

Liturgy Rosters:

Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

Weekend: of 22nd & 23rd of March:
3rd Sunday in Lent Year C
Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday Mass: 10.30am

Reader: J Sandeman
Prayers: I Eichler
Minister: K Loftus
Computer: Volunteer Please

Weekend of 29th & 30th of March:
4th Sunday in Lent Year C
Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: P Howman
Prayers: D Bennett
Minister: M Lambert
Computer: D Kierce

Sunday: 10.30am

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

Weekend of 5th & 6th of April:
5th Sunday in Lent Year C
Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Loftus
Prayers: M Schultz
Minister: A McIntyre
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 March
3rd Sunday
in Lent
Year C 2025



Parish Services

25th to 30th of March 2025

Tuesday 5.00pm Mass
Wednesday 10.00am Mass
Stations of the Cross 4.30pm
Thursday: 10.00am Mass
Friday: 9.30am Adoration & Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass
5.00pm Evening Prayer

Weekend Masses
29th & 30th of March

4th Sunday in Lent
Saturday: 6.00pm Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: 24th to 30th of March.

Jim Foley, Margaret Mizzi, Kenneth Edwards, Alice Tobin, Joyce Jakubik, Cheryl Leonard, Josie Kelly, Michael Mugavin, Elizabeth Moroney, Dan McCabe, Veronica Ketelaars, John David Rundell, Nancy Walsh, John Fothergill, Ted Pound, Bernard Purcell, Kerin Glennen, Judith Lane, Shirley Beavis, John Arundell, Michael Couttie, Jarrod Barclay.

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:

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

Lenten Penance Services, April 12th at 11.00am & 15th @ 7.00pm

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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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: **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 Gunditjmara 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.



Lam was born and raised in rural Vietnam with his farming parents and three siblings. As a 27-year-old man of very short stature, he experienced significant physical and social barriers due to his disability.

When Lam graduated high school, many of his fellow students pursued career aspirations at university. But it wasn't the same for Lam, whose physical disability meant few vocations available to him.

Without access to employment opportunities, he stayed at home with his parents in their rural home where he spent most of his time completing household chores with his family, harvesting vegetables, feeding chickens and cooking meals. Lam felt increasingly isolated and felt disconnected from his friends, from society and from his dream of becoming a graphic designer.

Caritas Australia's partner in Vietnam, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), opened the door for Lam to pursue his dream of becoming a graphic designer. The I-SHINE program is designed to help children and youth with disabilities in Vietnam access education, vocational training and start-up opportunities to generate an income.

Lam took part in the I-SHINE program where he was financially supported to complete a six-month IT Technician training course in Da Nang, an urban city approximately 50km from his hometown.

Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need. You can support Project Compassion 2025 by scanning our own parish's QR code here.



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 \$536.00

Target \$55,000

Total YTD 2024-2025, \$39,044.40

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: \$656.25

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

3rd Week in Lent Year C

First Reading Ex 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

^{3:1} Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. ³ Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." ⁴ When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶ He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. ⁷ Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, ⁸ and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ¹³ But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I am has sent me to you.'" ¹⁵ God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The Lord, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11.

(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 does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)

4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12

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

Brothers and Sisters; ^{10:1} I do not want you to be una-

ware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Lk 13:1-9

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus was teaching the crowds;

^{13:1} At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"

³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." ⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.

⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Praying with Pope Francis

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

Prayer for March - for families in crisis: Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Southern Stars Gathering, Sunday, March 30th

Join us for afternoon tea and beach games at the Bridgewater Beach BBQ area past the surf club, starting at 2:00 PM. Bring a snack to share and your competitive spirit!

If the weather misbehaves, we'll take shelter in the BBQ area—so rain, hail, or shine, the fun will go on!

3rd Week in Lent Year C 2025, Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

When Jesus is asked about the deaths of some Galileans and some residents of Jerusalem, he seizes the opportunity to remind his audience that their obsession with the 'sin' of the victims is misplaced. He challenges all who are listening that unless they repent, they will all perish in a similar fashion. This would have been very confronting to those in the audience who were ingrained in the thinking that 'bad things only happen to bad people'.

The purity codes of the day stated that if one maintained purity of action – obeying the Law and respecting the prohibitions on certain actions – then one was fulfilling one's duty and maintaining right relationship with God. Jesus chastises the people for this attitude and tells them that they all must 'repent'. For 1st Century Jews, the word 'repent' had a greater depth of meaning than our current understanding. Rather than simply 'being sorry', to repent meant to completely turn life around – both individually and as a society. His injunction to repent would be seen as a challenge to question motives and actions and set a new direction.

To follow this up, Jesus tells his audience a parable about a fig tree that has not borne fruit after three years. There are many interpretations of this parable and it is often interpreted in isolation from the gospel passage that immediately precedes it. Given the challenge to 'repent' that is given so strongly, we can see the parable as an example to the listeners that their time for repenting is running out. The one year reprieve for the fig tree is an indication to the listeners that their change of heart and change of spirit had better take shape in the very near future.

Scriptural context – Parables

The parable of the unproductive fig tree at the end of today's passage is not a straightforward story with a clear message. Indeed, this is a hallmark of the style of storytelling that we call 'parable'. A parable is deliberately open to interpretation at different levels. In the first instance, today's parable is a simple farming story. However, the original audience knew (as we know) that there had to be more to the story. Parables use metaphoric and symbolic language that invites the listener or reader to explore deeper and find a meaning that lies beyond the literal.

Living the Gospel – Bad Things / Good People

Today's gospel taps in to the vexing question: 'Why do bad things happen to good people?' The question implies that God is punishing good people. Surprisingly, this attitude continues and one only has to watch news coverage of a tragedy to hear someone ask, 'How could God let this happen?' The very question suggests a belief in a God who interferes in our lives and manipulates events. Jesus suggests that tragic events are not punishment from God, but the accidental, deliberate or natural event does provide a reminder to turn our lives around and live lives that matter.

Gospel Focus – Repent

Throughout the gospels, Jesus challenged the prevailing 'purity codes' that separated and classified people. The Jewish religious officials of the day were obsessed with the 'letter of the Law' as it applied to purity observance. Jesus told them that a spirit of compassion was much more important than the blind adherence to the Law. He suggests that it is not the lack of observance of purity codes that makes a person 'unclean' or 'sinful'; rather, it is lack of compassion informing their actions towards others. The call to 'repent' is a call to complete conversion of heart – to take on an attitude of compassion.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. In what way/s is today's gospel confronting to modern sensibilities?
2. What social wrongs are justified by a belief that bad things happen to bad people?
3. Why is the need for repentance presented with such urgency?
4. Where in your life is there a need for 'repentance' – a change of heart to one of compassion?

Learning moments:

- What evidence exists in our world today that we still need to hear Jesus' challenge to move away from a legalistic view of what is 'right' to a view that is informed by compassion?
- Develop group definitions of the terms 'repentance', 'conversion' and 'compassion' by first developing lists of examples, non-examples and characteristics for each term (a Frayer Concept Model).

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.