

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

This Weekend: 9th & 10th March

Saturday: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Arnott
Prayers: Volunteer Please
Ministers: D Arnott
Computer: B Dillon

Next Weekend: 16th & 17th March

Saturday: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: M Schultz
Prayers: K Loftus
Ministers: M McGenniken
Computer: B Dillon

Following Weekend: 23rd & 24th March

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: J Howman
Prayers: D Baudinette
Minister: D Kierce
Computer: K Howman

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Arnott
Prayers: A McIntyre
Ministers: D Arnott
Computer: B Dillon

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 0428235218 or Diane Kierce 0427946053 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



10th of March
2024
4th Sunday in
Lent
Year B



Portland Daily Services 12th to 17th of March 2024

Tuesday: 11.00am Funeral Mass Betty Teal

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

Thursday: 10.00am Mass

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

16th & 17th of March 5th Sunday in Lent

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Deaths Mary McInerney, Jean McMeel, David Gorrie.

Anniversaries: 11th to 17th of March.

John Carroll, Tilly O'Dwyer, Joyce Arundell, Joan O'Connor, Peter (Ming_Huang) Vu, Joseph (Doi Van) Nguyen, Peter Hare, Timothy O'Meara, Bonne Edgcumbe, Bill Caveny, Margaret McCarthy, Drew Rogers, Jane Mizzi, Ray McCluskey, Ena Clark, Caitlin Neeson.

Prayer Requests:

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

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

Dates to Remember

Sunday 17th of March; St Patrick's Day Lunch 11.30am at the Presbytery.

Passion Sunday 24th March

Mass of the Holy Oils; 11.30am, 25th March St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

Easter Triduum 28th to 30th March

Easter Sunday 31st March

Easter Anointing Mass Friday, 5th of April at 10.00am & 11.00am Morning Tea in Presbytery.

Please mute your Phone in the Church



"The Spire"

All Saints Parish

Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor

All Saints Parish Office
Entry via 8 Henty Street
PO Box 210 Portland 3305
Phone: 5523 1046

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

Mobile 0475 512530

Parish Office Hours: Most Tuesdays to Fridays
9.00am till 3.00pm or by appointment
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 Gundiḡimara people. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present and emerging. We commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation and constitutional acknowledgement of first nation peoples.



Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted.

With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees.

Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling **1800 024 413**.

Photo: Tim Lam/Caritas Australia

Our Parish Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given inc. eft \$802.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023-2024, \$37,219.10

Project Compassion 2024 \$340.00 so far.

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: \$717.20

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 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

A reading from the second book of Chronicles

36:14 All the leading priests and the people also were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of the Lord that he had consecrated in Jerusalem. **15** The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling-place; **16** but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord against his people became so great that there was no remedy. **19** They burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels. **20** He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, **21** to fulfil the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had made up for its sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfil seventy years. **22** In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in fulfilment of the word of the Lord spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom and also declared in a written edict: **23** 'Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the Lord his God be with him! Let him go up.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 136. R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Ephesians 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us **5** even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved **6** and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by grace you

have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God **9** not the result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation John 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 3:14-21

From the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

3:14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, **15** that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. **16** 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. **17** 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. **18** Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. **19** And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. **20** For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. **21** But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Praying with Pope Francis: Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer.

Pope's intention for March – for new martyrs: Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.



The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on March 30, 2024. During this year there will be many events to acknowledge this significant anniversary. Keep up-to-date at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/>

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

To fully understand this week's gospel passage, it is important to take the first reading into consideration as well. The account from 2 Chronicles describes the way in which the people began to neglect their relationship with God. Despite prophets and messengers being sent to them, they turned their backs on God. At about this time the Israelites were conquered, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the survivors taken into exile in Babylon. For many, this was seen as a punishment from God because of their neglectful and selfish behaviour. But the reading demonstrates God's infinite patience with humankind. God gives the people another chance and calls on them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. God is willing to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It is in this context that we must understand the gospel passage. In yet another attempt to demonstrate love and forgiveness, God's only Son – the Word made Flesh – is sent into the world to lead the people from darkness to light. Despite the many, many attempts by God to demonstrate love and foster a relationship with humankind, the people have repeatedly rejected the relationship with God and preferred to live a life of selfishness and darkness. Yet we see through both of these readings the unquenchable nature of God who keeps giving humankind one more chance.

In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love – will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

Have you thought? God in popular culture

Think for a moment of the last time you saw or heard a reference to God on a television program, in a song, or some other popular medium. Chances are, the reference was one of a judging, vengeful, punishing God. This sort of image plays particularly well with a modern audience. It's easier to dismiss God as irrelevant if we can paint God in that sort of image. TV sitcoms do it particularly well with thunderclaps, bolts of lightning and booming, disapproving voices from above. It's much harder to dismiss a God of love who will go to extremes to demonstrate that love.

Gospel Focus – Not to condemn ...

The gospel passage tells us that God's Son was not sent into the world to condemn it, but rather, 'so that through him the world might be saved'. It also tells us that whoever refuses to believe 'is already condemned'. God does not condemn the world, nor individuals within it. Indeed, God is absolutely determined to save the world. However, we do sometimes condemn ourselves. When we turn our back on love; when we hide from relationships; when we wallow in selfishness – we shut ourselves off from relationship with God and condemn ourselves. We only have to open our eyes to see the alternative!

Historical Context – Babylonian Exile

In the book of Leviticus (25:4), it is commanded that every seventh year, the land was to be allowed to have a 'Sabbath year' – no tilling soil, no planting, no harvesting. The people failed to observe this command and the prophet, Jeremiah, interprets the destruction of the Temple and exile into Babylon as God's opportunity to enforce the period of Sabbath rest for the land. The people were in exile in Babylon for 70 years, ending about 537 BCE when the Persian emperor, Cyrus, conquered the Babylonians and agreed to return the Israelites to their land. He also returned to them all of the treasures looted from the Temple so that it may be rebuilt.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. Why were the Israelites so ready to see their Babylonian exile as God's punishment of them?
2. What other Biblical examples do you know of where God forgave and gave people another chance?
3. Why do people continue to test the boundaries of love in relationships?

Learning moments:

- Today's Gospel reading speaks about people and actions that are 'of the darkness' and 'of the light'. What are some actions in our world today that are 'of the darkness' and 'of the light'? What are some actions 'of the light' that we can take on that would make a difference in other people's lives?

© 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.