



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

5th Sunday of Easter - Year C, 18 May 2025

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

Pastoral Worker:
Deirdre Fennessy

**Office Hours: 9.30am-
3.00pm (Tuesday-Friday)**

Phone - 5979 4374

PARISH CENTRE:

71 Marine Parade Hastings

POSTAL ADDRESS:

PO Box 76 Hastings 3915

Email:

westernport@cam.org.au

Parish Web Site:

[https://
www.melbcatholic.org/s/
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

Acts 14:21-27

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe.

They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-13

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

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.)**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God,
to make known to men your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendour of your reign. **(R.)**

Yours is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule lasts from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Apocalypse 21:1-5

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.'

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

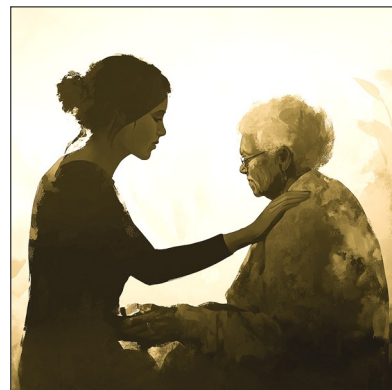
I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you. **Alleluia!**

Gospel

John 13:31–35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When Judas had gone Jesus said:
'Now has the Son of Man been glorified,
and in him God has been glorified.
If God has been glorified in him,
God will in turn glorify him in himself,
and will glorify him very soon.
My little children,
I shall not be with you much longer.
I give you a new commandment: love one another;
just as I have loved you, you also must love one another.
By this love you have for one another,
Everyone will know that you are my disciples'



The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Everything is new! There is a new law of love, a new heaven and earth that is established in the church, a new depth of communion there, and a new glory of God that shines forth from its members.

The new commandment that Jesus announces is more than tolerance or mutual respect. It requires self-sacrificing love. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to this love is the diversity discussed last Sunday. It is hard enough to love those who are like us; how can we possibly love those who are different? And how can we love those who do not love us? It is no wonder that the commandment is called new. It calls for something completely different.

The new commandment is the law of the new heaven and the new earth that are established in the new Jerusalem. Standards are entirely different there. The greater ones serve; the meek possess the earth; happy are the poor; woe to those who laugh. This is clearly a city that comes down from heaven, not one made by human hands. It is a city that embraces all who come to it. God dwells in the midst of this city, in the heart of this people. God dwells with them and they dwell with God.

Through this new love, this new heaven and new earth, this new depth of communion, the glory of God is manifested in a new way. The eschatological future is anticipated in the present. The age of fulfilment has dawned.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Our **Sacramental Program** for children who do not attend our Parish Primary Schools is currently running for Reconciliation and First Eucharist and is starting on 2nd July for Confirmation. Enrolment forms and more details are on the Parish Website or contact the Parish Office.

Please get any interested families to contact the Parish.

"A Mother's Life Shouldn't Be Left to Chance"



- On **Wednesday, 5 June at 7:00 PM**, **Caritas Australia** is co-hosting a public event with the Australian Catholic Medical Association at **St Peter's Parish Centre, Toorak**, titled: **"A Mother's Life Shouldn't Be Left to Chance"**
- Keynote speaker is **Abraham Muma**, Health Services Coordinator at Chilonga Mission Hospital in Zambia.
- Entry is free, donations welcomed on the night.

MASS FOR
**Marriage
Anniversaries**

SUNDAY 1 JUNE 2025 • 11AM
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL



Couples celebrating a significant wedding anniversary (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and over) are invited to register:
trybooking.com/DAKBR



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

LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 12 May—18 May**MONDAY** No Service**TUESDAY 9.30am** Mass at Somerville**12.00pm** Funeral Mass for Jeannie Crowe in Shoreham**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 Bob Smith, Rebecca, Eddie and Marie Merezko, Stephen Charles, Halima, Sala, Agnes, Malia, Janelle Farley, Mary McCluskey, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Tommy Judge, 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, Kathleen 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 Jeannie Crowe, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CUPBOARD

The demand for non-perishable food is significant and the Conference is currently purchasing items to give to those in need in our Community. We are in desperate need of the following food items. Long Life Milk, Pasta and Pasta sauces, tins of Soup, Baked Beans, Spaghetti, Tuna, diced Tomatoes, tins of Vegetables and tinned Fruit . Spreads such as Peanut Butter, Jam, Vegemite, Sweet and Dry biscuits and Two-minute noodles and Cup of soups . Any type of toiletries would be most welcome .

