

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

This Weekend: 24th & 25th February

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: J Howman
Prayers: D Baudinette
Minister: None required
Computer: K Howman

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: D Kierce
Prayers: M Schultz
Ministers: None required
Computer: B Dillon

Next Weekend: 2nd & 3rd March

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: G Priestley
Prayers: K Howman
Minister: P Howman
Computer: D Kierce

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: B Healy
Prayers: M Picard
Ministers: D Arnott
Computer: B Dillon

Following 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: M Picard
Prayers: K Arnott
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



25th February

2024

2nd Sunday in Lent

Year B



Portland Daily Services 27th February to 3rd of March 2024

Tuesday: 5.00pm

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

Thursday: 10.00am Mass

**Friday: World Day of Prayer
Bayview College; 10.30am
Evening Prayer 5.00pm**

2nd & 3rd March 3rd Sunday in Lent

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Anniversaries: 26th Feb to 3rd of March.

George Kennett, William Crowe, Ron O'Brien, Dorothy McCluskey, Ria Pepperkamp, Sr Theresa Parish RNDM, Sr Mary Shelley, Shirley Cordell, Jack Manley, Erminia Bucciarelli, Terrence Bourke, Maureen O'Brien, Terry Sheriff, Paul Couch, Leila Mizzi, Fay Rizzo.

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

Dates to Remember

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**

***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.



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the

Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child. After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma.

With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family. "I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

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**.

Our Parish Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given inc. eft \$1,178.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023–2024, \$36,417.10

Project Compassion 2024 \$80.00 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: \$ 648.45

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 Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

22:1 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' 2 He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' 9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' 12 He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' 13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. 15 The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, 16 and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, 17 I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, 18 and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. (R.)

2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.

A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)

3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

Second Reading Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

8:31 What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? 32 He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? 33 Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation See Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Mark 9:2-10

From the holy Gospel according to Mark

2 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, 3 and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. 4 And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. 5 Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' 6 He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. 7 Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' 8 Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus. 9 As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. 10 So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

The Gospel of the Lord.

© The Scripture quotations contained herein are adapted from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyrighted, 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

World Day of Prayer 2024

At Bayview College, Friday, 1st March at 10:30 am. The country of focus for this year is Palestine with the theme of the service being "I beg you ... bear with one another in love". World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome everyone to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

Volunteers for the Mass of the Oils 2024:

As part of the Ballarat Diocese's 150 year Anniversary the diocese invites 1 – 2 volunteers from each parish to attend the Mass of the Oils on Monday March 25, 2024 at 11.30am. Volunteers would be required to present a symbol or photo at the beginning of Mass that best represents our parish.

Please contact Fr Greg, if you would like to be involved or attend.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

Like so many other important events in the Bible, the events of this week's gospel occur on a high mountaintop. Mountaintops were places of special and dramatic encounter with God and the disciples' experience of the transfiguration is clearly no exception! In this instance, the disciples suddenly see Jesus' power fully revealed but they fail to fully understand what is going on. One might think how much more obvious could God be about trying to reveal Jesus' identity to the disciples, but still they don't really catch on. Peter thinks he has caught on to the message. When the great prophets Elijah and Moses appear beside Jesus, Peter understands Jesus to be part of the line of prophets in the Hebrew tradition. He believes he has had a great insight and is so impressed that he wants to remain on the mountaintop – setting up tents in honour of Jesus, Elijah and Moses. In essence, Peter has still only partially understood who Jesus is. He thinks he is the Messiah, but a Messiah in the same mould as the prophets of old, a prophet of the old tradition. He has not understood that Jesus is breaking that mould and creating a new vision, a new tradition – one that is endorsed by the voice of God on the mountaintop.

Rather than allowing the disciples to set up tents and remain in the 'high' of this experience, Jesus immediately leads the boys back down the mountain. This is perhaps the greatest message of this passage: that life is not lived on the mountaintop but back down in the valley. Although the mountaintop experience may have provided some new insight and new energy, it is back down in the valley that the world waits; that the real work needs to be done; that the sick and the poor are crying out for God's love and mercy.

Scriptural context – Not quite

Throughout the gospel of Mark, it is important to look at the stories that lie either side of important events to pick up the subtlety of the gospel writer's message. In this instance, the passage that immediately follows the Transfiguration is a story of the disciples trying unsuccessfully to heal a boy and Jesus having to intervene. It reinforces the message of the mountaintop in which the disciples still only partially understand Jesus' purpose and presence. They still haven't fully mastered who Jesus is and so they have not fully mastered the ability to heal.

Have you thought? Mountaintop Moments

Throughout the Bible there are instances of important encounters with God on mountaintops. Even this week's first reading, the sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham, occurs on a mountaintop. It is not the potential sacrifice, but the new relationship between God and Abraham that is a mountaintop moment. In modern language, we often speak about 'peak experiences' – moments of exceptional clarity, intense emotion or extraordinary accomplishment. Sometimes, like Peter, we are tempted to try to remain 'in the moment' rather than using the peak experience as a motivator for when we go back down the mountain to our normal (if perhaps changed) existence.

Gospel Focus – A new vision

Part of Peter's mistake is to see the appearance of Elijah and Moses as a confirmation that Jesus has come to continue the work of the great prophets of the past. Rather than placing Jesus in the old tradition of the prophets, the appearance of Elijah and Moses, together with the voice of God, is to endorse the new direction that Jesus' ministry is taking. Jesus' new vision for the world is informed by the relationships forged between God and the prophets of the past, but it is a vision of a completely different way of relating to God: a much more personal relationship that calls us to respond from the heart to those around us.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. Why is this transfiguration event regarded with such importance in the Church?
2. Why are the disciples portrayed as struggling to grasp the meaning of what they have seen?
3. Have you ever had the experience of not wanting to 'go back down the mountain'?
4. Why was it important for Jesus and the disciples to go back down the mountain?

Learning moments:

- Write an imaginary journal entry for one of the disciples after the events of the mountaintop transfiguration.
- Use a concordance (online or print) to locate references to 'mountain' and 'mountaintop' throughout the Bible. By reading around each reference, compile a Retrieval Chart that identifies the reference, what was occurring and how it was a significant encounter with God.

© 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.