



**25th October  
2020**

**30th Sunday  
Ordinary Time  
Year A**



## **“The Spire”**

**All Saints' Parish**

**Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor**

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

**Phone: 5523 1046 Mobile 0475 512530**

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[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 & 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.*

*All Saints Parish Portland acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land on which our Parish Community meets, the Guditjmarra 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:**

Bruno Cancian

### **Anniversaries:**

Myrtle Ruge, Brian Jennings, Ricky Davies, Mary Knight, Mary Hanes, Ross Grundy, Patricia Taggart, Jim Clynes, Tex Vaughan, Michaela Perrin, Essie Tomasetti, Tom Hansford, Eric Lovell, Stan Murphy, , Ted Kempton, Jim O'Halloran, Thelma Byron

### **Prayer Requests:**

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

**Please note that the Parish Office remains closed to visitors at this stage. You are able to contact us either by phone or email.**

**Fr Greg will be on leave from October the 5th until the 30th. When he returns we will continue to record Mass on the weekend, for YouTube viewing.**

When Jesus names love as the greatest commandment he does not limit it to 'heart' love. We must love God, ourselves and others with our whole person and that means physically, spiritually and rationally. Jesus indicates that love is a way of life and intrinsic to biblical law and wisdom.



## **Links to Mass online in the diocese:**

**St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat:** Mass live streamed daily from SJOG at 11.30am and can be viewed [here](#) or on [facebook](#).

**St Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border:** Mass celebrated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays can be viewed [here](#). Follow their [facebook](#) page for updates.

**St Joseph's Parish, Warrnambool:** Sunday Masses at 8.30am can be viewed [here](#) or follow the link on [facebook](#).

## **Hustled By the Spirit** - By *Debbie Cramsie Catholic Weekly*

He sat in maximum security, surrounded by some of the most intimidating and violent people he had met in his long life of crime.

Rapists, murderers, bank robbers and drug dealers, all waiting for a special visitor to arrive at the prison.

You'd have to be living under a rock not to know who Mother Teresa was.

The tiny Albanian nun and founder of the Missionaries of Charity had devoted her life to caring for the poor in Calcutta and was the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, but to inmate #44563 she was a complete stranger.

Jim Wahlberg hadn't had an easy life ... far from it. He had been homeless and an alcoholic before he was legally able to drive.

He made bad choices and got into a lot of trouble with the law. He was estranged from his family and expected to be in and out of prison for the rest of his life, or die on the streets with no one around to notice.

Despite being raised a Catholic, he had no idea who the woman widely regarded as the world's most well-known Catholic (only after the pope) was.

But a surprise visit with her would change his life forever and set him on a journey from a life of addiction to one of redemption.

"Here's this little 77-year-old lady walking towards me, she was five feet tall if she stood on her tippy-toes, her old sweater had holes in it, and her sandals looked like she'd been wearing them since the time of Christ," he recalled.

"Rather than sit in a fancy chair away from the inmates she knelt with us and prayed.

"For the first time in my life I saw the face of Christ. The face of love. I couldn't stop looking at the kindness and gentleness in her face.

"I looked at her and for the first time in my life I saw true humility. I saw love. I saw saintliness.

"After Mass she told the inmates, 'Remember that God loves you tenderly. I will pray for you. I will not forget you. I love you. God Bless you'.

"She spoke words of forgiveness and mercy, everything she said was geared towards us, and that we were more than what brought us here.

"Mother Teresa knew that we weren't just prisoners, we had names, we had stories and we had souls.

Jim told The Catholic Weekly that when left to his own devices he always ran into trouble. But when he let God take over, his faith sustained him and his life changed forever.

"Here I was in prison for the second time. I'm 22 years old, no education, no hopes, staring at a prison sentence of six to nine years for breaking into a police officer's home," he said.

"If I messed up here and had to serve the whole sentence, I'd be 31 when I got out. I'd be a relic with one foot in the grave. So what was I going to do?"

Jim decided to create the illusion that he was trying to change. He set out to hustle the prison's priest as a volunteer in the chapel ... but as it turned out, it was the priest who 'hustled' him – in a manner of speaking – and helped give him a second chance at life.

"Slowly he brought me home to the faith, a faith that was mine by inheritance but about which I knew less than zero.

"Within a couple of weeks I'm going to Mass, meeting Mother Teresa and finding faith in unexpected places."

"Looking back I think God put me in that prison and in the path of Fr Jim Fratus which saw me for the first time deal with my struggle with addiction and the transformative power of faith in overcoming it.

"From that day my life changed forever and I knew I was on a path to redemption."

After four years, he was released from prison, got married, moved to Florida and had three children.

Though sober, his faith life waned to the point that he was just "going through the motions" until he attended a men's retreat a few years ago where he described feeling the Lord's presence in a life-changing way.

"It knocked me down to my knees," he said.

"I've been blessed to continue to do the work of cultivating my faith, and to bring other men to that retreat, to be part of and witness to what God is doing in their lives, seeing their lives restored, their marriages restored, their families restored. It's incredible.

Today, the less-famous Wahlberg is a speaker, writer and founder of Wahl Street Productions, where he has created 10 films about addiction. He also serves as the executive director of the Mark Wahlberg Youth Foundation, an organisation he started with his brother Mark to help underprivileged youth in Boston.

"I was as broken a young man as you could ever meet, but people believed in me and showed me love through those years," said Wahlberg.

"God is patient and kind, and all along He was there with open arms, just waiting for me to take that step toward Him.

"I feel as though God is calling me to make these films, write about my experiences and to start these conversations.

"Every time I think about moving on, about walking away, I remember the families that have lost loved ones to addiction ... I don't claim to have all the answers, but if we pray with each other, communicate with each other and love each other, I have to think we're on the right path."

To purchase *The Big Hustle* by Jim Wahlberg visit OSV Catholic book store or get it from Amazon.

## Trees Without Masks

Simple prayers in the time of a virus  
- Michael McGirr



## THE TREE THAT APPEARS IN FOG

God of misty mornings,  
We thank you for moments of clarity.  
There are times when life feels like winter,  
Cold and foggy.  
We want to stay under the blankets.  
But then we catch a glimpse of you,  
A bit like something taking shape in the mist,  
And slowly we discern your presence,  
Not always clear but unmistakable.  
Lead us this day to know you a little more  
deeply  
And to surrender to you, as St Ignatius  
prayed,  
Our liberty, memory, understanding, our  
entire will.  
Give us only your love and your grace.  
That is enough.

Amen.

SUPPORT OUR PARISHES



### CDF Pay for Parishes

Payments can be made by using the below link.

<https://bit.ly/CDFpayPortland>

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: \$ 732.00

**Pledged Amount \$62,400**

Total YTD 2020/21: \$ 19,003

Total YTD 2019/20: \$ 20,842

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 \$ 105.00

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