

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

This Weekend: 27th 28th January

Saturday: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: M Picard
Prayers: A McIntyre
Ministers: I Eichler
Computer: B Dillon

Following Weekend: 3rd & 4th February

Saturday: 6.00pm

Reader: G Priestley
Prayers: K Howman
Minister: A O'Brien
Computer: D Kierce

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: B Healy
Prayers: K Loftus
Ministers: B McGennissen
Computer: B Dillon

Following Weekend: 10th & 11th February

Saturday: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am

Reader: P Coultie
Prayers: I Eichler
Ministers: A McIntyre
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 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 3 hours in the mornings or afternoons.

Please contact Kate Howman 0428 235 218 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



28th January
2024

4th Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Year B



Portland Daily Services

**Fr Greg away 29th Jan till 2nd Feb, no
weekday Masses**

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 3rd February: 6.00pm Mass
Sunday 4th February: 10.30am Mass

Recent Death: John-Paul Cairns

Anniversaries: 29th Jan to 4th Feb

Greg Lindsey, Sandra O'Brien, John Platt, Paul Beattie, Norma Oliver, Maria Vella, Glyn Amos, Marie Condon, Kevin O'Connor, Ethel Carr, Beryl Lovell, Kathleen Price, Kevin Coggin, Elaine Wallace, Lauri Fleri, Noel Peck, Eugene Del Fierro, Charlie Keane, Jack Proudfoot.

Prayer Requests:

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

If you have any prayer requests please contact Antonella at 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

Dates to Remember

Ash Wednesday 14th February
Mass 10.00am & 6.00pm All Saints Church

Bishop's Visitation: 24th & 25th February

Passion Sunday 24th March
Easter Triduum 28th to 30th March
Easter Sunday 31st March

***Please mute your
phone in the
Church.***



"The Spire"

All Saints Parish

Portland - Heywood - Dartmoor

All Saints Parish Office
Entry via 8 Henty Street
PO Box 210 Portland 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

Tuesday to Thursday 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 Gundiḡmara 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.

Southern Stars Family Group.

Our first activity for 2024 will be a picnic/sausage sizzle on Sunday 04 February.

We will gather at the traditional location on the Foreshore, next to the skate park and the Trawler Wharf, on Sunday morning.

Pat & Anne O'Brien will be there from 11.30 a.m. in order to secure a BBQ and will bring along sausages, onions and bread for the "multitude".

Please BYO everything (including chairs) and, if possible, something to share.

In case of wet weather, which on the basis of recent experience may be a possibility, we will switch locations to Nun's Beach and the shelter there.

Our Parish Finance

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given inc. eft \$834.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023-2024, \$34,084.10

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

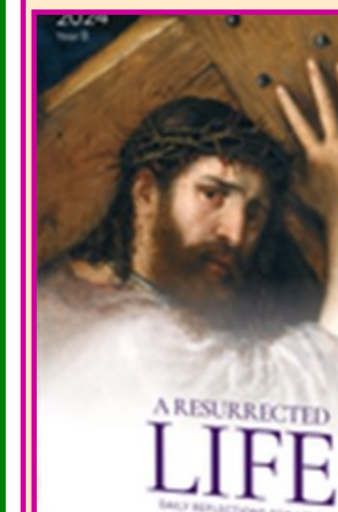
Presbytery Account

Priest support, inc eft: \$875.95

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



Evangelisation Brisbane has developed a new Lent and Easter reflection resource called "A Resurrected Life".

Written for busy individuals but easily adapted for groups, each day includes a scripture reading and a reflection upon it, some questions to aid prayer and discussion, and relevant quotes from Pope Francis.

We have ordered 30 copies; to reserved one for yourself, please place \$6.00 in an envelope with your name and Label it "A Resurrected Life".

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people:

15 The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. **16** This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: 'If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die.' **17** Then the Lord replied to me: 'They are right in what they have said. **18** I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. **19** Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. **20** But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak that prophet shall die.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2, 6-9. R. v.9

(R.) If today, you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us.

Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice, harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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

Brothers and Sisters; **32** I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the affairs of the Lord, how to please the Lord; **33** but the married man is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please his wife, **34** and his interests are divided. And the unmarried woman and the virgin are anxious about the affairs of the Lord, so that they may be holy in body and spirit; but the married woman is anxious about the affairs of the world, how to please her husband. **35** I say this for your own benefit, not to put any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and unhindered devotion to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light: a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 1:21-28

From the holy Gospel according to Mark.

