

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

This Weekend: 26th & 27th March

Saturday: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: M. Schultz  
Prayers: J. Sandeman  
Offertory: Vol. please  
Ministers: D. Arnott  
Computer: A. Francis

Next Weekend: 2nd & 3rd April

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: D. Kierce  
Prayers: D. Bennett  
Offertory: Vol. please  
Minister  
Computer: A. O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: B. Healy  
Prayers: K. Arnott  
Offertory: Vol. please  
Ministers: M. McGenniken  
Computer: A. Francis

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

All Saints Outreach Op-Shop: (In Target Car park) Phone: 5521 1587

The Parish Outreach Op-Shop is in urgent need of good quality 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 Thursday 10 am - 3pm  
Friday 10am - 4pm  
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.

Project Compassion  
26 & 27 March



From her life as a child soldier in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rosalie is now a business owner, a community leader and a role model for other ex-combatants seeking to readjust to civilian life.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation envelopes available, or by visiting [lent.caritas.org.au](http://lent.caritas.org.au), or by calling 1800 024 413



Total to date: \$ 350



27th March  
2022

4th Sunday  
Lent  
Year C



Weekly Services 29/03 to 03/04

Tuesday: 5.00pm Mass  
5.30pm Gospel Reflection & Evening Prayer Lent

Wednesday: 10.00am Mass

Thursday: 10.00am Mass

Friday: 9.30am Morning prayer & Adoration Lent

10.00am Mass  
6.00pm Evening prayer lent

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Nancy Walsh, Edna Perry, Judith Lane, Shirley Beavis, John Arundell, Michael Couttie, Les Downes, Keith Sawyer

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

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[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 Webstock

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

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, call 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.

Prayer for Peace & Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

## Our Finances

### Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 1,137

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2021/22 \$ 42,162

Total YTD 2020/21 \$ 44,231

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 \$ 591.10

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

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho.

On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 33

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise always on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let us praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.  
This poor man called; the Lord heard him  
and rescued him from all his distress.

### Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and Sisters;

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!  
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.  
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Gospel Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."  
So he told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons.

The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.

A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'"

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!'

Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Dates to Remember

- Tuesday April 12 - Sacrament of Penance for Parish - 7.00pm, All Saints Church  
Thursday April 14 - Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's supper, 7.00pm  
Friday April 15 - Passion, 3.00pm  
Saturday April 16 - Easter Vigil Mass, \*6.30pm\*  
Saturday April 16 - Easter Vigil Supper - Presbytery  
Sunday April 17 - Easter Sunday Mass, 10.30am  
Friday April 22 - Anointing Mass 10.00am, All Saints Church  
Shared morning tea 11.00am, Presbytery

## A father's undying love for his sons



The parable in today's gospel tells us about the experience of being loved and forgiven. It is about a father who shares his love equally with his two sons and, as they mature into adulthood, he gives them space to make their own decisions.

The younger son decides he wants to have his own life and so he takes his share of the inheritance, moves away, and becomes disconnected from his father and brother. The older son, however, decides to remain loyal and to serve his father. But one day, after arriving home after a day working in the fields, he becomes angry after seeing his father embrace his younger brother who has returned home, having wasted his inheritance.

It seems unbelievable that his father would welcome the younger sibling because he had turned his back on his father and the family home. However, this is where we witness God's mercy which goes beyond our human thoughts and ways. Seeing his younger son coming towards him, his father runs to him, welcoming and hugging him with tremendous joy and love. To his relief, the younger son finds his father is still the same loving and merciful man.

His father can't hide his joy, so he throws a party to celebrate his son's return. The younger son feels even more loved by his father than before he left the family property. The older son is invited to join the celebrations, but refuses, bitterly complaining that he has served his father loyally all his life but has never been treated like a king. Why would the younger brother be treated like a king when he turned his back on his father? It doesn't make sense! At this moment the older son doesn't feel loved, even though he has experienced his father's care all his life.

Both sons, in different ways, failed to appreciate and respond to their father's steadfast love and generosity. The younger son, only when he had nothing left to lose, returned home, only then to realise his father's great love and mercy. The older son, momentarily blinded by envy and jealousy, failed to recognize his father's unfailing love for him throughout his life and to share his father's joy in the younger son's return.

We too are greatly loved by God and we have the freedom to make our own decisions. Coming home to God, whatever the mistakes or poor decisions we have made along the way, is really a journey of love. It takes courage and humility, as the younger son showed.

God, our Father, never changes or wavers his love for us. He is always waiting for us. Let us make the move and go back home to renew our relationship with God, our Father. Let us open ourselves to his unconditional love and mercy, and let's be ready to share God's life and love with others, especially with the wounded ones.