

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

This Weekend: 2nd & 3rd December

Saturday: 6.00pm
Reader: D Baudinette
Prayers: D Kierce
Minister: Volunteer Please
Computer: Volunteer Please

Sunday: 10.30am
Reader: K Loftus
Prayers: M Schultz
Minister: M McGenniken
Computer: Volunteer Please

Next Weekend: 8th & 9th December

Saturday: 6.00pm
Reader: D Bennett
Prayers: P O'Brien
Minister: D Kierce
Computer: A O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am
Reader: J Howman
Prayers: M McKenzie
Minister: B McGenniken
Computer: Volunteer Please

Following 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

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.



3rd December 2023

1st Sunday Advent Year B



Portland daily services 5th to 10th of December

Tuesday: 5.00pm Mass & Gospel Reflection

**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
Sunday: 10.30am Mass**

Recent Deaths:

Peter Hodges, Geraldine Ryan, Jack Daffy OAM.

Anniversaries:

Jim Collins, George Cumbo, Kath Dent, June Dalton, Danny Clifford, Kathleen McIndoe, Jason Murray, Cath Dixon, Bill Mailing, Ada McNeilly, Terry McMeel, Stella Young, Fran Powell, Maureen Rogers, Maurice Sullivan.

Prayer Requests:

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 at 10.00am
or any other time by appointment with Fr Gregory

Christmas Mass Times 2023

December 23rd 6.00pm Saturday Vigil, 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.

Please mute your phone in the Church.



"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
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 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 Gunditjmara 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.

PORTLAND
Community Christmas Carols
Sunday 3rd December
6pm Skate Park Stage, Cliff St, Portland
**Community & Local School Choirs
Portland Citizen's Brass Band**
Food Stalls from 5:30pm - Carols from 6pm - 7:30pm
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CHURCHES OF PORTLAND
Major Sponsors: Tutt Bryant, All Saints Outreach, Uniting Church Op-Shop, Glenelg Shire, Davis Print.
Sound By Southwest Productions
© Photo by Allen McCauley

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: \$668.00

Our Parish & Presbytery Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given last week, inc. EFT: \$531.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023 \$26,884.60

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 \$728.95

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

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading **Isaiah 63:16b-17, 64:1, 3-8**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

63:16b For you, O Lord, are our father; our Redeemer from of old is your name.

17 Why, O Lord, do you make us stray from your ways and harden our heart, so that we do not fear you? Turn back for the sake of your servants, for the sake of the tribes that are your heritage.

64:1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.

3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

7 There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

8 Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 79:2-3,15-16,18-19 R. v.4**

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.

O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R.)

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.

And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

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

1:3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, **5** for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind **6** just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you **7** so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as

you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. **8** He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation **Psalm 84:8**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mark 13:33-37**

From the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to his disciples;

13:33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. **34** It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. **35** Therefore, keep awake for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, **36** or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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An Urgent Prayer for Peace:

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts as we consider the needs of your family.

Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people, each of us loved by you and called to live in peace and justice.

We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of property and loss of human dignity.

We are pained by so much suffering.

We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place.

Help your people find a way forward.

Enable everyone to look each other in the eye, and embrace each other as sisters and brothers, as they find your image in every face.

We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.

God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

Ordination to the Diaconate:

One of our Seminarians, Cay Trinh will be ordained Deacon for the Diocese of Ballarat on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 10.00am.

All welcome to attend.

This Mass will be livestreamed at

https://youtube.com/live/fy7Ze_ysi_4?feature=share

Gospel Reflection for 1st Sunday in Advent by Greg Sunter.

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

Have you thought? Beginning Advent.

The season of Advent begins this week and continues through the four Sundays of Advent and ends at Christmas Eve. The first week of Advent focuses on the return of the Lord and the following weeks focus more specifically on the anticipation of the birth of Jesus. Rather than simply commemorating an historical event, Advent is a time of preparing our hearts to 'receive' Jesus into the world each year. Advent is traditionally marked by the colour of violet – the same colour as used in Lent. In recent years, some parishes have moved to a more blue/mauve colour for Advent to try to distinguish it from the season of Lent.

Living the Gospel – Stay Awake!

By the time the Church begins to celebrate Advent as a period of preparation towards Christmas, the stores have been filling with Christmas paraphernalia for weeks. It starts out small with a few decorations and wrapping paper and eventually takes over every retail outlet. In the midst of this excess of Christmas consumerism, it is often difficult to draw attention to the season of Advent and the need to prepare spiritually for the celebration of Christmas. It is important to stay awake, as we are cautioned in this week's gospel. Awake to what is happening around us in the world and awake to what is happening within us.

Gospel Focus – The Doorkeeper.

The image of the doorkeeper from this week's gospel is an interesting one. It is not unusual to hear references to people being 'gatekeepers' today in relation to projects or groups working together. The role of the gatekeeper, or the doorkeeper, is to maintain a watching brief – to be alert to dangers or distractions and to ensure that everyone who is important to the process is invited to participate. Today's gospel reminds us that as believers we are to be the doorkeepers, or gatekeepers, of the Kingdom, watching for dangers and welcoming in all those who wish to enter.

Questions for personal reflection.

1. What does the call to 'Stay awake!' mean for your life?
2. What appear to be the things that challenge the importance of religious belief in society today?
3. How do you nurture your spirituality and faith?
4. During this time of Advent, how can you encourage others to properly prepare for Christmas?

Leaning Moments.

Prepare an Advent wreath using four candles to mark the four Sundays of Advent. Develop a simple prayer celebration to accompany the lighting of each of the four candles.

Create an Advent Calendar for the period up until Christmas Day with a prayer, reflection or action to respond to each day.

© 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.