



Western Port Catholic Parish

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

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year C, 23 March 2025

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Parish Priest: Fr Shymon
Thekkekalathungal IVDei

Parish Secretary:
Hijacinta Svabelj

Pastoral Worker:
Deirdre Fennessy

**Office Hours: 9.30am-
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PARISH CENTRE:

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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

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God.

And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.'

Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**

It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**

The Lord does deeds of justice,
gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses
and his deeds to Israel's sons. **(R.)**

The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him. **(R.)**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel AcclamationMatthew 4:17

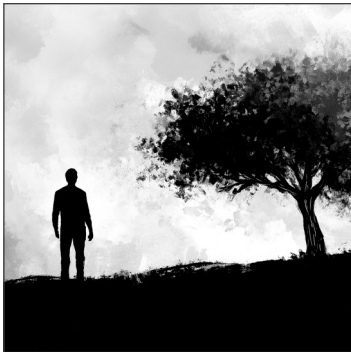
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord;
the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to LukeLuke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.'



He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."'

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

One major theme emerges from today's readings: incomprehensibility of God. We see it in the mysterious divine name, which distinguishes the God of Israel from all others and yet leaves us in the dark as to its meaning. We see it as God communicates with us through inanimate objects and the people in our lives. Finally, we see that God both pardons iniquities and decides to root out unfruitful branches, and we are confused by such inconsistency.

In the midst of this ambiguity, we have one sure source of stability – Christ. It is Christ who reveals the nature and meaning of the divine name; it is Christ who intercedes for us before God. Christ, the one who set his face toward Jerusalem, there to suffer and die, is the great messenger through whom God is revealed. He is the one who reveals majesty through the simplicity of a bush; he is the one who judges with the patience of a gardener. However, the limits of the experience and mercy of God in our lives are defined by our own openness. Despite the blessings that we receive in the wildernesses of our lives, it could happen that God is not pleased with us. We must not take God's goodness for granted.

These readings close on a note of caution. Take care! We might be able to rest secure in the knowledge of the love and mercy of God, but these readings tell us that we should not dare to rest passively or complacently.

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, 24 March —30 March 2025

MONDAY No Service

TUESDAY 9.30am Mass at Somerville followed by Stations of the Cross

WEDNESDAY 9.00am Mass at Shoreham

THURSDAY 9.30am Mass at Hastings

FRIDAY 9.30am Mass at Hastings followed by Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY

10.00am-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 Eddie and Marcie Merezko, Stephen Charles, Halima, Sala, Agnes, Malia, Janelle Farley, Mary McCluskey, 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, Kathy Burke, Frank Howard, Mike Mason, Elaine Duvestyn, 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, May they rest in peace.

Global Mission: No age limit!

Ever thought volunteering overseas was beyond you? IT'S NOT. Palms always values our older participants for the wisdom and resourcefulness they share in communities! Palms is celebrating our seniors with a special [online session](#).

Venue: Online via Zoom- Scan the QR or register at palms.org.au/events on Thursday 27 March 2025 11 am – 12 pm **02 9560 5333** palms@palms.org.au

NAMES ON ROSTERS BELOW FOR SERVICES NEXT WEEK, 29/3 & 30/3/2025

MINISTRY	Somerville	Shoreham	Hastings		
Lector	Garry McDonell	Catherine Clancy	Michelle Claudio	Mass Welcomer Hastings	
Eucharistic Ministers	Tracey Clark	Sylvia Falzon	Barbara Farley Deirdre Fennessy	Counters This Week	Judy & Derrick Deefholts
Commentator	Mary Marshall	Pauline D'Astoli	Tom Leyden	Counters Next Week	Heimann Sissing Hijacinta Svabelj
Mass Prep	Christine Coleman	MARCH: Val Fakhry		Sacristan	Marie Ernestine
Altar Linen		MARCH: Val Fakhry		Audio/Visual	Jesele Baxter
Flowers		Somerville Maintenance—		Communion to the Sick This Week	Group 2— Anne-Marie Lawson
Cleaning	MARCH: Tracey Clark	Fred Arena			

PROJECT COMPASSION APPEAL

Lam is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income.



