

Liturgy Rosters:

Many thanks for the wonderful works you do!

This weekend: 18th December

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

Leader: L. Cooper

Reader: P. Couttie

Ministers: A. O'Brien, D. Kierce

Gifts: M. Gregory, H. Stevenson

Welcome: D. Kierce

Sunday: 10.30am

Leader: P. Howman

Reader: B. Healy

Ministers: J. Burns, D. Arnott, K. Howman

Gifts: T. Mizzi, L. Goebel

Welcome: A & M Francis

Next weekend: 1st January

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

Leader: H. Webb

Reader: D. Baudinette

Ministers: F. Mizzi, M. Lambert

Gifts: D. Baudinette, G. Priestley

Welcome: D. Baudinette

Sunday: 10.30am

Leader: J. Sandeman

Reader: K. Arnott

Ministers: A. McIntyre, V. Bailey,

B. McGennissen

Gifts: C. Boyadjian

Welcome: L. Goebel

Church Flowers: Christmas J. Crimmins
Di Kierce

Church Linen: 09/12 Pat Bailey
23/12 A. McIntyre

Church Cleaning:

18/12 M. Schultz, J. Sandeman

25/12 M. Antony, M. Francis

01/01 The Arnott Family

Heywood: 18/12 Dot - Working Bee
01/01 Jenny

Dartmoor: Cleaning: Volunteer pls
Flowers: Ann-Marie Harvey
Mowing: Gerald Harvey

Prayer After Communion:
(For Minsters to the Home-bound)

God my creator breathe on me
again, renew me, refresh me,
extend my abilities, comfort me
in adjusting to changes in
health, mobility and
activity.

Body and Blood of Jesus Christ
flow through every fibre of my
being.

Keep me well, and hope filled
always.

Holy Spirit use me in my
situation, for the good of
others. Amen.



Collections - Thank You

Planned Giving: \$ 897.00
(inc. EFT)

Presbytery: \$ 594.15

If you would like to receive a weekly copy of
"The Spire" by email, please send us an email and we can
add you to a list of subscribers



18th December
2016

4th Sunday
Advent

Year A



Weekday Services, 20/12 to 23/12

Tuesday:	7.00pm	Sacrament of Penance
Wednesday:	10.00am	Mass BUPA
Thursday:	10.00am	Mass
Friday:	9.30am	Adoration
	10.00am	Mass
	1.30pm	Harbourside Service
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer

***Note* Funeral Masses will always take the place of
Weekday Mass for that day.**

Recent Deaths:

Pablo Dorado Snr

Anniversaries:

John Humphries, Gertie Brown, Don Stewart,
Michael Thomas, Hilda Habel, Inala Bell, Gordon Nance,
Gail Riley,

Prayer Requests:

Noela Clifford, Les Hildebrand, Claire Jesser, Sr.
Margaret Keane sjvs, Anne Loschiavo (Kempton) Rita
Madden, Maureen McKenzie, Stephen Sherman, John
Smith. Gerard White, Frank Kenny, Lea-anne Bourke,

*If you have any prayer requests please contact Antonella
at the Parish Office; for privacy reasons only Next of Kin
may ask for names to be added: Thank you*

Weekend Mass & Sacrament of Penance times.

PORTLAND

Mass: Saturday 6.30 pm,

Sunday 10:30 am

HEYWOOD

1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays,

9.00am Mass

2nd & 4th Sunday, Lay Led Assembly, 9.00am

DARTMOOR

2nd & 4th Sundays 8.45am Mass

Baptisms by appointment with Fr. Gregory

1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday 10.30am or any Saturday 6.30pm vigil

Marriages by appointment with Fr Gregory Tait.

Sacrament of Penance By Appointment with Fr Gregory.

"The Spire"

All Saints' Parish

Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor

All Saints' Parish Office

117 Bentinck Street, Portland

PO Box 210 Portland 3305

Phone: 5523 1046 Fax: 5521 7612

email: portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Priest: Rev. Gregory A. D. Tait, Adm.

email: greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretary: Antonella Webbstock

Wednesday & Friday 9.00am till 3.00pm

*All Saints Parish is committed to Child Safety - our Child
Safety Policy and Code of Conduct are on display on the
noticeboard at the front of the church.*

Psalm 23

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

A virgin will give birth to a son;

his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us..

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and the Gospel
verses, are from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International
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Gospel Connections - Matthew 1: 18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son
and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Reflection: The Gift of Being-with

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. "Nothing", was my immediate response. "I just want to spend time with community and friends and family". And that's what I'll be doing, simply "being with". Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that "being-with" is not restricted to physical presence.

