

Liturgy Rosters:

Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

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

Weekend: of 12th & 13th of April:
Passion Sunday Year C
Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday Mass: 10.30am
Reader: M Schultz
Prayers: D Kierce
Minister: B McGenniken
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



**30th of March
4th Sunday
in Lent
Year C 2025**



Parish Services 1st to 6th of April 2025

Tuesday NO MASS
Wednesday 10.00am Mass
Stations of the Cross 4.30pm
Thursday: 10.00am Funeral Mass
Rosana Pekin
Friday: 9.30am Adoration & Morning Prayer
10.00am Mass
5.00pm Evening Prayer
Weekend Masses 5th & 6th of April
5th Sunday in Lent
Saturday: 6.00pm Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Death: Nancy Walsh, Moyne McCombe, Frank Biasol, Rosana Pekin.

Anniversaries: 24th to 30th of March.

Christine Kelly, David Edge, Les Downes, Keith Sawyer, Br Ron Campbell SM, Joyce Whyllie, Margaret James, Dawn Turner, Carmel Dawson, Pat Curran, Rose Troc, Maryanne Gore, Kathleen Meehan, Ron Cruse.

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

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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.



Irene is a young single mother living in Kongolo, a rural area in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). She takes care of her two children, aged 3 and 7, while also supporting her mother and extended family. Her life has been full of challenges, especially since she became a mother at a young age

Irene's life changed after she participated in the Youth Capacity Strengthening program, run by Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Kongolo. Through the program, she undertook training in sewing and agricultural farming, enabling her to generate income to support her family. Irene is determined to use her new income streams to support her children's education and hopes her two boys can one day become doctors.

Irene's newfound skills not only provide financial stability to her family but have also enabled her to take on a mentoring role, training other young women to sew. Through programs like these, your support helps to offer pathways out of poverty in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and beyond.

Life has been tough for Irene, but she worked hard, learnt new skills, and became really good at sewing. Irene has been able to break out of a cycle of poverty. She can now send her son to school and support her extended family too.

"I want to say a big thank you to Caritas Australia and Caritas Kongolo. Thank you so much for uplifting me. I never thought I, Irene, could become someone. I never knew this life was possible," Irene said.

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 \$1361.00**

Target \$55,000

Total YTD 2024-2025, \$40,405.40

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: \$642.05

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

4th Week in Lent Year C

First Reading Jos 5:9-12

A reading from the book of Joshua

9 The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. 10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**

2. Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**

3. Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress. **(R.)**

Second Reading 2 Cor 5:17-21

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

Brothers and Sisters; 5:17 If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 15:18

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Lk 15:1-3. 11-32

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

15:1 The tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." 3 So he told them this parable: 11 "There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he

divided his property between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

21 Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe the best one and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate. 25 "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

27 He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' 31 Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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!

4th Week in Lent Year C 2025, Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

Today's gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Sadly, what is often overlooked is the accusation aimed at Jesus that leads into the telling of this and two other shorter parables (the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin – Lk 15:4-10). The Pharisees and scribes accuse Jesus of what they regard to be abhorrent behaviour in relation to the purity code that dominated 1st Century life: not only does Jesus welcome sinners, he actually shares meals with them. This would be absolutely scandalous behaviour. Who you ate with was a reflection of who you were. To eat with sinners and the unclean effectively made you a sinner and unclean.

The three parables Jesus tells in response to this accusation are all about the lost being found and great rejoicing over the finding of the lost sheep, lost coin, or lost son. The Gospel of Luke – more so than any of the others – has a very strong focus on the message of Jesus being addressed to and welcomed by the outcasts and marginalised; in other words, the 'lost' of his society.

Rather than being embarrassed by the accusation that he ate with sinners, Jesus would have worn those words like a badge of honour. It was exactly what his mission and ministry was all about – being one with the poor; the outcast; the sinful; the lost. The three parables, and particularly the parable of the lost son, demonstrate the joy of a loving God when one who was lost returns. The extravagant welcome the prodigal son receives from his father is symbolic of the extravagance of God's love that will be poured out for any 'sinner' who returns to God.

Historical Context – Customs and culture

The parable of the lost son is a fascinating study of Jewish culture and purity laws. The son could not have distanced himself more from Jewish custom. Firstly, he demanded his inheritance, effectively treating his father as dead. Secondly, he travels to a pagan land and then in despair finds himself feeding pigs – animals whose meat was forbidden to Jews. He knows that his actions have alienated him from his family and culture and yet when he returns, his father gives him a fine robe and a ring to wear – signs of a father claiming a son as his own.

Have you thought? The Prodigal

Because the only context in which most people ever hear the word prodigal is in relation to this parable, there is a common misunderstanding of the word. Because the parable is also referred to as the parable of the lost son, many people think prodigal means lost. However, to be prodigal means to be wastefully extravagant. When the son took his father's money he adopted a prodigal lifestyle. However, the irony of the story that is often lost is that the father too was prodigal in the extravagant welcome he gave. The father's extravagance echoes God's extravagant and abundant grace and love.

From the perspective of ... The Older Brother

We might have a little sympathy for the position of the older brother who has stuck by his father and done all that was required of him. All of a sudden his wayward brother returns and his father pulls out all the stops to welcome him home. The older brother is like the Pharisees and scribes who criticised Jesus for dining with sinners. They were sticklers for the rules and had no sense of compassion if it involved moving outside the requirements of Law. Like the older brother, they could not comprehend a God who could be extravagant in expressing his love.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. In what way does the telling of the parable better answer the Pharisees than a direct confrontation?
2. When have you been like the lost son and acted in haste only to later regret your actions?
3. How do you respond to the older son's reaction?
4. Have you ever had the opportunity to respond to a situation with extravagant love as the father did?
5. What learning do you take from this week's reading and reflection?

Learning moments:

- In three intersecting circles, identify attitudes and feelings for the father, the lost son and the older brother. What attitudes and feelings do the characters have in common?

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.