NAMES ON ROSTERS BELOW FOR SERVICES NEXT WEEK, 24/5 & 25/5/2025

MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings		
Lector	Maree Chapman	Peter Hall	Cindy Hanson	Mass Welcomer Hastings	
Eucharistic Ministers	Garry McDonell	Kees Meyer	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Commentator	Tracey Clark	Sr. Joan Power	Tom Leyden	Counters Next Week	Stephen Stewart, Ian Marshall
Altar Linen		MAY—Anne Maree Dyer		Sacristan	Sarah Ernestine
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	MAY—Margaret Grant		Audio/Visual	Geoff Robinson
Flowers	Sandy Adolphus	Somerville Maintenance— Fred Arena		Communion to the Sick This Week	Group 2—Anne-Marie Lawson
Cleaning	MAY—Christine Coleman				

COMMITMENT MASSES FOR THE FIRST COMMUNICANTS

St Brendan's School

Saturday, May 24th at 6:00 pm and
Sunday, May 31st at 6:00 pm at St
Brendan's Church

St Joseph' School

Saturday, May 25th, at 8:00 am and
Sunday, June 1st at 8.00 am at St
Peter's Church

St Mary's Church

Saturday, May 25th, at 8:00 am and
Sunday, June 1st at 8.00 am at St
Immaculate Conception Church

Please keep these
candidates in your
prayers.



PARISH MINISTRIES - MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For everyone who's able and willing to volunteer in the Parish activities, Volunteer Forms will be available to take at all Mass Centres, on the welcoming table. The commitments are for the year, commencing Pentecost Sunday for the following 12 months. If unavailable to fulfil any ministry for which you sign up, you would need to find a replacement by phoning one of the numbers on the particular roster. Many parishioners already assist by doing various tasks in our Parish and we are thankful for that. An increase in volunteers would alleviate the burden for all. **If you are already on a Roster this year, you still need to place your name on the new Volunteer List.** Please return your form by the next Sunday, 25th May. **Additional volunteers are required, especially in Hastings for the following Ministries: Eucharistic Minister, Audio/Visual, Commentator, Lector, Mass Welcomer, Morning Tea and in Somerville for the following Ministries: Commentator, Communion to the Sick, Maintenance, Mass Preparation.**

Working With Children Check

It is a **requirement** of the Archdiocese of Melbourne that all Parishes keep a Register of all those who volunteer within the Parish so you will need to have a current Working With Children Check. To apply for one as a volunteer or renew your WWCC is free, just go to <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/> and the instructions. If you have any queries, please contact the - Parish Office 5979 4374

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLICS WELCOME POPE LEO XIV

The bells of St Peter's Basilica rang out across Rome on the evening of 8 May, signalling to the world that the Catholic Church has a new shepherd. **Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost**, the Chicago-born prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and a longtime missionary in Peru, emerged onto the central balcony of St Peter's as **Pope Leo XIV**, the 267th successor of St Peter. Continue reading: ['Habemus Papam': Australian Catholics welcome Pope Leo XIV](#)

Pope Leo XIV will officially inaugurate his papacy with Mass in St Peter's Square on 18 May. The Mass will be livestreamed on the [Vatican News YouTube channel](#) at 6pm Melbourne time.

2025 LAUDATO SI' WEEK (MAY 17-24)

The 2025 Laudato Si' Week theme is "Raise Hope". The theme encourages raising hope in communities by sharing stories and photos about caring for our common home.

A PRAYER

Lord, we pray that we may gain a deeper appreciation of the beauty and diversity of all that you have created. As we journey through our Synodal process, help us to also listen to the voice of creation, to acknowledge how deeply interconnected we are with each other and with the natural world. Creator God, Hear Our Prayer

LAUDATE DEUM WEBINAR—Thursday 29 May 2025 at 7.00 p.m.

Did you know *Laudato Si'* has a sequel? It's called *Laudate Deum!* In 2023, **Pope Francis** was due to attend the COP28 meeting on climate change at Dubai, but unfortunately, he fell ill. He then released to us the gift of the statement he intended to make – *Laudate Deum*. *Laudate Deum* is a reminder of our call to act for climate justice in our world. This webinar will focus on how we can all play a role in advocating for change for people and the planet.

See link to register: [Laudate Deum Webinar – Garratt Publishing](#)

THANK YOU!

Dear Parishioners, we wish to thank all of you who participated in the most recent appeals. Recently, we have collected \$155 in cash for CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal and \$703.55 for Project Compassion Lenten Appeal. As always, we are deeply grateful for your support for these causes. May God bless you!

HOW DIVINE MERCY SHRINE BECAME A MULTICULTURAL SANCTUARY

The Divine Mercy Shrine in Keysborough in Melbourne's outer eastern suburbs has become a hub for many ethnic groups as it welcomes all Catholics and offers a steadfast message of love. It is a popular destination for pilgrims this Jubilee Year, as one of the Archdiocese's official Pilgrim Places. Continue reading: [Love's second name: how Divine Mercy Shrine became a multicultural sanctuary](#)



FR. CHRIS ALAR EVENT: MELBOURNE SATURDAY 31ST MAY

Fr. Chris Alar (MIC) is set to visit **St. Patrick's Cathedral**, starting at 9.30am on Saturday, 31st May, and **Divine Mercy Shrine Keysborough**, starting on 1.00pm on the same day!

This is your opportunity to see the most prolific Catholic speaker in the world LIVE at two locations, both of which are Jubilee Pilgrim Sites. For any additional inquiries please see posters in our churches or reach out to the following contacts:
Carmen: 0400 482 499 | John: 03 9830 4386 BH

Total givings from the week 28/4-4/5/25

1 st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)	\$654.85
2 nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)	\$1699.20
Tap Machine	\$73.62
Thank you for your ongoing support!	