

Liturgy Rosters:  
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

**This Weekend: 10th & 11th February**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**  
Reader: G Priestley  
Prayers: P O'Brien  
Minister: D Kierce  
Computer: A O'Brien

**Sunday: 10.30am**  
Reader: P Couttie  
Prayers: I Eichler  
Ministers: A McIntyre  
Computer: B Dillon

**Next Weekend: 17th & 18th February**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**  
Reader: D Baudinette  
Prayers: D Bennett  
Minister: K Howman  
Computer: A O'Brien

**Sunday: 10.30am**  
Reader: A McIntyre  
Prayers: K Loftus  
Ministers: J Sandeman  
Computer: B Dillon

**Following Weekend: 24th & 25th February**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**  
Reader: J Howman  
Prayers: D Baudinette  
Minister: M Lambert  
Computer: K Howman

**Sunday: 10.30am**  
Reader: D Kierce  
Prayers: M Schultz  
Ministers: K Loftus  
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 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**



11th February 2024  
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B



## Portland Daily Services 13th to 18th of February 2024

### Tuesday NO MASS

Ash Wednesday 10.00am Mass  
4.30pm Rosary  
6.00pm Mass

Thursday: 2.00pm Funeral Prayers  
For the late Mr. John-Paul Cairns

Friday Morning Prayer 9.30am  
Mass 10.00am  
Evening Prayer 5.00pm

### February 17/18th 1st Sunday in Lent

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass  
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

### Anniversaries: 12th to 18th of February.

Paul Bennett, Don Mulraney, Bernadette Ziesing IBVM, Rose Moylan, Riley Hutchinson, Margaret Lardner, Jennifer Ward, Edward Whitten, Janette McKenzie, Eric Spencer, Helen & Trevor Troeth, Barbara Couttie, Mary Florence Walsh, Anne Sharrock, Margaret O'Dea, Peter Crowe, Ian Berry, Pat Lloyd, Mary McCluskey, Ann Parry, Graeme Firth, Katrina Cairns.

### 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\*

**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](mailto:portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes)  
Rev. Gregory A. D. Tait, P.P.  
email: [greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:greg.tait@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Mobile 0475 512530

Parish Office Hours: Most Tuesdays 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 Gunditjmarra 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.

## Our Parish Finance

### Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given inc. eft \$416.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023-2024, \$34,648.10

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: \$ 643.70

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

# THANK YOU

# PROJECT

# COMPASSION

FOR ALL FUTURE GENERATIONS



**DONATE NOW** Caritas AUSTRALIA End poverty Promote justice Uphold dignity

[caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) 1800 024 413 #projectcompassion

Printed on a sustainable, purpler green fibre and fully recyclable. ABN 90 970 005 009. P3324

## Project Compassion Sunday - February 11, 2024

During the six weeks of Project Compassion, millions of Australians unite to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. This year, Caritas Australia celebrates 60 years of service.

## Liturgy of the Word

**First Reading**      **Leviticus 13:1-2,44-46**

A reading from the book of Leviticus

13:1 The Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:

2 When a person has on the skin of his body a swelling or an eruption or a spot, and it turns into a leprous disease on the skin of his body, he shall be brought to Aaron the priest or to one of his sons the priests. 44 he is leprous, he is unclean. The priest shall pronounce him unclean; the disease is on his head. 45 The person who has the leprous disease shall wear torn clothes and let the hair of his head be disheveled; and he shall cover his upper lip and cry out, 'Unclean, unclean.' 46 He shall remain unclean as long as he has the disease; he is unclean. He shall live alone; his dwelling shall be outside the camp.

The word of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm**      **Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7**

**(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.

O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**

2. But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.

I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'

And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**

3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!

O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

**Second Reading**      **1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1**

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

31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. 32 Give no offence to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, 33 just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, so that they may be saved. 11:1 Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation**      **Luke 7:16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

**Gospel**

**Mark 1:40-45**

From the holy Gospel according to Mark.

1:40 A leper came to Jesus begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' 42 Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean. 43 After sternly warning him he sent him away at once, 44 saying to him, 'See that you say nothing to anyone; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer for your cleansing what Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.' 45 But he went out and began to proclaim it freely, and to spread the word, so that Jesus could no longer go into a town openly, but stayed out in the country; and people came to him from every quarter.

The Gospel of the Lord.

© The Scripture quotations contained herein are adapted from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyrighted, 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America, and are used by permission. All rights reserved. The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.

### **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 February.**

*"Think before you buy" Did you know? A great way to reduce waste is to think about whether you need something before you buy it. See if you can buy it second hand rather than new. Buying from small local business is also a good way to reduce your environmental impact.*

#### **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](http://www.thepopevideo.org).

#### **Pope's intention for February:**

**For the terminally ill:** *Let us pray that the sick who are in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.*

## World Day of Prayer 2024

At Bayview College, Friday, 1st March at 10:30 am. The country of focus for this year is Palestine with the theme of the service being "I beg you ... bear with one another in love". World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome everyone to join in prayer and action for peace and justice.

### **Volunteers for the Mass of the Oils 2024:**

As part of the Ballarat Diocese's 150 year Anniversary the diocese invites 1 – 2 volunteers from each parish to attend the Mass of the Oils on Monday March 25, 2024 at 1.30am. Volunteers would be required to present a symbol or photo at the beginning of Mass that best represents our parish. *Please contact Fr Greg ASAP, if you would like to be involved.*

## Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

### **Historical Context – Leprosy**

To be a leper in 1st Century Palestine was to be utterly rejected from society. They were not permitted to engage in religious practice as they were permanently regarded as being ritually unclean and, indeed, unable to become clean as long as their disease lasted. The book of Leviticus, quoted in today's first reading, contains two whole chapters of rules regarding lepers. Lepers were forced to live outside of any village for fear of contamination and even had to call out a warning of 'Unclean! Unclean!' if anyone came near them. They were forced to beg for food and money because no-one would hire them. They were literally on the very edge of society.

### **Gospel Focus – What's in a word?**

Verse 41 of this week's reading begins, 'Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand.' This translation is from the Jerusalem Bible but if we were to consider other translations of the Bible we would find other phrases used such as: moved with pity; filled with pity; moved with compassion; filled with compassion; or even, filled with anger. By comparison, 'Feeling sorry for him' seems a weak translation. Jesus' reaction is a fully human one of indignation at what this man is forced to endure. It is a gut-wrenching response from the very core of Jesus' humanity.

### **Living the Gospel – Who is your leper?**

There is a story of Francis of Assisi in which he encountered a horribly disfigured leper. Initially, Francis was repulsed by the man but remembered that this man too was a child of God and made in the image and likeness of God. Overcoming his fears, Francis ran forward and embraced the man. Rather than seeing the disease, Francis saw the person. We can ask the question, Who is your leper? Who is the person in your life that you need to embrace rather than reject? Who would benefit from you viewing them with different eyes? Soft eyes! Eyes of compassion!

### **Questions for your personal reflection:**

1. Why was it such a brave move for someone with leprosy to approach Jesus?
2. What are the equivalent taboos today?
3. Who are considered the 'lepers' of our communities today? Why?
4. What can we learn from Jesus' response to the man with leprosy?

### **Learning moments:**

Research the life and work of Fr Damien of Molokai – a priest who served the people of the leper colony on the Hawaiian island of Molokai in the second half of the 19th Century. (His life and work was dramatically portrayed in the 2000 film, *Molokai – The Story of Father Damien*.)

© 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.