

Liturgy Rosters:

Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

Weekend of 26th & 27th September:

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm

Reader: K Howman
Prayers: D Kierce
Minister: A O'Brien & P Howman
Computer: P O'Brien

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: J Amor
Prayers: K Arnott
Minister: J Sandeman & K Loftus
Computer: B Dillon

Weekend of 3rd & 4th of October:

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm

Reader: D Bennett
Prayers: D Baudinette
Minister: M Lambert & D Kierce
Computer: P Prestley

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: K Arnott
Prayers: J Sandeman
Minister: B & M McGennissen
Computer: B Dillon

Weekend of 10th & 11th of October:

Vigil Mass: 6.00pm

Reader: P Howman
Prayers: K Howman
Minister: A O'Brien & D Kierce
Computer: A Ryan

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: M Schultz
Prayers: K Loftus
Minister: J Sandeman & I Eichler
Computer: B Dillon

All Saints Outreach Op-Shop:

(In Woolworth's Car park)
Phone: 0459067617

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 Closed

Tuesday 10am - 3pm
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



27th
September
2026 26th
Sunday
Ordinary
Time Year A



Weekday Masses and Prayers
24th August to the 8th of October 2026

For Funerals & Medical emergencies during Fr Greg's Annual leave; please contact Western Boder Parish, on 55711161.

Morning Prayer Wednesday to Friday at 10.00am.
Rosary 4.00pm every Wednesday.
A weekday Mass will be celebrated on Thursday the 3rd, Friday the 18th of August & on Friday the 2nd of October at 10.30am.
Weekend Masses for Sundays in Ordinary Time.

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Death: .
Anniversaries: 28th of Sept to 4th of October

Mollie Carey, Michael-Angelo Galea, Michael Vella, Irene Pat Thomas, Bernie Croft, Eileen Laidlaw, Vincent Powell, Joseph Nguyen Van Doi, Ray Keating, Garry Jennings, Kenneth Ryan, Bradley Herbertson, Sam Mizzi, Jim Whitehead, Paul Kierce, Heather Phillips, Gwenda Sweeney, Donald Murphy, Pat Stretch, Edward Shepherd, Rex Stewart, Ted McKenzie, Ivy Wilson.

Prayer Requests:

Les Hildebrand, Lea-anne Bourke, Margaret Herbertson, Deanne Atkinson & Irene Courbois.

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.

Praying with Pope Leo XIV

Prayer for September. For the care of water. Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



"The Spire"

All Saints Parish

Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor

All Saints Parish Office

Entry via 8 Henty Street

Postal Address 8 Henty St Portland 3305

Parish Mobile 0459067612

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: 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 Gundiṯjmarra 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.

Facing a tough journey

Sunday is World Day of Migrants and Refugees when we are asked by the Church to consider the courage, dignity, and contributions of people who leave their homes in search of safety, peace, and better opportunities. This year's theme, *Even just one of these children* (Matthew 18:10), focuses attention on the children and young people affected by migration and forced displacement.

Pope Leo XIV says recognition of fundamental human rights represents one of the most important achievements in human history. The Church contributes to this journey, says the pope, by recalling that dignity arises from the very being of each person.

"Human dignity does not depend on a person's abilities, wealth or position in life, nor on the right or wrong choices made," he says. "Instead, it is a gift that precedes and transcends each person, endowed by God as an expression of his unfailing love."

Pope Leo quoted his encyclical Magnifica Humanitas, stressing that every human being is "planned and willed by God" for communion with him, with others and with creation.

He says this infinite dignity is rooted in humanity's creation in the image of God. Christ reveals the ultimate foundation of this dignity by revealing humanity to itself and making known to us our highest calling, he added.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Chair of the Bishops Commission for Evangelisation, Laity and Ministry (BCELM) and Bishop Delegate for the ACMRO, said the theme challenges Australians to pay closer attention to a frequently overlooked dimension of migration.

"We frequently hear the voices and experiences of adult migrants and refugees, but we tend to forget the children involved," Archbishop Prowse said.

