

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in our Parish!

This Weekend: 20th & 21st May

Saturday: 6.00pm

Readers: J Howman
Prayers: M McKenzie
Minister: T McCallum
Computer: A. O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Arnott
Prayers: J Sandeman
Ministers: D Arnott
Computer: A McIntyre

Next Weekend: 27th & 28th May

Saturday: 6.00pm

Readers: P Howman
Prayers: K Howman
Minister: [Volunteer Please](#)
Computer: D Kierce

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: M Picard
Prayers: K Loftus
Ministers: J Sandeman
Computer: A McIntyre

Following Weekend: 3rd & 4th June

Saturday: 6.00pm

Readers: D Baudinette
Prayers: P O'Brien
Minister: D Kierce
Computer: A O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Arnott
Prayers: M Schultz
Ministers: K Loftus
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 - 3pm
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.

National Volunteer Week: May 15-21, 2023

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. This week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you and this includes people in our diocese, parishes and agencies. The theme for NVW 2023 is "We are the Change Makers." This campaign celebrates the powerful impact volunteers make supporting individuals, communities and the nation.

As a Parish Community we give thanks for all who offer their time in Parish Ministries. Those who exercise leadership roles, in our Parish Pastoral Team & Parish Finance Committee.

During our Sunday & Weekday Liturgies. Those who engage visitation to the Homebound and in our Nursing Homes. Our wonderful Executive and volunteers at Outreach. Our Parish Primary School Teachers who act as Catechists assisting in Sacramental Programs.

To all of you, our grateful thanks. Fr Gregory Tait. PP

Our Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$ 861.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023 \$ 53,695.03 to May 18th

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 \$ 584.55

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



21st May 2023

**Ascension Sunday
7th Sunday in Easter**



Weekday Services 23/05 to 28/05

Tuesday: 5.30pm WPCU Uniting Church

Wednesday: 10.00am Mass

5.30pm WPCU Anglican Church

Thursday: 10.00am Mass

5.30pm WPCU Baptist Church

Friday: 9.30am Morning Prayer

10.00am Mass

5.30pm WPCU Catholic Church

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Joseph-Nguyen-Van-Cuong, George Horovitz, Carmel Smith, Marian Dorothy May, Ellen (Nellie) Drought, Nancy Colasante, Joan Baker, Colin Gilmore, Sadie King, Joanne Wheeler, Thomas Fitzpatrick, Keith Maloney, Ron Earl, Margaret Mason, Geoff Hitchman, Mary Ann Gore (Mifsud), Kate Cattanach.

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

2023 Annual Mass Count

The 2023 Diocesan Mass Count will continue over the next four weekends of May. Collectors please take note.

Please mute your Mobile phone inside the church.



The Spire
All Saints Parish
Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor

All Saints' Parish Office

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www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes/portland

Rev. Gregory A. D. Tait, P.P.

email: greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Office Hours

Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am till 3.00pm

Friday by Appointment

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 present and emerging. We commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation and constitutional acknowledgement of first peoples.

Dates to Remember

1st Eucharist 2023

Families of children preparing for first Eucharist are invited to join the Parish community for a cuppa and a biscuit after the 6.00pm Vigil Mass in the Parish Meeting Room on Saturday May 20th. Bring a plate to share if you can. All welcome.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer: May 21-28, 2023

The theme for the 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is "Do good; seek justice." (Isaiah 1:17). The Australian context for this theme is, "Learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow".

Prayer for the Week of Christian Unity

God of justice and truth, we seek your guidance to embody the prophet's call to do good and to seek justice.

May we grow with the courage and compassion of Christ, and walk in the way of peace and reconciliation.

May God's Spirit enliven and embolden us to stand in solidarity with others until all are treated with dignity and worth.

May our holy living be a foretaste of the mercy and blessing of the reign of God. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers.

This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 28:16-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Gospel Reflection Greg Sunter.

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then.

However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally.

However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

Historical Context – To the ends of the earth.

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.

Scriptural context – Not the only Ascension.

The description of Jesus being taken up into heaven is a close parallel to the description of the great prophet Elijah also being taken up to heaven. Chapter 2 of 2 Kings describes Elijah speaking to his disciple Elisha in similar words to those used by Jesus to his disciples. The Jewish tradition had no belief in an individual resurrection and so the idea of Ascension was to recognise the greatness of the prophet. He was to be united with God in Heaven rather than having to wait for the great resurrection of all people at the end of time.

Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses.

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.

Questions for Reflection.

What is the connection between the coming of the Holy Spirit and the disciples being witnesses?
How are you able to witness to what you believe in your everyday activities?
How does your local community receive your support in seeking to 'spread the good news' to others?

© Greg Sunter
Greg Sunter has worked in Catholic Education (Brisbane) for many years, most recently as a member of the Religious Education team and Mission and Formation team. He has extensive experience of praying with young people and forming others to lead prayer with young people. He is the author of books on adolescent faith, is a regular speaker at youth and evangelisation conferences, and is a retreat and reflection facilitator and presenter. His areas of interest include religious education, theology, scripture, spirituality, Catholic ethos, prayer, and ministry with young people.



Catholic Education Week 2023

Catholic Education Week 2023 will be celebrated from May 21-26, 2023. The theme for this year is "Grace is the gift of God's presence in our lives".

More information is available at <https://dobcel.catholic.edu.au/news/catholic-education-week/>

We give thanks to God for our diocesan schools. Send your spirit upon all involved in catholic education. Grant that they may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth and the life. Amen.