



## Western Port Catholic Parish

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

### 4th Sunday Of Advent -Year C, 22 December 2024

#### 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:** [http://](http://westernportchurch.com.au)

[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

[Micah5:1-4](#)

#### A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this:

You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel.

He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

**The word of the Lord.**

#### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19](#)

***R. Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.***

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

#### Second Reading

[Hebrews 10:5-10](#)

#### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world:

You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.'

Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

**The word of the Lord.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

### Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.

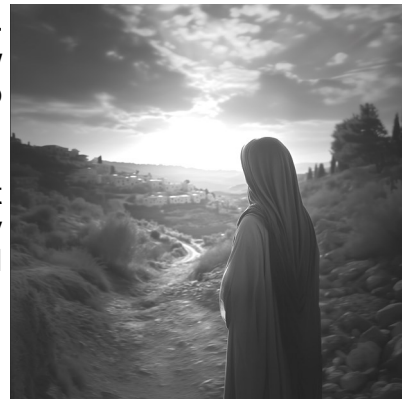
**Alleluia!**

Luke 1:39-44

## A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## REFLECTION *by Dianne Bergant CSA*

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

## REFLECTION FOR YOUTH



### Have YOU thought? Baptism

We may think that Baptism is an invention of the Christian community but today's gospel makes it clear that baptism was used within the Jewish community and was put to a particular purpose by John the Baptist. Baptism was part of the Jewish tradition well before the time of Jesus. Ritual cleansing by full immersion was an important element of worship and converts to Judaism were required to walk through a deep bath known as a mikveh. John's use of baptism as a washing away of sin was a different interpretation of the well established practice.

## Christmas Gifts from Palms



Are you looking to give something really special this year?  
Something that makes a tangible difference?

Palms has the shop for you!

Whether it be a GIFT directly supporting our overseas development program, or some unique Timorese GIFTS for your loved one's home, you'll find that perfect GIFT here!

Just scan the QR or go to [palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop](https://palms.org.au/donate/palms-gift-shop)



## GOD'S WORD 2025 - DAILY REFLECTIONS

*God's Word 2025 Daily Reflections* is now available to purchase in the church foyers of all our three churches at price: \$22.00

*A Christmas Gift to Someone You Love*

**2025 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS** - You can now find 2025 Columban Art Calendars at all our three churches for \$10 each.

**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, 23 —29 December, 2023**

**MONDAY** *No Service*

***For the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass  
Timetable, please see the next page***

**THURSDAY 9.30am** *No Service*

**FRIDAY 9.30am** *No Service*

**SATURDAY**

**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, Maureen Bleighly, Sandra, Marissa, Amber, Peter Rogan, Bernadette Sexton, Peter Munyan, Tommy Judge, 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, Mike Mason, Elaine Duyvestyn, James Smythe, Lucy Triffett, Helena Jaskolski, Oscar Dixon-Rotherham, Margaret Sherlock and all those who need our prayers, especially Finian and Kathleen. May they receive the Lord's comfort and strength.*

*Please pray for those who have died recently, especially Bernadette Wyer and Raymond Broatch, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Jack Danaher. May they rest in peace.*

**ADDITIONAL ROSTERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY 2024**

**SOMERVILLE—24.12., 6.00pm Christmas Eve** Lector: Tracey Clark, Eucharistic Ministers: Val Baxter, Maree Chapman, Commentator: Sandy Adolphus

**SHOREHAM—24.12., 8.00pm Christmas Eve** Lector: John Patterson, Eucharistic Ministers: Sylvia Falzon, Val Fakhry, Commentator: Sr Joan Power | **SHOREHAM—25.12., 10.00am Christmas Day** Lector: Damian Ireland, Eucharistic Minister: Joan White, Commentator: Ann Lorkin

**HASTINGS-24.12., 5.00pm Christmas Eve** Lector: Deirdre Fennessy, Eucharistic Ministers: Maggie Parsons, Barbara Farley Mass Welcomer: Barbara Farley | **HASTINGS—25.12., 10.00am Christmas Day** Lector: Jared McCartin Eucharistic Ministers: Paula Stokes, Lioba Robinson Audio/Visual: Jesele Baxter

