

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish
This Weekend: 27th & 28th April

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: D Baudinette
Prayers: P Howman
Minister: Volunteer Please
Computer: Volunteer please

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: B Healy
Prayers: K Loftus
Minister: M McGennisken
Computer: B Dillon

Next Weekend: 4th & 5th May

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: P Howman
Prayers: D Baudinette
Minister: K Howman
Computer: Volunteer please

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Loftus
Prayers: I Eichler
Minister: A McIntyre
Computer: B Dillon

Following Weekend: 11th & 12th May

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: P Howman
Prayers: K Howman
Minister: Volunteer Please
Computer: Volunteer please

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: P Couttie
Prayers: J Sandeman
Minister: K Loftus
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 normally 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 each of the days of operating during our advertised Hours, and for on-call volunteers who can fill in at other times.

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



28th of April

2024

5th Sunday in Easter

Year B



5th Week in Easter Services

28th of April to 5th May 2024

Tuesday **NO MASS**

Wednesday: 10.00am Mass
4.30pm Rosary

Thursday: 10.00am Mass

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

4th & 5th of May 6th Sunday in Easter

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: 29th April 5th May.

Maria Pietschmann, Stan Gliszczynski, Myra Proudfoot, Christine Daly IBVM, Trudy Van Lammeren, Kerrin Hurley, Kevin Kelly, Mary Jean Murphy, Vanessa Spears, Bill Cannon, John Flint, Irene Donne, Jean Gracias, Neil Pritchard, Elizabeth Mary Alexander, John Cassie, Dawn McIntyre, Allan Carman.

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:

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

Friday 17th May 5.30pm. Prayer Service at St Stephen's Anglican Church. Please bring a plate to share for a light meal after Prayers.

Please Mute your phone in the Church during Mass



"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.

Laudato Si': Everything is connected

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action.

Quote below and banners for April attached "Learn about your food". Did you know? Discovering more about food helps you eat meals that are better for the planet. Learn if your snack grew on a tree or comes from a farm. How did it end up in that wrapper?

Southern Stars Family Group.

Please join us at Yambuk Lake on Sunday 5th May at 2pm for a beach/river walk followed by afternoon tea. BYO drinks and chairs and something to share for afternoon tea. If it is wet we can still meet there as an undercover area is available. If anyone would like sausages on the BBQ, please feel free to do so. Looking forward to seeing everyone then. Kind regards, Gabrielle Lewis.

Mass Counts start on weekend 4-5 May:

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting will start on 4-5 May and continue each weekend until the end of May.

Fr Paddy Mugavin Golden Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood.

All are welcome to Mass to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood for Fr Paddy Mugavin on Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 10.30am at St Mary's Church, Hamilton. Morning tea / light lunch provided.

Our Parish Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Planned Given inc. eft \$ 1271.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023-2024, \$44,699.10

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: \$ 1054.65

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 Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

26 When he had come to Jerusalem, Saul attempted to join the disciples; and they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. **27** But Barnabas took him, brought him to the apostles, and described for them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. **28** So he went in and out among them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. **29** He spoke and argued with the Hellenists; but they were attempting to kill him. **30** When the believers learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. **31** Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)

2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. (R.)

3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' (R.)

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

18 Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. **19** And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him **20** whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. **21** Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; **22** and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. **23** And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. **24** All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation John 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel John 15:1-8

From the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

15:4 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. **2** He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. **3** You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. **6** Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Praying with Pope Francis: The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer.

These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service.

Pope's intention for April:

For the role of women: Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

Diocesan History Timeline & Parish History

As part of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, a timeline of significant dates and events over the past 150 years has been published on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/history-2/

There has also been an "Our History" section added to parish pages on the website for parishes to update with their own history. If you would like to add any dates to the diocesan timeline or need assistance with adding information to the parish "Our History" section, please email pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

First Eucharist 2024:

We make welcome our Candidates for 1st Eucharist this year and their families as they begin the 6 weeks of preparation for 1st Eucharist in 2024. Please make your self known to our Candidates and to their Families. Please keep them in your prayers at this most important time.

Confirmation 2024:

I am now taking registrations for Confirmation for 2024. If you have a child (or Grandchild) in Grade 4, please contact me ASAP on 0475512530. Fr Greg.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

The Lectionary of this Easter season draws out some of the 'classic' gospel passages, particularly some of the discourses from the Gospel of John. Like many 'famous' or familiar passages, it can be true that familiarity breeds contempt – we think we are so familiar with the passage that we don't need to pay it much attention.

At first glance, it appears that there is a certain ruthlessness about the image of the vinedresser pruning the vine: perform or perish! However, the process of cutting away and pruning branches is an incredibly nurturing action; it is removing the unproductive portions of the plant so that the vine has an even better opportunity to produce fruit in the next season. It is an act of love; not an act of economic rationalism. Within our own lives we are called to make decisions about which of our thoughts and actions are life-giving (fruit-bearing) and which are unproductive; negative; crippling; life-diminishing. If we are able to 'prune' our life-diminishing thoughts and actions we allow ourselves the freedom and the ability to really flourish. Feelings of jealousy, greed, resentment, self-doubt and lack of confidence can limit our ability to be fully alive just as addictive and harmful behaviors can physically take away our ability to perform at our best.

I am reminded of the old Karate Kid movie when the boy, Daniel, is introduced to the art of bonsai. He is told to close his eyes, imagine the perfect tree and then start clipping and shaping the plant to make real the perfection that lies within it. It is only through a process of cutting away and pruning that we can nurture ourselves to realise the beauty of our potential.

Living the Gospel – Bearing fruit:

The vinedresser of this passage cuts away the dead branches and prunes back those that are not bearing fruit. In what way do we bear fruit? When we strive to reach our fullest potential in whatever we do, we bear fruit. When we act out of motivation for the other person rather than ourselves, we bear fruit. When we strive to bring about the reign of God in our small part of the world, we bear fruit. Sometimes we too need to have some of our thoughts and actions pruned so that we might better bear the fruit that we are truly capable of producing.

Scriptural context – In context:

The imagery that Jesus used in his parables and in extended metaphors such as the one used in this week's gospel sometimes seems a little foreign to a 21st century audience. However, the world in which Jesus lived and taught was dominated by small scale farmers and producers in an agrarian economy. His use of images such as 'shepherd', 'vine', 'tenants', 'farmers' and 'wineskins' would all have been immediately recognisable to his audience. They would also have appreciated much more than we do the subtlety of Jesus' use of such images when he twists them in an unexpected way.

Historical Context – The 'True' vine:

The image of the vine has its origins in Psalm 80 where the nation of Israel is likened to a vine: 'You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.' (Ps 80:8-9) However, the people of Israel have forgotten who they are and who it was that planted them in their country – it is like the rootstock of a grafted plant has taken over and gone wild. Jesus' presence as the 'true vine' reminds them of what they are called to be.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. Is the image of the vine an effective one for you?
2. Within the analogy of the vineyard, where would you place yourself?
3. Where do you find 'fruitful connections' with Jesus the vine?
4. What aspects of your life need a little 'pruning' so that you might bear more fruit?

Learning moments.

- Construct a visual representation of a vine and illustrate ways in which your group 'bears fruit' – the good actions and attitudes that demonstrate living to potential and bringing about the reign of 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.