



## Western Port Catholic Parish

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

### ***Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross - 14th September 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](mailto: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**

**Numbers 21:4-9**

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.'

At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

**The word of the Lord..**

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7**

**(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!**

Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. **(R.)**

When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock,  
God the Most High their redeemer. **(R.)**

But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. **(R.)**

Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. **(R.)**

#### **Second Reading**

**Philippians 2:6-11**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became a man; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**The word of the Lord.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you,  
because by your cross you have redeemed the world.  
Alleluia!

## Gospel

17

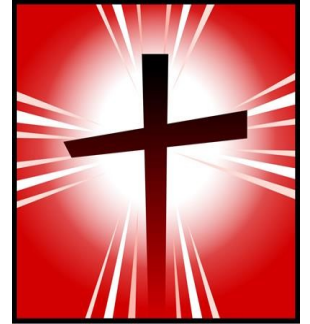
John 3:13-

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven  
except the one who came down from heaven,  
the Son of Man who is in heaven;  
and the Son of Man must be lifted up  
as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.  
Yes, God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost  
but may have eternal life.  
For God sent his Son into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but so that through him the world might be saved.'

## The Gospel of the Lord



## REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we concentrate on the power of the cross in our lives. It is the ultimate demonstration of the nature of God. Christ gave of himself even to death on the cross. This is characteristic, not only of the man Jesus, but of the Godhead. Creation is the first example of divine emptying; redemption is the ultimate example. Unlike Good Friday when we stand before the stark cross and mourn the death of our innocent messiah, today we stand before the glorious cross and praise God for God's incomprehensible goodness toward us. God's graciousness is poured out indiscriminately, prodigally as only profound love can be given. Such is the nature of our God, and the cross is the symbol of this nature.

Jesus compares the pole in the wilderness on which was fixed the serpent to the cross which becomes the source of our healing. It was through the cross that Jesus conquered sin and death and won for us access to God. It is through the cross that we die to sin and rise to new life in Christ. As painful as life's crosses may be, they serve to transform us. It can be our hope in the midst of pain and suffering and brokenness, because it promises to carry us into new life.

Through the goodness of God, which has been poured out for us, we have been granted eternal life. It is incomprehensible to think that death is the way to life, but that is the message of this feast. The cross, which is a sign of shame and misery, is now a symbol of glory and exaltation.

## Catholic Teaching on the Sign of the Cross

- **Trinitarian Faith:** When Catholics say, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," they profess belief in the Holy Trinity—the central mystery of Christian faith.
- **Christ's Sacrifice:** Tracing the Cross on the body recalls Jesus' crucifixion, affirming His saving work and our redemption through it.
- **Baptismal Identity:** The gesture echoes the words spoken at baptism, reminding the faithful that they belong to God and are called to live as disciples of Christ.
- **Prayer and Protection:** The Church teaches that the Sign of the Cross is both a prayer and a spiritual shield. It sanctifies the moment and invokes divine grace.

**LITURGIES THIS WEEK, 15th—21st September.****MONDAY** No Mass**TUESDAY 9.30am** Mass at Somerville**WEDNESDAY 9.00** No Mass**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,**RCIA REGIONAL NETWORK GATHERING –  
SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2025**

Clergy, RCIA team members and all interested in beginning an RCIA team are invited to an RCIA Regional Network Gathering. This evening offering is the perfect opportunity to connect with other RCIA teams in their region, share resources and formation opportunities, and accompany each other in encouragement in the vital missionary work ahead. Across September and October, each region and those in the Geelong area will have an opportunity to gather. The first gathering will be in the Southern Region on **Thursday 18 September 2025, 6.30-8.30pm, at Resurrection Parish, Keysborough**

**PRAYERS AND PETITIONS**

*Please pray for those who are sick, especially Bob Fels, Pat Pope, David Wirth, Brian Stahl, Kees Meyer, Michael Smith, Danny McGeough, Ray Weir, Rebecca, Marie Mereszko, Halima, Sala, Agnes, Malia, Janelle Farley, 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, 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 Marie Fels and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. May they rest in peace.*

**ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK, 15th—21st September**

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b>Somerville</b>	<b>Shoreham</b>	<b>Hastings</b>		
<b>Lector</b>	Mary Marshall	Peter Schreiner	Michelle Claudio	<b>Mass Welcomer Hastings</b>	Brian McAnallen
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Louise Street	Anne Maree Dyer	Lioba Robinson Isobel Wilson	<b>Counters This Week</b>	Heimann Sissing Steven Stewart
<b>Commentator</b>	Judy Deefholts	Clare Shearman	Tom Leyden	<b>Counters Next Week</b>	Judy & Derrick Deefholts
<b>Altar Linen</b>		SEPT. Anne Maree Dyer		<b>Sacristan</b>	Marie Ernestine
<b>Mass Prep</b>	Christine Coleman	SEPT. Marg Grant		<b>Audio/Visual</b>	Geoff Robinson
<b>Flowers</b>	Sandy Adolphus	<b>Somerville Maintenance—</b> Sandy Adolphus		<b>Communion to the Sick This Week</b>	Judy Deefholts
<b>Cleaning</b>	SEPT. Tracey Clark	Sharon Judd			

## Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to help in the Parish Office on Thursdays for a couple of hours. From Thursday, 2nd October to Thursday, 30th October.

Jobs include:

- answering the telephone and taking messages
- photocopying the Church News Sheet.
- If you are interested, see Father Shymon after Mass or ring the Parish Centre 5979 4374.

## Adult Confirmation.

The Sacrament of Adult Confirmation will be held **on 23 November 2025 at the 11am Solemn Mass.** at St Patrick's Cathedral. If you are interested contact the Parish Office 5979 4374 by 30th September, 2025.

## All Souls Day Memorial Service November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025, in St Brendan's Memorial Garden

For the weekend of All Souls Day in November this year we would like to hold a short Memorial Service in the St Brendan's Memorial Garden at 5.30 pm before the evening mass.

We would like to invite applications for memorial plaques throughout the month of September so that we may have time to order them and affix them prior to the service. Application forms are available at the Parish Office and at St Brendan's Church.

The cost for a plaque is \$200.00, (being \$60.00 for the plaque and a one-time maintenance fee of \$140.00 for the upkeep and future requirements of the garden). There is also the opportunity to reserve an adjoining space for a future family memorial for an additional cost of \$30.00, (which is deducted from the cost of that future plaque).

If you have any queries, please see Tracey Clark or leave your details with the Parish Office.

**SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY • 14 SEP 2025**  
WE ARE A SAFE, HOPE-FILLED AND WELCOMING CHURCH



Catholics around Australia will mark Safeguarding Sunday on 14 September.

The Church must not only be a safe place for children and young people but a place of welcome. In this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are reminded that our communities of faith must enkindle in young people the hope that their dreams can come true.

## New young saints encourage faithful to live life to the full, Pope says

The greatest risk in life is to waste it by not seeking to follow God's plan, Pope Leo XIV said, proclaiming two new saints—two young laymen of the 20th and 21st centuries. 'Sts Pier Giorgio Frassati and Carlo Acutis are an invitation to all of us, especially young people, not to squander our lives, but to direct them upward and make them masterpieces.'

Continue reading: [New young saints encourage faithful to live life to the full, Pope says](#)

## RCIA. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults".

Our RCIA team is ready to welcome any participants who would like to inquire about becoming a Catholic. The first session will be on **Thursday 9th October at 7:00pm** in the Parish Centre. Please encourage any of your family or friends to consider the inquiry stage. There is no obligation to commit to continuing if the decision is made to not proceed. Please contact the Parish Office with names and details.

## Total givings from the week 1st—7th Sept.

1<sup>st</sup> Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$703.40

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Cards and cheques) \$1111.30

Tap Machine Donations \$108.63

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.