

**Liturgy Rosters:**  
Many thanks for your ministry to the Parish!

**Church Cleaning:**

*Note: All that is required for cleaning is dusting and a general tidy up. If there is anyone else willing to be put on the roster please email Parish Office: [Portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:Portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au)*

**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.

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.**

**Our Finances**

**Planned Giving for Parish Account**

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 652.00

**Target \$62,400**

**Total YTD 2021/22 \$ 9,832**  
**Total YTD 2020/21 \$ 11,935**

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 \$ 232.00

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

**PRAYER**

O God,  
you reveal the signs of your presence among us in the church, in the liturgy and in our brothers and sisters.

Let no word of yours ever fall by the wayside or be rendered ineffective through our indifference or neglect. Rather, make us quick to recognise your saving plan whenever we encounter it, and keep as ready always to serve as prophets and apostles of your kingdom Amen.

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



**5th September 2021**  
**23rd Sunday Ordinary Time Year B**



**Weekly Services 07/09 to 10/09**

**Wednesday: 10.00am TBA**

**Thursday: 10.00am TBA**

**Friday: 10.00am TBA**

All persons wishing to attend Fri/Sat/Sun services to contact Fr Greg. Recording attendees over the age of 12mths at all masses is mandatory. If your mobile phone has the right app please use the QR Code sign in to register your every attendance. Face coverings must be worn indoors unless you have an exemption (you will need to provide proof of such exemption). Church will only be open during mass times.

**Recent Deaths:**

**Anniversaries:**

Fr Bob Marley, Agnes Nash, Pauline Johnson, Jim Wallers, Jenni Stewart, Sr Meg Hannan, Fr Pat Kearney, Danny Frawley, Jeanette Buck, Therese Whiting, Thelma Rowe, Nicholas Carr, Isobel Hutchins, Patricia McBean, John Staples, Ken Johnson

**Prayer Requests:**

Margaret Couttie, Noela Clifford, Les Hildebrand, Nicky Schultz, Claire Jesser, Lea-anne Bourke, Michelle Mutch, Deanne Atkinson

*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 6.00pm 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

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 & 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 145**

Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.  
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.

## Jesus says to us: hear and speak

There are two miracle-stories that occur only in Mark's gospel: the healing of the blind man at Bethsaida, and today's story of the healing of the deaf-mute. Both stories reveal to us the truly human face of Jesus who responds with compassion to people's infirmities. But they also reveal the healing powers of the promised Messiah who will 'open the eyes of the blind' and 'unseal the ears of the deaf' (Isaiah).

However, in both Markan stories, Jesus is also the reluctant Messiah who performs his miracles out of public view and orders people not to tell anyone! Biblical scholars have long debated the meaning of the so-called "messianic secret" in Mark's gospel. We may say it did not work very well, as the disciples could not hold their tongues, proclaiming to all who would listen: "he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak"!

Another explanation is that Jesus does not want people to focus on him, but on the 'kingdom of God'. Most importantly, although exhibiting miraculous powers, Jesus does not want to be identified as some kind of celebrity or political Messiah since, in his own words, "the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many" (Mk 10:45). Indeed, the full reality of Jesus' messiahship could only be revealed in the experience of the Cross which is also at the heart of true discipleship.

In broader perspective, we should realise that the disciples in Mark's gospel are depicted as lacking faith – or being metaphorically blind and deaf. Even Peter, James and John – who saw Jesus transfigured on the mountain (Mk 9:2-23) – soon fell into crude misinterpretations, thinking of power and fame rather than loving service of others.

So, despite all the miracles in Mark's Gospel, Jesus' full identity as Christ-the-Messiah and Saviour-figure remains a 'secret' to the often clueless disciples who fail to see Jesus as much more than a miracle-worker. While Peter does move to acknowledge Jesus as the Christ, he then shows his faulty understanding by failing to accept Jesus' message that the Son of Man is to suffer and die – resulting in Jesus' rebuke to Peter: "Get behind me Satan!" (Mk 8:27-33).

"Then looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said: 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened'". This healing message of Jesus to the deaf-mute is spoken to his disciples and to us who are often deaf to the full message of the Gospel and dumb in our failure to witness Jesus Christ to the world. Like Jesus' closest companions, we too are afraid of the full call to discipleship which includes identifying with Jesus the "suffering servant".

We are invited to find in Jesus' compassion a truly human way of responding to people in distress. More than this, we are invited to be disciples of Christ the Messiah who brings healing and hope to our world through the reality of the Cross and miracle of the Resurrection.

Gerard Hall SM

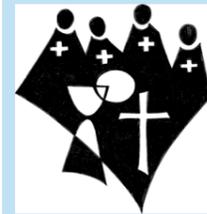
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### For Fathers

Lord, Heavenly Father,  
you entrusted your Son Jesus,  
the child of Mary,  
to the care of Joseph, an earthly father.  
Bless all fathers  
as they care for their families.  
Give them strength and wisdom,  
tenderness and patience;  
support them in the work they have to do,  
protecting those who look to them,  
as we look to you for love and salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our rock and defender.

Amen.

## Sunday, 5th September Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Collection for Sick and Retired Priests



The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for seventeen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund.

**Our Parish will take up the collection on the first week we are open for services again.**

**New Appeal Envelopes will be available for your use once we open. Old envelopes should be destroyed as they are no longer valid for acceptance of contributions due a change in ABN.**

### Season of Creation – September 1 – October 4, 2021

The Season of Creation is the time of year when the world's 2.2 billion Christians are invited to pray and care for creation. This prayerful season runs annually from September 1 through to October 4 – the Feast of St Francis of Assisi.

The Season of Creation is dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given to us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today.

This year our theme is 'A Home for All? Renewing the oikos of God' (one of the meanings for the ancient Greek word oikos is home.) Oikos is a home for all but our common home, the Earth, is now in danger because of people's greed, exploitation, disrespect, disconnection and systematic degradation. Resources to assist celebrate the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2021/>

### Commission Climate Change Forum – Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission

On November 6, 2021 the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission will host a Climate Change Forum in Ballarat. Through this forum, we celebrate the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Social Justice Statement 2021-2022 *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. We are inviting you to share what you have for ecological justice. Do you market a product that is about sustainable practices and clean living? Maybe you know a thing or two about how to reduce carbon emissions. Do you have a particular skill in embracing nature and celebrating all things in the natural environment? We want to show the community what people are doing and this is an opportunity for you to share! It could be anything from how to make bees wax wraps, how to compost food scraps to how to recycle and make your own paper. Perhaps you have a wealth of gardening skills and can set up a stall to showcase them. Maybe you have information about how to save power and water. Get in touch with us and let us know what you've got! We would love to hear from you.

Email [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

