

Liturgy Rosters:
 Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish
 This Weekend: 11th & 12th May

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: G Priestley
 Prayers: K Howman
 Minister: Volunteer Please
 Computer: Volunteer please

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: P Coultie
 Prayers: J Sandeman
 Minister: K Loftus
 Computer: B Dillon

Next Weekend: 18th & 19th May

Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: J Sandeman
 Prayers: M Schultz
 Minister: D Arnott
 Computer: Volunteer please

Following Weekend: 25th & 26th May

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: D Baudinette
 Prayers: D Bennett
 Minister: K Howman
 Computer: Volunteer Please

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: A McIntyre
 Prayers: I Eichler
 Minister: K Loftus
 Computer: Volunteer please

In the next few we will have access to CDF Pay for Planned Giving to the Parish Account or for the Support of Priests through the Presbytery Account. This will be available via a QR CODE that will printed each week on "The Spire". You can use this QR Code portal for all you giving if you wish at no fee cost to your bank account.

<p>Planned Giving for Parish Account Given this week inc. eft \$ 1496.00 Target \$62,400 Total YTD 2023–2024, \$47,087.10 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</p>	<p>Presbytery Account Priest support, inc eft: \$ 807.95 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</p>
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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



12th of May
 2024
 Ascension
 Sunday
 Year B



7th Week in Easter Services
14th to 19th of May 2024

Tuesday **NO MASS**
 Wednesday: 10.00am Mass
 4.30pm Rosary
 Thursday: 10.00am Mass
 Friday: 9.30am Morning Prayer
 10.00am Mass
 5.30pm Prayer Service for Christian Unity week at St Stephen's Anglican Church.

18th & 19th of May Pentecost Sunday

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil Mass
 Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: 13th to the 19th of May.

Neave & Sheila Young, Phil Pettingill, Rev Mark McGuinness MSC, Hercilia Maria Barroso do Nascimento, Katie Bourke, Mary Bennett, Rosalie Andre, Bernie Crimmin, Gerard White, Gloria Whitehead, Willy Hartmann.

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 Gundiṯimara 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.



Happy Mother's Day **Prayer for Mother's Day Sunday, May 12, 2024.**

Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, and others who show us a mother's love.

We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care.

We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them.

We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort.

We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

1:1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning² until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³ After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴ While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' ⁷ He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3, 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)

2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth, sing praise with all your skill.

God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

Second Reading Ephesians 4:1-7,11-13

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

4:1 I Paul, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which

you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19, 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 16:15-20

From the holy Gospel according to Mark.

16:15 And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. ¹⁶ The one who believes and is baptised will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.' ¹⁹ So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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First Eucharist 2024:

We make welcome our Candidates for 1st Eucharist this year and their families. 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.

Regards, Fr Greg.

Mass Counts during the month of 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.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

This passage makes up the concluding verses of the Gospel of Mark. Actually, literary criticism of the Mark gospel suggests that the original gospel ended at 16:8 with the women fleeing from the empty tomb in fear. Verses 9-20 appear to be a later addition to the gospel. The community in which this gospel was written expected Jesus to return within their lifetime and so the dramatic and suspenseful conclusion of the gospel at the discovery of the empty tomb makes perfect sense. However, it soon became apparent that Jesus' return was not going to come as soon as the believers had hoped and so the post-resurrection appearances and the commissioning to continue on with Jesus' work became much more important.

If we were to read this passage literally, we would believe that to be a Christian one had to be able to perform exorcisms, speak in tongues, handle snakes, drink poison and heal by touch. If this were literally true, I guess there wouldn't be too many Christians around today! Rather, the purpose of the passage is that Jesus sends his followers out 'to the whole world' to continue his ministry. It is the 'whole world' to which they are sent; not just their cosy little corner of the world but the whole world. It's what Christian people for the last 2,000 years have been called to do: continue Jesus' ministry to the whole world. It's what each and every one of us is called to do today: 'proclaim the Good News to all creation'. That doesn't mean standing on street corners with a Bible in our hands but it means proclaiming the Good News through our everyday actions and by being open and honest about our faith. It means treating all people as Jesus would.

Living the Gospel – Proclaim Good News

Francis of Assisi is credited with saying, 'Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words!' In every interaction we have we say so much about who we are, what we think of the other person and what we believe – even without opening our mouth. Our actions and attitudes proclaim our beliefs more powerfully than our words ever do. If we claim to be concerned about justice and yet behave unjustly then it is our actions, not our words, that will be heard! When we are called to 'proclaim the Good News' we are called to do this first and foremost in action.

Scriptural context – Acts

Throughout this Easter season, the first reading in the Sunday liturgy is taken from the Acts of the Apostles and so both the first and second readings come from the New Testament. (Normally, the First Reading is taken from the Old Testament.) This week's first reading account of the Ascension is the very beginning of the book of Acts. This book and the Gospel of Luke are now recognised as being by the same author. The book of Acts records the events involving the followers of Jesus after his death and the growth of communities of believers who sought to follow Jesus' ways.

Different View – Snake handlers and Faith healers

There are certainly Christians who interpret literally Jesus' description of the signs that will be associated with believers. We have all seen images of old Revivalist meetings where people were called forth to be healed by touch and have evil spirits driven from them. Much of this practice can be traced to this week's gospel. The many evangelical churches and the tele-evangelists who dominate our early morning television screens operate out of this tradition and generally have a very literal interpretation of scripture. It is based in a belief that God acts in the world through miraculous intervention rather than through the slow and steady presence of individuals like you and me.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. How can a literal interpretation of this week's gospel 'get in the way' of understanding the message?
2. Is the image of the believer as described by Jesus still portrayed today in popular media/culture?
3. What do the actions of your community say about its beliefs?
4. How can you / your group better respond to the call to 'proclaim the Good News'?

Learning moments.

- Read the whole of Chapter 16 of the Gospel of Mark. Can you detect the differences in style in verses 9-20 that lead scholars to suggest that this portion of Chapter 16 is a later addition?
- Create a 'Good News Wall of Fame' of individuals in your family, local community and country who are working to 'proclaim the Good News to all creation' through word and action. Identify who they are and what they do to proclaim Good News.

© 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.