



Western Port Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

2nd Sunday of Advent Y-A—7 December, 2025

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

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Hijacinta Svabelj

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westernport](https://www.melbcatholic.org/s/westernport)

**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

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.). He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails:
He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be
blessed in him, all nations bless his name. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4. 6

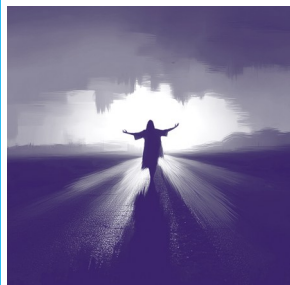
Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God. **Alleluia!**

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings are like Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The biblical authors sketch profiles of individuals after whom we can model our lives as we embark on our pilgrimage to eschatological fulfilment. Isaiah depicts the righteous messianic king; Paul provides us with a glimpse of Jesus, the one who ministers to all; and Matthew describes John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared for the Advent of Christ.

The gifts Isaiah attributes to the messianic king are the same gifts that we receive with the anointing of the Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord. The image of the messianic king may have been fulfilled in Jesus, but it is also offered to us as a model after which we can pattern our lives.

Paul declares that Christ came for all. Just as the Canterbury tales describe pilgrims of all backgrounds and characters, so our companions on the pilgrimage come from diverse circumstances. Since the invitation was extended to all, we are expected to welcome all. Some of Chaucer's characters were quite unpleasant, but they were part of the group. Many of the people to whom Jesus ministered were quite unpleasant, but this did not deter him. His example is set before us today.

John the Baptist lived a life of radical self-denial, but he did not require this of others. He preached repentance or change of heart, not a rejection of the circumstances of life. He called for a return to righteousness, to relationships rooted in honesty and respect. He condemned presumption and arrogant reliance on one's religious origin, complacency and the shirking of responsibility, disinterest in the welfare of other.

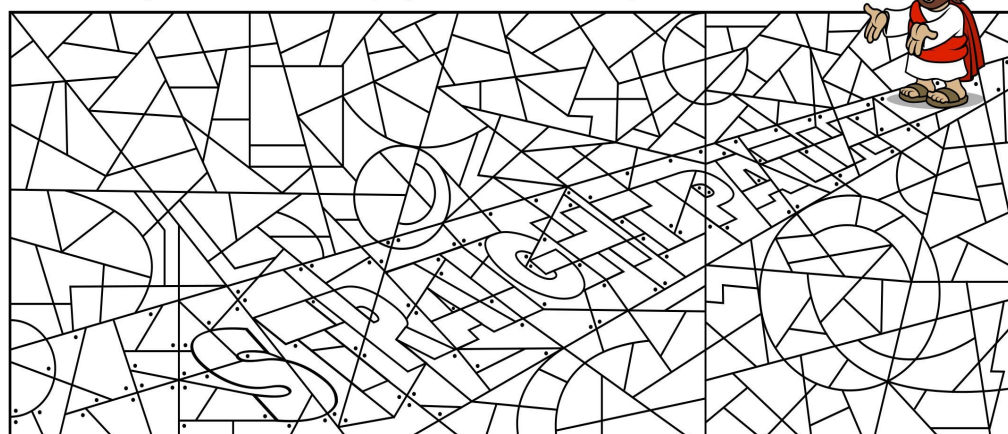
HAPPY FEAST OF MARY'S IMMACULATE CONCEPTION TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS!



We pray that
Blessed Mother
Mary will continue to watch
over all our
parish community.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHEET

Color the shapes that contain dots purple. Fill the other shapes with different colors.



LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 8th—14th December**MONDAY** No Mass**TUESDAY 9.30am** Mass at Somerville**WEDNESDAY 9.00am** Mass at Shoreham**THURSDAY 9.30am** Mass at Hastings**FRIDAY 9.30am** Mass at Hastings**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 Russell Petrie, Bob Fels, Pat Pope, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Kees Meyer, Michael Smith, Danny McGeough, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Marie Mereszko, Halima, Sala, Agnes, Malia, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Pat Tagliabue, Frank Tagliabue, Michael Pound, John Kelly, Janice Danaher, Vicky Mathis, 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 Rod McKillop and Fr Michael Leonard Shadbolt, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Fr John Williams, Derrick Wilson, Aldo Provenzano, Win Danaher and Ann Barrow. May they rest in peace.

THANK YOU!

Catholic Mission sincerely thanks the parish community of Immaculate Conception for your generous and faith-filled support of this year's World Mission Day Appeal.