Photo credit: Caritas Australia

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the **donation boxes available at our churches**, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. .

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Lenten season encourages us to enhance our spiritual practices, which may include attending Mass, engaging in family prayer, visiting a church or chapel, reading the Bible, participating in the Stations of the Cross...

Western Port Parish organizes traditional way of reflecting the

STATION OF THE CROSS

Fridays after the 9.30am Mass in Hastings and **Tuesdays** after the 9.30am Mass in Somerville during Lenten season

Lenten Reflection Group

You are invited to gather for a time of quiet Reflection and Prayer on the Lenten Sunday Scriptures.

When: THURSDAYS of Lent :
March 27, April 3 and 10.

Time: 4.00pm – 5.00 pm

Where: St. Peter's Church Shoreham

If you are unable to attend but would like a copy of the Reflection booklet, contact Sister Joan Power on 0491 011 127 and she will arrange a copy for you.

ALL WELCOME

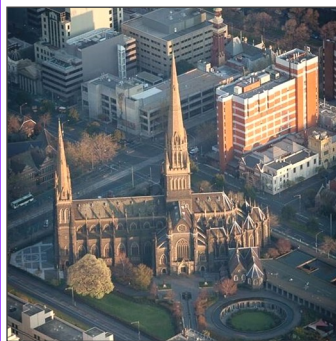
JUBILEE YEAR 2025



St Patrick's Cathedral has long stood as a beacon of Christian faith and hope in the heart of Melbourne, a place where generations have gathered to worship, pray and seek God's presence. In this Jubilee Year, the Cathedral takes on a special significance as a Pilgrim Place—a sacred space drawing those who, like St Patrick himself, set out in faith, trusting completely in God, even in uncertain times.

Mgr Stuart Hall, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, sees a deep connection between pilgrimage and the Cathedral's story, a connection woven not only into the fabric of the building but into the lives of the people who have gathered there through the generations.

For those planning a pilgrimage to St Patrick's Cathedral during the Jubilee, Mgr Hall offers a simple but profound invitation: 'Come with an open heart, expecting God to refresh and renew. Be open to the possibility of God's grace entering into your life. And come prepared. It's not about being a tourist. Spend quiet time, praying. That's what it's all about.'



Learn more: [St Patrick's Cathedral: a beacon of faith and hope](#)

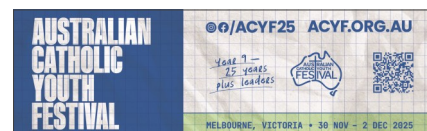
Lenten Reconciliation

Service—Mercy Night

As part of the Jubilee Year, there will be Community Reconciliation Mass and individual reconciliation on Wednesday, **April 9th**, at Immaculate Conception Church Hastings, starting at 7.00 pm

AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL (ACYF)

The **Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne** is excited to be hosting Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) from **30 November – 2 December 2025** and is looking forward to welcoming thousands of young people to Melbourne. Group registration for the Festival will officially open in early May 2025.



PARISH VOLUNTEERS

Dear Parish volunteers, in the foyers of our churches you will find the sheets for the liturgies of the Holy Week.

If you are available, please add your name to the ministry that you would like to volunteer for. Thank you!

THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

All those Parishioners who would like to participate in Thanksgiving through the **weekly envelopes**, and currently aren't doing so, please contact the Parish Office, as the new sets of weekly envelopes are going to be ordered soon and available by the end of this June.

Total givings from the week 10/3/25-16/3/25

1 st Collection – Presbytery (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)	\$1,114.60
2 nd Collection – Church Account (Including Direct Debits, Credit Cards and cheques)	\$1,485.10
Tap Machine	\$167.42

Thank you for your ongoing support!