



# **“The Spire“**

## **All Saints' Parish**

### **Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor**

**17th May 2020**

**6th Sunday**

**Easter**

**Year A**

**All Saints' Parish Office**  
**PO Box 210 Portland 3305**

**Phone: 5523 1046 Mobile 0475 512530**

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

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

**Rev. Gregory A. D. Tait, P.P.**

email: [greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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 Parish website and noticeboard in the Tower Entrance of the Church.*

*All Saints Parish Portland acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our Parish Community meets, the Gunditjmara people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation and constitutional acknowledgement of first peoples*

#### **Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:** Rosalie Andre, Bernie Crimmin, Gerard White, Gloria Whitehead, Willy Hartmann, Ann Parker, Margaret Stuchbery, Barry Strickland, Angelo Agius, Carmel Smith, Marian Dorothy May, Nancy Colasante, Elizabeth Bennie

**Prayer Requests:** Bruno Cancian, Margaret Couttie, Noela Clifford, Les Hildebrand, Nicky Schultz, Claire Jesser, Lea-anne Bourke, Rudy Legray, 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*

#### **Laudato Si' Week - May 16-24, 2020**

Pope Francis invites you to celebrate *Laudato Si'* Week which takes place May 16-24. This year marks the fifth anniversary of this encyclical. The theme for the week is “everything is connected.” Pope Francis has invited Catholics all around the world to reflect, pray and join to take action during this week. Go to the diocesan website for further information, which includes the Catholic Earthcare media release and a wide variety of resources [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or click [here](#).

#### **Message from Pope Francis to Pray the Rosary in May**

Pope Francis has asked Catholics to make a special effort to pray the Rosary during May and has composed two new prayers asking for Our Lady's intercession to help end the COVID-19 pandemic. See attached or go to the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-04/letter-on-the-month-of-may-full-text.html>

**You will be able to watch online services at the following links:**

**St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat:**

Mass live streamed on [Patrick's Cathedral](#) facebook page.

**Mass Western Border Parish:** Website [www.westernborder.church](http://www.westernborder.church) or FaceBook page: [Western Border Catholic Parish](#)

**Mass for You at Home:** This program has been allowing the faithful to participate in Mass from their homes for many years. Mass for You at Home is broadcast on Eleven and Network Ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel on Foxtel every day.

Wednesday 13 May 2020

Members of the Catholic community in Victoria, The Catholic Dioceses of Melbourne, Ballarat, Sale and Sandhurst

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Throughout this situation of the Coronavirus pandemic our prayers and solidarity have been with you all, and will continue to guide the challenging decisions we have been called to make.

Despite the many weeks of worry and social restrictions, we are delighted that as of 11.59pm yesterday, Tuesday 12 May 2020, churches in Victoria may now be open in certain circumstances.

This opportunity for small gatherings and for some quiet moments of prayer in the sacramental presence of Our Lord is a gentle first step in the right direction, and rightly a moment of rejoicing for God's people. We are pleased to work constructively with our communities to make appropriate adjustments. Strict restrictions still govern our actions due to the risks of COVID-19 and we are all being asked to show patience and fortitude.

Each Diocese is communicating with their parishes about how various ministries, including sacramental care, will be conducted in this first stage of the easing of social restrictions. We wish to be fully compliant with the directives that apply across Victoria, so that we ensure the protection of elderly and vulnerable people, and work together for the common good of our communities.

The conditions under which a church can be open include a collection of contact details (for the purposes of contact-tracing if it becomes necessary), strict monitoring of numbers, ongoing hygiene requirements, publicising the scheduled times for private worship, and public worship limited to ten people at a time.

Arrangements for liturgies and access to churches while ensuring these conditions are met will vary, depending on the facilities and resources that are available in each particular community. We recognise that deciding on these arrangements and putting them in place is not straightforward, and we ask for patience and understanding during this time.

This new stage of restrictions is subject to changing guidance that we receive from the State Government authorities, and we are advised this will be reviewed at the end of May.

After a difficult time for all of us, including many new pressures on families and great challenges for healthcare and emergency workers, we share in the disappointment that social restrictions are likely to continue for some time.

Nevertheless, we act with one accord in doing what is most prudent and loving for the sake of those most susceptible to the virus. We rejoice that Christ is with us and will walk with us as we begin the long journey out of the current stage of restrictions.

Yours sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Most Rev Peter A Comensoli  
ARCHBISHOP OF MELBOURNE

Most Rev Paul Bernard Bird CSsR MA, DD  
BISHOP OF BALLARAT

Most Rev Shane Mackinlay  
BISHOP OF SANDHURST

Rev Peter Slater  
DELEGATE OF DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR,

## World Communications Day

In the Church calendar for Australia, Sunday, May 17, will be **World Communications Day**. This is an annual celebration, dating back to 1967. Shortly before that, the Second Vatican Council had encouraged us as a Church community to engage with the world around us. One of the documents from the Council began with these words: "The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of our time, especially of those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ." (The Church in the Modern World, paragraph 1)

Following the Council, Pope Paul VI established World Communications Day, recognising that the media provided many avenues by which the Church could engage with society. In those days, the media included newspapers and magazines, radio, television and movies. Since then we have added the internet and the many kinds of social media. So, nowadays, we have even more forms of communication to choose from.

For this year's World Communications Day, Pope Francis has highlighted the role of stories. "I would like to devote this year's message to the theme of storytelling, because I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings we need to make our own the truth contained in good stories. Stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together." He goes on to say, "Human beings are storytellers. From childhood we hunger for stories just as we hunger for food. Stories influence our lives. Often we decide what is right or wrong based on characters and stories we have made our own."

Our Christian faith is founded on the true story of God's love, reflected in the books of the Bible. As Pope Francis says, "The Bible is the great love story between God and humanity. At its centre stands Jesus, whose own story brings to fulfilment both God's love for us and our love for God."

I hope this year's World Communications Day encourages us to make good use of the many means of communication we have. Through them we can share stories of people who inspire us. We can also share the story of God's great love.

*Bishop Paul Bird*



*"Stories leave their mark on us; they shape our convictions and our behaviour. They can help us understand and communicate who we are."*

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY 2020:  
"That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2)

For all who would normally give weekly with cash in your envelopes, we ask if possible, to do the following:

- Organise EFT contributions through your personal online banking
- Go directly to National Australia Bank (NAB) 64 Percy Street Portland and request that they deposit into the Parish and/or Presbytery accounts.

Details are below. **Please make sure that your name and envelope number are recorded.**

### Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 927.00

**Pledged Amount \$62,400**

Total YTD 2019/20: \$51,566

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: inc. EFT \$ 276.00

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