



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

2nd Sunday of Easter—Year A—11th/12th April, 2026.

PARISH CONTACT

DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

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**Office Hours: 9.30am-
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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

First Reading

Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24, R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say: His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say: His love has no end.' **(R.)**
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory; in the tents of the just. **(R.)**
3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time.

This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour.

You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;

happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystagogical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.

Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world. We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection.

Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay dearly for having received them.

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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, 13th—19th April.**MONDAY** No Service**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****10.00a.m.—10.30a.m. 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****ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL:**

We are in desperate need of your support. Our cupboard is depleted, and we need some more perishable items. If you can help with cans of Soup, Meat & Vegetables, Diced Tomatoes, Spaghetti, Baked Beans, Tuna or Salmon, Vegetables, tinned fruit. Pasta and Sauces, Vegemite, Peanut Butter, Jam. Packets of sweet and dry biscuits, two-minute noodles and cup of soup, long life milk. Tea and Coffee and toiletries. Please do not donate sugar or powdered milk.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

PRAYERS AND PETITIONS

Please pray for those who are sick, especially 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, Michael Pound, 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—18th & 19th April

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Maree Chapman	Marie Hall	Kayla Miller	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Brian McAnallen
Eucharistic Ministers	Louise Street	Joan White	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Heimann Sissing Brian McAnallen
Commentator	Tracey Clarke	Ann Lorkin	Tom Leyden	Counters Next Week	Derrick & Judy Deefholts
Altar Linen		APRIL—Val Fakhry		Sacristan	Leah Stokes
Mass Prep	Val Baxter	APRIL—Val Fakhry		Audio/Visual	Geoff Robinson
Flowers	Louise Street	Somerville Maintenance—	Bill & Anne-Marie Lawson	Communion to the Sick This Week	Judy Deefholts

POPE LEO'S EASTER MESSAGE

Speaking from the loggia of St Peter's Basilica on Easter, Pope Leo XIV delivered a passionate appeal for peace, declaring that the power of the risen Christ is 'entirely nonviolent' and calling on world leaders to lay down their weapons and choose dialogue over domination.

In a surprise announcement, Pope Leo revealed he will host a prayer vigil for peace in St Peter's Basilica on Saturday 11 April.

You can read the whole message on the Melbourne Archdiocese website: <https://melbournecatholic.org/news/>

The Easter Triduum at St Patrick's Cathedral: a photo gallery

Thousands attended Easter Triduum services around the Archdiocese, the high point of the liturgical year. At St Patrick's Cathedral, crowds gathered to mark the Lord's suffering, death and resurrection, with thousands more joining online. And across the Archdiocese more than 550 catechumens and candidates received the sacraments of initiation and were welcomed into the Catholic faith this year. Here are some of the highlights from this year's Triduum at St Patrick's Cathedral.

For details see: [The Easter Triduum at St Patrick's Cathedral: a photo](#)

MELBOURNE SYNOD

As we enter the Easter season, we are invited to continue growing as a Church that listens, learns, and walks together. The *Synodal Way* calls each of us—clergy, religious, and lay—to participate actively in discernment and dialogue, guided by the Holy Spirit.

The first meeting of the Diocesan Synod Commission was held on Thursday 9 April. We ask for your prayers as we gather to discern and plan for the work of the Synod.

In the coming weeks, we will focus on deepening our commitment to:

- **Listening with an open heart** to the experiences, hopes, and concerns of others.
 - **Engaging in meaningful conversation**, grounded in respect, humility, and prayer.
 - **Strengthening our sense of communion**, recognising Christ at the centre of our shared mission.
- Discerning pathways forward**, so that our parish and wider Church can respond more faithfully to the needs of our time.

Reflection question: How can we deepen our understanding of synodality in our parish life?

THANK YOU!

A sincere thanks to all of our Parishioners of the three Mass centres who participated and helped with our Holy Week ceremonies, it was greatly appreciated. Special thanks to all the volunteers who have helped in any way during this very important week.

Also, congratulations to James who was entered into the Catholic church during the Easter Vigil Mass and thanks to the RCIA team. Thank you and may God bless you! *Fr Shymon*



Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to this very worthy cause.

If you still have your Project Compassion box or envelope at home, could please return them by 30th April, 2026.

20th Anniversary of the Dedication of the Divine Mercy Shrine
343–337 Greens Road
Keysborough
Saturday 25 April 2026
12.00pm–5.00pm

The Polish Catholic community warmly invites the faithful of the Archdiocese of Melbourne to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the Divine Mercy Shrine. The Shrine was dedicated on 22 April 2006 by Archbishop Denis Hart and established as Australia's first Divine Mercy sanctuary.

Total giving from the week 30/4—5/4/2026

1st Collection – Presbytery - \$2177.20

2nd Collection – Church Account (*Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards, cheques and Envelopes*) - \$1706.05

Tap Machine - 149.33

Holy Thursday Collection - \$371.80

Good Friday Collection - \$1588.95

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.