

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

This Weekend: 16th & 17th March

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: P O'Brien
Prayers: M Schultz
Minister: D Kierce
Computer: A O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: M Schultz
Prayers: K Loftus
Minister: M McGennissen
Computer: B Dillon

**Next Weekend: 23rd & 24th March
Passion Sunday**

Saturday: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

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

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

Saturday Easter Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: Volunteer Please
Prayers: Volunteer Please
Minister: Volunteer Please
Computer: Volunteer Please

Easter Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: Volunteer Please
Prayers: Volunteer Please
Minister: Volunteer Please
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.

We currently have a pressing need for Volunteers on Thursday from 1-3pm.

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



17th of March
2024
5th Sunday in
Lent
Year B



**Portland Daily Services
19th to 24th of March 2024**

Tuesday: 5.00pm Mass
Wednesday: 10.00am Mass
4.30pm Rosary
Thursday: 2.00pm Funeral Mass:
Patricia Brondsema
Friday: 9.30am Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass
Evening Prayer 5.00pm

23rd & 24th of March Passion Sunday

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Death: Patricia Brondsema
Anniversaries: 18th to 24th of March.

Ray Mizzi, Paul Gardiner SJ, Sue Quinlivan, Marie Kearney, Hilary Lodge, Joy Jennings, Jean Hocking, Joan Grace, Sheila Belleville RSM, Stanley Toleman, Christopher Mugavin, Bessie Sevilla, Jean Smurthwaite, David Thomas, Jim Foley, Margaret Mizzi.

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

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

Penance Saturday 23rd March 10.00am
Communal Penance 26th March 7.00pm

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 Gunditjmarra 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.



Partnership in action:

The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of our local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ) to support communities living in urban slums in the Philippines. FCJ runs a number of programs that include house renovating, food processing, basic literacy skills, urban gardening, upcycling and income generating activities. They also have a clinic visited weekly by a doctor and community nurse.

Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Samoa to assist communities to have increased access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene to ensure human health and well-being by providing water tanks and sanitation facilities.

Caritas Australia partners with the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi through the A+ program. Since 2016, the A+ program has helped 7,397 families across Malawi improve their food security, access to basic water and sanitation, boost women's income generation and strengthen child protection.

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: Richard Wainwright

Our Parish Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given inc. eft \$456.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023-2024, \$37,675.10

Project Compassion 2024 \$655.00 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: \$847.70

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 Jeremiah 31:31-34

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness, in your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin. **(R.)**

2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. **(R.)**

3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. **(R.)**

Second Reading Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him,

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation John 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel John 12:20-33

From the holy Gospel according to John.

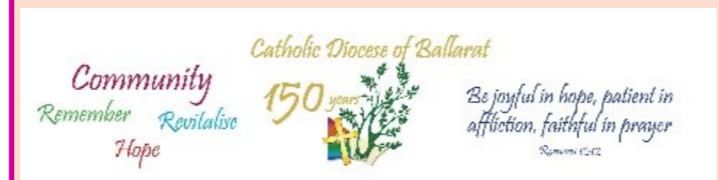
²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. ²⁷'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' ³⁰Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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:

This week's first reading from Jeremiah is a very powerful image and a foreshadowing of the message and ministry of Jesus. In the Jeremiah reading, the Lord announces that (yet again) a new covenant will be made between the people and their God. This time, however, the covenant will not be a collection of rules written in stone as was the case with the covenant of the Ten Commandments after the people had been led out of slavery in Egypt. The people have demonstrated that they are not able to uphold that covenant. This time, God declares that the covenant will be 'planted deep within them' and 'written on their hearts'. This is a wonderful image: I will write my covenant on your heart! It is the message that Jesus tried to convey over and over again – the Law of God is not to be found in a multitude of rules and regulations but it is a Law of the heart, calling for compassion and love.

This message is no better demonstrated than in this week's gospel passage. Jesus declares that, 'unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.' He is speaking of course about his own life, but he is speaking also to those around him and those of us who read the words today. Unless we are prepared to let go of our ego, our status, our 'reputation', for the sake of others and respond to them from the heart then we can never experience the breadth and depth of what it means to belong to a community. When we are prepared to let go of our hang-ups and reservations to make a difference in the lives of others then the 'harvest' that will be gathered from those actions will be great indeed!

Gospel Focus – Love of life.

Jesus says, 'Anyone who loves (their) life loses it; anyone who hates (their) life in this world will keep it for the eternal life.' This can seem pretty tough! It challenges us about how much we cling to the 'things' of this life. Are we concerned about the labels on our clothes; the number of our friends; how much money we have; the sort of house we live in? If this is the 'life' that we place meaning on, then we will surely lose it. However, if we put aside the world's focus on material things and focus our attention on others then we are assured of eternal life.

Have you thought? Why Greeks?

The gospel reading begins with some Greeks wanting to meet Jesus. Why is it significant that they were Greeks? The Jews were very clear about the distinction between Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles). Regardless of their intentions and goodwill, a Gentile was simply not a Jew. Greeks, who worshipped an entire pantheon of gods, were regarded as almost as far from Jewish belief in one God as was possible. Yet Jesus made clear that his message was for everyone: Jew and Gentile alike. His death and resurrection would bring a 'rich harvest' of belief among Gentiles as well as Jews.

Scriptural context – The Final Days.

Today's reading reminds us that we are closing in on the events of the Passion that we will remember more closely over the next couple of weeks. Although the Gospel of John appears to have Jesus in and around Jerusalem quite often, the events described in this week's reading take place in the preparation for Passover, immediately before the final days leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection. It is a fitting culmination to the Sunday gospels of Lent. It prepares us for the account of the Passion that will be the gospel next week.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. How does the Jeremiah image of God's Law 'written on our hearts' challenge you?
2. What experiences in your own life prove the truth of the image of the grain of wheat that must die?
3. How can good come from hurt and pain?
4. What do you need to 'let go of' in your life to really flourish and 'produce a harvest'?

Learning moments:

- The Jeremiah reading says that God wanted to write a new covenant on the hearts of the people: 'I will be their God and they shall be my people.' What does it mean to be 'claimed' by God like this? How can our actions demonstrate that we are 'God's people'?
- Construct for yourself, a 'road-map of life' and identify times when you have had to experience a 'death' of some sort but eventually great good has come of it.

© 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.