



Western Port Catholic Parish

Newsletter

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

The Epiphany of Our Lord - Year B, 7 January 2024

PARISH CONTACT

DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

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

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PARISH CENTRE:

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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
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 60:1-6](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears. The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13](#)

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgment to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgment.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

Second Reading

[Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6](#)

A reading from the letter to St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord. **Alleluia!**

Gospel

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Matthew

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Stars and Seekers after Truth

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him.

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. **Training** online and signed **Code of Conduct** should be completed at the link below and details posted/emailed to the Parish Secretary. Face to face training (one session) will be offered during the year after mass at a date to be notified. [Safeguarding Children Training | Westernport Church](#) Thanks to all those who already provided their details and completed their online training.

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, 8—14 January, 2024

MONDAY

No Service

TUESDAY 9.30am Mass at Somerville

WEDNESDAY No Mass at Shoreham

11.00am Funeral Mass for Nell Van Staveren at Hastings

THURSDAY 9.30am Mass at Hastings

FRIDAY 09.30am Mass at Hastings

SATURDAY

6.00pm Mass at St Brendan's Church, Somerville

SUNDAY

8.00am Mass at St Peter's Church, Shoreham

10.00am 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 Mary Sloan, 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, especially Nell Van Staveren and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Colleen Wilson and Felicia Wilson. May they rest in peace.

NAMES ON ROSTERS BELOW FOR MASSES NEXT WEEKEND 13/1 & 14/1/2024

MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings	Piety Stall	
Lector	Sandy Adolphus	8.00am Paul Clarke 10.00am—Pauline D'Astoli	Ted Fennessy	Flowers Hastings	
Eucharistic Ministers	Maree Chapman	8.00am—Margaret Grant 10.00am -Joan White	Marie Ernestine Barbara Farley	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Maggie Parsons
Commentator	Sarah Ernestine	8.00am—Joan Power 10.00am—Ann Lorkin	Val Coventry	Counters This Week	Kees & Genevieve Meyer
Altar Linen		JANUARY—Sylvia Falzon		Counters Next Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	JANUARY—Anne Maree Dyer		Statue of Our Lady	
Flowers	Maree Chapman	Somerville Maintenance	Hastings Maintenance Team	Communion to the Sick This Week	Group 1 - Group 2 -
Cleaning	JANUARY— Louise Street	Fred Arena			

A THANK YOU NOTE

"Grateful to our dedicated parish Staff, volunteers, Sacristans, ministers, readers, and parishioners who joined hands in creating beautiful Christmas Eve and Christmas Day mass celebrations. Your efforts made it truly wonderful. Special appreciation to all for the support, Christmas wishes, and thoughtful gifts. Your contributions have made this season even more joyous. Blessings to you all."

Fr. Shymon.

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

We are seeking dedicated individuals who would like to set up **flowers** for the Sunday Masses at **Hastings church**. If you're interested, please contact Parish Office.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

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.

We thank you for your ongoing support, it is very much appreciated.

'FORMING FOR MISSION' REPORT

The 'Forming for Mission' report is the third of the **Take the Way of the Gospel** consultation reports, the result of expansive engagement with parishes from across the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

This series of consultations, taking place throughout August and September 2023 in each region of the Archdiocese, reflected on the theme 'Forming for Mission' in the context of the vibrant, vital and viable communities we aspire to recreate.

You can find the report on the link below:

[TWG-Consultation-Session-Report-3_2023.pdf](https://www.melbournecatholic.org/TWG-Consultation-Session-Report-3_2023.pdf)
([melbournecatholic.org](https://www.melbournecatholic.org))

An Epiphany Prayer

Lord Jesus, may your light shine our way,
as once it guided the steps of the magi:
that we too may be led into your presence
and worship you, the Child of Mary,
the Word of the Father, the King of nations,
the Saviour of mankind;
to whom be glory for ever.

(Frank Colquhoun)



2024 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS AND GOD'S WORD

You can now find 2024 Columban Art Calendars for \$10 each and God's Word 2024 Daily Reflections at price: \$22 each.

NEW ROSTERS:

The new Rosters for Hastings and Somerville are now available in the foyers of the Churches. Thank you to all those parishioners who are volunteering for the various Ministries in 2024.

DONATION TAP MACHINES

Tap machine for donations are now available at each mass centres. This is designed to accommodate individuals who prefer electronic transactions using credit or debit cards. The machines have four different pay options or you can select the amount you wish to pay to support the parish and parish house accounts.

Your support is greatly appreciated, and we thank you for your generosity.



Total givings from the week 22/12/23-28/12/23

1 st Collection – Presbytery	\$641.60
2 nd Collection – Church Account (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)	\$883.90

Total givings from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses

(24&25/12/23): \$2730.10

Total givings from the week 29/12/23-4/1/24

1 st Collection – Presbytery	\$891.65
2 nd Collection – Church Account (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)	\$1725.65

Thank you for your ongoing support!