Your kind gift of **\$634.00** is more than a donation - it is a lifeline of hope. Through your compassion, mothers in Zambia will walk safer roads to give birth with dignity, and children in remote villages will take steps towards a brighter future through access to healthcare and education. Your generosity not only strengthens local missionaries in Zambia, but also sustains the Church's vital work across more than **1,000 mission dioceses worldwide**.

**ST THOMAS MORE OVERNIGHT PARISH YOUTH RETREAT
AT 313 CANADIAN BAY ROAD MOUNT ELIZA —SAT 13th,
2pm—MIDDAY SUN 14th DECEMBER**

The youth are invited to camp overnight (BYO tent, sleeping bag, etc.) If any young person has difficulty sourcing camping gear, they are encouraged to let us know in advance and we'll do our best to help. \$50 donation per person will be collected on arrival to support food and speaker costs.

To register or get more information please see flyer at the churches or contact St Thomas More Parish Office.

2026 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS

You can now find 2026 Columban Art Calendars at all our three churches for \$10 each.

GOD'S WORD 2026 - DAILY REFLECTIONS—For \$20.00 in the church foyers, you may buy it as a Christmas gift for yourself and your loved ones.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK: 13th & 14th December

MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings		
Lector	Tracey Clark	Michael Callaghan	Geraldine Prescott	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Brian McAnallen
Eucharistic Ministers	Louise Street	Val Fakhry	Lioba Robinson Isobel Wilson	Counters This Week	Kees & Genevieve Meyer
Commentator	Garry McDonell	John Patterson	Agnes Smith	Counters Next Week	Stephen Stewart Ian Marshall
Altar Linen		DEC. - Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Leah Marsh
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	DEC. - Marg Grant		Audio/Visual	Geoff Robinson
Flowers	Maree Chapman	Somerville Maintenance— Sandy Adolphus & Sharon Judd		Communion to the Sick This Week	Judy Deefholts
Cleaning	DEC. - Tracey Clark				

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER: PEACE

God of peace, as we light the second Advent candle of peace, may your peace fill our hearts and our world. Help us to be peacemakers in our relationships and communities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



SPECIAL SERVICES BEFORE CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY, 9th Dec at 11.00am - Somercare Aged Care Mass at Somerville

WEDNESDAY, 10th Dec at 10.30am—Carols at Balnarring with children from St Joseph's

THURSDAY, 11th Dec at 11.00am – Western Port Bay Care Community Mass at Tyabb

WEDNESDAY, 17th Dec at 11.00am – The Bays Aged Care Mass at Hastings

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - 2025

Tuesday, 24th December, 2025– CHRISTMAS EVE

- * 5.00pm – FAMILY MASS at Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS
- * 6.00pm – FAMILY MASS at St Brendan's Church, SOMERVILLE preceded by Christmas Carols at 5.45pm
- * 8.00pm – Mass at St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM

Wednesday, 25th December, 2025– CHRISTMAS DAY

- * 10.00am – Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS
- * 10.00am – St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM

COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION SERVICE

(With Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

Wednesday, 17th December, 7.00pm at Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS



Last week I was blessed to attend ACYF 2025, representing our parish at this inspiring gathering. I volunteered to assist with confession, joined several sessions, and participated in the final commissioning Mass. It was uplifting to reconnect with young parishioners from my former parish and to witness the vibrant faith of Australia's youth. The festival was filled with joy as speakers reminded us that Jesus is the reason we are here. The enthusiastic voices of young people echoed this truth, showing that the Church in Australia is alive and growing.

A highlight was the video message from the Holy Father, recalling Pope Benedict XVI's words: ***"You are not the result of a random process. Each of you is willed, each of you is loved, each of you is necessary."***

Our Archbishop also encouraged the youth, saying: "Whatever reason has brought you here, somehow Jesus had a part in that. You belong here. Welcome to your new house—the house of the Church. And it's your house too." Fr. Shymon.

'GO. YOU ARE SENT': ACYF CONCLUDES WITH MAJESTIC FANFARE

The Australian Catholic Youth Festival has wrapped in up in Melbourne, farewelling pilgrims with a commissioning Mass that featured the breadth of the Catholic Church in Australia. After three days immersed in reminders of God's love for them, the final Mass allowed the 6,000 pilgrims to show they loved God back.

Continue reading: ['Go. You are sent': ACYF concludes with majestic fanfare](#)



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS

APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND

St. Vincent De Paul 2024 Christmas Appeal will be conducted in all three Mass centres over the weekend of **13 & 14 December**.

Total giving from the week 24th Nov.—30th Nov. 2025

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$924.85
2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques) \$1339.05
Tap Machine Donations \$103.12
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.