



### The Man Attracting a Crowd

Imagine you are walking along a tree-lined path in your favourite park. It's a beautiful day with the sun shining in a clear blue sky. You are smiling as you feel the sun on your face and listen to the birds singing. But your heart is heavy. You need to make a decision, and you are unsure what to do. You begin praying. Dear God, please be with me this day. I'm not sure what I need to do. It feels so difficult. Help me see your will in my life. As you walk, you notice a large crowd of people. Finally, you notice a clear spot to see what's happening. You have to stand on your toes, but you see an unusual man standing at the centre of the scene. Something is drawing you to him. You gently move through the crowd who lets you pass. You find yourself standing at the edge of the circle in front of the man. He has a strange look about him. Why are so many people listening to him?

You wonder. As you stand there, you hear his voice, but the words are unclear to you. You try to listen harder, but you still cannot make out what he says. Then, as if he knew you were straining to hear him, his eyes look directly into yours. His eyes are dark and mysterious. There is something in his eyes that speaks to you more than the words he's saying. You feel so safe in his gaze. A deep feeling of peace comes over you. He continues to look at you as you hear him say, "You are looking for the path to follow. Jesus has shown you the way. Follow him. Listen to his voice deep inside you. He walks the path with you." His eyes continue to look at you. You feel the tears running down your cheeks. Thank you. Thank you, you say in a soft whisper. You move through the crowd, your heart lighter. Now you see the path before you.

### 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.

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, inc. EFT: \$ 652

**Target \$62,400**

**Total YTD 2020/21 \$ 23,580**  
**Total YTD 2019/21 \$ 25,097**

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 \$ 568.75

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



**6th December 2020**  
**2nd Sunday Advent**  
**Time Year B**



#### Weekday Services 11/12 to 13/12

**Friday:** 10.00am Mass  
6.00pm Evening Prayer  
**Saturday Vigil** 06.00pm Mass  
**Sunday** 10.30am Mass

**Please contact by phoning/texting Fr Gregory 0475512530 if you wish to attend a Mass**

#### Recent Deaths:

#### Anniversaries:

Ada McNeilly, Terry McMeel, Stella Young, Maureen Rogers, Lorraine Bloomfield, Denise Shepherd, Sr Mary Muirhead, Margaret Cassie, Merle Grundy, Jessie Ward, Patrick Pye, Willy Paget, Jack Millar

#### Prayer Requests:

Margaret Couttie, Noela Clifford, Les Hildebrand, Nicky Schultz, Claire Jessor, 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*

#### ADVENT PRAYER

*God of comfort and hope, look upon us in love, and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus that we may love and serve you.*  
*Protect us during this time and keep us watchful in prayer,*  
*as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ,*  
*who is our light, hope and joy. Amen.*

## "The Spire"

**All Saints' Parish**

**Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor**

All Saints' Parish Office  
PO Box 210 Portland 3305

**Phone: 5523 1046 Mobile 0475 512530**  
email: 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 & 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 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*

### Psalm 84

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation 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.

## Pope Francis: Frailty is part of everybody's life - Vatican News

Pope Francis, in a message to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, highlights the importance of inclusion and active participation for those with disabilities. He also denounces the throwaway culture, which affects the most vulnerable. The theme of this year's International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is observed this 3 December, is "Building Back Better: Toward a Disability-inclusive, Accessible and Sustainable post-COVID-19 World."

With that in mind, Pope Francis, in a message to mark the occasion, said this World Day afforded him the opportunity to express his closeness to those "experiencing situations of particular difficulty during the crisis caused by the pandemic."

"All of us are in the same boat in the midst of a turbulent sea that can frighten us. Yet in this same boat, some of us are struggling more; among them are persons with serious disabilities, he said

### Throwaway culture

Focusing on this year's theme, the Pope commented that he found the expression "building back better" quite striking.

He continued by saying that it made him think of the Gospel parable of the houses built on rock or sand and he took the opportunity to share some reflections based on the parable.

In his message, he spoke of a throwaway culture that is "widespread in our time like the rain, the winds and the rivers that threaten the house in the Gospel passage."

That culture, the Pope noted, "affects especially the most vulnerable, among whom are persons with disabilities."

But on the cultural level, he pointed out, "much still stands in the way of this trend."

