

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

**This weekend: 31st December**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm**

Leader: H. Webb  
Reader: D. Baudinette  
Ministers: F. Mizzi, M. Lambert  
Gifts: Ciara Leonard, K. Carr  
Welcome: D. Kierce

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Leader: K. Arnott  
Reader: I. Eichler  
Ministers: A. McIntyre, F. Arnott,  
B. McGennicken  
Gifts: K. Sullivan, J. Hall  
Welcome: B & M McGennicken

**Next weekend: 7th January**

**Saturday Vigil: 6.30pm**

Leader: L. Cooper  
Reader: Ciara Leonard  
Ministers: A. O'Brien, A. Burns  
Gifts: M. Gregory, H. Stevenson  
Welcome: D. Baudinette

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Leader: K. Howman  
Reader: J. Sandeman  
Ministers: M. McGennicken, K. Arnott,  
J. Fitzgerald  
Gifts: D & L Goebel  
Welcome: A & M Francis

**Church Flowers:** Marie McGennicken

**Church Linen:** 31/12 J. Hall, 14/1 B. Teal

**Church Cleaning:**  
31/12 J. Simpson, T. Gracias  
07/01 B & M McGennicken

**Heywood:** 31/12 Vol. please

**Dartmoor:** **Cleaning:** Karen Bull  
**Flowers:** Vol. please  
**Mowing:** Leo Bull

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

**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.**

### Our Finance

#### Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week : \$ 479.00

Target \$64,000

Total YTD 2017/18	\$ 33,301
Total YTD 2016/17	\$ 28,537

Direct deposit payments for planned giving and donations can be made electronically. Details are as follows:

**Account Name:** Portland Catholic Church  
**BSB:** 083 532  
**Account No.** 5159 81661

#### Presbytery Account

Priest support: \$ 1,195.65

Direct deposit payments for the presbytery account can be made electronically. Details are as follows:

**Account Name:** All Saints Presbytery Portland  
**BSB:** 083 526  
**Account No.** 24476 6002



31st December  
2017

The Holy  
Family  
Year B



#### Weekday Services 02/01 to 05/01

Tuesday:	5.00pm	Mass
Wednesday:	5.00pm	Mass
Thursday:	10.00am	Mass
Friday:	9.30am	Adoration
	10.00am	Mass
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer

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

#### Recent Deaths:

#### Anniversaries:

Zita McInerney, Chris Kelly, Delia O'Halloran, Robert Crooks

#### Prayer Requests:

Noela Clifford, Les Hildebrand, Claire Jesser, Sr. Margaret Keane sjc, John Smith, Lea-anne Bourke, Rudy Legray, Graeme Sewell, Gavin & Joan Carr, Michelle Mutch

*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

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes)

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

email: [greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Parish Secretary: Antonella Webbstock

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 Parish website and noticeboard in the Tower Entrance of the Church.*

### Psalm 104

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works!

Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac.

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia!  
May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
and the fullness of his message live within you  
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 - Luke 2: 22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:



'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

## Reflection - Veronica Lawson RSM

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a good time to think about what family means. We try to connect with and enjoy the company of those with whom we have family ties, especially those who are alone or struggling in some way. Many parents value the extra time they are able to spend with their children over this period.

The first two readings for today narrate and reflect on the family story of Sarah and Abraham, of God's promise to give them a child, and of the fulfilment of that promise in the most unlikely of circumstances. The wonder of God's ways and the need to trust in God are at the heart of their story. At the same time, there is humour reflected in Abraham's choice of name for their son: "Isaac" means "he laughed". Does Abraham detect God's humour in providing a son for an elderly couple? Does he laugh for sheer joy at the birth of the child who will hold the traditions of the past and the hopes of the future? Whatever about this, the family story of Sarah, Abraham and Isaac foreshadows the even more extraordinary family story to be found in today's gospel.

Luke depicts Mary and Joseph as observant Jews bringing their child to the Jerusalem Temple in accordance with the ritual requirements of the Law, even if the Law actually applied only to the woman who had given birth and not to the man. Two prophetic figures, Anna and Simeon, recognise God's saving and redemptive purpose at work in the presence of this child who is presented in the Temple. Luke insists that Mary and Joseph have fulfilled the demands of the Law before they return to their home in Nazareth.

Growing up in Nazareth in the care of Mary and Joseph, the child Jesus grows to maturity, is filled with wisdom and God's favour is with him. Luke's summary statement introduces us to the wonderful world of a grace-filled family home. It invites us to ponder the wisdom that both Mary and Joseph had to share with their child. They taught him to pray and told him the stories of his people. They filled him with wonder at the goodness of God and of God's creation. They mediated the grace and favour of God and watched him grow and gain the strength he needed for life. They allowed him the freedom he needed to develop his own personality and to find his own Spirit-filled way on the earth. Finally, they had to let him go so that he might follow a path that was beyond their imagining when they brought him to the Temple in fulfilment of the Law. In other words, they did what so many parents would want to do for their children.

## 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.**

## SUFM - Free Children's Program

Scripture Union Family Mission (SUFM) are running a free children's program from Dec 28 - Jan 5.

Please see flyers re the activities and dates or visit their [facebook page: portlandsufm](#).

## Diocesan e-News

Diocesan e-News is available to all members of the Diocese and those associated with and with an interest in the life of the Diocese. It is published every two weeks and distributed via email. You can subscribe to receive e-News on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or you are welcome to submit items for publication to [enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au). News items submitted should have relevance to the life and activity of the parishes and schools of the Diocese and include photos where possible. Please ensure you have the permission of people you photograph to submit to enews.

## Catholic Social Services National Conference "Hearing Healing Hope"

The 2018 Catholic social services national conference, Hearing Healing Hope (from February 21-23, 2018) provides an opportunity to reflect on the major issues that affect our communities of concern, our Catholic social service organisations, our parishes and ourselves as leaders. It is always so rewarding to be joined by many who share our mission of service and work for justice. Today's rapidly changing policy and social environment makes such gatherings even more important. The conference will be held in Melbourne and will be interactive at all stages – hearing, healing and building hope is not a passive program! The conference includes forums on:

- A healthy earth for a flourishing society, with Jacqui Rémond, Gavin Dufty and Bronwyn Lay
- Economics for a flourishing society, with Joe Zabar, Ged Kearney and John Roskam
- Responding to abuse, ensuring safe environments and dedication to service, with Commissioner Robert Fitzgerald, Sheree Limbrick and Lana Turvey-Collins
- The 2020 Plenary Council of the Church in Australia, with Archbishop Mark Coleridge
- Fr Frank Brennan SJ discussing current issues in human rights (as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Workshops will focus on NDIS, housing, governance issues, Indigenous engagement, parishes and service, caring for vulnerable clients and family violence. For more information and bookings, go to: [www.css.org.au](http://www.css.org.au)

## ACYF - view Youth Festival events

All the highlight plenary events from the Youth Festival are available for viewing at xt3. How do we connect with young people? Have a look at this. View ACYF on demand at xt3.com

## Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2017

Thank you for your generosity in responding to the Bishop's Christmas Appeal, this year our Parish contributed \$988.50.

**Columban Calendar;** the very last of the Calenders for this year are still available don't miss out on one.

**Christmas Hampers;** thank you for your support of the Hampers, this year we contributed \$680 to wards the purchase of the meat packs.

**Congratulations to Mary & Charlie Mifsud** on the 70th anniversary of their marriage, what an inspiration you are to all of us.