

### Liturgy Rosters:

Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

**Weekend of 22nd & 23rd of February:  
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C  
Vigil: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: M Schultz  
Prayers: D Kierce  
Minister: D Arnott  
Computer: Volunteer Please

**Weekend: of 1st & 2nd of March  
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C  
Vigil: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday Mass: 10.30am**

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

**Weekend of 8th & 9th of March:  
1st Sunday in Lent Year C  
Vigil: 6.00pm**

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

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: K Arnott  
Prayers: J Sandeman  
Minister: D Arnott  
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 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**



**23rd of February 2025  
7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**



### Parish Services

**26th February to 2nd March 2025**

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

#### Weekend Masses

**1st & 2nd of March  
8th week in Ordinary Time  
Saturday: 6.00pm Mass  
Sunday: 10.30am Mass**

**Recent Death:** Nola Malcolm, Andrew Mangan .  
**Anniversaries: 17th to 23rd of February.**

Louise Sheba, Nancy Sparrow, Ryan Rieger, Claude Kelson, Cindy Collier, John Smith, Bob Wood, David Roy Stevens, George Kennett, William Crowe, Ron O'Brien, Dorothy McCluskey, Ria Pepperkamp, Theresa Parish RNDM, Sr Mary Shelley, Shirley Cordell, Jack Manley, Erminia Bucciarelli, Terrence Bourke, Maureen O'Brien, Terry Sheriff, Paul Couch.

#### Prayer Requests:

Les Hildebrand, Lea-anne Bourke, Michelle Mutch, Deanne Atkinson.

**If you have any prayer requests please contact 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:

**Ash Wednesday:** March 5th, Mass at 10.00am & 6.00pm.

**Mass of the Holy Oils:** April 14th @ 1.00pm. St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

**Lenten Penance Service,** 7.00pm April 15th

**Easter Triduum:** Holy Thursday 7.00pm April 17th,  
Good Friday 3.00pm April 18th  
Holy Saturday 6.00pm April 19th.



## "The Spire"

All Saints Parish

Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor

### All Saints Parish Office

Office Entrance 8 Henty Street  
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Portland VIC 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 Wednesdays 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.



**World Day of Prayer 2025**

All Saints Church, Friday, 7th March at 10:30 am (Morning tea to follow the Service)

The country of focus this year is the Cook Islands with the theme of the Service being "I made you wonderful".

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome everyone to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

### Southern Stars Family Group

February Gathering, Sunday 23rd February, from 12.00pm at the Skate Park BBQ. Cliff St Portland.

### Praying with Pope Francis

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

**Prayer for February** - for vocations. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.



### Gaza Crisis Appeal 2025

We urgently need your support. The ceasefire means more aid can assist people in Gaza, but the need is immense and the

recovery long. Gaza's people cannot recover alone. They need the support of the global community to survive and rebuild. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone **1800 024 413.**



**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 \$

**Target \$55,000**

**Total YTD 2024-2025, \$33,860.40**

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: \$719.75**

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

### 7th Week in Ordinary Time Year C

#### First Reading 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel

**26:2** Saul rose and went down to the Wilderness of Ziph, with three thousand chosen men of Israel, to seek David in the Wilderness of Ziph. **7** David and Abishai went to the army by night; there Saul lay sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head; and Abner and the army lay around him. **8** Abishai said to David, "God has given your enemy into your hand today; now therefore let me pin him to the ground with one stroke of the spear; I will not strike him twice." **9** But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can raise his hand against the Lord's anointed, and be guiltless?" **12** So David took the spear that was at Saul's head and the water jar, and they went away. No one saw it, or knew it, nor did anyone awake; for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen upon them. **3** Then David went over to the other side, and stood on top of a hill far away, with a great distance between them. **22** David called to Saul, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and get it. **23** The Lord rewards everyone for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the Lord gave you into my hand today, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.

The word of the Lord.

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13.

