



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A – 22nd/23rd 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:
71 Marine Parade Hastings

POSTAL ADDRESS:
PO Box 76 Hastings 3915

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 22:19-23

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord of hosts to Shebna, the master of the palace:
I dismiss you from your office, I remove you from your post,
and the same day I call on my servant Eliakim son of Hilkiah.
I invest him with your robe, gird him with your sash,
entrust him with your authority; and he shall be a father
to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the House of Judah.
I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder;
should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open.
I drive him like a peg into a firm place;
he will become a throne of glory for his father's house.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 137:1-3. 6. 8. R. v.8

**(R.) Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands.**

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **(R.)**
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,

Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge –
and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods!
Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his coun-
sellor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything? All that
exists comes from him; all is by him and for him. To him be glory for ever!
Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are Peter, the rock on which I will build my Church;
the gates of hell will not hold out against it.

Alleluia!



Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CS.

The readings highlight two different but related themes: the character of our understanding of Christ, and our understanding of discipleship that flows from it. Christological reflections reach a climax in the question posed to the disciples: Who do you say I am? In this liturgical context, the same question is posed to us. Who is this one who multiplies loaves of bread, who walks on turbulent waters, who breaks the boundaries that separate insider from outsider? It is none other than the messiah.

When Peter testified to Jesus' identity, it was a relevant religious and political statement, for messianic expectation was a burning question at that time. But what does it mean for the average Christian today? Many believers consider messianic expectation a theological theme that belongs to the past. They feel that it is difficult to get excited about the coming of someone who we believe has already come and gone. If Jesus were to pose this question today, how would we answer?

Like Peter, we too may have good intentions, but when they are put to the test we realise that that was all that they were – good intentions. Still, we should not be discouraged by our weaknesses, for just as Peter's failure did not deter God from entrusting him with power and authority, so our failures need not be obstacles to God's grace in our lives. We watch God entrust the church to individuals who are weak and undependable, and we realise that judgments are inscrutable and God's ways unsearchable.

Jesus said to Peter "You are the rock on which I will build my Church." Draw your church on the rock below.



What makes strong foundations for the church?
Write your answers on the rock.

Who do you say Jesus is?

Write some words which describe Jesus.

LITURGIES THIS WEEK: 24th - 30th August**MONDAY:** No Service**TUESDAY:****9.30am** Mass at Somerville**FRIDAY:****9.30am** No Mass at Hastings**10.30am.** Funeral Mass for Briah Stahl**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 Jemima Middleton (McKillop), Kylie Wilman, 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, especially Brian Stahl and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, May they rest in peace.

ROSTERS FOR NEXT WEEK—29th/30th August

MINISTRY	<i>Somerville</i>	<i>Shoreham</i>	<i>Hastings</i>		
Lector	Mary Marshall	Sylvia Falzon	Val Coventry	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Barbara Farley
Eucharistic Ministers	Louise Street	Kees Meyer	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Derek & Judy Deefholts
Commentator	Judy Deefholts	Anthony Grimes	Agnes Smith	Counters Next Week	Heimann Sissing Brian McAnallen
Altar Linen	AUGUST—Mary Marshall	AUGUST - Sue Ireland		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Mass Prep	Val Baxter			Audio/Visual	Jessele Baxter
Flowers	Val Baxter			Communion to the Sick This Week	Judy Deefholts



PARTICIPATING IN THE SYNOD.

Make a submission. Gather your fellow parishioners, family, friends or colleagues to a spiritual conversation to reflect on the themes for the Synod. Scan the QR code at the end of each paper to submit your reflections. Submissions will be accepted until **23 August 2026**.

Synod membership. If you are interested in nominating a parishioner to become a Synod member: Parishes are invited to nominate 1-2 parishioners to be considered as a regional member for the Melbourne Synod. There will be 15 Participants from each of the 4 areas of the Archdiocese. Member application forms are available and need to be in by **27 August** to the Archdiocese.

What about me? How individual voices will be heard at the Melbourne Synod.

It is not an uncommon question. In fact, it may be one of the most important questions being asked across the Archdiocese as we prepare for the Melbourne Synod. Beneath the question lies a deep love for the Church. People care. They care about their parishes, their communities and the future of the Church. They want to contribute. They want to be heard. They want their experiences, hopes and concerns to matter.

Continue reading: melbournecatholic.org.au

WORLD YOUTH DAY.

Preparations are in full swing for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea, where Pope Leo XIV is expected to join young Catholics from around the world for the second World Youth Day ever held in Asia.

The gathering, which will take place on 3–8 August 2027, comes more than three decades after the first World Youth Day in Asia, which drew between four and five million people to Manila with Pope John Paul II in 1995, setting a Guinness World Record for largest attendance at a papal event at the time.

Continue reading: melbournecatholic.org.au

The Cagliero Project, Salesians of Don Bosco.

Long Term Volunteer Opportunities in the Australia-Pacific Region - We are seeking long term (6-12 month) volunteers for departure in January 2027 to work with young people in our Salesian communities in Samoa, Cambodia, Timor Leste, Solomon Islands and Mongolia.

Applications close October 31st, 2026. Send us an enquiry -

www.cagliero.org.au or lhichaa-ba@salesians.org.au.

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.



THE
ARCHBISHOP'S
CAMPAIGN
2026



melbournecatholic.org/archbishopscampaign

ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN

This is a final reminder to complete your pledge to the 2026 Archbishop's Campaign and to play your part in supporting the vital ministries that serve our faith community across the Archdiocese of Melbourne. The campaign invites all the faithful to support the formation of seminarians, the care of our retired priests, and the important charitable and evangelisation works of the Archdiocese. Further details, along with information on how to make a gift, can be found in the brochures available in the pews and foyer today. While recognising the challenges many may be facing, I encourage you to consider giving generously in whatever way you are able.

This weekend is 'Follow-up Weekend' for parishioners to finalise their commitment. There will be a leaving collection after all Masses.

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

Total giving - 15th/16th August.

1st Collection: Presbytery - \$ 847.50
2nd Collection: Church Account - \$1,111.30
Tap Machine: \$ 191.67
Thank you for your ongoing Support!



THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES.

If you did not get your envelopes, ring the Parish Office - we still have a few that haven't been picked up.