"We see it in attitudes of rejection, due also to a narcissistic and utilitarian mentality, that give rise to marginalization that ignores the inevitable fact that frailty is part of everyone's life," said Pope Francis.

Consequently, the Pope underlined, "it is important, on this Day, to promote a culture of life that constantly affirms the dignity of every person and works especially to defend men and women with disabilities, of all ages and social conditions."

### Inclusion

Referring to the current health situation, the Pope said the present pandemic has "further highlighted the disparities and inequalities widespread in our time, particularly to the detriment of the most vulnerable."

For this reason, he stressed, "inclusion should be the first 'rock' on which to build our house."

"Along the road of life," Pope Francis said, "we often come across wounded people, and these can include persons with disabilities and particular needs.... Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders."

"Inclusion," the Pope emphasized, should be the "rock" on which to build programmes and initiatives of civil and ecclesial institutions "meant to ensure that no one, especially those in greatest difficulty, is left behind."

### Active involvement

In order to help society "build back better," said Pope Francis, "inclusion of the vulnerable must also entail efforts to promote their active participation."

"Before all else," the Pope underlined, "I strongly reaffirm the right of persons with disabilities to receive the sacraments, like all other members of the Church.... No one should be excluded from the grace of these sacraments."

Pope Francis also highlighted the fact that people with disabilities wish to become active subjects of pastoral ministry, and not simply its recipients. "Our concern should be not only to care for them, but also to ensure their 'active participation' in the civil and ecclesial community," he said.

The Pope added that "the active participation of people with disabilities in the work of catechesis can greatly enrich the life of the whole parish."

### Co-operation

Concluding his message, Pope Francis said, "Even worse than this crisis would be the tragedy of squandering it." "For this reason, I encourage all those who daily and often silently devote themselves to helping others in situations of fragility and disability."

He expressed the hope that a common desire to "build back better" would give rise "to new forms of cooperation between both civil and ecclesial groups and thus build a solid 'house' ready to withstand every storm and capable of welcoming people with disabilities, because built on the rock of inclusion and active participation."

## All Saints Outreach Op-Shop: (In Target Car park) Phone: 5521 1587

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.

Outreach is a significant fundraiser within the Parish and we regularly need Volunteers to give 3 hours in the mornings or afternoons.

Please contact Marg Herbertson at Op-Shop for further information.

### Columban Calendar

The Columban Calendar 2021 is available to purchase at the All Saints Outreach Shop for \$9. Support Missions - It would make an ideal Christmas gift! Get one before they are sold out!



### GLOBAL GIFTS

You can bring joy to the world's most vulnerable this Christmas

This year has been a tough one for all of us. But sometimes, if you're able to bring hope to others, it can also make you feel more hopeful. And what better time to spread hope than in the season of giving? If you would like to give the gift of hope this Christmas, why not buy a Global Gift? Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. We call them Global Gifts because the funds raised from these gift cards go towards supporting our work with the poorest of the poor around the globe, including right here in Australia.

Our 2020 Global Gift cards are an opportunity for you to make a real difference, helping to bring the gifts of education, food and protection to families struggling with poverty, disability and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our beautiful gift cards start from as little as \$15, and come in both printed and e-card versions.

Help children living with severe disabilities by giving the Gift of Education: a gift that will help increase confidence and social participation. Give those living in poverty the Gift of Food: a gift that will help equip and nourish vulnerable families to become healthier and stronger. Give communities fighting COVID-19 the Gift of Protection: a gift that provides hygiene kits including face masks, soap and gloves, and prevention education.

No matter which Global Gift you choose, you will be helping families living in poverty to overcome the challenges they face in building brighter futures for themselves.

### GIVE A GLOBAL GIFT

Visit [www.globalgifts.org.au](http://www.globalgifts.org.au) or call us toll-free on 1800 024 413.

## Southern Stars - Picnic, Sunday 6th December

BBQ/Picnic on the Foreshore as follows:

**Time :** 12.00 pm.

**Location:** BBQs adjacent to the Skatepark (under the tree near the water) adjacent to the Trawler Wharf. Alternative location if already taken: BBQs adjacent to the Yacht Club and play equipment. We will get there early to secure the BBQ.

**BYO:** Food, chairs, drinks etc. We will provide sausages and bread.