##### (R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. **(R.)**
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. **(R.)**

#### Second Reading 1 Cor 15:45-49

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and Sisters; **45** Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last

Adam became a life-giving spirit. **46** But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. **47** The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. **48** As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. **49** Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

The word of the Lord.

#### Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

#### Gospel Lk 6:27-38

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to his disciples;

**27** "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, **28** bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

**29** If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt.

**30** Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. **31** Do to others as you would have them do to you. **32** "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. **33** If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. **34** If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. **35** But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. **36** Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. **37** "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; **38** give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**E Book Version:** <https://shop.archdiocesanministries.org.au/products/ebook-lent-2025-start-anew-in-christ>

## 7th Week in Ordinary Time Year C 2025, Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

The radical teaching that was begun in last week's gospel as the beatitudes and woes is continued in this week's challenge to be forgiving, compassionate and generous in the same way that God expresses abundant love. As with the blessings and curses of the Beatitudes passage, this teaching continues the challenge to act against cultural and social expectations. Who would be surprised if you were to express hatred for an enemy or for someone who hates you or treats you badly? But Jesus tells his disciples to **love** their enemies and to **do good** to those who hate them. His instruction is contrary to the 'normal' way of doing things – and that's exactly the message Jesus wanted to convey! Rather than a spiteful, vengeful God who keeps score and punishes wrongdoing, Jesus presents a compelling image of a God of unbounded compassion and abundant generosity.

In this passage we find one version of the Golden Rule that appears repeatedly throughout the gospels (as well as most other religious traditions): 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' It is followed up with a comment that it takes no effort to treat well people whom you like – anybody can do that. The challenge is to treat people you don't like as you would like to be treated yourself. In a society that had very strict rules about the way to treat different people and clearly established boundaries between different groups, this was a tough ask by Jesus. Bear in mind also that there was an occupying army in the country and Jesus was encouraging the people to treat even their enemies, the Romans, with love, compassion and forgiveness. This was a radical and challenging teaching!

### Historical Context – In the midst of oppression

What a powerful message Jesus delivered to people who were subjugated and oppressed by an invading army. It would have been easy, and somehow 'natural', for the people of Palestine to hate the Roman occupiers and to seek revenge upon them. How confronting then for Jesus to say, 'love your enemies'! He tells the people that the way to live God's way in this situation was to be compassionate towards the oppressors; that when they rob you of your cloak to present them with your shirt as well. To do otherwise is to become like the oppressors themselves. Meeting hatred with hatred never ended hatred.

### Scriptural context – Compassion

The compassion of God is a very strong theme that runs through the Gospel of Luke. Throughout the gospel, the compassion and mercy of God is emphasised and a defining feature of the gospel is the number of healings and parables that relate to people who were regarded as the outcasts of society. In this gospel, Jesus is the embodiment of God's compassion. Jesus wants all people to experience first hand the abundant love God holds for them. Today's gospel passage is a reminder that when we experience God's compassion we are also called to show it to others.

### Different View – Turn the other cheek

Presenting your other cheek when someone has already struck you is usually seen as a pacifist action. However, a completely different interpretation can be made. If a man were to strike an inferior, it would be as a backhand strike – only equals fought with fists or open hands. Having been struck on one cheek with a backhand, offering the other cheek makes it impossible to again be struck with a backhand. The only option for the striker would be with an open hand – as equals fight. So, turning the other cheek can be interpreted as claiming your status as an equal.

### Questions for your personal reflection:

1. Do you think it is genuinely possible to live as Jesus calls us to in this gospel passage?
2. In your life, what would it mean to lend (or give) 'without any hope of return'?
3. What does it mean to truly be compassionate?
4. Who are your 'enemies' and what would it take to demonstrate love for them?
5. Do you know of people who have very little and yet are incredibly generous? What motivates them?

### Learning moments:

- How can you put into practice the call to 'love your enemies' and 'do good to those who hate you'?
- Identify practical strategies you can employ in the next week or so and make a commitment to try at least one practical strategy to turn a situation around.

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.