

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

**This Weekend: 16th & 17th December**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: B Healy  
 Prayers: A McIntyre  
 Minister: D Arnott  
 Computer: Volunteer Please

**Next Weekend: 23rd, 24th & 25th December**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**

Reader: G Priestley  
 Prayers: P O'Brien  
 Minister: D Kierce  
 Computer: A O'Brien

**Sunday: Dec 24th 8.00pm Christmas Eve**

Reader: J Howman  
 Prayers: M McKenzie  
 Minister: P Howman  
 Computer: K Howman

**Monday: Dec 25th 9.30am Christmas Day**

Reader: Volunteer Please  
 Prayers: Volunteer Please  
 Minister: D Kierce  
 Computer: Volunteer Please

**Following Weekend: 30th & 31st**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: P Coultie  
 Prayers: M Picard  
 Minister: D Arnott  
 Computer: Volunteer Please

## All Saints Outreach Op-Shop:

(In Woolworth's Car park)  
 Phone: 5521 1587

The Parish Outreach Op-Shop is always in need of good quality clothing, bric a brac or furniture.

### Donations during shop hours only.

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.**

### LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

All Saints Parish has been present at most of the important milestones in your life: your Baptism, your First Communion, at times of great celebration and at times of great sadness. By leaving a gift to your Parish in your Will, you will leave a legacy of faith – a legacy to help ensure that the mission and pastoral outreach that has been important to you will continue both for today's needs and for those of our children, our grandchildren and beyond.

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.



17th December  
 2023

3rd Sunday  
 In Advent  
 Year B



### Portland daily services 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of December

**Tuesday: 7.00pm Sacrament of Penance**

**Wednesday: 10.00am Mass  
 4.30pm Rosary**

**Thursday: 10.00am Mass**

**Friday: 9.30am Adoration & Morning Prayer  
 10.00am Mass  
 5.00pm Evening Prayer**

**Saturday: 6.00pm Mass Portland**

**December 24th 10.30am Mass Dartmoor.**

**December 24th 7.30pm Carols Portland.**

**December 24th 8.00pm Mass Portland.**

**December 25th 9.30am Mass Portland.**

### Anniversaries:

Cecelia Bull, Joseph Mifsud, Marlene Murphy, Marie McHaffie, Noreen Dalton, Max Brooker, Don Stewart, Khich Dong, Gail Riley, Gordon Nance, John Humphries, Michael Thomas, Patrick Teal, John Smith, Jack Kearney, Erin & Megan Grayling.

### Prayer Requests:

Les Hildebrand, Lea-anne Bourke, Michelle Mutch, Deanne Atkinson.

*If you have any prayer requests please contact the Office at the Parish Office; for privacy reasons only Next of Kin may ask for names to be added: Thank you*

## "The Spire"

All Saints' Parish

Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor

All Saints Parish Office

Entrance via, 8 Henty Street Portland  
 PO Box 210 Portland 3305

Phone: 5523 1046 Mobile 0475 512530

email: [portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes/portland](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes/portland)

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

email: [greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Parish Office Hours

Tuesday to Thursday 9.00am till 3.00pm

Friday by arrangement with Fr Gregory

*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.*

## Christmas Hamper:



Through our Parish Outreach and your individual contributions, we will provide meat tray vouchers to accompany the Christmas hampers that are being delivered in

December. If you would like to make a contribution to the cost of the meat for the hampers, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Meat Hampers", and **return via the collections by 17th December.**

**Total contribution to date: \$1,149.00**  
**Thank you for your assistance**

## Our Parish & Presbytery Finances

### Planned Giving for Parish Account

**Given last week, inc. EFT: \$709.50**

**Target \$62,400**

**Total YTD 2023 \$28,941.10**

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 \$940.55**

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

### Dates to Remember 2024

Feast of Mary the Mother of God; Monday 1st of January, 11.00am Mass in Portland.

**Bishops Christmas Appeal for 2023.** This appeal will be taken up at all Christmas Masses.

Below is the distribution of aid from last year's appeal across the Diocese.

Catholic Mission Humanitarian Aid for Ukraine	10,000
Caritas Humanitarian Aid for Gaza	10,000
St Columban's Mission, "Shared Table" Peru	5,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	5,000
St Vincent de Paul	5,000
CatholicCare Victoria	5,000
Aid to the Church in Need	2,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)	2,000
<b>Total donations made in 2023</b>	<b>\$44,000</b>

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading **Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

<sup>61:1</sup> The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
<sup>2</sup> to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring  
up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm **Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10**

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.  
He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!  
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.  
He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. (R.)

### Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup> but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup> abstain from every form of evil.  
<sup>23</sup> May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup> The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation **Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel **John 1:6-8,19-28**

From the holy Gospel according to John.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' <sup>23</sup> He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said.  
<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, 'Why then are you baptising if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' <sup>26</sup> John answered them, 'I baptise with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptising.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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All Saints Catholic Church presents

## SUMMER PSALTER

RUNNING IN THE FIRST  
WEEK OF JANUARY  
1ST JAN - 5TH JAN



Experience the small practices that accompanied Christians through the millennia in both good times and bad

An introductory session will be held after Mass on Sunday the 31st of December at All Saints Catholic Church. Contact [jphowman@gmail.com](mailto:jphowman@gmail.com) for bookings and further information

## Gospel Reflection for 3rd Sunday in Advent by Greg Sunter.

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

### Have you thought? A time to Rejoice!

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is the Latin word for Rejoice! Advent was originally celebrated as a five week season and with the same fasting and penitential nature as the season of Lent. The third Sunday, Gaudete, was like a break for rejoicing in the midst of the fasting. When Advent was reduced to four weeks and the nature of the season altered, Gaudete Sunday was retained. The colour of this Sunday is rose – a celebratory colour – and it is reflected in the vestments worn by the priest and in the colour of the third candle used in Advent wreaths.

### Living the Gospel – A Witness? Me?

It came as something of a surprise to me to think that other people might observe the way I treated others and draw conclusions about my motivation. It was when I started to work with young people that the truth of this was revealed. I realised that my actions could speak so much louder than anything I might say. I hoped that the young people I was working with might stop some time and think to themselves, 'I wonder why he treats us all that way? I wonder how it fits with that religion stuff he talks about?' Well, I can hope can't I?

### Gospel Focus – Same but different.

Having the same gospel passage from two different gospels used in the liturgy in consecutive weeks is an ideal opportunity to highlight the different focus adopted by the different gospels. The language of John's gospel is remarkably different from that of the three synoptic gospels (synoptic = 'seen together'). The synoptics share a fairly common narrative style, while John relies much more on metaphor and imagery – it is a more poetic language. In the gospel account of John the Baptist we see in John gospel's greater emphasis on the conversation around what was occurring, while the Markan version emphasises recording the event.

### Questions for personal reflection.

1. How might John's followers have reacted to his announcement of the one who was coming after him?
2. Is there someone you know who witnesses to their faith through their actions? How do they do it?
3. Are there forms of witnessing to faith that 'turn you off'?
4. How can you effectively witness to your faith?

### Leaning Moments.

At this halfway point through Advent, take time to reflect on ways in which you have entered into the season of preparation and ways in which you could do so for the next two weeks.

Read the first chapter of each of the four gospels. What conclusions can be drawn about the nature of each gospel from its first chapter?

© 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.