



Western Port Catholic Parish

Newsletter

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B, 11 February 2024

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

Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean." As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 31:1-2. 5.11

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
In whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**

But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**

Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:31 - 11:1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone - to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people. **Alleluia!**

Gospel

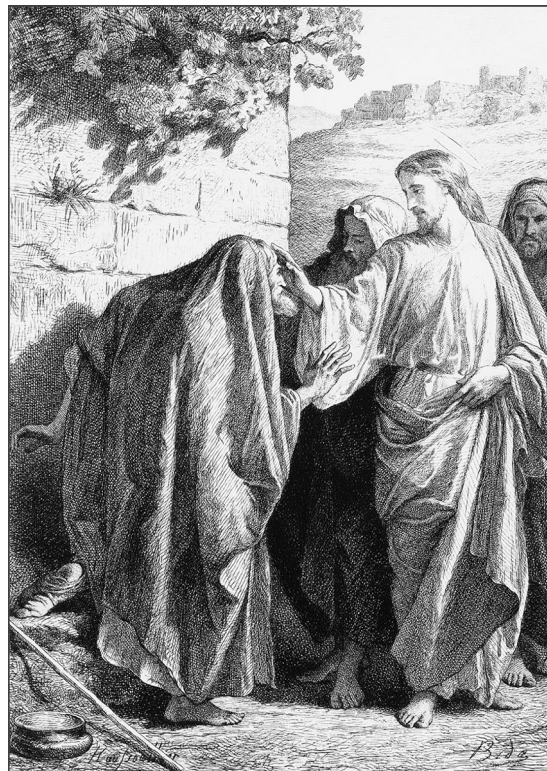
Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.'

The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

We know that we will all have to face some kind of suffering, and so we try to prepare ourselves for it. Yet when it comes, as prepared as we try to be, it can overtake us with such fury that we fall back defenceless. We look to others for support and assistance, and if we are fortunate, we find it. However, even in the most supportive of communities, suffering tends to alienate us from those who are healthy and secure. Suffering reminds us of our own finitude and the contingent nature of all of life. It threatens our sense of order.

Jesus is not deterred by human suffering. He welcomes all who approach him; his healing touch reincorporates those who have been ostracised; his loving embrace reassociates those who have been alienated. In the reign of God, there are no outsiders. All belong to Jesus, and, therefore, all belong to each other. When the one afflicted is embraced by the community, the community is an authentic manifestation of the inclusive reign of God.

In suffering we witness human vulnerability and our desperate need of each other and of God. There, at the edge of life and on the fringes of the community, we may experience the tenderness and compassion of God. The loving touch of Christ that can heal our souls, if not our bodies. It is there that we may most authentically participate in the cross of Christ. Joined to him we are anything but unproductive or worthless.

REFLECTION FOR YOUTH

LIVING THE GOSPEL

Who is your leper?

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

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, 12 February—18 February

MONDAY No Service

TUESDAY 9.30am Mass at Somerville

ASH WEDNESDAY 9.30am Mass at Somerville

2.00pm Mass at Hastings

THURSDAY 9.30am Mass at Hastings

FRIDAY 9.30am Mass at Hastings

10.00am Stations of the Cross

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 Mary Sloan, Paula Murphy, Pat Tagliabue, Frank Tagliabue, Michael Pound, John Kelly, Janice Danaher, Vicky Mathis, Edna Walsh, Jane Maria, Oliver Munoz, Kathy Burke, Frank Howard, Paul Creed, Geoff Hardingham, Mike Mason, Leo Giffedder, 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 Angela Arthur, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Mercedes Morilla. 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 toilet-ries. Please **do not** donate Sugar, Powdered Milk or Cheese Spreads. Thank you for your ongoing support!

NAMES ON ROSTERS BELOW FOR MASSES NEXT WEEKEND 17/2 & 18/2/2024

-MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings		
Lector	Christine Coleman	Paul Clarke	Lioba Robinson	Mass Welcomer Hastings	Millie Payten
Eucharistic Ministers	Val Baxter	Joan White	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	Counters This Week	Kees & Genevieve Meyer
Commentator	Tracey Clark	Sylvia Falzon	Val Coventry	Counters Next Week	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien
Altar Linen		FEBRUARY—Joan Power		Statue of Our Lady	
Mass Prep	Val Baxter	FEBRUARY—Margaret Grant		Communion to the Sick This Week	Group 1 - Group 2—Judy Deefholts
Flowers	Val Baxter	Somerville Maintenance		Hastings Maintenance Team	
Cleaning	FEBRUARY—Christine Coleman	Fred Arena			

LENT 2024

The Lenten season begins this week with **Ash Wednesday**. It is the day of fasting and abstinence from meat. For more information on Lent, please see the leaflet at the church foyer.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every **Friday** after the 9.30am Mass in Hastings and every **Tuesday** after the 9.30am Mass in Somerville during Lenten season

PARISH ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Wednesday, February 14th-

- St Brendan's Church at 9.30am - School and Parish Mass, and distribution of ashes. **Mass leaders:** Year Three & Four staff and students.
- Immaculate Conception Church Hastings at 2.00pm—School and Parish Mass, and distribution of ashes. All are welcome.

Beginning of the 2024 School Year Mass

Thursday, February 22nd- St Brendan's Church at 11:30 am

Mass leaders: Year Five & Six staff and students. All are welcome.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2024— PALESTINE

Friday, 1 March at 1:30pm at St Peter's Church —7 Byrnes Road Shoreham 3916

Contact person: Ann Lorkin—5989 8835

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. [Safe-guarding Children Training | Westernport Church](#)

Thanks to all those who already provided their details and completed their online training.

Offertory Giving Campaign

Dear Parishioners,

this weekend, we will commence the Offertory Giving Campaign in our parish community which will run over the next three weeks. The call to generosity is God's invitation to us to deepen our faith and is a vital part of our identity as Christians. You are encouraged to prayerfully engage with this time. We look forward to growing deeper in our relationship with Christ through this process.



If your name isn't on one of the envelopes, please let us know your name and address so we can follow this up with you.

Fr Shymon

THIS LENT, DON'T FORGET ABOUT EASTER

At the first Theology at the Pub event of the new year, Fr Michael Buck, chaplain at the Melbourne campus of Australian Catholic University (ACU), reflected on the swiftly approaching season of Lent and how we might engage more fruitfully with it. He outlined some common temptations we face, and how to keep the season's connection to Easter and to Baptism alive. Continue reading: [This Lent, don't forget about Easter](#)

POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2024

On Thursday 1 February, two weeks out from Ash Wednesday, Pope Francis released his annual message for the Lenten season, reflecting on the gift of Christian freedom and how the desert is a time for maturing in that gift. 'When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom,' he said.

Continue reading: [God's message 'is always one of freedom': Pope Francis for Lent 2024](#)

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF WITNESSING AND ACCOMPANYING

Late last year, the Australian Catholic Bishops released 'To Witness and to Accompany with Christian Hope', a document that assists priests, chaplains and pastoral workers to accompany those who might be considering euthanasia. Responding to the themes raised in this document, Rev Dr Jake Mudge reflects on the dual vocations of the sick and of those who accompany and care for them.

Continue reading: [The transformative power of witnessing and accompanying](#)

Total givings from the week 2/21-8/24

1 st Collection – Presbytery	\$645.15
2 nd Collection – Church Account (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)	\$1087.45

Thank you for your ongoing support!