

YEAR of SAINT JOSEPH

"Show yourself a father, and guide us in the path of life"

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil.



DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021
catholic.org.au/yearofstjoseph

Year of St Joseph

Pope Francis on December 8, 2020 published an Apostolic Letter Patris corde (With a Father's Heart), commemorating the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father has proclaimed a "Year of St Joseph", running from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021

To view the full Apostolic Letter Patris Corde http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20201208_patris-corde.html

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: \$1,212

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2020/21	\$ 27,819
Total YTD 2019/21	\$ 29,290

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 \$ 453.90

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



27th December 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus
Time Year B



Weekday Services 30/12 to 01/01

Tuesday:	**10.00am	Mass**
Wednesday:	**10.00am	Mass**
Thursday	10.00am	Mass
Friday:	11.00am	Mary Mother of God Mass

The Portland Church only has capacity for 52 people at any one time (as per the 1 person per 2sq metre rule). Bookings are still advisable for Fri/Sat/Sun Masses. QR Code sign is available on Church front door to register when entering.

No bookings required for Tue/Wed/Thu/Fri

Recent Deaths:

Marlene Murphy, Noreen Dalton, Bill Antonie (Mildura) Khich Dong

Anniversaries:

Frank Lodge, Allan Smith, Gerald Mugavin, Edmund Canavan, Jack Foletti, Dap Kennedy, Winnie McDonald, Patrick Bourke, Denise Kirwan, Brendan Payne, Elsie Rose, John Kennedy, Joseph Farrell, Frank McCarthy, Val Brown, Philomena Kenny

Prayer Requests:

Margaret Couttie, Noela Clifford, Les Hildebrand, Nicky Schultz, Claire Jesser, Lea-anne Bourke, Rudy Legray, Michelle Mutch, Kizzie O'Dea

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 6.00 pm,
Sunday 10:30 am

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
PO Box 210 Portland 3305

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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 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 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

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.



Christmas Message 2020

Hello, everyone. As we move towards Christmas 2020, I'd like to offer some words of encouragement after what's been a very challenging year.

In the early months of the year, people in many parts of Australia were struggling with bushfires. At the same time, we were hearing reports of a coronavirus in some other countries. Within a few months, the pandemic had spread to Australia. Thousands contracted the virus and hospital staff worked overtime to care for them. The pandemic changed daily life for everyone. To curb the spread of the virus, we were asked to keep our distance from other people and wear masks. We could no longer gather as we usually do. Businesses were shut. Churches were closed.

I offer my sympathies to those who have lost loved ones to the virus. Often there's been extra sadness because patients had to be isolated and people died without their families being able to be with them. I offer my sympathies to everyone who's suffered extra stress this year. That includes those who've felt a sense of loss when we've not been able to come together as a community to celebrate Mass.

After months of tight restrictions, we're now able to gather again to pray, even though we still need to observe some COVID limits. I'm particularly happy that we'll be able to celebrate Christmas together in our parish communities.

In the midst of this challenging year, Pope Francis published a letter reminding us of the bonds we have with one another. He wrote of the links we have with each other as brothers and sisters in one human family. Pope Francis started writing this letter before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, but the pandemic has highlighted some of the key messages he wanted to share. The common suffering has reminded us that we're members of a global community. The tragedy of COVID has brought home the fact that in many ways we're all in the same boat. As we recognise that we share a common problem, we might also recognise that we need to work together to find a common solution. Pope Francis has encouraged us to dream together for a better future. He wrote, "Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travellers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of our beliefs and convictions, each of us with our own voice, brothers and sisters all."

Over the past couple of years I've invited people around our diocese to offer suggestions to develop our diocesan vision statement. Our vision is in tune with the vision of Pope Francis – the vision of a community of brothers and sisters. Our diocese is made up of local communities. All together, our diocese is a community of communities. I'd like to quote our diocesan vision statement.

We are a community of communities
from the Murray to the sea.
Inspired by the Gospel and nourished by the Eucharist,
we follow the example of Jesus
and the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
reaching out in joyful and humble service,
caring for all of God's creation,
growing in love day by day
and looking forward to life with God forever.

That's a statement of our diocesan vision. May it be fulfilled more and more.

As we come to the close of 2020, I wish you a merry Christmas and I pray that the new year will be filled with the peace and joy of Christ. God bless you all.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

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.

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Virtual Learning Program

Our partners, Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. Study subjects over 3 & 5 week cycles. Study Cycle 1 for 2021 begins January 3. Registration for new participants has closed. Ongoing participants can register direct with Dayton University by December 30. Study Cycle 2 begins February 21. Registration for this cycle opens January 11 for new and returning participants. For more information go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Missionary Sisters of Services' mission entity offering \$3000 grants

The Missionary Sisters of Services' mission entity, "Highways and Byways - A Community of Service" is calling for applications for its 2021 Small Grants Program on the theme 'Healing the Land, Healing Ourselves, Together'. Funding of up to \$3000 is available to assist people and communities to address disadvantage and inequality particularly in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia. Further information available at <https://missionarysisters.org.au/2020/11/17/small-grants-program-now-open-3000-grants-available/>

Catholic Health Australia launches new Mission Scholarship Program for future Aged Care leaders

Catholic Health Australia is offering a new scholarship to attend the prestigious Ministry Leadership Program at the Australian Catholic University. The scholarship is open to people working at a managerial level in the Catholic aged care sector and will help expand the successful mission program to new participants. To find out more about the program and the scholarship criteria go to <https://cha.org.au/mission/69-mlp/mission/911-the-father-gerard-arbuckle-catholic-health-australia-scholarship-program>

A WOMAN IN TODAY'S CHURCH

A REFLECTION FROM WAY BACK!!

From the time I was very young I had a deep desire to be a priest. Never attracted to Religious Life – no the life of a priest for me!!!

Well, what a circuitous journey I had!! Back in 1986 I began full time work as a paid, laywoman, Pastoral Associate in the Ballarat Diocese. Strangely enough, I arrived at this point via Religious Life for a number of years. The priest with whom I worked held down a full time position at Australian Catholic University. The result of this was that frequently I was the up front person in the parish and enjoyed ten happy and fruitful years of shared teamwork.



Reflecting back almost thirty years later (can it be that long???) I wonder at the warmth and acceptance I received from all in the parish – woman and a church leader!!! I wonder at the full involvement in parish life that was extended to me – the wisdom of my pastor and employer and of the many parishioners.

As I sit here typing this reflection, my wonder now is why the problem of having women in positions of responsibility exists. May we have the courage and the wisdom to move along, taking the opportunities the Spirit of God presents in our church!!

Clare Arundell