

Allocation of Funds for Outreach

Shared Table, Fr McKinnon Peru	\$3,000	Kitchen requirements for families
Fr A Yields, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, Kiribati	\$2,500	School books etc. for students
Bakita Village, South Africa - Our Lady of Sacred Heart	\$3,000	Orphanage - support with uniforms, books etc.
Mary Ward International Foundation - East Timor	\$2,500	School books etc. for students, Sr Margaret Mary Flynn IBVM & Sr. Margy Burke IBVM
Ali Project West New Guinea (Travis McCombe)	\$2,500	Solar lighting, water tanks & school supplies
Don Bosco East Timor	\$2,500	School books, uniforms etc.
SWAC - Bayview College Students	\$600	
Than Loc Project Education - sponsorship Vietnam	\$1,360	Sponsor a student with books, uniform etc. for 12 months (\$230 per student)
Days for Girls	\$1,200	Kits for girls & women in Cambodia and masks for local community
Portland Community Meal Share	\$2,600	
Welfare Portland & District Community	\$15,096	Furniture, white goods, linen, bric a brac and clothing in kind
All Saints School	\$1,800	Bus subsidy
Up Date Ute & Hydraulic lifter	\$26,692	

We sincerely thank all volunteers for their generous time and effort in making these allocations possible. Thank you to the Community and Parish for donation of goods to Outreach.

God Bless everyone. Marg Herbertson Co-ordinator/Treasurer

Shared Table Project - Fr Michael McKinnon - Lima Peru

The \$52 annual gift to the Project will take place in the month of July. Please put the \$52 in an envelope marked Shared Table and your name and address and email and put on Collection Plate or drop off at Outreach. If you are a new parishioner and would like to donate \$52 to feed the children in Peru, you are most welcome to join our generous band of helpers. **Total to date: \$1,316.80**

Please finalise your donation if you wish to participate this year as we will be finalising the appeal in the coming weeks.

Any further information Marg Herbertson - the Parish Co-ordinator of Shared Table Project. Mobile 0447617467

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 546.00

Pledged Amount \$62,400

Total YTD 2020/21: \$ 3,795

Total YTD 2019/20: \$ 4,774

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 \$ 391.60

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

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

All Saints Parish has been present at most of the important milestones in your life: your Baptism, your First Communion, at times of great celebration and at times of great sadness.

By leaving a gift to your Parish in your Will, you will leave a legacy of faith – a legacy to help ensure that the mission and pastoral outreach that has been important to you will continue both for today's needs and for those of our children, our grandchildren and beyond.



2nd August
2020
18th Sunday
Ordinary Time
Year A



Mass at All Saints Parish Portland during COVID-19 Pandemic

In line with Victorian Government and Ballarat Diocesan restrictions on public gatherings in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, the following regulations apply:

Places of worship can open for private worship or small religious ceremonies for up to 20 people, (in the Case of a funeral 50 people) plus those reasonably required to conduct the ceremony.

At each gathering we are required to observe the one person per four square metre rule. The current requirements for use of hand sanitising, cleaning between ceremonies and for recording the name and contact phone number for each attendee will continue. **Wearing a mask or face covering at Mass is encouraged.**

Please contact me if you wish to nominate the day or time you want to attend Mass. You may contact me by ringing or texting me on my mobile phone, 0475 512 530.

Please note the Mass times; Wednesday 5.00pm, Friday 10.00am, Saturday 6.00pm and Sunday 10.30am.

Kind regards
Fr Gregory Tait



Anyone wishing to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Fr Greg on 0475 512 530

“The Spire“

All Saints' Parish

Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor

All Saints' Parish Office
PO Box 210 Portland 3305

Phone: 5523 1046
email: portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Rev. Gregory A. D. Tait, P.P.
email: greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Secretary: Antonella Webstock
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 Gunditjmarra 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:

Albert Buchner, Ann Crooks, Louise Maree Whitwoth, Peter Saltmarsh

Anniversaries:

Betty McDonald, Margaret Howard, David Dunlop, Elsie Johnson, Keith Wilson, Gayle Payne, Josephine Sacco, Carly Deverell, Margaret Bromley, Bill Grant, Alf Stirling, Ruth Saunders, Betty Storey, David Tait, Rev Brendan Davey

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

Baptisms by appointment with Fr. Gregory
Marriages by appointment with Fr Gregory Tait.
Sacrament of Penance By Appointment with Fr Gregory

Living the Gospel – Grieving John

The passage begins with Jesus receiving the news that his cousin, John the Baptist's death. In response, Jesus immediately withdraws to a lonely place where he can be alone with his disciples. His response to this terrible news is to take time out. He wants to go away to a quiet, lonely place to pray and grieve. He doesn't just take the news in his stride and carry on regardless; he steps back from the busy-ness of life to mourn. It's a lesson for us in times of stress and grief: the response Jesus models is to take time to grieve the loss.



