

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

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

Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: D Baudinette
Prayers: G Priestley
Minister: Volunteer Please
Computer: Volunteer Please

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: A McIntyre
Prayers: M Schultz
Minister: Volunteer Please
Computer: B Dillon

Weekend of 21st & 22nd of December:
4th Weekend in Advent Year C
Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

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



8th of December 2024 2nd Sunday in Advent Year C



Weekday Services

3rd to 8th of December 2024

Tuesday 5.00pm Mass

Wednesday 10.00am Mass

4.30pm Rosary

Thursday: 10.00am Mass

Friday: 11.00am All Saints PS End of Year Mass, at All Saints Parish Church

Weekend Masses

14th & 15th of December

3rd Sunday in Advent

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Death: George Habel.

Anniversaries: 9th to 15th of December.

Fran Powell, Maureen Rogers, Maurice Sullivan, Lorraine Bloomfield, Denise Shepherd, Mary Muirhead ibvm, Margaret Cassie, Merle Grundy, Jessie Ward, Patrick Pye, Willy Paget, Lorraine Asling, Michael Twomey, Vic Wright, Margaret McMahon, Anne Pye, Angelo Sacco, Kathleen Thomas.

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

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.

Embracing Joyful Anticipation

In the second week of Advent, our hearts are called to a posture of joyful anticipation. Advent invites us to wait with expectant joy for the coming of our Redeemer. This waiting is active, filled with hope and preparation for the fulfillment of God's promises.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us of this sacred anticipation:

"A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'" (Isaiah 40:3, NRSV).

This call is not about external preparations but about readying our hearts and minds to receive Christ anew. The wilderness represents those barren places in our lives that yearn for God's presence.

In life today, waiting is often accompanied by impatience and frustration. We wait in lines, in traffic, for news, and for change. Yet, Advent teaches us that waiting can be a time of spiritual growth. When we wait with joy, we acknowledge that God's timing is perfect, and His plans for us are rooted in love.

This week, let's embrace the joy of knowing that our Redeemer is near. Let's reflect on the areas of our lives where we need to "prepare the way" for the Lord. Maybe it's in relationships that need healing, habits that need changing, or doubts that need surrendering. By inviting God into these spaces, we open ourselves to the joy that only He can provide.

As the second Advent candle is lit, symbolising faith, let it also ignite in us a deeper joy for the coming of Christ. Let our waiting be marked not by anxiety but by a confident hope that God is at work, even when we cannot see it.

In this joyful anticipation, we find peace and the strength to share this joy with others.

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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 \$1001.00

Target \$55,000

Total YTD 2024-2025, \$24,672.40

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: \$784.75

Presbytery Account

Priest support, inc eft: \$695.85

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 2nd Sunday in Advent Year C 2024

First Reading Bar 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch.

5:1 Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. **2** Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; **3** for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. **4** For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." **5** Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. **6** For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. **7** For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. **8** The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. **9** For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.

Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. **(R.)**

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing; they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**

Second Reading Phil 1:3-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians. Brothers and Sisters;

1:3 I thank my God every time I remember you, **4** constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, **5** because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. **6** I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. **8** For God is my witness,

how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. **9** And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight **10** to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, **11** having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 3:1-6

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

3:1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, **2** during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. **3** He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, **4** as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **5** Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth;

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.

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.

Parish Appointments:

From January 15, 2025, Fr Neville Stanislaus, currently Parish Priest of Camperdown and Timboon and Administrator of the Parish of Hampden, will become Parish Priest of Gariwerd. I thank Fr Neville for his current service and his willingness to take up the new assignment.

+ Bishop Paul Bird

2nd Sunday in Advent 2024 Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

The second and third weeks of Advent this year focus particularly on the role of John the Baptist as the one who prepared the way for Jesus and announced his coming. It continues the theme of preparation that was begun last week, but still, rather than preparing for the birth of Jesus, we are exploring the wider theme of preparation. The gospel writer includes a quote from Isaiah in which the prophet says, 'Prepare a way for the Lord.' (Often translated as 'Prepare the way of the Lord'.)

The application of this passage to John the Baptist is a logical one. This gospel emphasises that John was preaching 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. Throughout the gospel of Luke, the recognition of sinfulness and the desire to repent and seek forgiveness is the prelude to receiving God's favour.

This gospel makes it clear that one way in which we can prepare a way for the Lord is to recognise our faults and failings and to seek forgiveness. It is only through such repentance that we can make ourselves receptive to the love of God. The only preparation of the way that is necessary for the Lord is a personal preparation to be receptive. We are absolutely assured of God's love. The problem is that we often feel that we are undeserving of that love or are unable to receive it.

When we are called to 'Prepare a way for the Lord' it is a call to prepare a way in our own hearts – to break down the barriers that we have put up; to clear the obstacles that we have placed in the path. God's love will find a way! We simply make the way easier for ourselves to recognise God's love if we 'Prepare a way'.

Historical Context – At this time

This particular gospel goes to great lengths to place the events of Jesus' life in a particular historical context. It is the gospel of Luke that identifies the birth of Jesus as taking place in the reign of Caesar Augustus and the governorship of Quirinius. Again, in today's passage, the writer is keen to establish the historical time and place. It is made clear that the ministry of Jesus occurred in a particular time and place. But the gospel makes clear that the message Jesus proclaimed reaches beyond its original context across time and place to our lives today.

Have you thought? Baptism

We may think that Baptism is an invention of the Christian community but today's gospel makes it clear that baptism was used within the Jewish community and was put to a particular purpose by John the Baptist. Baptism was part of the Jewish tradition well before the time of Jesus. Ritual cleansing by full immersion was an important element of worship and converts to Judaism were required to walk through a deep bath known as a mikveh. John's use of baptism as a washing away of sin was a different interpretation of the well-established practice.

Living the Gospel – Make way!

Today's gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It's like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. In what ways can holding on to our faults and failings get in the way of allowing God into our lives?
2. Why is it so hard to forgive ourselves when we are assured God's forgiveness is there for the asking?
3. What image captures for you the idea of 'preparing a way'?
4. How has reflection on this week's gospel enhanced your understanding of Advent?

Learning moments

- Create a journal of a Road of Life from childhood to the present and beyond. On your Road of Life identify times, events and people that have had an impact on your relationship with God.
- When has the way been made clear or more clearly defined? When have obstacles been placed in the path? Were the obstacles overcome or do they still continue to block the path?
- Construct a prayer about 'preparing the way' that you can use throughout Advent.

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.