



Westernport Catholic Parish Newsletter

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

The Epiphany of the Lord - Year C, 5 January 2025

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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Thekkekalathungal IVDei

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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. 7-13](#)

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. **(R.)**

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. **(R.)**

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. **(R.)**

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. **(R.)**

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

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

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.

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.

REFLECTION FOR YOUTH

GOSPEL FOCUS

Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

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, 6 January —12 January 2025

MONDAY No Service

TUESDAY 9.00am Communion Service at Somerville

WEDNESDAY No Service

THURSDAY 9.30am Communion Service at Hastings

FRIDAY 9.30am Communion Service 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 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 Veronica Wall and Ray Broatch, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially Chacko Eshappan. May they rest in peace.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL APPEAL:

We are in desperate need of your support. Our cupboard is depleted, and we need some more perishable items. If you can help with cans of Soup, Meat & Vegetables, Diced Tomatoes, Spaghetti, Baked Beans, Tuna or Salmon, Vegetables, tinned fruit. Pasta and Sauces, Vegemite, Peanut Butter, Jam. Packets of sweet and dry biscuits, two-minute noodles and cup of soup, long life milk. Tea and Coffee and toiletries. Please do not donate sugar or powdered milk. Thank you for your ongoing support.

NAMES ON ROSTERS BELOW FOR SERVICES NEXT WEEK, 11/1 & 12/1/2025

MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings		
Lector	Garry McDonell	8.00am John Patterson 10.00am Joan Power	Agnes Smith	Mass Wel- comer Has- tings	Barbara Farley
Eucharistic Ministers	Val Baxter	8.00am Genevieve Meyer 10.00am	Lioba Robinson Isobel Wilson	Counters This Week	Stephen Stewart Ian Marshall
Commenta- tor	Sandy Adolphus	8.00am Anthony Grimes 10.00am Ann Lorkin	Val Coventry	Counters Next Week	Heimann Sissing Hijacinta Svabelj
Mass Prep	Val Baxter	JANUARY: Marg Grant		Sacristan	Paula Stokes
Altar Linen		JANUARY: Anne Maree Dyer		Audio/Visual	Jesele Baxter
Flowers	Maree Chap- man	Somerville Mainte- nance— Sandy Adolphus &		Communion to the Sick This Week	Group 2— n/a
Cleaning	JANUARY: Louise Street	Sharon Judd			

CHRISTMAS IN WESTERN PORT PARISH

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our devoted parish staff, volunteers, sacristans, ministers, readers, school community and parishioners who collaborated to create beautiful celebrations for Christmas Eve Family Masses and Christmas Day across our three Mass Centres—Somerville, Shoreham and Hastings. Your collective efforts have made these occasions truly remarkable. I would also like to express special appreciation for the support, Christmas greetings, and thoughtful gifts received from everyone. Your contributions have significantly enhanced the joy of this season.

Additionally, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to the members of Coffin Dodgers, who have been playing at our churches for 25 years, for their greatly valued musical contribution, as always.

Blessings to you all!

Fr Shymon.



Coffin Dodgers—
always making our
celebrations more festive

POPE URGES WAR-TORN WORLD TO WALK THROUGH DOOR OF PEACE ON CHRISTMAS

In his this year's Christmas message, as millions of pilgrims prepare to cross through the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica, **Pope Francis** called on individuals, nations and the global community to take a transformative step towards peace and reconciliation by walking through the 'door of salvation' that is Jesus Christ.

'Jesus is the door of peace,' he said from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica on 25 December. 'This Christmas, at the beginning of the Jubilee Year, I invite every individual, and all peoples and nations, to find the courage needed to walk through that door, to become pilgrims of hope, to silence the sound of arms and overcome divisions!'

With the Holy Door standing open beneath him in the basilica, Pope Francis pleaded that the Jubilee be an occasion for global forgiveness, especially for alleviating the financial burdens of the world's poorest nations.

He added: **“As pilgrims of hope, let us go out to meet him. Let us open to him the doors of our hearts, as he has opened to us the door of his heart.”**

Continue reading: [Pope urges war-torn world to walk through door... | Melbourne Catholic](#)

2025 COLUMBAN ART CALENDARS AND GOD'S WORD

You can now find 2025 Columban Art Calendars for \$10 each and God's Word 2024 Daily Reflections at price: \$22 each.

HOLY WATER

For those who were enquiring, Holy Water is available in our churches at the altar.

However, please bring your own containers for Holy Water or, alternatively, purchase sprinklers at our Piety Stall.

Total givings from the week 20/12/24-27/12/24

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$941.80

2nd Collection – Church Account (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$775

Loose \$276.85

Total givings from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses

(24&25/12/24) \$2590.10

Total givings from the week 28/12/24-2/1/25

1st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$973.05

2nd Collection – Church Account (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques) \$2123.80

Loose \$381.40