

Liturgy Rosters:
 Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish
Weekend: 17th & 18th August

Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: D Kierce
 Prayers: K Loftus
 Minister: Volunteer Please
 Computer: Volunteer please

Weekend: 24th & 25th August

Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Loftus
 Prayers: I Eichler
 Minister: D Kierce
 Computer: B Dillon

Weekend of 31st August & 1st September:

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: D Baudinette
 Prayers: P Howman
 Minister: M Lambert
 Computer: Volunteer Please

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: P Couttie
 Prayers: K Loftus
 Minister: J Sandeman
 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



18th of August
 2024

20th Sunday in
 Ordinary Time
 Year B



**Weekday Services
 20th 25th of August 2024**

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

**Weekend Masses
 24th & 25th August 21st Sunday**

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil Mass
 Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Death: Geoff McIntosh.
Anniversaries: 19th to the 25th of August.

Carmel Jasper, Lorna Stoneman, Danny Gorrie, Aileen Bourke, Rita Madden, Paul Murphy, Alice Ough, Anna Galea, Tim Fischer, Peter Priestley Snr Gerald O'Brien, Ann Mary Cremona, Michael Pye, Michael Nevins, Mary Smith.

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



Please Mute your phone in the Church during Mass

Planned Giving Summary for Financial Year 2023-2024: \$54,451.10. Many thanks for your efforts.

Annual Collection for the Pope 2024: \$365.65
Shared Table 2024: \$1,115.00, Contributions from Parishioners, many thanks for your support.

"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.



**150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat
 Formation for November 2024 Diocesan Assembly**

In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance.

In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances.

The Diocesan Assembly will bring together clergy, representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future.

The formation opportunity is for Clergy in parishes, Parish Leadership Team/Parish Councils, School Leadership Teams/School Advisory Councils, Catholic Organisations Leaders.

An invitation is also extended to people who have leadership potential and who would like to participate. Leadership teams are invited to nominate others who might benefit from this experience.

**Remaining date is Warrnambool
 August 25 – 12.15pm – 4.00pm
 St Joseph's Church, Warrnambool.**



We now have CDF Pay; You can use this QR Code portal for all you giving if you wish.
****Before using please cancel any prior electronic payments**.**

When you access this code, follow the prompts for frequency of payment, then amount, then; "My giving is for ..." Stewardship, (Parish Account) or Priest Support (Presbytery Account), then record your personal and Card details as the prompts ask you. Thank you. Fr Gregory Tait PP

**Planned Giving for Parish Account
 Given this week inc. eft \$936.00
 Target \$55,000**

Total YTD 2024–2025, \$7288.00

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: \$ 695.15**

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 Proverbs 9:1-6

A reading from the book of Proverbs

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. ²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. ³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, ⁴'You that are simple, turn in here!' To those without sense she says, ⁵'Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-3. 10-15. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

2. Revere the Lord, you his saints. They lack nothing, those who revere him. Strong lions suffer want and go hungry but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. (R.)

3. Come children, and hear me that I may teach you the fear of the Lord. Who is he who longs for life and many days, to enjoy his prosperity? (R.)

4. Then keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn aside from evil and do good; seek and strive after peace. (R.)

Second Reading Ephesians 5:15-20

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation John 6:56

Alleluia, alleluia!
All who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me and I in them, says the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 6:51-58

From the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the crowd:
⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'
⁵²The people (Jews) then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' ⁵³So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

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 August: For political leaders: *Let us pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and the common good, taking care of those who have lost their jobs and giving priority to the poor.*

Diocesan Social Justice Commission Reflection Day Saturday, September 7, 2024

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite all to a Reflection Day, in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2024-2025, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 10.00am - 2.30pm at Ss Michael and John's Horsham Parish Centre. Facilitator for the day is writer and educator, Michael McGirr. Registration will be required to attend. See link below.

<https://www.trybooking.com/CTUZF>

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

This passage continues the extended discourse on the Bread of Life. The passage shows the crowd bristling at Jesus describing himself as the 'bread that came down from heaven'. They dismiss his claim because they know his earthly parents, Mary and Joseph. How could he have come down from heaven if they are aware of his parents on earth? It must also be remembered that Jewish tradition held firm to the idea of God as one God only, with no offspring or personified manifestations. For the Jews of Jesus' time, the very idea of Jesus being the Son of God was completely blasphemous. But this gospel is a Christian document, written at a time when the Christians and Jews were emphasising their differences.

Jesus replies to the complaints of the crowd through an extended image. He depicts the intimate relationship that exists between himself and the Father. Later, this discourse will be drawn on in the argument about the divinity of Jesus and that he is 'one in being with the Father'. Those who are drawn to Jesus and his message are – perhaps unknowingly – drawn by the Father and by listening to the teaching of Jesus they are in fact drawing closer to the Father. It is a somewhat complicated image that Jesus paints but at its heart he emphasises the intertwined nature between Father and Son. Refuting the concern of the crowd, Jesus again describes himself as the living bread that has come down from heaven. Unlike the manna the people ate in the desert that sustained them physically for a short period of time, the living bread of Jesus will sustain those who believe for all time.

Historical Context – The Jews

It might strike the reader as a little odd that this gospel passage begins with 'The Jews were complaining to each other about Jesus'. Surely, Jesus and his disciples were also Jews, so why the derogatory use of 'the Jews'? At the time that this gospel was being written (probably in the last decade of the 1st Century) the Christians were firmly at odds with the Jewish community and were in fact banned from attending Jewish synagogues. This conflict is reflected in the way the Jews are portrayed throughout the Gospel of John.

Scriptural context – Who is Jesus?

One of the great concerns of the Gospel of John is to convey an understanding of who Jesus is. This powerful message is conveyed through a number of significant discourses – with Nicodemus, with the Samaritan woman, with the Jews etc. The gospel contains some of the 'great' images that we have for Jesus: living water; living bread; light for the world; the good shepherd; the way, the truth and the life. As opposed to the more narrative synoptic gospels, this gospel can be seen as a gospel rich in imagery and theological perceptions.

Gospel Focus – Living Bread

There is an obvious connection between this week's reading and the sacramental celebration of Eucharist. Jesus describes himself as living bread and then says whoever eats this living bread will live forever. These words capture the essence of the Church teaching about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Jesus is present in several ways at the celebration of Eucharist, particularly present in the bread and wine that become his body and blood. Through our celebration of the Eucharist, Jesus offers us his continuing, enduring presence.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. Why were the people concerned by Jesus describing himself as coming down from heaven?
2. What words/images does Jesus use to reinforce his closeness with the Father?
3. In what ways is 'bread' both a suitable and challenging image for Jesus?
4. Why is the regular reception of communion such an important element of the Catholic faith?

Learning moments

- Examine the words of the Nicene Creed – used in Mass each Sunday. What beliefs about Jesus, expressed in the Creed, are reflected in today's gospel?
- Prepare a timeline for the 1st Century CE noting the life, ministry and death of Jesus; the writings of Paul; the writing of each of the four gospels; key historical, political and religious events affecting the people of Palestine. Prepare a consequences chart to explore the impact of some of these events on the early Christian communities and on the writing of the gospels.

© 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.