There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are "with-us" even in our absence and "being-with" in spirit or in person is closely allied with "being-for". Today's gospel affirms "being-with" as God's Christmas gift to us. The first chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is "God-with-us", Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into Matthew's story of God-with-us in the person of Jesus and to live out the pattern of that story more fully in our own lives.

There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of dreams. The angelic annunciation in today's gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God.

If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or "being-with" as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life... [Sr Veronica Lawson](#)

Fourth Week of Advent – Blessing of the Advent Candles

Priest: Come, Sun of Justice and Radiant Dawn.

All: Come! Shed you light in every heart and home where darkness reigns.

Priest: Come, child of Mary, given to us as a sign of love.

All: Come! Dwell in the hearts of your people.

Priest: Come, Emmanuel, God-with-us through all ages.

All: Come! Save us without delay.



The fourth candle is lit as the Refrain of "Wait in joyful Hope" or "Come Lord Jesus" is sung.

The Four Weeks of Advent

During the first two weeks of Advent we light the first two purple candles. The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day we celebrate that our waiting for the birth of Jesus on Christmas day is almost over. Rose is a liturgical colour that is used to signify joy, so we light the single pink candle on the third Sunday of Advent.

Then on the fourth Sunday of Advent, the final purple candle is lit to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait expectantly for the soon-coming birth of the King of Kings.

Traditionally, each of the four Advent candles have a deeper meaning which is depicted in the lovely Four Weeks of Advent

Pewter Wreath:

- The 4th Sunday of Advent symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

All Saints Outreach Op-Shop: (In Target Car park) Phone: 55 211587

The Parish Outreach Op-Shop is in urgent need of good quality clothing; bric a brac or furniture.

Please ring Outreach for pick up if necessary.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of Outreach.

Outreach is open Monday to Friday 10 am - 4pm and Saturdays 10am - 12 mid-day.

As Outreach is our main fundraiser for the Parish we urgently need Volunteers to give 3 hours in the mornings or afternoons.

Please contact Marg Herbertson at Op-Shop for further information.

Christmas Mass times

Dartmoor 24th Dec - 5.30pm

All Saints 24th Dec - 7.00pm Carols
8.00pm Mass

All Saints 25th Dec - 9.30am Mass

If you are ill or in Portland District Hospital

If you are ill and at home and would like me to visit please let me know. If you are in hospital please say 'yes' to the question regarding a clergy visit. This is the only means for me to know if you are in hospital and able then to come and visit you. Fr Greg.

Evening Prayers - Advent & Christmas Tide

A reminder that during the advent period Evening prayers will be held every Friday night 6pm from 2nd December to 6th January 2017.

Dates to Remember

Tuesday 20th December - Communal Sacrament of Penance All Saints Church 7.00pm

Christmas Mass Ministry

We are asking for volunteers to assist in the running of both the Christmas Vigil and Christmas Day masses. If you are able to assist please put your name down on the sheets at the front of the church. Many thanks for your assistance.

Dedication of the Loreto Window at All Saints' Parish Church, Portland

Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul to give thanks for the presence and ministry of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Portland and the dedication of the Loreto Window in All Saints' Parish Church on Sunday, January 22, 2017 at 10.30am. Light lunch will follow at the Parish House. RSVP by January 13, 2017 to PO Box 210, Portland, 3305 or email portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Request for Information

In January and more so at the celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord on Sunday 8th January Fr Greg would like to talk about all the great things that happen in our parish and namely the groups of people that make this happen. Therefore if you are involved in any group (eg. Flower arrangements, Family group, Children's Liturgy etc.) could you please write down a few sentences on the service your group provides. You can do this either by email greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au or otherwise on paper and put in the collection plate or hand to Fr Greg. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2016

"Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have bonds with the diocese of Ballarat. I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's appeal. The money was distributed as follows:" *Bishop Paul Bird CSsR*

A separate collection will be taken at all Christmas masses.

Loreto Vietnam Australian Programme	5,000
St Columban's Mission Society	5,000
Refugees in the Middle East	5,000
Catholic Education in Myanmar	5,000
Caritas Australia	5,000
Catholic Mission	5,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	5,000
Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference Aboriginal Ministry	5,000
Exodus Community, Wendouree West	2,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans	2,000
Edmund Rice Centre	2,000
3BA Christmans in July Appeal	2,000
	\$ 48,000