

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

**This Weekend: 17th & 18th December**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: K. Loftus  
Prayers: A. McIntyre  
Ministers: M. McGenniskien  
Computer: Vol. please

**Next Weekend: 24th & 25th December**

**Saturday: 8.00pm**

Reader: K. Arnott  
Prayers: L. Cooper  
Minister: A. McIntyre/ Di Kierce (choir)  
Computer: A. O'Brien

**Sunday: 9.30am**

Reader: M. Schultz  
Prayers: Vol. please  
Ministers: D. Kierce  
Computer: Vol. please

**Following Weekend: 31st Dec & 1st January**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: M. Picard  
Prayers: K. Loftus  
Ministers: M. McGenniskien  
Computer: Vol. please

**All Saints Outreach Op-Shop: (In Woolworth's 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 1pm - 3pm  
Tuesday 10am - 1pm  
Wednesday 1pm - 3pm  
Thursday 10am - 3pm  
Friday 10am - 4pm  
Saturdays 10am - 12pm

Outreach is a significant fundraiser within the Parish and we regularly need Volunteers to give 3 hours in the mornings or afternoons.

**Please contact Kate Howman 0428 235 218 for further information.**

**Christmas Meat Hamper - completed for 2022**



Thank you for your contributions towards the 155 Christmas Hampers provided to individuals and families in our community.

We as a Parish have contributed \$1,115 from individual donations and \$4,000 from our Op Shop. Our donations comprise a meat package for each hamper to the value of \$33 each.

**Total: \$5,115**

**Our Finances**

**Planned Giving for Parish Account**

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 860

**Target \$62,400**

**Total YTD 2022/23 \$ 28,813**

**Total YTD 2021/22 \$ 27,845**

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 \$ 619.45

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



**18 December 2022**

**4th Sunday Advent Year A**



**Weekly Services 20/12 to 25/12**

**Tuesday: 5.00pm Mass**  
**5.30pm Gospel reflection & Evening Prayer**

**Wednesday: 10.00am Mass**

**Thursday: 10.00am Mass**

**Friday: 9.30am Adoration & Morning Prayer**  
**10.00am Mass**  
**5.30pm Evening Prayer**

**Saturday: 7.30pm Christmas Carols**  
**8.00pm Christmas Mass**

**Sunday: 9.30am Christmas Day Mass**

**Recent Deaths:**

Matt Jordans, Maurice Sullivan, June Dalton, Kevin Treloar

**Anniversaries:**

Slavko Komes, Kath McKenzie, Barry Manley, Terry Farrugia, Gerard Hockey, Jim Maloney, Eleanor Foley, Margaret Sawyer, Sarah Stuchbery, Anna Goosens, Betty Edwards, Esteban Cresencia, Kevin Willey, David Meehan, Nathan Johnston, Henry Sumner, John Doherty, Matthew O'Halloran, John Finnegan, Una Gladman

**Prayer Requests:**

Margaret Couttie, Noela Clifford, Les Hildebrand, 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 and Marriages**

by appointment with Fr. Gregory Tait.

**Sacrament of Penance**

1st Saturday of the month 10am or any other time 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*

**Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2022 - Next weekend 24/25 December**

The Bishop's Christmas Appeal will take place next weekend. The Appeal is one way in which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance.

“Arranging our Christmas gatherings this year will have extra demands as we continue recovering from the pandemic and struggle with our increasing costs of daily living. However, I do still commend the Christmas Appeal to our parishioners.

I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's appeal. The money was distributed as follows:

Appeal for Ukraine	\$10,000
Catholic Mission	\$ 5,000
Caritas Australia	\$ 5,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	\$ 5,000
Diocese of Lismore - Flood Appeal	\$ 5,000
St Vincent de Paul Vic Flood Appeal	\$ 5,000
St Columbian's Mission Peru	\$ 5,000
ACRATH	\$ 2,000

**Total donations made in 2022 \$42,000**

In anticipation I thank you for your generosity.”

With every good wish, I am  
Yours sincerely in Christ

+Paul Bird CSsR  
Bishop of Ballarat

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm 23

**(R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.**

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things. (R.)

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

### Second Reading

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh

and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife

The Gospel of the Lord.

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All invited to supper after Christmas Eve Mass in the Presbytery.  
Please bring a savoury plate to share.

### Dates to Remember

January 8th - 13th - Summer Psalter (bookings open [jphowman@gmail.com](mailto:jphowman@gmail.com))



### Little fanfare for Jesus' birth

When there is a major announcement of a forthcoming event, it is usually accompanied by a media statement and even a press conference. Sometimes social media influencers are also invited to create some excitement and "buzz" around the announcement. Companies like Apple, Tesla and Boeing spend millions of dollars to launch their latest products worldwide.

Similarly, when a famous celebrity couple welcomes a new addition to the family, it's all over the news services and social media, sometimes for days on end. It's like no other news is worthy of airtime.

However, when God chose human form in Bethlehem, there was no spectacular announcement. There were no bells and whistles, no fireworks. In fact, there was nothing but a bright star that attracted little attention except for a few wise men who travelled from the east. The birth of Jesus probably didn't attract much interest outside the immediate families of Joseph and Mary, perhaps to spare Mary embarrassment such was the unusual nature of the baby's arrival. The biggest event the universe has witnessed had taken place with little fanfare. In the scheme of things, this was even bigger than the creation of the universe itself. Even the universe must have 'held its breath'.

That speaks of God preferring to work quietly, unseen and unnoticed. Choosing to be like many of us who work quietly in our offices, schools, our homes.

For many people, our lives are simple and uneventful. Nothing spectacular happens and little that would warrant much outside attention. But it is in that simple, uneventful and unspectacular 'living' that God comes as one of us in order to bring us all closer to God. That's what happened to Joseph and Mary and that same invitation is also open to everyone. That's the underlying meaning of the name Emmanuel, "God is with us". That God wants to be with us in the very ordinariness of our lives.

The world today can sometimes be loud, vulgar and crass which is opposite to God coming to us in a quiet, ordinary way as a normal man. That's why the angel said to Joseph that there is no need to be afraid because God will come to be his son like any ordinary boy.

Big announcements and even big events will come, and they will go. Prominent companies and famous people will come and eventually be confined to the history books, but God is the one constant. Perhaps it is not us who waits for God, but God with loving patience who waits for us. We need to realise that God is amongst us now in our everyday, mundane lives and will be with us for all eternity.

- Mark Chia CSsR © Majellan Media 2022

All Saints Catholic Church presents

## SUMMER PSALTER

RUNNING IN THE SECOND  
WEEK OF JANUARY  
8TH - 13TH

A week of fasting,  
meditation, study and  
chanted prayers

Orientation will be held at 5:00 pm on the 8th of January at All Saints Catholic Church. Contact [jphowman@gmail.com](mailto:jphowman@gmail.com) for bookings and further information

### Advent Week 4: JOY

When we light the Advent candle for joy, we remind ourselves of the spiritual truth of this season: "Unto us a child is born."



relax, release, and enjoy  
the wonder of the  
present moment.

In telling the Christmas story, the Gospel writers remind us that **when things seem darkest, joy can come in unexpected places and small packages.**

Children remind us of the joy of playing, giving, learning, and loving. In the presence of such joy, our inner child can awaken our Christ nature and then the Messiah is truly born.

**"Christmas is not an event that happens only in December or 2,000 years ago in Palestine. Christmas happens as we open to the possibility of hope, when we live in the understanding of peace, and when we give love..."**