



Western Port Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

2nd Sunday of Advent - Year A, 10 December 2023

PARISH CONTACT

DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

**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: [http://
westernportchurch.com.au](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 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 40:1-5. 9-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Prepare the way for the Lord.

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.'

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading

2 Peter 3:8-14

A reading from the second letter of St Peter

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up.

Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace. **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

Mark 1:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins.

John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION by

Dianne Bergant

In the wilderness God's salvation comes to a broken people. In the midst of what is seemingly an impossible situation, hope emerges with vigour. In this context, hope is an openness to surprise, the surprise that God is in no way limited to the imaginings of human minds and the consequences of human history. This is the kind of hope that is proclaimed in the wilderness by John; it is the kind of hope that trusts that from the impossible, God can work a new creation.

There is something of a time warp in Christianity. What is future is made present. The prophetic oracle announces the future as if it is already happening. This sense of the future-present prompts new ways of living. As the future takes root in human lives, the present is transformed into a new creation and the Day of the Lord appears.

God's future comes through the wilderness into the broken city and inspires a broken-hearted people. The contrite heart is a broken heart, an emptied-out heart, a hope-filled heart. It is a heart that is unencumbered by the past and that lives currently in the passing of time and the fragility of being alive. The contrite, broken heart can be filled only by what is promised in the future. This is the paradox of Advent. In the middle of the wilderness, God works the impossible in those whose hearts are ready for the surprise of hope.

PARISH VOLUNTEERS

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK AND ONLINE TRAINING

Is your **Working With Children Check registered** with our Parish Secretary? Please forward your current card details to the Parish Secretary at the office in Hastings or via email to westernport@cam.org.au.

A note: For those who need help with obtaining new birth and/or marriage certificate in order to get WWCC, some of our parishioners have recommended Rosebud Justice Service Centre in 2/843-849 Point Nepean Rd.

There is no charge in their services for pensioners.

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, 11 —17 December, 2023

MONDAY *No Service*

TUESDAY *No Mass at 9.30am*

11.00am Funeral Mass for Diane Mentiplay at Hastings

5.00pm Graduation Mass at Somerville

WEDNESDAY 9.00am Mass at Shoreham

THURSDAY *No Mass at 9.30am*

10.30am Holy Mass at Bays Aged Care Hastings

FRIDAY 09.30pm—Mass at Hastings

SATURDAY

10.00-10.30am—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 Paula Murphy, Tony Brown, Pat Tagliabue, Michael Pound, John Kelly, Janice Danaher, Vicky Mathis, Edna Walsh, Jane Maria, Frank Tagliabue, Oliver Munoz, Kathy Burke, Frank Howard, Paul Creed, Geoff Hardingham, Mike Mason, Leo Gilfedder, Kevin Paganoni, 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, especially Nicholas Crinis and Margareta Naglic. May they rest in peace.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL:

We are in need of Pasta & Sauces, Cans of Tuna, Salmon, Meat & Vegetables, Tins of Soup, Tinned fruit, tins of vegetables, Spaghetti, Baked Beans, Diced Tomatoes. Spreads such as Jam, Peanut Butter, Vegemite, Honey. Packets of Sweet and Dry biscuits, Cereal, Tea and Coffee, Long Life Milk, Rice, Two Minute noodles and Cup of Soup packets, and toiletries. Please **do not** donate Sugar, Powdered Milk or Cheese Spreads.

NAMES ON ROSTERS BELOW FOR MASSES NEXT WEEKEND 16/12 & 17/12/2023

MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings	Piety Stall	
Lector	Mary Marshall	Joan Power	Lioba Robinson	Flowers Hastings	Lioba Robinson
Eucharistic Ministers	Louise Street	Margaret Grant	Monica Smith Tom Leyden	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Virginia Carey
Commentator	Tracey Clark	Joan White	Sarah Ernestine	Counters This Week	Monica & Terry Smith
Altar Linen		DECEMBER— Catherine Russ		Counters Next Week	Steven Stewart Ian Marshall
Mass Prep	Mary Marshall	DECEMBER— Catherine Russ		Statue of Our Lady	
Flowers	Maree Chapman	Somerville Maintenance	Hastings Maintenance Team	Communion to the Sick This Week	Group 1 - Group 2 – Mary Marshall
Cleaning	DECEMBER— Tracey Clark	Tony & Kath Rolfe			

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER: PEACE

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe. Your prophets promised a Savior to bring peace to the world. May this second candle remind us of the peace that only Christ can give. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Last weekend across the three Mass Centres we collected \$2040 for the **Westernport Conference Christmas Appeal**. We thank all the parishioners who contributed to our appeal your efforts are much appreciated.

ADVENT APPEAL FOR UKRAINE

In response to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, **Archbishop Peter A Comensoli** has launched a special Advent appeal. Funds raised will go towards providing aid and practical assistance to those who have been displaced and who are without basic supplies, especially the sick and the elderly.

If you wish to donate by **cash or cheque**, you can do so by using the **postage paid return envelopes** available in our three churches. Donations of \$2 above are tax deductible (receipt will be emailed). To get the receipt, fill out the available form and enclose it into the postage paid return envelopes. Alternatively, **scan the QR code on the form** to donate with a **credit card** online melbournecatholic.org/adventappeal.

HOME VISITS

If you are homebound or if you know someone who is homebound and would like to receive a home visit from the Parish Priest, especially during Advent time, please don't hesitate to contact Parish office.

GOD'S WORD 2024 - DAILY REFLECTIONS

God's Word 2024 Daily Reflections is available to purchase in the church foyers of all our three churches at price: \$22.00.

2024 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS You can now find 2024 Columban Art Calendars for \$10 each.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - 2023

Sunday, 24th December, 2023 – CHRISTMAS EVE

6.00pm – FAMILY MASS at St Brendan's Church, SOMERVILLE
preceded by Christmas Carols at 5.45pm

8.00pm – St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM
preceded by Christmas Carols at 7.30pm

8.00pm – Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS
preceded by Christmas Carols at 7.30pm

Monday, 25th December, 2023– CHRISTMAS DAY
10.00am – Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS
10.00am – St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM

COMMUNITY RECONCILIATION SERVICE (With Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament)

7.00pm Wednesday, 20th December at Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS

ST BRENDAN'S NEWS

Social Justice Action Team (SJAT) News

Thank you to the St Vincent de Paul Westernport Conference volunteers for their work with our **Mini Vinnies Team** to help those in need this Christmas. Thank you also to all of the wonderful St Brendan's families who donated grocery items for the Christmas Hamper Appeal. The St Brendan's Mini Vinnies representatives, Kaity, Chace, Georgia & Catherine, along with students from St Mary's and St Joseph's, packed 72 hampers for those in need at the Western Port distribution centre on Monday, December 4th. What a great collaborative effort!

Thank You

Thank you to our lovely parishioners who have joined us in the celebration of school Mass at any stage throughout 2023. We LOVE having you join us and we really hope to see many more friendly faces from the parish joining us at St Brendan's for school Masses in 2024. Please watch this space for our School Mass dates throughout 2024. In the meantime, we at St Brendan's School all wish you a happy, safe, and holy Christmas.

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts Cards

Caritas Australia's Global Gifts Christmas cards are a great way to spread joy and hope this Christmas season and to make a life-changing impact. Each gift represents a donation that will support vulnerable communities to create a brighter future. Order now to receive in time for Christmas at www.globalgifts.org.au

Total givings from the week 1/12/23-7/12/23

1st Collection – Presbytery \$658.95

2nd Collection – Church Account (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$1591.40

Thank you for your ongoing support!