourishes us. In a world that is fraught with meaninglessness, he offers purpose; to a world that is stumbling in darkness and confusion, he provides direction. He satisfies the hungry heart; he enlivens the drooping spirit. Those who follow Jesus will never be left to languish in the desert. If we but open our eyes, we will be amazed at the bountifulness of the nourishment that is provided for us. We will discover that God is magnanimous, even prodigal in giving, that God's generosity exceeds all of our expectations and also our understanding.

Furthermore, we are nourished by God through the ministry of each other, through the simple things of life, (distributing bread and gathering up the fragments): visiting the sick and consoling the grieving; caring for a child and giving aid to an elder; bagging groceries and directing a choir. If we but open our eyes, we will be astounded at how ordinary actions can satisfy our hunger and the hunger of others.

Most amazing of all is that this nourishment is given freely; there was no thought of requiring payment. God simply invites: Come! All we have to do is reach out our hands to receive and we will never be sent away to find nourishment for ourselves. We will discover that a bond is established that endures. Jesus is filled with compassion, a compassion that is not a fleeting emotion, but an enduring attitude. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.

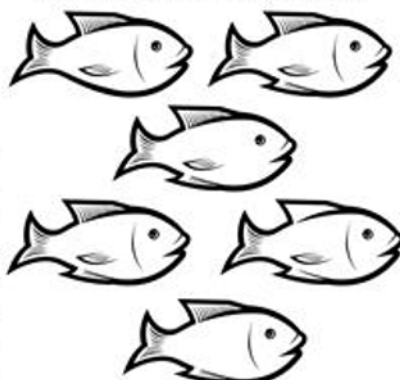


LOAVES AND FISH

How many words can you make from
the letters in LOAVES AND FISH?

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Jesus managed to feed thousands of people
with just five loaves of bread and two fish.
Can you find two of the fish which are the same?



Jesus fed the crowd of more than 5,000 people
because they were hungry and needed food.
In each loaf write down something else that
people need and are "hungry" for.



LITURGIES THIS WEEK: 3rd - 9th August**MONDAY:** No Service**TUESDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Somerville**FRIDAY:****9.30am** 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 Ann Wilson, Priscilla Pascual, Marcelina Pascual, Jacqueline Sharpley, Charles, Mary Marshall, Ian Marshall, Bob Fels, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, 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, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—8th/9th August

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Christine Coleman	Damien Ireland	Agnes Smith	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Maggie Parsons
Eucharistic Ministers	Mary Marshall	Sue Ireland	Barbara Farley Deirdre Fennessy	Counters This Week	Genevieve & Kees Meyer
Commentator	Judy Deefholts	Sylvia Falzon	Michael Smith	Counters Next Week	Judy & Derrick Deefholts
Altar Linen	AUGUST—Mary Marshall	AUGUST - Sue Ireland		Sacristan	Virginia Carey
Mass Prep	Mary Marshall			Audio/Visual	Princes Jellyanne Manocan
Flowers	Maree Chapman			Communion to the Sick This Week	Anne-Marie Lawson

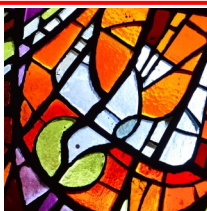
SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.

We welcome Episcopal Vicar Rev Andrzej Madry, families, friends and sponsors of the Confirmations candidates to Mass at St Brendan's Church this weekend.

We also welcome our School Principals and teachers .

Congratulations to all the children who are receiving this Sacrament

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.



MORNING TEA. Next Sunday after Mass at Hastings.
All welcome!

LADIES LUNCH. Friday, 7th August at 12 noon at Westernport Hotel. Ring Diane: 0419 633 044

SHAPE THE FUTURE: Be Counted as Catholic this Census

Australia's national Census will be held on 11 August 2026. Catholics are encouraged to mark "Catholic" in the question on religion. In a time when some would seek to diminish the importance of faith, it is vital that the Catholic community be represented in our national statistics. Census data supports Church pastoral planning and contributes to government decision-making on health, education, infrastructure, and social services – guiding resource and funding allocations across Australia. By identifying as Catholic, you can help ensure that the contribution and needs of faith communities are properly recognised and considered in future planning and policy decisions.



MELBOURNE SYNOD 2026

Westernport Parish response to the Synod.

Last weekend we sent out the three themes of the Synod:

Young Discipleship, Missionary Leadership and Formation and Participation - to all parishioners via email, on the website and hard copies at the 3 Mass Centres. Please take the time to review and discuss the 3 papers of the Synod and fill in the **Questions for Reflection**. Your responses can be:

- left in the boxes provided in the Church foyer (by 9th August)
- sent to the Parish Office (by 9th August)
- on line via the QR code
- via the website detailed in each paper
- emailed to Synod2026@cam.org.au (by 21st August,

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.



ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

The Archbishop's Campaign will commence next weekend. I invite you to reflect on what a vibrant faith community means for you and your family, and to consider making a personal, recurring monthly gift in support of the vital ministries that serve our Archdiocese. From next week, you will notice campaign materials throughout the parish, including posters, envelopes with tear-off pledge cards, a banner on our website, and content across our social media channels. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks; in the meantime, I encourage you to begin prayerfully discerning your support.

We wish **Fr. Shymon** a blessed and fruitful sabbatical.

May it be a time of rest and renewal for him with time for prayer, study, reflection and personal rejuvenation.

Fr. Geoff & Fr. Michael will celebrate weekday and weekend Masses during this time.

Total giving from 25th/26th July

1st Collection—Presbytery - \$913.30
2nd Collection – Church Account - \$1,081.25
Tap Machine - \$167.24
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.