

**Liturgy Rosters:**  
 Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish  
**Weekend of 30th November & 1st December:**  
**1st Weekend in Advent Year C**  
**Vigil: 6.00pm**

Reader: D Bennett  
 Prayers: D Baudinette  
 Minister: K Howman  
 Computer: A O'Brien

**Sunday: 10.30am**  
 Reader: J Howman  
 Prayers: I Eichler  
 Minister: A McIntyre  
 Computer: Volunteer Please

**Weekend: of 7th & 8th of December**  
**2nd Sunday in Advent**  
**Vigil: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday Mass: 10.30am**

Reader: K Loftus  
 Prayers: K Arnott  
 Minister: J Sandeman  
 Computer: Volunteer Please

**Weekend of 14th & 15th December**  
**3rd Week in Advent**  
**Vigil: 6.00pm**

Reader: P Howman  
 Prayers: G Priestley  
 Minister: K Howman  
 Computer: A O'Brien

**Sunday: 10.30am**  
 Reader: P Couttie  
 Prayers: M Schultz  
 Minister: Volunteer Please  
 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 2-3 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**



**1st of December 2024 1st Sunday in Advent Year C**

**Weekday Services 3rd to 8th of December 2024**

**Tuesday NO MASS**  
**Wednesday 10.00am Morning Prayer 4.30pm Rosary**  
**Thursday: 10.00am Mass**  
**Friday: 11.00am Anointing Mass & Lunch in Presbytery.**

**Weekend Masses 7th & 8th of December 2nd Sunday in Advent**

**Saturday: 6.00pm Mass**  
**Sunday: 10.30am Mass**

**Recent Death:** Travis McCombe, Rev. Terry Bowman msc, George Habel.

**Anniversaries: 2nd to 8th of December.** Lindsay Tait, Daryl Freyer, Nora Durbidge, Ron Fielding, Jim Collins, George Cumbo, Kath Dent, June Dalton, Danny Clifford, Kathleen McIndoe, Jason Murray, Cath Dixon, Bill Mailing, Ada McNeilly, Terry McMeel, Stella Young.

**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**

**Dates to Remember:**  
**Advent Penance Service, Tuesday 17th December 7.00pm All Saints Church.**  
**Christmas & New Year Masses 2024/25**  
**Dartmoor, Sunday 22nd December 5.00pm.**  
**Christmas Eve 24th December.**  
**Portland Carols 7.30pm.**  
**Portland Mass 8.00pm.**  
**Portland Christmas Day Mass 9.30am.**  
**Portland New Years Day 11.00am.**

**"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.

**Families coming together at Advent.**  
 As the days get warmer and the summer begins to shine, it's a sure sign that Christmas is on its way. Advent is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, slow down a bit, and prepare our hearts for the joy of the festive season. It is not just about the presents and the backyard Barbies, it's about embracing faith, hope, and love as we count down the days.  
 One of the best ways to enjoy Advent with your family is to create simple, meaningful traditions. How about setting up an Advent calendar? It doesn't have to be anything fancy; you could even make one together using little envelopes or boxes filled with treats, messages, or acts of kindness to do each day. It is a fun way for the kids (and adults!) to get excited and stay mindful of the season's true meaning.

Another idea is to have an Advent wreath on your dining table. Lighting a candle each week before dinner can become a lovely ritual. It gives everyone a moment to pause and reflect on themes like hope, peace, joy, and love. You might share a short prayer or a thought for the day, keeping it light and relevant to your family's life.  
 Why not take advantage of our beautiful weather and spend some quality time outdoors? Perhaps have a family picnic or a beach day where you can talk about what Christmas means to each of you. Connecting with nature can be a wonderful way to feel closer to the spiritual side of the season.  
 At the end of the day, Advent is a chance to deepen our faith and appreciate the blessings we have. By embracing these weeks leading up to Christmas, we can create cherished memories and set a positive tone for the holiday season.  
 So, enjoy the sunshine and let us make this Advent a time of love, joy, and togetherness. ©Majellan Media

**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 \$727.00**  
**Target \$55,000**  
**Total YTD 2024-2025, \$23,671.40**  
 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  
**Meat Trays 2024: this year so far: \$337.55**

**Presbytery Account**  
**Priest support, inc eft: \$735.20**  
 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

### Readings 1st Sunday in Advent Year C 2024

#### First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

**33:14** The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. **15** In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **16** In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

The word of the Lord.

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14. R. v.1

(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

3. God's ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. (R.)

#### Second Reading Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

Brothers and Sisters;

**12** May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. **13** And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**4** Finally, brothers and sisters, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus that, as you learned from us how you ought to live and to please God (as, in fact, you are doing), you should do so more and more. **2** For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

#### Gospel Acclamation Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

#### Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus spoke to his disciples;

**21:25** 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. **26** People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. **27** Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. **28** Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.' **34** 'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, **35** like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. **36** Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Text, New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Catholic Edition, copyright © 1989, 1993, 1995 The Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. The English translation of the Palm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1988, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

#### Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old.

**Intention for December: - For Christians in areas of conflict:** Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

#### Supporting Portland Families at Christmas 2024.

We will be partnering with the Salvation Army again this year in providing meat trays valued at \$40.00 per tray. If you would like to assist by donating to this cause, please put your money in an envelope and mark it "Meat Trays 2024" and place it in the weekend collection. Alternatively you may directly deposit in into the Parish Account & note "MT 2024" in the reference on your eft deposit. **This appeal will conclude on the 15th December.**

Many thanks, for your assistance once again.

Fr Greg.

#### Caritas Australia's Lebanon Crisis Appeal

Lebanon is currently facing a dire crisis and the need for your support has never been greater. Communities are being devastated by conflict and economic instability, leaving countless families without access to basic needs like food, water and medical care. Our Caritas Australia partners on the ground are doing everything they can, but they desperately need your help.

Please show your love for Lebanon and donate today to help supply essential items such as food, shelter and medical aid, as well as long-term support to rebuild communities.

Donate today at [www.caritas.org.au/lebanon](http://www.caritas.org.au/lebanon)

## 1st Sunday in Advent 2024 Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

We are, perhaps, used to thinking of the season of Advent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Christmas. But this week's readings, and the readings of the next few weeks, remind us that the notion of preparation extends well beyond the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We are reminded that we are, in fact, living in an 'in-between time'.

From this week's first reading we are reminded that the expectation of a Messiah was a very long-standing hope for Israel. The coming of the Messiah would usher in a new prosperity and a divine reign of God. The earliest Christians began to see that the ancient prophecies could all be applied to Jesus and they began to regard Jesus as the promised Messiah – the fulfilment of prophecy. However, Jesus also promised that he would come again, and the expectation of the first followers of Jesus was that his return would be in their lifetime.

In our second reading from the letter to the Thessalonians, we can see the growing realisation that perhaps Jesus' return will not occur within the current generation. This realisation had a dramatic effect on the life and faith of the community. Imagine living with the belief that the end of time was going to occur not just in your lifetime but literally any day now. Slowly, they realised that Jesus' words were not that specific and the time of return had not been identified.

What Jesus had called for was a state of readiness, a state of preparedness. This didn't mean he was coming immediately; what it meant was that there was need to get the house in order because he would be coming at some time. Advent is a time to remember that we still haven't really got the house in order.

#### Scriptural context

This week's gospel passage comes from a lengthy passage in the gospel of Luke in which Jesus speaks extensively about the future. It is a very different style of writing from the usual narrative, teaching and parable forms that make up most of the gospel. The style is an echo of the prophetic writings of the Old Testament. Compare this passage with this week's first reading of other passages from the writings of the prophets. The style is always rich in metaphor and symbol. There is a grandness about the style. We know, just from the use of language, that great things are afoot!

#### Have you thought? – Waiting, waiting, waiting ...

I'm not a big fan of waiting! Anticipation is pretty good; getting prepared and getting ready are OK, too. But when it comes down to being all dressed up and ready to go, I'm just hopeless at waiting. If Advent is a time of pointless waiting for Christmas then we've somehow missed the message. Rather than just waiting, Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation. But it's not just about anticipating Christmas. That's part of it, sure. However, Advent is about reminding ourselves that we have a job to do: preparing for the reign of God – in our lives and in our world.

#### Different View – We're doomed!

Fundamentalists love readings like this week's apocalyptic gospel passage. Full of portent and urgency, it inspires the sort of thinking that says, 'Repent now, because you could be dead tomorrow!' It is easy to look at a passage like this and apply it to the conditions of the world today: everything's going to rack and ruin; it's just as the Bible foretold; the end of the world is just around the corner. But we have to remember that this was written nearly 2,000 years ago! Yes, there is still urgency! Yes, there is still need for change! But we still have time to get it right.

#### Questions for your personal reflection:

1. What is your immediate reaction to this gospel passage?
2. What problems might lie in reading this passage with a literal interpretation?
3. What must it have been like for the early Christians to be expecting the imminent end of time?
4. How does the concept of being a people of Hope sit with this passage?
5. How can you make the most of this season of Advent?

#### Learning moments

- The traditional Advent wreath with its four candles is an excellent reminder of the passing of the four weeks as one additional candle is lit in each of the four weeks. Identify four actions that you can undertake during Advent that are focused on living out the message of Jesus and helping to realise the reign of God. You could write your actions on an illustration of an Advent wreath or wrap each action around a votive candle and create your own Advent wreath.

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.