

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

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
Passion Readers 2 Volunteers Please
Prayers: K Howman
Minister: M Lambert
Computer: A O'Brien

Sunday Mass: 10.30am

Reader: M Schultz
Passion Readers 2 Volunteers Please
Prayers: D Kierce
Minister: B McGennisken
Computer: B Dillon

Weekend of 19th & 20th of April:
Easter Weekend Year C
Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: 3 Volunteers Please
Prayers: 1 Volunteer Please
Minister: 1 Volunteer Please
Computer: Volunteer Please
Sunday: 10.30am
Reader: 1 Volunteer Please
Prayers: 1 Volunteer Please
Minister: 1 Volunteer please
Computer: Volunteer Please

We need volunteers for Ministries in Holy Week, Readers, Communion Ministers & People to have their Feet washed. If you can help, please contact Fr Greg.

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



6th of April
5th Sunday
in Lent
Year C 2025



Parish Services

8th to 13th of April 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
Saturday 10.00am Sacrament of Penance

Weekend Masses 12th & 13th of April

Passion Sunday

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Anniversaries: 7th to 13th of April.

Rev Phil Crotty SJ, Sr Sheila Gleeson RSM, Jenny Anson, Shaun Kelly, Lyn Knowles, Brian Gleeson, Georgina Crowe, Peter McCallum, Josh Thomson, Malcolm Easton, John Clarke, Brendan Hoy, Sr Margaret Houlihan RSM, John Roach, Diana Domburg, Margaret Meerbach, Carmel Malone, Loretta Pye, Wes Sawyer, Norma Grayson.

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 5th & 12th at 10.00am & 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
Postal address 8 Henty Street
Portland VIC 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: **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.



At the heart of Caritas Australia's mission is the belief that we are stronger together. In 2025, we embrace Partnership as our guiding value, recognising that real change can only happen when we walk alongside one another in faith, hope and love.

Partnership embodies the belief that collaborative efforts are essential to effect meaningful and sustainable change. This commitment to partnership is deeply rooted in the organisation's values, guiding its approach to humanitarian aid and development.

Project Compassion 2025 exemplifies Caritas Australia's dedication to partnership. Under the theme *Unite Against Poverty*, this annual Lenten fundraiser calls upon individuals, schools, parishes and organisations to join forces and work hand-in-hand to address global poverty. This initiative emphasises that while individual actions are impactful, collective efforts can lead to transformative change.

By participating in and donating to Project Compassion, you become part of a larger movement that demonstrates that unity and collaboration can effectively help combat poverty, inequality and injustice.

Partnership is more than just collaboration. It is a heartfelt connection that honours the dignity and potential of every individual. By walking alongside communities, we become instruments of God's compassion, fostering hope and resilience.

*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 \$936.00

Target \$55,000

Total YTD 2024-2025, \$41,341.40

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: \$811.30

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

5th Sunday in Lent Year C 2025

First Reading Is 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

43:16 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 17 who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 18 Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. 19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20 The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, 21 the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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 3:8-14

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

Brothers and Sisters; 3:8 I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already

reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel Jn 8:1-11

From the holy Gospel according to John.

8:1 While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. 5 Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 8 And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. 9 When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. 10 Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

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 April - for the use of new technologies: *Let us pray that the use of new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of each person and will help us face the crises of our times.*

5th Week in Lent Year C 2025, Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

This entire scene is a conspiratorial 'set-up' to trap Jesus. Jewish law dictated that adultery was to be punished by death for both parties. However, the Roman occupation had forbidden the Jewish authorities to carry out the death penalty. By bringing the woman to Jesus they sought to place him in a no-win situation. If he upheld the Jewish law and ordered the death penalty, then he was flaunting Roman law. If he did not uphold the law then he could be branded as a false teacher. They thought it was a perfect trap!

But where is the man with whom the woman was committing adultery? When he is not also brought forward for judgment as any legitimate accusation would demand, Jesus senses the trap being set for him. He realises that those accusing the woman must have somehow been involved in setting her up so that she could be 'caught committing adultery'.

In Jewish law, accessories to a crime were equally guilty and subject to the same penalty. When Jesus says to the gathering, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned ...,' he's letting them know that he's aware of their part in this crime and what judgment is due them also! If they persist with their accusation, they'll also be tried as accessories! So they quietly walk away.

Jesus' words to the woman sum up his message throughout the gospel: 'Neither do I condemn you, go away, and don't sin any more.' As with others in the gospels, Jesus recognises that the woman has indeed sinned, but he does not condemn her for it. By telling her not to sin any more he is calling her to conversion. He is saying, yes, you've made mistakes, but you can do better and I'm challenging you to try.

Gospel Focus – Restoring honour

When the accused woman is brought before Jesus for judgment he neither looks at the woman nor at the accusers. He bends down and writes in the dirt. When the accusers melt away, Jesus (still kneeling on the ground) looks up at the woman to speak to her. She has probably never been treated with this level of respect in all her life. With this action, as much as anything else, Jesus restores dignity and honour to the woman. No longer looked down upon, she can begin a new life.

Living the Gospel – Forgiven, not forgotten

The words Jesus speaks to the accused woman could as easily be addressed to each of us. We all feel at times that we've done the wrong thing – something we don't deserve to be forgiven for. However, Jesus says to us, I know you've done the wrong thing, and you are already forgiven, but you need to make a commitment to change and not repeat the error. It is Jesus' promise not to give up on us – not to forget about us – that we can draw strength from as we try to respond to his challenge to change.

Scriptural context – Jerusalem

This gospel passage begins with Jesus going to the Mount of Olives. We know the Mount of Olives best from the passion narratives in the synoptic gospels. But today's passage is not part of the last week of Jesus' life. The three synoptic gospels generally portray the ministry of Jesus as something of a journey towards Jerusalem and have him arriving just in time for the Passover and his arrest. However, the gospel of John places most of Jesus' ministry in and around Jerusalem to better focus the tension between the teachings of Jesus and the Jewish hierarchy.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. Why did the Pharisees see this incident as a test for Jesus?
2. What is achieved by Jesus bending down and focusing his attention on the ground?
3. What happened to the mob mentality when Jesus challenged them?
4. Have you ever been in a situation where group behaviour overtook individual thought and action?
5. When Jesus says, 'Go, and don't sin any more,' how can that be applied to your life?

Learning moments:

- Jesus restored dignity and honour to the woman who was the focus of the group. Identify simple ways in which it is possible for you to give back honour and dignity to a person that you know of who has fallen out of favour with a group.

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.