30th July 2020

Dear Staff, SAC Members, Parents & Parishioners of the All Saints Parish Portland Community.

It is with mixed emotions that I wish to announce the appointment of Mrs. Olga Lyons our current Principal of All Saints as the new Principal of St Patrick's Parish Primary School Port Fairy as of the commencement of the 2021 school year.

I realise that this appointment will come as surprise to you as we have all deeply valued Olga's contribution to the life of our Parish School and its role in the local mission of the Church, both in education and evangelisation.

I fully support Olga in this move which will enable her to work closer to home for personal family reasons. I am deeply grateful for the way in which she has lead the School community since 2014, particularly in the trying times of 2020.

Olga has initiated and encouraged a great sense of Team Leadership and individual staff/community contributions to school life over her time with us, it is a legacy that will stand us in good stead in the years to come.

As Canonical Administrator of the Parish School I assure you that in partnership with the Catholic Education Office, we will be taking steps to ensure the gains we have made over the past 6 years will be carried forward in the appointment of a new Principal.

As to my voicing my thanks for Olga's particular contributions to the life of our Parish School, I will leave this until an appropriate time when we extend our thanks later in Term 4.

Rev. Gregory A D Tait. Parish Priest.

Coronavirus Update

Hello Everyone,



Today, the Victorian Premier announced some further restrictions aimed at countering the spread of the coronavirus.

From midnight tonight (Thursday, July 30), people living in the local government areas of Colac-Otway, Greater Geelong, Surf Coast, Moorabool, Golden Plains, and the Borough of Queenscliffe, will no longer be able to visit people or have visitors at home. This will affect people in a few of our parishes, such as Apollo Bay and Colac.

The other new provision will affect us all, namely, **the requirement to wear a face covering.**

From midnight on Sunday (August 2), people throughout our diocese, together with people throughout the whole of Victoria, will be required to wear face coverings whenever we leave home.

You can find further details on the Victorian government's web pages, such as at www.vic.gov.au/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions-victoria

The government website provides information about particular issues, such as that children under the age of 12 and people with certain medical conditions do not need to wear a face covering.

Here I would simply add a note regarding the celebration of liturgies.

In our diocese of Ballarat, we will still be allowed to gather for liturgies in churches, with a maximum of 20 people in the congregation, plus those needed to conduct the service. However, from Monday August 3, everyone will be required to wear a face covering throughout the liturgy. The only exceptions would be when the priest is speaking to the congregation or reading prayers, when a reader is actually reading the Scriptures'

As well as the new requirement to wear a face covering, the current requirements about hygiene and distance between people will continue to apply.

God bless you all. Bishop Paul

From this point on there will be no singing at Sunday mass - Rule is no mask no mass

Our Family at Mass in the Age of Technology - by Stephen Locke Education Officer in religious education at Brisbane Catholic Education

The usual responses come from under rumped sheets and doonas: I don't want to go to Mass! Mass is boring! I'm tired! It is particularly difficult during winter when it is cold and dark. However through perseverance and the occasional threat or bribe, we find ourselves in the car for the short ride to the church, mostly on time. While driving to Mass, I often see bike riders on their early morning ride and wonder if that would be a better use of my time, especially as a lack of cars on a Sunday morning makes riding a much more pleasant experience. No doubt some of those riding will stop for coffee with friends at local cafes, catching up over smashed avo on sourdough toast. What is not as common nowadays is to find these same people at Mass.

Attendance at the Sunday Mass has been falling steadily for decades. This is well documented and there are many reasons for it. The refrain of our children is one I often hear from adults: that Mass is boring, it doesn't resonate, I don't experience God that way, and I've got other things to do. At one level this is true, but the Eucharist is not entertainment for the pleasure of the masses. It is imbued with deep meaning, replete with symbolic ritual and gestures which speak to something beyond the participants and which invite them into community with God and others. It has stiff competition.