**NAMES ON ROSTERS BELOW FOR SERVICES NEXT WEEK, 28/12 & 29/12/2024**

<b>MINISTRY</b>	<b><i>Somerville</i></b>	<b><i>Shoreham</i></b>	<b><i>Hastings</i></b>		
<b>Lector</b>	Garry McDonell	Anne-Marie Wilkinson	Tom Leyden	<b>Mass Welcomer Hastings</b>	Maggie Parsons
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Maree Chapman	Kees Meyer	Paula Stokes Maggie Parsons	<b>Counters This Week</b>	n/a
<b>Commentator</b>	Judy Deefholts	John Patterson		<b>Counters Next Week</b>	Barbara & Gerald O'Brien, Genevieve & Kees Meyer
<b>Mass Prep</b>	Christine Coleman	DECEMBER: Catherine Russ		<b>Sacristan</b>	Virginia Carey
<b>Altar Linen</b>		DECEMBER: Catherine Russ		<b>Audio/Visual</b>	Geoff Robinson
<b>Flowers</b>	Sandy Adolphus	<b>Somerville Maintenance—</b> Bill & Anne-Marie Lawson		<b>Communion to the Sick This Week</b>	Group 2— Anne-Marie Lawson
<b>Cleaning</b>	DECEMBER: Tracey Clark				

**Christmas Eve Family Mass at 5.00PM,  
Hastings**

To celebrate the joyous occasion of the birth of Jesus, all families are warmly invited to share together with the children participating in singing Christmas carols during the Mass, so come dressed in a nativity theme. **Deirdre Fennessy**, our Parish Pastoral Worker, will be available to assist the children. If you have any questions, please contact her at 0412 366 203.

Santa will be visiting with gifts for the children immediately after the Mass.



**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT PRAYER: LOVE**

Heavenly Father, as we light the fourth Advent candle of love, may your love inspire us to love one another as you have loved us.



Let your love guide our actions and words. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

We would like to congratulate all of the students, teachers and staff at our three schools—St Mary's, St Joseph's and St Brendan's School—on again another outstanding year!

We hope you have a great holidays and return feeling rejuvenated.

**PLEASE NOTE—PARISH NOTICE**

Please note, our Parish Office will be closed from 23<sup>rd</sup> December until 31st December.

Phone messages will be monitored.

**ARCHBISHOP'S CAMPAIGN—THANK YOU!**

We are pleased to share the success of the inaugural Archbishop's Campaign and sincerely thank you for your generosity and support. Together, parishes across the Archdiocese raised \$811,178 including \$990 contributed by Westernport Parish.

These funds will support vital mission areas such as the Priests Retirement Foundation, the John Pierce Centre, Melbourne Overseas Mission, Corpus Christi College, Catholic Theological College and the Archbishop's Evangelisation Initiatives. Thank you for being part of this important campaign and for living out your faith with action.

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES - 2024**



**Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2024— CHRISTMAS EVE**

5.00pm – FAMILY MASS at Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS

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

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

**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> December, 2024— CHRISTMAS DAY**

10.00am – Immaculate Conception Church, HASTINGS

10.00am – St Peter's Church, SHOREHAM



**ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE ANNOUNCES LOCAL  
PILGRIM PLACES FOR JUBILEE 2025**



For locals wanting to participate in next year's Jubilee and unable to travel to Rome, we have good news. In anticipation of the official opening of Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope, the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne has revealed the 13 churches and shrines within the Archdiocese that will be designated Pilgrim Places for the purposes of the 2025 Jubilee:

- St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne
- St Mary Star of the Sea (Archdiocese Shrine of the Holy Family), West Melbourne
  - St Mary MacKillop, Keilor Downs
    - St Luke's, Lalor
  - St Mary Magdalene's, Trentham
- Polish Marian Shrine, Aberfeldie/Essendon
  - St Dominic's, Camberwell East
  - St Francis Xavier, Mansfield
    - Sacred Heart, Croydon
  - Divine Mercy Shrine, Keysborough
  - Our Lady of Lavang, Keysborough
    - St Patrick's, Mentone
    - St Macartan's, Mornington

Details of opening times and offerings at each Pilgrim Place will be announced early in the new year. Continue reading: [Hope does not disappoint: Archdiocese of Melbourne announces local pilgrim places for Jubilee 2025](#)

**Total givings from the week 13/12-19/12/24**

Thanksgiving 1 <sup>st</sup> Collection – Presbytery	\$942.55
2nd Collection – Church (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards, cheques and envelopes)	\$1110.50
Loose	\$348.95
Tap Machine Donations	\$98.23