

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

This Weekend: 15 & 16th April

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: D. Baudinette
Prayers: D. Bennett
Minister
Computer: Vol. pls

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K. Arnott
Prayers: K. Loftus
Ministers: D. Arnott
Computer: B. Dillon

Next Weekend: 22 & 23rd April

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: J. Howman
Prayers: K. Howman
Minister
Computer: Vol. pls

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: J. Sandeman
Prayers: M. Schultz
Ministers: M. McGennicken
Computer: B. Dillon

Following Weekend: 29 & 30th April

Saturday: 7.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: P. Couttie
Prayers: M. Picard
Ministers: B. McGennicken
Computer: B. Dillon

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 10am - 3pm
Thursday 10am - 3pm
Friday 10am - 4pm
Saturday 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.

Caritas Project Compassion

Thank you for supporting Project Compassion 2023. Through the generosity of parishes across Australia during Project Compassion, together we have helped build a movement to create lasting change for our global community. Being part of the second largest humanitarian organisation in the world and most importantly with your support, Caritas Australia already has partners on the ground who are ready to reach out to those most in need. Together, your parish has helped make a difference now, and **For All Future Generations.** To help us process all donations and allow us enough time for donation receipting by the end of the financial year, please assist us by getting your donations in by May 31, 2023. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact us on 1800 024 413 or go to www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion

Total Given : \$ 1,451.15

Our Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 2,515

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2022/23 \$ 45,419
Total YTD 2021/22 \$ 45,281

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 \$ 1,387.25

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

Holy Land Collection: \$400



16th April 2023

2nd Sunday Easter Year A



Weekly Services 18/04 to 23/04

Tuesday: No Mass

Wednesday: No Mass

Thursday: No Mass

Friday: 10.00am Mass

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Deaths:

Diana Domburg

Anniversaries:

Graeme Sewell, Stephen Quinlivan, Lenny Kirwan, Stan Frederichs, Elda Strada, Mary Guy, Baylee Rogers, Margaret Noske, Valerie Dooley, Elizabeth Kearney, Fr Francis Madden, Rachel Twomey, Kathleen Holliday, Mignon Kinnane, Marianne Kirk, Peter Harris, Rudy Legray

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

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

Southern Stars Family Group

Sunday 30th April

April get together for Southern Stars will take place at Yambuk Lake on Sunday 30th April.

Anne and Pat have kindly offered to cook some sausages to be ready by 12.30. Then a nice long walk, will have us ready to have afternoon tea!

Please bring something to share. Looking forward to seeing everyone! Gabrielle



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved. 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.)**

I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song;
he was my saviour.

There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. **(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.)**

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and

Second reading continued

glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls. The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jewish authorities. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Faith in the future



In the dramatic encounter between Jesus and the disciple Thomas after Jesus's resurrection, Jesus invites Thomas – who is stricken with doubt – to put his hand into Jesus' side. It provides a vivid example of how God draws close to us, despite our fears and doubts, when we struggle to find a way forward.

As a child, I used to watch my father develop photographs in a dark room illuminated only by a dim red light. As the photographic paper was dipped successively in different trays of chemicals, the latent photographic image emerged. At first, only a vague outline of the image would be visible. Increasingly, the image improved in clarity. The final product was always a sharp, focused and vivid black and white image. Our journey of faith is something like this, our understanding and insight slowly developing.

Thomas the disciple has often been portrayed in a negative light for voicing his doubts. Like Thomas, we desire God, yet are filled with doubt because we are unsure how to proceed. However, these moments of doubt, in both Thomas's and our experience, rather than being viewed as falling short of the mark, should be regarded as opportunities where we are invited to take a step forward in faith.

We need to remember that in life, as in this Gospel account, Jesus takes the initiative by coming amongst us, blessing us with his peace and breathing upon us the gift of the Holy Spirit.

It is also worth noting that the opposite of doubt is not the elimination of all uncertainty but an invitation to faith. Faith holds a candle to the path forward: yet the path is not necessarily one that is easy or carefree. The path forward, even when taken in faith, can still be filled with pain and uncertainty.

Nevertheless, Jesus accompanies us in this journey of faith. He lovingly invites Thomas to see his hands, to put his hand in his side. He says to Thomas and to all of us, "Feel my wounds." This is no rebuke but an intimate, loving, bodily embrace of our flesh-and-blood humanity.

Jesus takes his place in our lives not just in the joyful certainties of our life but amidst those doubt-filled gaps. He faced those moments himself: in Gethsemane on the eve of his death and in those final moments on the cross. In his loving embrace of our humanity, he transforms those dark nights of the soul. "Reach out your hand and put it into my side," he says encouragingly.

As children of the Resurrection, our awe-filled response, "My Lord and my God", allows the flooding in of his remarkable grace and peace and redemption. It embeds his presence in our midst. Let us remember, as Thomas Merton observed, "There is no such thing as a prayer in which 'nothing is done' or 'nothing happens,' although there may well be a prayer in which nothing is perceived or felt or thought." *Sophie Clements © Majellan Media 2023*

Notes about Holy Communion

Bishop Paul has issued the following information for people of the diocese:

Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice.

Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that Covid infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion.

I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.

In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.

May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another. God bless you all. Bishop Paul