

Liturgy Rosters:

Many thanks for the wonderful works you do!

This weekend: 8th January

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

Leader: L. Cooper
Reader: C. Leonard
Ministers: A. Burns, D. Kierce
Gifts: C. Leonard, K. Carr
Welcome: F. Mizzi

Sunday: 10.30am

Leader: K. Loftus
Reader: M. Kearney
Ministers: M. McGennissen, K. Howman,
A. Loving
Gifts: J & A Milani
Welcome: B & M McGennissen

Next weekend: 15th January

Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

Leader: H. Webb
Reader: P. O'Brien
Ministers: A. O'Brien, F. Mizzi
Gifts: G. Priestley, D. Baudinette
Welcome: D. Kierce

Sunday: 10.30am

Leader: K. Arnott
Reader: P. Howman
Ministers: I. Eichler, J. Fitzgerald, A. McIntyre
Gifts: C. Boyadjian
Welcome: M. King

Church Flowers: 08/01 J. Crimmins
15/01 J. Sandeman

Church Linen: 06/01 J Hall

Church Cleaning:

08/01 M. Lambert, J. Burns
15/01 C. Legg, P. Laidlaw

Heywood: 15/01 Kaye

Dartmoor: Cleaning: K. Bull
Flowers: K. O'Dea
Mowing: L. Bull

**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: \$ 771.20
(inc. EFT)
Presbytery: \$ 846.55

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



**8th January
2017
Epiphany of
Lord
Year A**

Weekday Services, 10/01 to 13/01

Tuesday: 5.00pm Mass
Wednesday: 5.00pm Mass
Thursday: 10.00am Mass
Friday: 9.30am Adoration
10.00am Mass

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

Recent Deaths:

Frank McCarthy

Anniversaries:

Bill Teal, Joseph Mifsud, Sheila Clynes, Gwen Lenehan,
Jack Patterson, Therese Hallam, Tony Shanahan, Peter
White, Ted Fox, Margaret Holmes,

Prayer Requests:

Noela Clifford, Les Hildebrand, Claire Jesser, Sr.
Margaret Keane sjs, Anne Loschiavo (Kempton) Rita
Madden, Maureen McKenzie, Stephen Sherman, John
Smith. Gerard White, 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 Webstock
Wednesday & Thursday 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 in the Tower Entrance of the Church.*

Psalm 71

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement.

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.

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.

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.

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

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

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 2: 1- 2

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.

Gospel Reflection - The invitation of the Epiphany

God's presence is revealed to us in many different ways: we can read the "book" of God's creation; we can search out the meaning of our dreams; we can learn from our own and others' experience; and we can be attentive to the wisdom of our sacred scriptures. A deep awareness of our place in the Earth community and our kinship with the other-than-human teaches us respect for all creation and respect for its power to lead us beyond ourselves.

Epiphany presents us with the wise ones or astrologers "from the East" who are led beyond themselves and their immediate location by the rising of a star. They form their own preliminary hypothesis and travel west to search out the meaning of this sign. Their questioning in Jerusalem about a new-born "king of the Jews" attracts the attention of the duplicitous Herod, the Roman-appointed "king of the Jews". Advised by the official interpreters of the Jewish scriptures, through the agency of Herod, they follow the star that leads them to the home of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem, where they find the new born child, the incarnate Wisdom of God. The gospel does not stipulate how many wise ones or magi come to pay homage to the child who has already been named as Emmanuel, God-with-us, with the entire Earth community.

There is no indication in the story as to whether the wise ones are men or women or both. Nor are we told their number. The three earth gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh have been traditionally associated with three different characters, usually kings of diverse nationality and colour. These strangers are the first to recognise "God-with-us" in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They also come to recognise "in a dream" the duplicity of Herod, who senses a threat to his political power from the birth of a new-born "king of the Jews". They have the good sense not to accede to Herod's request to bring him word of the newborn king. They return home "by another road".

The story-teller Matthew leaves room in the tableau for the insertion of the wise ones who will emerge through the ages. There is an invitation for us to enter into Matthew's drama, to be the wise ones, to join with those of different cultures, to engage in our own search for Wisdom, and to follow the star that leads to truth and lasting peace. There is also an invitation to be wary of those who find their positions threatened by a different sort of power, power based on vulnerability and openness to new life.

- Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

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.

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.

Dates to Remember

Parish Looking Forward Forum - March 9th 5.00pm - 6.30pm All Saints Church

Bishop's Parish Visitation April 21st – 24th Portland. Dartmoor and Heywood

Book Club

The next Parish Book Club meeting is on January 19th 2017 at 8 p.m. Panorama Drive, Bridgewater.

The book to be discussed is "The Good People" by Hannah Kent.

Dedication of Loreto Window, Sunday January 22, 2017

Our beautiful window will be dedicated on the above date in the presence of Bishop Paul Bird and visitors from the Loreto order and other dignitaries and friends of Loreto and All Saints Parish.

We need volunteers to help with the catering for the luncheon to follow.

If you can help with making sandwiches, sausage rolls, quiches or any appropriate food, please contact Di Kierce in person or by phone on 0427946053.

We NEED your help to make it a truly memorable day for the Parish and the wonderful Loreto Sisters.

Photos of Parish activities required

If any of you "budding photographers" have taken photos over the last 18mths of parishioners involved in parish activities (MacKillop 150th celebrations, Family Groups, etc) can you please email them to allsaintsportlandvic@gmail.com. We are looking for as many as possible to include in brochures about the parish. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Planned Giving Statements

Your half yearly statements for planned giving are available at the front of the church. Can you please pick up envelopes to save the cost of mailing. Thank you Antonella.

VATICAN NEWS -- In the depths of despair, when no words or gestures will help, then cry with those who suffer, because tears are the seeds of hope, Pope Francis said.

When people are hurting, "it is necessary to share in their desperation. In order to dry the tears from the face of those who suffer, we must join our weeping with theirs. This is the only way our words may truly be able to offer a bit of hope," he said Jan. 4 during his weekly general audience. "And if I can't offer words like this, with tears, with sorrow, then silence is better, a caress, a gesture and no words," he said.

"So often in our life, tears sow hope, they are seeds of hope," he said, emphasizing how Mary's tears at the foot of the cross generated new life and hope for those who, through their faith, became her children in the body of Christ, the church.

This innocent "lamb of God" died for all of humanity, which is always important to remember, especially when struggling with the question of why children are allowed to suffer in this world, he said. The pope said when people ask him why such suffering happens, he said he has no answer. "I just say, 'Look at the crucifix. God gave us his son, he suffered, and perhaps there you will find an answer.'"

No appropriate words or replies will ever come from the head, he said, one can only look at the love God showed by offering his son, who offered his life -- this may point the way to some consolation. -

Carol Glatz CNS