

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

**This Weekend: 17/18/19 December**

**Friday: 10.00am**

Reader: K. Arnott  
Prayers: P. Rowe  
Computer: L. Cooper

**Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm**

Reader: P. O'Brien  
Prayers: C. Leonard  
Computer: A. O'Brien

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: A. McIntyre  
Prayers: J. Sandeman  
Ministers: M. McGennissen  
Computer: A. Francis

**Next Weekend: 24/25/26 December**

**Christmas Eve, Friday 24th: 8.00pm**

Reader: K. Howman, K. Loftus  
Prayers: P. O'Brien  
Ministers: F. Mizzi  
Computer: A. O'Brien

**Christmas Day, Saturday 25th: 9.30am**

Reader: J. Sandeman  
Prayers: Volunteer please  
Minister: D. Kierce  
Computer: A. Francis

**Sunday 26th December: 10.30am**

Reader: M. Picard  
Prayers: K. Arnott  
Ministers: A. McIntyre  
Computer: A. Francis

## 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

## 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.



**19th December  
2021**

**Fourth Sunday  
Advent  
Year C**



## Weekly Services 21/12 to 26/12

**Tuesday: 7.00pm Sacrament of Penance**  
**Wednesday: 10.00am Mass**  
**Thursday: 10.00am Mass**  
**Friday: 5.00pm Christmas Eve Mass Dartmoor**  
**7.00pm Carols - All Saints**  
**8.00pm Christmas Eve Mass**  
**Saturday: 9.30am Christmas Mass**  
**Sunday: 10.30am Mass, Feast of Holy Family**

## Recent Deaths:

Fran Powell, Kathleen McSweeney RSJ

## Anniversaries:

Maria Vu, Noreen Dalton, Max Brooker, Don Stewart, Khich Dong, Gail Riley, Gordon Nance, John Humphries, Michael Thomas, Patrick Teal, John Smith, Jack Kearney, Erin & Megan Grayling, Pauline Healey, Carmel Sheedy, Inala Bell, Hilda Habel, Gertie Brown, Paige Prentice, Lee Crow, Jim Tobin

## 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*

Baptisms by appointment with Fr. Gregory  
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  
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 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 79

Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,  
shine forth from your cherubim throne.  
O Lord, rouse up your might,  
O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore,  
look down from heaven and see.  
Visit this vine and protect it,  
the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen,  
the man you have given your strength.  
And we shall never forsake you again:  
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you;  
let us see your face and we shall be saved.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
I am the servant of the Lord:  
may his will for me be done.  
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.

## Our Finances

### Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 1,294.00

**Target \$62,400**

**Total YTD 2021/22 \$ 27,960**  
**Total YTD 2020/21 \$ 26,014**

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 \$ 627.70

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

Dear Parishioners of All Saints Parish.

As you may have heard, the Victorian Government has announced new Covid provisions to come into effect from 11.59pm Wednesday 15 December 2021. As described in the State Government press release, we will no longer be required to check the vaccination status of those attending places of worship.

The Victorian Council of Churches on behalf of all Victorian Churches, made enquiry as to the ongoing issues faith communities face as they gather for worship over the Christmas season. Rev Ian Smith the CEO of the VCC has received the following response from the State Government.

**“From tonight there are no longer vaccination check-in requirements at places of worship. We do maintain our strong recommendation that people are fully vaccinated. QR code check-ins are still required. Quotient requirements are no longer in force. Masks are not mandatory but are strongly recommended.”**

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Parish pastoral Team, I renew our thanks to you all for continuing to support one another through these trying times. We rejoice that we will be able to gather for worship as a whole community again. May our prayer together in these final days of Advent and throughout the Christmas season bring us Christ’s joy in abundance.

Fr Gregory Tait.  
Parish Priest

## The importance of women in the Church

Fresh from her encounter with the angel Gabriel, “Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country” to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was herself bursting with pregnancy in her old age. This meeting of two Spirit-filled pregnant women, seeking to understand what God is doing in their lives, is remarkable in the way it captures their very human interaction along with their prophetic voices.

In Scriptural terms, all this occurs with the highly unusual absence of male voices in the conversation.

