

Liturgy Rosters:
 Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish
Weekend: of 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 Coultie
 Prayers: K Loftus
 Minister: J Sandeman
 Computer: B Dillon

Weekend of 7th & 8th September:

Vigil: 6.00pm
 Reader: P Howman
 Prayers: K Howman
 Minister: D Kierce
 Computer: Volunteer Please

Sunday: 10.30am
 Reader: J Howman
 Prayers: M Schultz
 Minister: Volunteer Please
 Computer: Volunteer Please

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



**25th of August
 2024
 21st Sunday in
 Ordinary Time
 Year B**



**Weekday Services
 27th of August to 1st September 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
 31st of August & 1st September
 22nd Sunday Year B**

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Deaths Margaret Bernadette Pickett.
Anniversaries: 26th of August to 1st September.

Patricia Sampson, Tom Gartlan, Lindsay Dart, Colin De Vries, Joyce Rickard, Laura McKenzie, Darren Groves, Kim Dover, Mary Caveny, Madison Arnold, Mollie Oliver, Mavis O'Meara, Dot Berry, Irene Barnes, Leah Powell, Shane Wiicks.

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

Praying with Pope Francis:
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.

"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 \$562.00
 Target \$55,000**

Total YTD 2024–2025, \$7,850.00

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: \$ 652.40**

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 Joshua 24:1-2,15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua

24:1 Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. **2** And Joshua said to all the people, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. **15** Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.' **16** Then the people answered, 'Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; **17** for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; **18** and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-3, 16-23. 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. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. **(R.)**
3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. **(R.)**
4. Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him. He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken. **(R.)**
5. Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned. **(R.)**

Second Reading Ephesians 4:32-5:1,2,21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

32 Brothers and Sisters; Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. **1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, **2** and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. **21** Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. **22** Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the

church, the body of which he is the Saviour. **24** Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. **25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, **26** in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, **27** so as to present the church to himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. **28** In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, **30** because we are members of his body. **31** 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' **32** This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation John 6:63, 68

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life:
you have the words of everlasting life.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 6:60-69

From the holy Gospel according to John.

60 When many of his disciples heard it, they said, 'This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?' **61** But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, 'Does this offend you? **62** Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? **63** It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. **64** But among you there are some who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. **65** And he said, 'For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.' **66** Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. **67** So Jesus asked the twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' **68** Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. **69** We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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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:

For the last few weeks we have heard a number of readings from chapter 6 of the Gospel of John focusing on the teaching of Jesus that he is the Bread of Life, come down from heaven. This reading is the last in the sequence and shows the reaction to Jesus' teaching. What Jesus has been saying in this discourse is incredibly confronting to his Jewish audience. Jesus asserts that he has come down from heaven – from the Father – and that through knowing him one can know the Father. Jews were the first people to have a concept of one God. This belief did not allow for any spouse or child of God, nor any personal manifestation. They struggled with what Jesus was saying because his claim to have come down from heaven could be seen as blasphemous. No wonder many of them walked away from Jesus and wanted nothing more to do with him!

Jesus gives an interesting response to them. He tells them that it is the spirit that is important, not his human flesh, and that the spirit is what he has been sharing with them through his words and actions. He is trying to say to these faithful Jews, don't be hung up about the fact that I'm here in person, listen to my message as you've never heard it before. It is an interesting thought for our modern audience as well. How often do we fail to hear the message of Jesus because we are dismissive of the way in which it comes to us; the messenger; or the circumstances in which we hear it? The message is all the more confronting when it comes from an unlikely (or even un-likable) source. The message of Jesus is to be found in our everyday encounters with everyday people.

Historical Context – Christians and Jews

The first followers of Jesus and those who became followers in the years after the death of Jesus were faithful Jews. They saw the teachings of Jesus as a way of being a better Jew. They didn't think that they were beginning a new religion; just a new way of interpreting their faith. However, as the years passed and the followers of Jesus began to clarify their understandings and beliefs, it started to become obvious that their belief in Jesus as the Son of God was distancing them from their Jewish brothers and sisters. Gradually the term, Christian, came into use and their differences from Judaism became more apparent.

Gospel Focus – Peter's faith

Having laid out a fairly difficult teaching to the crowd, Jesus is faced with the fact that many of those who were following him couldn't cope with what he was saying and they walked away from him. Jesus turns on the Twelve and demands of them, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' One can almost hear the frustration and weariness in his voice. Peter's response must have been a great relief to Jesus. Peter declares that Jesus has the message of eternal life and is the Holy One of God. He still hasn't quite got the full picture but it's something Jesus can continue to work with!

Living the Gospel – Message and Medium

We live in a world that is saturated by advertising and marketers trying to persuade us to think certain things, want certain things and even act in certain ways. At times the message and the medium of the message blur and it's not always clear where one stops and the other begins. For Christian people the medium – the person – IS the message (or at least should be!). We are called to live what we believe. That can be tough at times, especially in our modern world, but the challenge comes from the example Jesus gave.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. What historical reality might be captured by the description of disciples not accepting Jesus' teaching?
2. In what ways can John, chapter 6, be seen as a defence of early Christian belief and practice?
1. Why does Jesus appear to simply accept that some people do not believe what he says?
2. How might the Twelve have responded to so many people leaving Jesus after this gospel event?

Learning moments

- Go back and read the whole of John, chapter 6. In what ways does reading the chapter as a complete unit improve understanding the whole? How does the Feeding of the Multitude set up the rest of the chapter? What is the significance of inserting the account of Jesus Walking on the Water at this point? The people seem willing to accept Jesus' ability to work miracles of nature (feeding the multitudes and walking on water) and yet cannot accept that he has come down from heaven. Why might that be the case?

© 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.