

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for the wonderful works you do!

This 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

Next weekend: 22nd January
Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm

Leader: L. Cooper
Reader: P. Kierce
Ministers: M. Lambert, D. Kierce
Gifts: M. Gregory, H. Stevenson
Welcome: F. Mizzi

Sunday: 10.30am

Leader: K. Howman
Reader: I. Eichler
Ministers: J. Sandeman, P. Howman, V. Bailey
Gifts: D. Goebel
Welcome: A & M Francis

Church Flowers: 15/01 J. Sandeman
22/01 J. Crimmins

Church Linen: 06/01 J Hall

Church Cleaning:

15/01 C. Legg, P. Laidlaw
22/01 J. Simpson, T. Gracias

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: \$ 1,384.00
(inc. EFT)

Christmas Offerings: \$ 489.00
Presbytery: \$ 732.25

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



**15th January
2017**
**2nd Sunday
Ordinary Time
Year A**



Weekday Services, 17/01 to 20/01

Tuesday: 5.00pm Mass
Wednesday: 10.00am Mass BUPA
Thursday: 10.00am Mass
1.00pm Heywood Hostel
Friday: 9.30am Adoration
10.00am Mass

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

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Kevin Nash, Maurie Sykes, Michael Monaghan, Francis Sheehan, John Malone, Kevin Pettigrove, Kath Gleeson, Tom Lyons, Gerrad Dumesque

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, 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 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 39

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord
and he stooped down to me;

he heard my cry.

He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God.

You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.

You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.

My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.

My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord.

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us.
He enabled those who accepted him

to become the children of God .

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 Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Gospel Connections - John 1: 29-34

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

Gospel Reflection - Strength in vulnerability

To provide a reference for someone is a serious responsibility as well as a privilege because, more often than not, a good deal depends on the testimony one provides. John the Baptist took it upon himself to be a referee for Jesus. His testimony reverberates across the centuries, offering an introduction to Jesus, year in year out, for those who seek to understand this Jewish prophet and teacher who was and is more than a prophet or teacher.

John wants his disciples to understand that the whole purpose of his water baptism is that Jesus "might be revealed" to God's people. He wants them to know that Jesus is "of God". He is the "lamb of God", the "chosen one of God". He is the one on whom God's Spirit descends and remains. Jesus comes before the Baptist and so ranks before him.

Is the author of this gospel using the character of the Baptist as a vehicle for his particular Christology or presentation of Jesus? That's what many scholars think, although some of the images in the Baptist's testimony are firmly grounded in Jewish tradition and could well come from a prophetic figure like John the Baptist. Maybe the answer to the question is "yes, but not exclusively".

Whether the images have their origin with John the Baptist or John the gospel writer, we might reasonably wonder what it means to say that Jesus is "God's lamb". Does the expression refer to the Passover lamb whose blood signifies liberation or deliverance? The imagery in John's gospel relating to the death of Jesus might point in this direction. Is "God's lamb" the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who takes on the sins of the many? Is it an image of the lamb that God provides for Abraham's sacrifice (Genesis 22)? Is it evoking the apocalyptic lamb of Jewish literature of the time, the powerful conquering lamb that destroys evil in the world? Is it intended to suggest vulnerability as in the prophecy of Jeremiah 11:19 ("I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter")?

There is never a simple explanation when it comes to John's gospel, but it seems to me that the symbol of strength in vulnerability has potential for understanding the characterization of Jesus in this gospel. The Lamb of God of John 1:29 "takes away" the sinful condition of the world. Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploitation on a massive scale. The work of the one strong enough to risk vulnerability so that others may have life, the work of God's Lamb, is never done. Witness to that is part of the gift that Pope Francis is offering to the world: despite opposition, even among those closest to him, he never wavers in his response to the distress of God's people, of God's Earth.

- Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Living the Gospel - Pointing the way

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

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.

Requests for Spire

If you have any requests or information you would like to be put on the Spire, could you please let me know by the Wednesday prior. Many thanks Antonella

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.

Youth Ministry Formation - Called and Sent: Developing foundations in youth ministry

The Melbourne Archdiocesan Office for Youth (AOY) invites young leaders from Ballarat Diocese to a youth ministry formation camp. If you are new to youth ministry, come along to 'Called and Sent', their first ever camp for developing foundations in youth ministry. From February 10-12, beachside, taking you deeper into the gospel message at the heart of your call to ministry, equipping you with practical ideas and helping you set goals for 2017. Places are limited! When: February 10-12, 2017, Don Bosco Camp, Safety Beach (south of Melbourne). Cost per participant is \$80.00 Phone AOY, 9287 5565 or contact amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Grief to Grace – Healing the Wounds of Abuse

A spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held March 26 – 31, 2017 in Tasmania. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@griefftograceaus.org.au or phone 0407704539. For more information visit www.griefftograce.org