Although the meeting occurs in Zechariah’s house, he had been struck dumb. Joseph is presumably back in Nazareth. For the most part, we can only imagine the conversations between Elizabeth and Mary as they share their joy and confusion in the unforeseen events.

Elizabeth no doubt had long resigned herself to being childless, but now has to deal with her unexpected blessing. Mary has to come to terms with a blessing that seems to cause more problems than it solves. How will she explain her pregnancy to Joseph?

In Luke’s account, the encounter between Elizabeth and Mary is presented in the form of two scriptural hymns or songs of blessing. Today we hear the first of these, which is Elizabeth’s song prophetically proclaiming Mary to be the “mother of my Lord”. Even though filled with joy in her own blessing of pregnancy, Elizabeth exudes humility, compassion and living faith by focussing on the blessing that Mary’s presence is for her – and that Mary’s child will be for the world.

Mary’s response to Elizabeth is the second song – the ‘Magnificat’ – which proclaims God’s redeeming love for the oppressed and downtrodden people of our world. Together then, Elizabeth and Mary are presented to us as two Spirit-filled, peasant women prophets supporting each other in adversity by singing of God’s justice and mercy.

In doing so, they stand in the long Jewish tradition of female voices – Miriam with her tambourine, Deborah, Hannah and Judith – who likewise sing provocative songs of God’s coming salvation for the poor and oppressed.

Although the Visitation has been used to depict such lofty themes as the Church’s march throughout history crossing mountains to proclaim Christ to the world (St Ambrose 4<sup>th</sup> century), we also do well to recognise how the story highlights the role of women throughout Luke’s Gospel. They are not only major figures associated with Jesus’ birth, but they are clearly friends and disciples of Jesus during his ministry, are present at the crucifixion, and are the first to encounter the risen Lord.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us ask for the gift of being open to the surprise of grace in our own lives in the ways of Mary and Elizabeth. May we, like them, sing of God’s transforming power coming to life in the birth of the Messiah. Perhaps too we are invited to highlight the importance of women’s ministry in ‘giving birth’ to a less clerical church!

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2021

**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 2022 is available to purchase at the All Saints Outreach Shop for \$10. Support Missions - It would make an ideal Christmas gift! Get one before they are sold out!



## Christmas Mass Times

21st December, Tuesday 7.00pm - Sacrament of Penance, All Saints Church  
 24th December, Friday 5.00pm - Vigil Mass - Dartmoor  
 24th December, Friday 7.30pm - Carols - All Saints Portland  
 24th December, Friday 8.00pm - Christmas Eve Mass - All Saints Portland  
 25th December, Saturday 9.30am - Christmas Day Mass - All Saints Portland

### No VIGIL Mass - Saturday 25th December

26th December, Sunday 10.30am - Feast of the Holy Family, All Saints Portland

## Monastic Bootcamp - January 9th - 15th

**A week of fasting, meditation and prayer. See larger version of posters in foyer.  
 Any questions or for bookings please contact Jamin Howman [jphowman@gmail.com](mailto:jphowman@gmail.com)**

## Timetable for the Week

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	8:00 – 8:30 am	8:00 – 8:30 am	8:00 – 8:30 am	8:00 – 8:30 am	8:00 – 8:30 am
	Lauds	Lauds	Lauds	Lauds	Lauds
			Fasting from Lauds to Vespers		Fasting from Lauds to Vespers
<b>5:00 – 6:00 pm</b>	5:30 – 6:00 pm	5:30 – 6:00 pm	5:30 – 6:00 pm	5:30 – 6:00 pm	5:30 – 6:00 pm
Orientation to the week.	Theology Presentation 1	Theology Presentation 2	Meditation	Theology Presentation 3	Meditation
6:00 – 6:30 pm	6:00 – 6:30 pm	6:00 – 6:30 pm	6:00 – 6:30 pm	6:00 – 6:30 pm	6:00 – 6:30 pm
Vespers	Vespers	Vespers	Vespers	Vespers	Vespers
			6:30 pm - Onward		6:30 pm - Onward
			Shared Meal		Shared Meal and Conclusion