

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry to the Parish!
****Communion ministers please have a mask****

This Weekend: 23rd & 24th April

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: P. O'Brien
Reader: D. Bennett
Minister
Computer: A. O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: B. Healy
Prayers: M. Picard
Ministers: M. McGenniken
Computer: A. Francis

Next Weekend: 30th April & 1st May

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: D. Kierce
Reader: P. Lyons
Minister
Computer: A. O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K. Loftus
Prayers: K. Arnott
Ministers: D. Arnott
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 Thank You!



Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty.

Total donated: \$ 1,508.20

Also donated and collected over Easter:

Good Friday Holy Land: \$357.75

Easter Hot Cross Buns: \$548.25



24th April 2022

2nd Sunday Easter Year C



Weekly Services 26/04 to 01/05

Tuesday:	5.00pm	Mass
Wednesday:	10.00am	Mass
Thursday:	10.00am	Mass
Friday:	9.30am	Easter Morning Prayer & Adoration
	10.00am	Mass
	6.00pm	Eastertide Night prayers
Saturday:	6.00pm	Mass
Sunday:	10.30am	Mass

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries:

Teresa Howard, Peter West, Greg Pound, Carmen del Fierro, Maria Pietschmann, Stan Gliscynski, Myra Proudfoot, Sr Christine Daly IBVM, Trudy Van Lammeren, Kerrin Hurley

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

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 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 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

Prayers for ANZAC Day

We pray for all airmen, sailors and soldiers who served and bravely lost their lives in battle during times of conflict, especially members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. May they rest in the peace of Christ and rise in glory on the last day.

Let us pray to the Lord.

We remember all families, parents and children who lost loved ones through war. May the light of God's hope and strength comfort them.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Our Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 823.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2021/22 \$ 46,184

Total YTD 2020/21 \$ 48,475

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 \$ 927.15

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

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 117

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light. (R.)

Second Reading

A reading from the book of Revelation.

John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. was in the spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,

Continued

and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades. Now write what you have seen, what is, and what is to take place after this.

The word of the Lord.

All reply: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel

From the holy Gospel according to John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jewish Authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas who was called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Dates to Remember

Friday April 22 - Anointing Mass 10.00am, All Saints Church
Shared morning tea 11.00am, Presbytery

Looking for the hard truth

Although Thomas is called the 'twin', he might be better named Thomas the 'realist'. Unlike other disciples, Thomas is not about to believe in something as improbable as Jesus rising from the dead unless he has hard evidence. We might even call him Thomas the 'sceptic' who believes only in things he can see and touch. Yet, our 'doubting Thomas' has more to teach us than is commonly realised.

In John's Gospel, Thomas is presented as someone who does the right thing even in the face of adversity. This is shown when Jesus decides to visit the ill and dying Lazarus. Thomas urges the disciples to accompany Jesus on this difficult mission —even if they might face death: "Let us go that we may die with him" (Jn 11:16). Thomas is a person of action who is true to his word. This is in contrast to Peter who commits himself to follow Jesus to the point of death, but then denies him three times!

Nor is Thomas afraid to express his ignorance and ask the hard questions. At the Last Supper, when Jesus tells the disciples they know where he is going, Thomas bluntly expresses his confusion: "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5).

Finally, from today's gospel, we are presented with both a 'doubting Thomas' who is slow to believe, and yet someone who remains open-minded and continues to search for the truth. Once the resurrected Christ appears to him, his response is full-hearted and immediate: "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20:28).

We, like Thomas, are people caught up with deeply human doubts and questions. Unlike Thomas, we do not have the luxury of walking beside Jesus for three years in his public ministry. Yet, even for Thomas this is still not enough to believe without evidence that Jesus was now risen.

Nor do we have the privilege of touching the wounds in the risen body of Jesus, as Thomas did. Yet, in a strange twist of events, Jesus says that you and I are even more blessed than Thomas: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (Jn 20:29).

Yet, our faith is not blind belief in things that others tell us. Easter faith is a genuine experience of the risen Lord who always walks with us on the journey of life. This is especially when we experience "crucifixion moments" in our own lives, or when our doubts threaten to overwhelm us. As Thomas' own experience teaches, doubt is not the opposite of faith, but its pre-condition, leading us to search for the 'hidden God' who is closer to us than we are to ourselves.

Pope Francis says that by living our faith in loving service of others "many doubts vanish because we feel the presence of God and the truth of the Gospel." In other words, Easter faith is less about a set of things to believe in, than a way of life leading us to ever deepening discipleship.

Gerard Hall SM

© Majellan Media 2022

Southern Stars Family Group

April meeting for Southern Stars Family Group will take place on Sunday 24th April at 1.30pm at Yambuk Lake. Lots of fun to be had on the big slide and a walk to the beach, followed by afternoon tea. Please bring something to share.

For enquiries please phone Gabrielle on 0408590594.

