

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

**This 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: F. Mizzi  
Computer: A. Francis

**Next Weekend: 01/02 January**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**

Reader: D. Baudinette  
Prayers: D. Bennett  
Minister: D. Kierce  
Computer: A. O'Brien

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: M. Schultz  
Prayers: A. McIntyre  
Ministers: K. Loftus  
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.



**26th December  
2021**

**Holy Family,  
Jesus, Mary &  
Joseph  
Year C**



## Weekly Services 28/12 to 02/01

**Tuesday: 5.00pm Mass**  
**5.30pm Christmastide reflection & Evening prayer**

**Wednesday: 10.00am Mass**

**Thursday: 10.00am Mass**

**Friday: 10.00am Mary Mother of God Mass**

**Saturday: 6.00pm Mass, Feast of the Epiphany**

**Sunday: 10.30am Mass, Feast of the Epiphany**

## Recent Deaths:

## Anniversaries:

Merle Johnson, Karen Graham, Sr Mary O'Neil,  
Bishop Joe Grech, Ramona Salt, Michael Vigilante,  
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,  
Veronica Picard, Philomena Kenny, Norma Ruge

## 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](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 127

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
all the days of your life.

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to listen to the words of your Son.  
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: \$ 947.00

**Target \$62,400**

**Total YTD 2021/22 \$ 28,727**  
**Total YTD 2020/21 \$ 27,769**

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 \$ 449.45

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

## Looking back, looking forward



Slim Dusty is fondly remembered as Australia's 'King of Country'. During his lifetime, Slim released more than a hundred albums, selling more than seven million records and earning over 70 gold and platinum album certifications.

'Looking forward, Looking Back' is a famous Slim Dusty song. As another year comes to an end and the countdown to 2019 begins, Slim's song title offers some practical wisdom. Today is a timely opportunity for all of us to

look forward and look back, to reflect on the past year's blessings and to set our goals for the year ahead.

Imagine the Holy Family of Nazareth doing the same. They, too, had much to look back on and much to anticipate! Mary might have recalled the angel's words about Jesus at the Annunciation, *"He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king ... his kingdom will never end"* (Luke 1:32, 33b). Joseph might have recalled his dream, when the angel told him to name Mary's son Jesus, *"because he will save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21).

Mary and Joseph might also have reflected again on their experience with Simeon. Holding the infant Jesus, Simeon shared his vision where he saw the fulfillment of all God's promises and the hope for the future salvation of Israel. *"For my eyes have seen your salvation ... a light to reveal your will to the gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel"* (Luke 2:30, 32). No wonder Mary and Joseph were amazed!

Remembering and reflecting on these special moments of God's presence and grace must have helped Mary and Joseph to trust in God's faithfulness and to know that whatever the future might hold, they would not be alone.

Think now about your own 'holy family'? How was God present to you this year? Were there times of joy: like the birth of a new child or grandchild, a marriage, a new job, a graduation? Were there times of sadness and struggle: like illness, death, disharmony, financial troubles? Spend some time reflecting on how God has been with you through it all.

But don't just look back; look forward too. How has the past year prepared you for the blessings to come? Maybe God is beginning to unfold something new in your life. How might you embrace it? Does it call you to trust, especially if the situation seems unclear or uncertain? Looking forward is an invitation for you to be open to God's blessings, to be amazed at how God is at work in your life and to know that even better things are still to come!

Looking back on the year just gone we thank our loving God for being with us during these hard times. Looking forward to the new year, we pray that we will remain close to the One who is always present and faithful to us.

David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2021

<b>Monastic Bootcamp</b>  <b>January 9th - 15th</b> <b>A week of fasting, meditation and prayer. See larger version of posters in foyer.</b> <b>Any questions or for bookings please contact Jamin Howman</b> <b>jphowman@gmail.com</b>	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
	5:00 – 6:00 pm	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

**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.**

### Granny Flat for rent

To rent, for couple a spacious granny flat Phone 0407 786 309 for details.



P.O Box 121, Ballarat, 3353  
Ph: 03 5337 7121 | Fax 03 5332 1122  
[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Christmas Message 2021

#### Take Some Quiet Time

In these days leading up to Christmas, I am very pleased to have the chance to say hello. Over the past year, we have been restricted in our travel because of the pandemic. I have had to postpone a number of visits to parishes and schools around the diocese. So I am particularly glad to have the opportunity to send this greeting to all our communities by video.

The weeks before Christmas can be challenging in any year. Winding up the school term, going to end-of-year functions, doing Christmas shopping – the days can be quite busy. This year we have had the added complication of the pandemic, with Covid testing and isolating and lockdowns and school closures and learning and working from home and general disruption to plans. We still have to check in wherever we go and we need to follow the latest regulations if we want to travel interstate.

People generally have done very well in observing the pandemic precautions to help keep us all safe. However, the extra demands of the pandemic have been tiring. People might well feel weary and, if we are feeling weary, this busy time before Christmas will be even more challenging.

In the midst of all these challenges, I would like to encourage you to take some time out for quiet. If only for a few minutes, take a break from all the activity. Sit down. Take some deep breaths. Take some time to be still. This can help to calm our minds. Then we can see things more clearly. We can distinguish what is more important and what is less important. This helps us to focus on the more important things in life.

In the original Christmas story in the gospel of Luke, we read of shepherds in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks during the night. They were not moving the sheep to new pastures. They were not shearing the sheep. They were simply watching and it was in that time of simply watching that the messenger of God came to them, an angel of the Lord appeared and the glory of the Lord shone round them and they heard the good news that a Saviour had been born.

During these weeks before Christmas, I hope we can all take some time to be like those shepherds, spending a while simply watching, taking a break from our many activities and simply sitting quietly. And as we sit quietly, may we hear again in our hearts the good news that a Saviour has been born for us, Christ, the Lord.

I wish you all a merry Christmas. May the peace of Christ be with you. May the joy of the Saviour be your strength. May God bless you all.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR