

Liturgy Rosters:  
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

**Weekend of 2nd & 3rd November**

**Vigil: 6.00pm**

Reader: P O'Brien  
Prayers: P Howman  
Minister: M Lambert  
Computer: A O'Brien

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: J Sandeman  
Prayers: M Schultz  
Minister: D Kierce  
Computer: B Dillon

**Weekend of 9th & 10th November:**

**Vigil: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: K Arnott  
Prayers: M Schultz  
Minister: D Arnott  
Computer: B Dillon

**Weekend: of 16th & 17th of November**

**Lay Led Assembly: 6.00pm**

Leader: P & A O'Brien  
Reader: D Baudinette  
Prayers: Volunteer Please  
Minister: M Lambert  
Computer: Volunteer Please

**Sunday Mass: 10.30am**

Reader: M Picard  
Prayers: J Sandeman  
Minister: I Eichler  
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**



3rd of November  
2024  
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Weekday Services**

**5th to 10th November 2024**

**Tuesday NO MASS**  
**Wednesday: 10.00am Mass**  
**4.30pm Rosary**  
**Thursday: 10.00am Mass**  
**Friday: 9.30am Morning Prayer**  
**10.00am Anointing Mass**  
**5.00pm Evening Prayer**

**Weekend Masses**

**9th & 10 of November**  
**32nd Sunday Year B**

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

**Recent Death:** Jim & Carmel Madden.

**Anniversaries: 4th to 10th of November.**

Kate Marsh, Agnes Dalton, James Devoy, Betty Lambert, Barry Bourke, Ann Seabright, Eileen Ryszewski, Robyn Huf, David May, Lois Bryant, Doreen Atkinson, Anthony Arundell, Pauline Corcoran, Esme Mibus, Lawrie Jenkins.

**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:**

**November Masses of Remembrance 7th & 8th November.**

**December Anointing Mass, 6th December 11.00am Mass & Shared Lunch in the Presbytery after Mass.**

**Diocesan appointments:** From January 15, 2025, Fr Andrew Hayes, currently Parish Priest of Gariwerd (Ararat and Stawell), will become Parish Priest of Colac, Parish Priest of Apollo Bay and Supervising Priest of Cororooke.

**"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.*

**November the Month for Remembering - All Souls & the Faithful departed**

As we feel the warmth of the late spring sun and witness new life blossoming around us, This special time to remember and honour our loved ones who have passed away. It's a month rich in tradition, where we feel especially close to those who are now with God. It's a time celebrate the enduring bonds of love that even death cannot break.

Our cherished memories weave us together, stitching our hearts into one tapestry. These treasured moments aren't just pieces of the past but a testament to the lives we've shared and the love that still thrives. When we gather with family, sharing stories and laughter, we're reminded that love is eternal. As the Apostle Paul assures us in Romans 8:38-39 (NRSV): "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers ... nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." This profound truth comforts us, affirming that love never dies—it simply transforms.

During this time of remembrance, let's offer grace and comfort to one another. Building a strong community of faith within our families allows us to support each other and strengthen our spirits. Encourage open conversations about those we've lost, letting their legacy inspire and guide us. Perhaps we can light a candle or say a prayer to honour their presence in our lives and acknowledge their ongoing influence.

As we navigate between feelings of grief and gratitude, may we find peace knowing our loved ones are cradled in God's boundless love. Trust that their souls are at rest, enveloped in the infinite compassion of our Creator. Embrace the belief that one day we will be reunited, where love knows no bounds and joy is everlasting.

Let November be a beacon of hope and a reminder that we are never truly alone. In our hearts, love prevails, and through faith, we find the strength to carry on, cherishing the memories that keep our loved ones alive. ©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 \$522.00**  
**Target \$55,000**

**Total YTD 2024-2025, \$19,840.40**

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

**Presbytery Account**

**Priest support, inc eft: \$ 879.15**

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

Readings 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B 2024

**First Reading Deuteronomy 6:2-6**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people:

6:2 so that you and your children and your children's children may fear the Lord your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. 3 Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, has promised you. 4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. 6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

The word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 17:2-4, 47, 51. R.v.2**

**(R.) I love you Lord, my strength.**

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour.

My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.

The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!

Praised be to the God that saves me.