In our modern technological life, everyone and everything is on 24/7. We have at our fingertips access to more information than ever before through devices such as iPads and iPhones. Want to watch your favourite movie, sport or TV show? Simply click or tap onto your preferred streaming service and watch at your leisure. Social media provides a constant stream of news and content to be viewed, consumed and interacted with; games of all sorts keep people occupied for hours. Although the internet and wireless devices might have intensified the experience, technology has been exerting its influence for decades, starting with the advent of television, quickly followed by MTV, video, DVD, and computers. With such media and stadium concerts, for the last 50 years we have been entertained and have come to expect to be entertained. Staring at the ubiquitous screen has become a defining image of our time. In this context attending the Eucharist could be seen as counter cultural. It bucks the trend, but can it compete and should it try? What draws a person to communal prayer and worship and what benefit might it have?

Returning to the drive, I find myself arriving at Mass and sitting in church. It is mainly older people, but I know their faces and where they sit, even if I don't know their names. They are my community, people whom I have come to recognise through being at Mass each week. They know us and they know our kids. They have always taken delight in seeing the kids at Mass and have watched them grow. They have celebrated baptisms, confirmations and first communions with us.

Every Sunday I deliberately leave the phone at home. I have no need of it. Whom will I call? My parents are often at Mass sitting with us. What do I need to watch or do? What is in such urgent need of my attention? There is freedom in this letting go. It allows me to enter into the prayerful space without technological distraction. I am untethered.

Eucharist has its own rhythm and basic movements: sitting, standing, kneeling and simple gestures such as the sign of the cross, bowing silently and handshakes for peace. Listening, responding and silent reflection are all done in a personal way but with others. It is an opportunity to focus on Christ and to know we are held gently. We bring our troubles and concerns, our hopes and dreams, our gratitude and our brokenness. I don't wish to glorify the experience as though it is always something uplifting and enlightening. Sometimes it is bloody hard, a chore and a struggle. I am distracted by other thoughts, bored, tired, preoccupied, wrestling with children or left unstimulated by the homily. I take some solace in the fact that others in the congregation might be feeling like me. There is comfort in the familiar and knowing that we are all there as community. I often wonder if others experience this the same way or whether it is different for them.

I imagine those young enough to have grown up in the digital age may struggle to have the Mass hold their attention. It does not offer the next new experience, something to excite, to get that dopamine hit before moving quickly onto the next thing. Gen X and Millennials have grown up in an age of wealth and opportunity. They travel to all parts of the globe, visiting incredible places. Lifestyle is key: surfing, gaming, riding, hiking, golf, concerts, sports events, coffee and brunch, units at the coast. Opportunity abounds and choices are endless... and all the while Facebooking, Tweeting, Instagramming and Snapchatting. This is not a criticism but a reality. Many of these experiences however are short lived, self-focused activities.

Can anything be done that might invite people back into the liturgical space? If this is to happen, it does not take light shows and rock music, at least, not in my view. Relationship and engagement are critical. The priest is key. The way he presides over the Eucharist makes a huge difference. He is not a performing seal, but needs to project a sense of warmth, welcome, energy and inclusivity. If he looks as if he is bored or just following routine, that is projected onto the assembly. Homilies do not need the 30-second soundbite of the news cycle to connect with people's lived experience, but they need to be thought-provoking and challenging; they should be respectful of the breadth, diversity, age and sophistication of the congregation. It is not all about the priest, but sharing something of his personal story or struggle in a homily can create interest and empathy. This carries across to the interpersonal dynamic before and after Mass. Just as important as the priest are other people who recognise us and greet us and talk to us. These relationships are the context in which we celebrate Sunday Mass.

The Eucharist is an invitation to return each week to the same space, to replenish, restore and reflect. It is an opportunity to disconnect from technology and enter into the full participation of the Eucharist. Sitting with our children as they fidget and fiddle, I do hope that they learn to value the quiet time and enter into a personal relationship with God. I hope they come to see this time as a reprieve from the rush and stress of contemporary life, the chance to 'reset' ready for the week ahead. The rhythm of repeated responses and communal song bring us into a new realm.

I do not mean that one cannot experience community or God in other settings. But I think Sunday Mass provides a unique place for our kids to find the presence of God in the words, actions and people gathered. It teaches them to recognise the importance of silence, creative boredom, which might spark the imagination. Such a sacred space is precious in the modern technological world. Soon enough we find ourselves in the car, responding to requests to go out for breakfast. We return home ready for another week tethered to our devices, but grateful for the one hour spent.