

Liturgy Rosters:  
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

Weekend of 4th & 5th of January:  
The Epiphany of the Lord Year C  
Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: D Bennett  
Prayers: P O'Brien  
Minister: Volunteer Please  
Computer: A O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Loftus  
Prayers: I Eichler  
Minister: A McIntyre  
Computer: B Dillon

Weekend of 11th & 12th of January:  
The Baptism of the Lord Year C  
Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: J Sandeman  
Prayers: M Schultz  
Minister: B McGenniken  
Computer: B Dillon

Weekend: of 18th & 19th of January  
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C  
Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday Mass: 10.30am

Reader: K Arnott  
Prayers: M Schultz  
Minister: D Arnott  
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**



5th of January  
2025  
The Epiphany  
of the Lord  
Year C



### Parish Services 8th to the 12th of January 2025

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  
11th & 12th of January  
The Baptism of the Lord

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass  
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

### Anniversaries: 6th to 12th of January.

Francis Bowman, Pauline De Bono, Len O'Neil, Frances Sandeman, Bob Crooks, Mark Mills, Edwin Fox, Tony Shanahan, Don Errey, Jack Patterson, Sheila Clynes, Jim Chigwidden, Shelley McDonald, Therese Hallam.

**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

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

**Prayer for January** – For the right to an education: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

### Dates to Remember:

The Lenten journey begins on Ash Wednesday the 5th of March. Reflection Books available soon.

## "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



2025: a Holy Year: a Year of Jubilee: a Year of Pilgrimage.

The Holy Year Theme is "Pilgrims of Hope". Whether we travel or not we are all pilgrims in life, and pilgrims of hope. What is a Pilgrimage? It is "a

trip, often a long one, made to a holy place for religious reasons".

Many will travel to Rome for the various pilgrimages being organised. Most of us will not be able to travel.

The Mission Office is on a Pilgrimage to the holy place of clean water, education and opportunity, good health and a clean environment. Our recipients live in hope of a better life through these projects. You, in your generosity, are on pilgrimage with the hope of assisting those needing "a hand up".

In 2024 I travelled to many places to meet many people. I saw hope fulfilled through your generous donations for successful projects and the need for many more hopeful projects.

In reading about the Holy Year we are reminded that "every step is important" and we are called to "prepare our spirits and lace our boots". During pilgrimage we examine our lives in an "introspective dance around time's passage" and in this "every pilgrimage is a journey inward." These phrases help us on our Mission Office Pilgrimage to the holy place of giving people a more decent way of life.

We are reminded also that: "Pilgrimages are not solitary treks, but journeys undertaken shoulder-to-shoulder with fellow pilgrims." All involved in the Mission Office work on pilgrimage are together: staff around the world, donors, helpers and recipients.

In 2025 we continue to walk together with all our sisters and brothers who walk their own pilgrimage in hope.

### LET US WALK IN HOPE

Roger Purcell msc  
Director, Missionaries of the Sacred Heart



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 \$1336.00

Target \$55,000

Total YTD 2024-2025, \$28,227.40

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: \$1989.55

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 The Epiphany of the Lord Year C 2025

#### First Reading Is 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

**60:1** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. **2** For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. **3** Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. **4** Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. **5** Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. **6** A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13,

**(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.**

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. **(R.)**

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R.)**

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. **(R.)**

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. **(R.)**

#### Second Reading Eph 3:2-3, 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and Sisters;

**3:2** Surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, **3** and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, **5** In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been

revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: **6** that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

The word of the Lord.

#### Gospel Acclamation Mt 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

#### Gospel Mt 2:1-12

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**2:1** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." **3** When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: **6** 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" **7** Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. **8** Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." **9** When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. **11** On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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## The Epiphany of the Lord Year C 2025, Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

The gospel of Mark, the first of the four canonical gospels to be written, does not bother at all with the question of the birth of Jesus. Written some ten or more years later, the gospels of Luke and Matthew both present a version of the circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus. The gospel of John, written later still, also avoids details of Jesus' birth. The two accounts of the infancy that we do have from the gospels tell very different stories because they have each been used to place the rest of the gospel in a particular context. Unfortunately, the two stories have been mashed together so much that we now have one notion of the Christmas story that is a poor amalgam of the two unique narratives.

In the gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary are living in Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem and are forced to give birth out in a field because there is no room at the only inn in Bethlehem. The ones who bear witness to the birth in this account are shepherds – some of the lowest of the low – as the gospel of Luke identifies Jesus as having a preferential option for the lowly ones.

In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph and Mary are living in Bethlehem and give birth in their own house. They later flee to Egypt and then settle in Nazareth. The two towns need to be included in both accounts because they are named in some of the ancient prophecies about the Messiah. In the gospel of Matthew, the witnesses to the birth are wise men, dignitaries from another land. The Matthew writer wants to emphasise the 'kingship' of Jesus and it is fitting that foreign dignitaries present gifts on the birth of a king. The two stories deserve to be dealt with uniquely and should be unravelled from the muddled, entwined version that dominates our Christmas imagery.

### Historical Context – The Magi

In some translations, the 'wise men' of this passage are referred to as 'Magi'. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference 'We saw his star as it rose'. It is interesting that the passage describes 'some' wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their 'relics' lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

### Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the 'Jewish-ness' of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

### Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.

### Questions for your personal reflection:

1. Why did the wise men approach Herod to ask about the infant king of the Jews?
2. Why is it significant that Jesus' birth be witnessed by important men from a distant land?
3. Whether or not the wise men are a purely literary device, what 'truth' does their story convey?
4. In what ways do you 'bear witness' to Jesus?

### Learning moments

- Research the various cultural celebrations of Epiphany around the world. Compare the celebration of Epiphany in the Eastern and Western churches and the different events in the life of Jesus that they commemorate. How do the two different interpretations reflect a common message?

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.