21 They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. **22** They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. **23** Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, **24** and he cried out, 'What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' **25** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' **26** And the unclean spirit, throwing him into convulsions and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. **27** They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, 'What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.' **28** At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Laudato Si': Everything is connected

In his encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis reminds us that everything is connected. Our relationship with nature is not separate from our relationship with God and others. This concept of integral ecology encourages us to care for the Earth and each other. It calls us to action.

Quote for January.

"Be compost smart" Did you know? Learning more about composting helps the earth. Instead of just food scraps, you can also compost cardboard, egg cartons, paper napkins, grass clippings and newspapers.

Praying with Pope Francis:

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at;

www.thepopevideo.org.

Pope's intention for January – For the gift of diversity: Let us pray that the Spirit helps us recognise the gifts of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

Although this week's gospel is a relatively short passage, there's a lot going on within it. Firstly, we are presented with Jesus going to the synagogue in Capernaum and teaching there. This immediately indicates that Jesus must have been quite well educated – he was obviously able to read from the Torah in Hebrew and then teach about it with an impressive level of authority. In fact at the end of the passage, the people seem more impressed with his teaching than with the act of casting out the unclean spirit! Secondly, in the interaction with the unclean spirit, it knows Jesus and identifies him as the 'Holy One of God'. Jesus sharply tells the spirit to 'Be quiet!' Jesus almost appears to want to silence the spirit before it says any more about who he really is. This is a feature of the gospel of Mark in which the identity of Jesus as the Messiah is kept under wraps but breaks out in unlikely places – known as the Messianic secret.

Whenever an exorcism miracle occurs in the gospels the emphasis is on the reaction to the miracle much more than the action itself. Here, the casting out of the unclean spirit appears to confirm for the people the authority that they sensed in the teaching of Jesus. Liberating the possessed man from the unclean spirit is an illustration of the way in which the people themselves were liberated by Jesus' teaching. It is the message, the teaching, of Jesus that frees people. It is in this way that his understanding of Messiah is revealed. Jesus wants people to come to that knowledge through understanding his message, rather than being impressed by miraculous actions.

Historical Context – He said what?

In an age when most people were illiterate, Jesus appears to have been quite well educated. Some suggest that he may have spoken three or four different languages. He obviously spoke everyday Aramaic, as it was spoken in that region. Jesus also appears to have been taught Hebrew, the language of religious texts and religious practice. Greek, the language of trade in marketplaces, was a language that Jesus probably used when helping Joseph sell his carpentry products at stalls and markets. Finally, Jesus probably picked up a reasonable amount of Latin, the language of the Roman occupiers – he was able to hold a conversation with Pontius Pilate.

Scriptural context – The Messianic Secret

A feature of the Gospel of Mark is an element of secrecy and confusion that surrounds Jesus' identity. He silences demons who would announce his identity and warns those he heals to be quiet about what has occurred. There is a real lack of understanding displayed by the disciples about who Jesus is. At one point, Jesus asks the disciples, 'who do you think I am?' They identify him as the Messiah but immediately demonstrate that they don't really understand what that means. The theme that runs through the gospel is a developing understanding of what it means that Jesus is the Messiah.

Gospel Focus – Exorcisms

This week's gospel features an exorcism by Jesus – driving an unclean spirit out of a possessed man. Some people read these acts of exorcism as being literally true. Others are keen to demonstrate that these 'possessions' described in the gospels are able to be explained by various manifestations of mental illness. The thrashing fits described in the gospels have been likened to epileptic seizures, and episodes of paranoia and schizophrenia might explain the first century understanding of possession. Rather than trying to justify or explain away these events, we must seek to understand the gospel writer's purpose in including such episodes.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. How might the scribe who normally taught in the synagogue have reacted to Jesus' actions?
2. What does the gospel writer seek to bring into focus by using the exorcism event?
3. Why might Jesus' teaching have been so remarkable to the people?
4. Who are some of the 'teachers' of authority today?
5. In what area of life today do we most need the 'freeing' message of Jesus?

Learning moments:

Identify a 'teacher' who has been a significant influence on you – it may be a classroom teacher, a sporting coach, a mentor, a friend or relative who taught you about yourself, etc. Describe the person, what it is they taught you and how you have tried to act on their teaching.

© 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.