

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

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

**Saturday: 8.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 9.30am**

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

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

**Saturday: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 10.30am**

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

**Following Weekend: 7th & 8th January**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: K. Arnott  
Prayers: J. Sandeman  
Ministers: A. McIntyre  
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 Closed for Christmas  
Tuesday Closed for Christmas  
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.**

**Bishop's Christmas Appeal 2022**

The Bishop's Christmas Appeal will take place this 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**

+Paul Bird CSsR Bishop of Ballarat



**25th December 2022**  
**The Nativity of the Lord Year A**

**Weekly Services 27/12 to 01/01**

**Tuesday: 5.00pm Mass, Feast of John The Evangelist**  
**Wednesday: 10.00am Mass, Feast of Holy Innocents**  
**Thursday: 10.00am Mass**  
**Friday: 9.30am Adoration & Morning Prayer**  
**10.00am Mass, Feast of the Holy Family**  
**5.30pm Evening Prayer**

**Saturday: 6.00pm Mass Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**  
**Sunday: 10.30am Mass Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

**Recent Deaths:**

Antonietta Messina

**Anniversaries:**

Edward Bacon, Carol Bacon, Shirley Murray, Paige Prentice, Lee Crow, Jim Tobin, 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, Philomena Kenny

**Prayer Requests:**

Margaret Couttie, Noela Clifford, Les Hildebrand, Lea-anne Bourke, Michelle Mutch, Deanne Atkinson, John Healy

*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  
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 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 95**

**Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth.  
O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

Proclaim his help day by day,  
tell among the nations his glory  
and his wonders among all the peoples.

Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,  
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,  
let the land and all it bears rejoice,  
all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,  
he comes to rule the earth.

With justice he will rule the world,  
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

**Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.**

Psalm texts from the Psalms, A New Translation, published by HarperCollins Publishers Lts, 1963 The Grail (England)

**Our Finances**

**Planned Giving for Parish Account**

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 812

**Target \$62,400**

**Total YTD 2022/23 \$ 29,645**

**Total YTD 2021/22 \$ 28,692**

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 \$ 626.50

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

**All invited to supper after Christmas Eve Mass in the Presbytery.**



Please bring a savoury plate to share.



## BISHOP PAUL'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2022

In these days leading up to Christmas, I'm very pleased to have the chance to say hello and offer you my best wishes as we prepare for this wonderful feast. We sometimes speak of Christmas as a season of good will. It's a time when many people make a special effort to show kindness to others.

Why is this? I believe it's based on the very meaning of Christmas. As we know, Christmas is the feast of the birth of Christ, and the birth of Christ brought a special kindness into our world – the kindness of God. It was as though all the kindness of God was wrapped up and given to us as a present in the form of a little child – the child Jesus. This is what we read in the Scriptures.

With the birth of Jesus, "the kindness and love of God our Saviour were revealed." On the face of Jesus, we see the kindly face of God. In the compassion that Jesus showed all through his life, we see the compassion of God. Charles Dickens wrote a little book called *The Life of Our Lord*. He wrote this especially for his own children and he used to read it to them every Christmas.

The book begins with these words: "My dear children, I am very anxious that you should know something about the history of Jesus Christ. For everybody ought to know about Him. No one ever lived who was so good, so kind, so gentle, and so sorry for all people who did wrong, or were in any way ill or miserable, as He was." Dickens highlights Christ's love for all people, especially for the poor and those who were suffering.

He writes about Jesus choosing followers from among the poor. "When Jesus had grown up he would choose some special followers to go about with him. These are called the 'disciples'. He chose them from among the poor. He did this so that the poor might know – always after that, in all years to come – that heaven was made for them as well as for the rich, and that God makes no difference between those who wear good clothes and those who go barefoot and in rags."

Dickens goes on to encourage his children to follow Jesus' example and be kind to those in need. "Never forget this, when you are grown up. Never be proud or unkind to any poor man, woman, or child. Think how Jesus Christ went among them and taught them and thought them worthy of his care."

When Dickens spoke about Jesus he said, "No one ever lived who was so good, so kind, so gentle, as He was." As we celebrate Jesus' birth, we rejoice in the goodness and kindness and gentleness He has shown.

May we also learn from Him to be good and kind and gentle towards one another. In this spirit, I offer you my very best wishes for Christmas. Merry Christmas, one and all. God bless us, everyone.

+Paul Bird CSsR Bishop of Ballarat

### *A Christmas Prayer*

*Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.*

*Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

*- Robert Louis Stevenson*



## Fr Greg's Parish Christmas Message 2022

As we gather to celebrate Christmas, another year has passed with many events, public and private, touching our lives in different ways. No doubt this year has brought joys and sadness in different measure to each person, all colouring our memories of 2022.

My friends, standing before the crib of the Christ Child, we contemplate what is central, beyond all the pretty lights and decorations. We contemplate the child. In his *littleness*, God is completely present.

Let us be amazed by this truth. The One who embraces the universe needs to be held in another's arms. The One who created the sun needs to be warmed. Tenderness incarnate needs to be coddled. Infinite love has a miniscule heart that beats softly. The eternal Word is an "infant", a speechless child. The Bread of life needs to be nourished. The Creator of the world has no home. Today, all is turned upside down: God comes into the world in littleness. His grandeur appears in the little, vulnerable form of an infant child.

Traditionally, we see Christmas as a time of peace and joy, a time to celebrate with family, with friends and loved ones. We do hope that your Christmas will have something of that peace, joy and celebration.

Such joyful celebrations may not be so easy for some. You may have lost a loved one since last Christmas, or you may feel burdened by money worries, family problems or for many other reasons. Some of you may be struggling to come back out into the community because of the fear of COVID-19. If you are, we want to assure you that, as a parish community, we do care and we offer you our practical support and our prayer.

The Christmas message this year is a challenge for all of us to re-engage with our faith community. It is not so much a question of giving more; it is a question of giving of our physical presence. After all, that's what God was doing when he got involved with us and our world at the first Christmas.

Christmas belongs primarily to we who believe that Jesus Christ, Son of God, was born of the Virgin Mary came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father. We believe that God will fill us with his peace when we make room in our lives for him. May we take the time to share our belief with all those around us of good will.

Thank you for being a part of the journey. May you and your families be blessed with peace and joy at Christmas and in the New Year of 2023.

Rev. Gregory A. D. Tait  
Parish Priest

### New Year's Day sunrise prayers relay 2023

"From the rising of the sun to where it sets the name of the Lord is to be praised" - *Psalm 113:3*

On New Year's Day 2021, people at over a thousand locations in over 70 nations participated in the Sunrise Prayer Relay.

Some people pray at a public location like a hill, lookout, bridge, public landmark, at a church in their city or town, or pray privately in their own home. These prayer gatherings at sunrise around the world generate a synchronised 24-hour global prayer relay.

We pray together aloud as the sun rises,

**In Portland** we will meet **opposite the hospital on the lawns if fine and if wet at the undercover area** near the BBQ's. We meet at **5:20am on New Year's Day** (Sunday) so we can see the first light and end with the sun rise. It is a great way to start the year. Looking forward to you joining with us.

Sponsored by Portland Citiport Church