

Liturgy Rosters:  
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

**This 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: Volunteer Please  
Computer: B Dillon

**Next 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

**Following Weekend: 2nd & 3rd March**

**Saturday: 6.00pm**

Reader: G Priestley  
Prayers: K Howman  
Minister: P Howman  
Computer: D Kierce

**Sunday: 10.30am**

Reader: B Healy  
Prayers: M Picard  
Ministers: D Arnott  
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**



18th February

2024

1st Sunday in Lent  
Year B



## Portland Daily Services 20th to 25th of February 2024

### Tuesday NO MASS Diocesan Zone Meeting

Wednesday 10.00am Mass  
4.30pm Rosary  
Thursday: 10.00am Mass  
Friday Morning Prayer 9.30am  
Mass 10.00am  
Evening Prayer 5.00pm

### 24/25th February 2nd Sunday in Lent

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass  
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

### Anniversaries: 19th to 25th of February.

Lorraine Zordan, Rex Jennings, Emmanuel Farrugia, Owen Williams, Jennifer Diamond IBVM, Peter Burch, Victor Drought, Maureen Saxon, Paddy Delaney, Norm McNess, Peter Lewis, Margaret Farrugia, Barry Edrich, Pat Bourke, William Donohue, Louise Sheba, Nancy Sparrow, Ryan Rieger, Claude Kelson, Cindy Collier, John Smith, Bob Wood.

### 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.*

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words; be silent and listen.



## Diocesan 150th Anniversary 2024

As part of the Anniversary celebrations, Bishop Paul will make a pastoral visit to each Parish. Next weekend he will be with us for all Masses and a shared lunch on Sunday. Please bring a plate & BYO cold drinks to share at lunch in the Presbytery after the 10.30am mass.

## Our Parish Finances

### Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given inc. eft \$591.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023-2024, \$35,239.10

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: \$ 787.95

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

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading Genesis 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis

9:8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' 12 God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

The word of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

**(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

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.

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 1 Peter 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

3:18 For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, 19 in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, 20 who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few,

that is, eight people, were saved through water. 21 And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord.

### Gospel Acclamation Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

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

### Gospel Mark 1:12-15

From the holy Gospel according to Mark.

12 And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. 14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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**Praying with Pope Francis:** Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer.

### 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.*



**The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on March 30, 2024. During this year there will be many events to acknowledge this significant anniversary. Keep up-to-date at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/>**

## 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:

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start – a clean slate – for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

### Have you thought? Temptation?

When we adopt a view of Jesus as the Son of God, it is hard to imagine him even facing temptation, let alone the possibility of him giving in to it. However, when we see Jesus as also being fully human, we realise that he was just as likely to face temptation as we are. But what might have tempted Jesus? Was he tempted to simply go back to his life in Joseph's carpentry business and not respond to God's call? Was he tempted to display his power in flashy demonstrations for all to see? Was he tempted to despair at what lay ahead of him?

### Living the Gospel – Change of heart

Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God's transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind (a metanoia) and the adoption of a new orientation, a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God. This is a challenge to be counter-cultural – to go 'against the flow' of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an 'easy option' that we are called to live. Jesus' call to 'repent and believe' is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

### Historical Context – The Wilderness

The Jordan Valley was a relatively fertile area. However, Jesus would not have had to travel too great a distance to find himself in very arid, desert-like wilderness. Crossing the River Jordan and climbing out of the Jordan Valley to the east, Jesus would have emerged onto the northern part of the TransJordan Plateau and the edge of the Syrian Desert. The area was not only geographically rough but it was also full of bandits and rebels. It was a dangerous place to be. However, the desert wilderness holds great significance in the Bible as a place of preparation for a new stage of life or a new relationship with God.

### Questions for your personal reflection:

1. What does the image of the wilderness mean to you?
2. When have you felt that you were in a desert period of your life?
3. How do you prepare yourself for something that you know is going to be challenging?
4. In what areas of your life do you need to see someone or something with 'new eyes'?
5. What are the signs that the kingdom of God is still close at hand?
- 6.

### Learning moments:

Lent is a season of preparation looking towards the celebration of Easter. Traditionally, people 'prepared themselves' by making sacrifices or giving up certain activities or foods for the period of Lent. Prepare a personal list of ways in which you can use this season effectively to prepare for the Easter celebration.

© 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.