

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

This Weekend: 19th & 20th February

Saturday: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K. Loftus  
Prayers: J. Sandeman  
Ministers: A. McIntyre  
Computer: A. Francis

Next Weekend: 26th & 27th February

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: K. Howman  
Prayers: P. Howman  
Minister  
Computer: A. O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K. Arnott  
Prayers: M. Picard  
Ministers: D. Arnott  
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.



20th February  
2022

7th Sunday  
Ordinary Time  
Year C



## Weekly Services 22/02 to 27/02

Tuesday:	No Mass	} Clergy Retreat
Wednesday:	No Mass	
Thursday:	No Mass	
Friday:	**11.00am**	Mass
Saturday:	6.00pm	Mass
Sunday:	10.30am	Mass

## Recent Deaths:

## Anniversaries:

Maureen Saxon, Paddy Delaney, Norm McNess, Peter Lewis, Margaret Farrugia, Barry Edrich, William Donohue, Pat Bourke, Louise Sheba, Ryan Rieger, Cindy Collier, John Smith, Bob Wood, George Kennett, William Crowe, Ron O'Brien

## Prayer Requests:

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

*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 and 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 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 102

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord,  
all my being, bless his holy name.  
My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt,  
who heals every one of your ills,  
who redeems your life from the grave,  
who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy.  
He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west  
so far does he remove our sins.  
As a father has compassion on his sons,  
the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment;  
love one another as I have loved 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.

## Our Finances

### Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 677.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2021/22 \$ 36,049  
Total YTD 2020/21 \$ 36,051

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 \$ 627.55

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

## Do good to those who hate you



In the Book of Samuel we find two mortal enemies, David and Saul, in conflict. Saul is the anointed King of Judah and David has been anointed to succeed him. What happens next is an all too familiar human story.

David is jealous of Saul's power; Saul is suspicious of David's motives. How often family feuds and human relations take on these negative forces of jealousy and suspicion resulting in the breakdown of relationships. We also see this operating at the international level between ethnic groups and nations resulting in open conflict and even warfare.

To return to the story of King Saul and the yet-to-be appointed King David, there is a glimmer of light. Previously, in a rage, Saul attempted to kill David by throwing a javelin at him! In today's story, David has the opportunity to kill Saul, but relents. Choosing not to kill your enemy is a good first step! Even here we note David's motives are not entirely pure. He acts partly out of guilt, fearing divine anger if he was to kill one of God's anointed. However, fear of God has its role as a pathway to a more authentic and loving life.

Let us now compare this approach to the words of Jesus in today's gospel: "Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you." At a logical level, Jesus' reasoning is difficult to dispute: "If you only love those who love you, what thanks can you expect?" No, says Jesus, you must overcome all those narrow views of love and forgiveness: "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate." Moreover, "don't judge others, don't condemn, always forgive."

We may complain that Jesus is asking too much of us! Surely all this love and forgiveness will be seen as pure weakness, leading us to being eaten up, spewed out and trodden underfoot by our enemies! Yet, something within us knows we must break the cycle of violence and vengeance if we are to achieve peace, harmony and goodwill among people and nations. This is the way of the Gospel as lived and proclaimed by Jesus.

This is also the centre-point of Pope Francis' encyclical Fratelli Tutti (2020) where he uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to insist that love must go beyond tribe, family and nation to include stranger, migrant and refugee. We also note Francis' joint statement with Grand Imam Ahmad Al-Tayeb in Abu Dhabi (2019) which acknowledged that "God has created all human beings equal in rights, duties and dignity, and has called them to live together as brothers and sisters."

In today's world, 'loving your enemy' is best expressed in terms of commitment to dialogue and mutual respect among peoples of diverse religions and cultures. This enables us to open our hearts to become people of love, service and compassion. This way, we allow God's love to enter our lives and world keeping in mind Jesus' words: "The amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back!"

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2022

### Love

There is a wonderful line from the musical, Les Miserables, when the hero, Valjean, says just before he dies; "To love another person is to see the face of God." As Christian people, we believe that every person is created in the image and likeness of God. To look upon another person with love and compassion is to see the face of God revealed. When we are called to love, we are called to recognise that every single person is worthy of love and every single person is made in the image of God - even ourselves!

**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.**

### Dates to Remember

- March 2 - Ash Wednesday Mass 10.00am, All Saints Church  
- Ash Wednesday Mass 6.00pm, All Saints Church
- March 9 - Parents Penance Preparation 7.00pm, All Saints Church
- March 17 - St Patrick's Day Mass, 11.00am, All Saints Church  
St Patrick's Lunch 12.00pm, Presbytery
- April 12 - Sacrament of Penance 7.00pm, All Saints Church
- April 19 - Anointing Mass 11.00am, All Saints Church  
Shared lunch 12.00pm, Presbytery

### Want to put your faith into action?

#### Volunteer to be Caritas Australia's 'Parish Representative'!



**Caritas Australia** is our Catholic agency for international aid and development, working to alleviate poverty and bring hope and justice to marginalised communities throughout the world.

We're inviting a parishioner to volunteer to help coordinate **Project Compassion** in your Parish community. The volunteer Parish Representative can do as much as they are comfortable with. If interested email Diocesan Director for Caritas Jillian Hogbin [caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:caritas@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Study Tour of the Biblical Lands

Olive Tree Travel have planned a study Tour of the Biblical Lands from December 3-14, 2022. This tour is focussed on the Gospel of Luke engaging the narrative in the contextual landscape. The tour will be escorted by Dr Rosemary Canavan of Catholic Theological College. More information available from <https://www.olivetreetravel.com.au/upcoming-tours/>

### Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)

The Ballarat Diocese, partnered with Dayton University, offers online Faith Formation study. VLCFF is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. The goal is to support the church's professional ministry of religious education and faith formation in cyberspace. **We encourage parish and diocesan staff and parishioners to consider taking up the opportunity to enhance their faith formation by undertaking any of these courses on offer for a small fee of \$50usd.** The next Cycle of 2022 begins March 7. More information is available on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> as well as at <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/>