He has given great victories to his king and shown love for his anointed. **(R.)**

**Second Reading Hebrews 7:23-28**

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

7:23 The priests of the first covenant were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; 24 but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. 25 Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. 27 Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation John 14:23**

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

**Gospel Mark 12:28-34**

From the holy Gospel according to Mark.

12:28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' 29 Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." 31 The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' 32 Then the scribe said to him, 'You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that "he is one, and besides him there is no other"; 33 and "to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength", and "to love one's neighbour as oneself", this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.' 34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at [www.thepopevideo.org](http://www.thepopevideo.org)

**Intention for November:** For those who have lost a child: Let us pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and may receive peace of heart from the Spirit of Consolation.

**Mission Month 2024**

The Parish will no longer accept donations for Mission Australia, if you wish to make a donation please visit their Website; [www.catholicmission.org.au](http://www.catholicmission.org.au) or Phone 1800 257 296

**31st Sunday Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:**

Generally, in the gospels, the scribes are shown as antagonistic towards Jesus and when we begin this passage we may be expecting a trap being laid by the scribe. In Jewish tradition, a lot of teaching occurs through a question and answer style and often the question is related to a particular teaching from Torah. Here, the scribe approaches Jesus as a teacher, a rabbi, and poses a question just as he would to any other worthy teacher. He asks which of the commandments Jesus regards to be foremost. This could be an opening question to any teacher and one would expect it to be the start of a long conversation.

Neither of the commandments Jesus quotes come from the Ten Commandments with which we are most familiar, but, rather, they come from other parts of Torah (the Law). His qualification of the first commandment – to love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength – is a way of capturing the whole person. What Jesus is saying is to love God completely and utterly with your whole person. Then he follows up and adds another commandment – 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.' The scribe agrees with Jesus' teaching and adds that these are far more important than offering sacrifice.

This is a pretty controversial statement from a scribe! Sacrifice has been the official form of prayer practised in the Temple for a very long time and he suggests that love of God and love of neighbour are far more important! It is because of this understanding about the priority of love over religious practice – the hallmark of the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims – that Jesus pronounces the scribe to be 'not far from the kingdom of God.'

**Historical Context – Sacrifice**

We know from the Old Testament that sacrifice was an important religious practice dating back to the foundations of Jewish faith. After the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, sacrifice of birds and animals was practised there as the highest form of worship. With the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE – about the time Mark's gospel was written – temple worship and sacrifice came to an abrupt end. The entire nature of Judaism changed from a Temple-centred faith to a much more decentralised faith. In this week's gospel, the gospel writer is projecting the reality of his time back into the scribe's encounter with Jesus.

**Living the Gospel – Love**

Jesus reminds us 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.' There's an unspoken, underlying idea here that is absolutely crucial. Before you can love your neighbour, you must first love yourself. To say that you love yourself today can imply a level of boastfulness or ego. However, what is required is a genuine love of self – an acceptance; a respect; a true valuing of self. Only then can we know how to treat others. When we ask ourselves how we would want to be treated it points us towards how we should treat others. What is summed up so simply by Jesus is a very tough ask!

**Gospel Focus – First of all**

Jesus is asked which commandment is first and he provides two commandments as his answer. However, he doesn't bundle them together as one overarching commandment – he very distinctly identifies them as first and second. Sometimes we can feel the way to express love for God is through demonstrating our love for other people in charitable or justice-focused actions. However, Jesus makes clear that the first commandment of all is the love of God with all our being – that God is worthy of love in God's own right. Our love of God may inspire us to action for others but the first step is loving God for who God is.

**Questions for your personal reflection:**

1. What is significant about a scribe asking Jesus about the Law?
2. What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength?
3. Why is the qualifier of 'as yourself' important in the commandment to love your neighbour?
4. How would our world be different if people genuinely loved their neighbours?
5. Which aspect/s of the commandments Jesus named do you need to work on at the moment?

**Learning moments**

- Think back over the last 24 hours. Try to list all the people you came in contact with – even if only momentarily or by sitting near them on a bus. Of all those encounters, where did you show love? Where did you show a lack of love? Where did you demonstrate a love of self or lack of love of self? Where could you have shown more awareness and more love? What opportunities for encounters with others can you predict? How might you better show love of self and love of neighbour?

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.