Resources are available at: <https://acmro.catholic.org.au/>



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
figures inc eft; \$801.00

Planned giving inc EFT to date; \$14484.20

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; \$805.00
Retired Priests: \$546.80

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

First Reading Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows:

18:25 Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? **26** When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. **27** Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. **28** Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth, in your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is good and upright, he shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

2:1If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, **2**make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. **3**Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. **4**Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. **5**Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, **6**who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, **7**but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, **8**he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross. **9**Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name

that is above every name, **10**so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11**and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 21:28-32

From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people;

28 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." **29** He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. **30** The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. **31** Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. **32** For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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CatholicCare Victoria Winter Appeal

This winter, your kindness can help someone rebuild their life. Across Victoria, many people are just one crisis away from homelessness.

Your donation to CatholicCare Victoria provides safe housing, practical assistance and ongoing support.

Donate at;
<https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/winter-appeal/>

Majellan Christmas Cards

Majellan Christmas cards are now available. Why not send a loved one or family friend a beautiful card this festive season to show how much you care?

Click to order:

[2026 Majellan Christmas Cards: 10 Cards and Envelopes for \\$12.00 Includes Postage](#)

Sourced from www.majellan.media

GOSPEL REFLECTION Greg Sunter

This week's gospel passage is one of many within Matthew's gospel that show Jesus at odds with the religious authorities of his day. The picture of the religious leaders that comes through Matthew's gospel is one of hypocrisy. Jesus is frequently portrayed as criticising the leaders for holding too strongly to the letter of the law and ignoring the spirit of the law and the call to compassion. This week's passage has Jesus seeking the opinion of the chief priests and elders on a hypothetical situation (a common style of debating a point of law in the Jewish tradition). He describes two sons, each asked by their father to go and work in the family vineyard. The first says 'No' but later does his father's bidding. The second says 'Yes' but doesn't follow through on his commitment.

Jesus is criticising the religious leaders of his time who, with their words, said 'Yes' to God but by their actions said 'No'. He most certainly would have upset the leaders by telling them that tax collectors and prostitutes would enter the kingdom of God before them. Whilst these tax collectors and prostitutes were regarded by the religious authorities as 'sinners' beyond redemption, Jesus holds them up in the image of the first son of the story. Although they may have said 'No' to God through their poor choices, ultimately they are saying 'Yes' to God in their acceptance of Jesus and the message of the kingdom of God. On the other hand, the leaders have said 'Yes' to God publicly through abiding by all the religious laws and maintaining a 'religious profile' but in their hearts and actions they have not truly said 'Yes!'

From the perspective of ... A Tax Collector

Hey, Jesus is talking about me again! I love it when he says that I'm better than some of those stuck up chief priests. All my life they've looked down on me; pretending they're better than me. I've seen the way some of them behave when they think no-one's watching! They're no better than me! And Jesus says that people like me will enter the kingdom before people like them! Yes! I know I've done the wrong thing plenty of times – Jesus has helped me to see that. Maybe that's what makes me different from those priests; I don't pretend that I've never done anything wrong.

Historical Context – Chief Priests and Tax Collectors

Only men of the Israelite tribe of Levi could become Priests and Levites. Men from the other eleven tribes were prohibited. It was not a religious 'call' but rather a fact of birth that led men to be priests. The chief priests and high priest performed all the rituals in the Temple in Jerusalem – it was they who performed sacrifices on behalf of others. They were very important and influential. Tax collectors were regarded poorly because they acted on behalf of the Romans – collecting revenue for an occupying and pagan force. They made their living by collecting extra amounts. They were looked down upon by most people.

Living the Gospel – Saying 'Yes!'

In many ways, it is easy to say 'Yes' and not really mean it. Some people do it all the time in their lives. They say 'Yes' when they have no intention at all of following through on their commitment. It's easy to say 'Yes' and not mean it when it comes to faith as well. It's pretty easy to turn up at Church on a Sunday and be seen to be doing the 'right' thing. But if our faith doesn't change the way we live, then maybe we're really saying 'No' to God.

Questions for Reflection

Which character in the gospel story do you relate to? Why?

In what ways have you ever said 'Yes' with your words but 'No' with your actions?

In what ways do people say 'Yes' to God but fail to follow through on their commitment?

What message for your life do you take from this week's gospel?

Learning moments

Compile two charts: ways in which people say 'Yes' to God; and ways in which people say 'No' to God.

Construct a 'social ladder' for the gospel passage, placing each character mentioned in the passage on a rung of a ladder that represents their perceived social status in the 1st century. Discuss a re-arrangement of the placements according to Jesus' view of people.

Conduct online research into the role of Chief Priests in the Jewish tradition of Jesus' time.

© 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.