

Liturgy Rosters:  
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

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

Weekend: of 14th & 15th September

Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: M Picard  
Prayers: I Eichler  
Minister: K Loftus  
Computer: Volunteer Please

Weekend of 21st & 22nd September:

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: D Bennett  
Prayers: Volunteer Please  
Minister: D Kierce  
Computer: Volunteer Please

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: M Picard  
Prayers: K Loftus  
Minister: I Eichler  
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**



8th of  
September

2024

23rd Sunday in  
Ordinary Time



### Weekday Services

10th to 15th September 2024

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

### Weekend Masses

14th & 15th of September  
24th Sunday Year B

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil Mass  
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

**Recent Death** Eileen Kearney  
**Anniversaries: 9th to 15th of September.**

Rev Pat (Colin) Kearney CSsR, Danny Frawley, Jeanette Buck, Gavin Carr, Therese Whiting, Thelma Rowe, Nicholas Carr, Isobel Hutchins, Patricia McBean, John Staples, Ken Johnson, Nell White, Joseph Sacco, Bernadette Williams-Condys, Valda Howlett, Anthony Clynes, Greg Frost, Joseph Sacco, Shae Johnson, Ivan Couzens.

### 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](mailto:portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes)

Rev. Gregory A. D. Tait, P.P.

email: [greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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.*



Ballarat Clergy Support Fund  
Collection for Retired Priests 2024

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement.

The Fund is currently supporting and caring for seventeen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement and will also need to be supported by the fund.

This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our retired priests. Please give as generously as you can and help us continue 'caring for those who cared for us'.

Special this collection will be taken up this weekend, the 7th & 8th of September.



If you scan this QR link, you may give via CDF Pay and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. Caring for those who cared for us the Church community's responsibility.



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 \$1437.00  
Target \$55,000

Total YTD 2024-2025, \$13,453.00

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: \$ 690.00

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 **Isaiah 35:4-7**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

**4** Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

**5** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

**6** then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

**7** the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm **Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1**

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

### Second Reading **James 2:1-5**

A reading from the letter of St James

**2:1** My Brothers and Sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? **2** For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, **3** and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', **4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers and

sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?

The word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation **Matthew 4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

### Gospel **Mark 7:31-37**

From the holy Gospel according to Mark.

**7:31** Returning from the region of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. **32** They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. **33** He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. **34** Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' **35** And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. **36** Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. **37** They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Safeguarding Sunday – THIS SUNDAY**

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday 2024 on September 8th.

Safeguarding Sunday seeks to acknowledge the immense damage caused by the sexual abuse of children and adults at risk, including by priests, religious and lay people within Catholic contexts.

It makes a commitment to practices and protocols that create and maintain safe environments for all people. It invites people to pray for those harmed by abuse directly and indirectly. This year Safeguarding Sunday has adopted the theme of National Child Protection Week - "Every conversation matters".

Other resources and information available from the Ballarat Diocesan website:

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-sunday-september-8-2024/>

## Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

Strangely, this week's gospel about the healing of a man who was deaf and dumb is less about healing than it is about Jesus being the Messiah. The theme is set up in the first reading when the prophet, Isaiah, describes the signs by which the coming of the Messiah will be recognised: the blind will see; the deaf will hear; the lame will leap; and the dumb will speak.

When Jesus healed the man in the gospel story the crowd were admiring of what he had done. They even exclaimed, 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.' These words are a direct echo of the Isaiah text – they were recognising Jesus as fulfilling the prophecies of the promised Messiah. However, the passage also demonstrates to us that Jesus was trying to show the people that he was not exactly the Messiah that many of them were anticipating. This healing story takes place in the region of The Decapolis – south-east of the Galilee region and populated mostly by Gentiles.

By travelling in this area and working miraculous healings, Jesus is making the point that his mission is to all people, not just 'the Chosen People' of Israel. He commands the crowd who witnessed the healing to tell no one about it but, filled with the idea that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for, they broadcast the news. Jesus wanted their silence because he knew that they did not fully understand the sort of Messiah that he was. Only when they understood that this Messiah must suffer and die would he have allowed them to speak of his deeds.

### Gospel Focus – Ephphatha

The healing that Jesus works in this passage is perhaps one of the most 'physical' of his healing actions. He puts his fingers in the man's ears and places spittle on his tongue. It is an incredibly intimate contact with a complete stranger and someone regarded as outcast and unclean because of his disabilities. When Jesus speaks the word of healing, Ephphatha ('Be opened'), he appears to be speaking not only to the man but to all those listening. Be open to the possibility of embracing those you have cast out; be open to a different understanding of Messiah.

### Scriptural context – Isaiah's Prophecy

All three synoptic gospel writers were at pains to demonstrate that Jesus was the fulfilment of the prophecies of the scriptures. This reference to Isaiah's prophecy appears in all three synoptic gospels. It is perhaps most familiar in the context of the Gospel of Luke, where the gospel writer actually combines it with a different passage from Isaiah and portrays Jesus as reading it in the synagogue as an announcement of his mission (Lk 4: 16-21). It is good to have the Isaiah text as the first reading this week and then see the way it is referred to in the gospel of the day.

### Living the Gospel – Open to compassion

When Isaiah described the signs by which the Messiah would be recognised, he identified those people who were isolated from society by their physical afflictions. He portrayed a Messiah who released them from those afflictions and allowed them to re-enter society. That is what Jesus did time and time again. In the healing of the deaf and dumb man, Jesus called on all those around him to also be opened – that their hearts may be opened to compassion. Jesus calls to us through today's gospel to also be open to compassion and open to the needs of those around us.

### Questions for your personal reflection:

1. What message emerges from the gospel passage for you?
2. Why did the gospel writer make reference to the passage from Isaiah in the words of the crowd?
3. What might have happened next in the life of the man who was healed?
4. Why was Jesus so keen to keep his actions quiet?

### Learning moments

- Use a biblical atlas (print or online) to locate the towns of Tyre and Sidon and the region of The Decapolis. Identify where these places lie in relation to other areas in which Jesus travelled. Compare the biblical atlas with a modern day atlas. What are these regions known as today? What events are occurring in these areas today or have occurred in recent years?

© 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.