

Liturgy Rosters:
Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

This 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

Next Weekend: 9th & 10th March

Saturday: 6.00pm
Reader: D Bennett
Prayers: P O'Brien
Minister: M Lambert
Computer: A O'Brien
Sunday: 10.30am
Reader: M Picard
Prayers: K Arnott
Ministers: D Arnott
Computer: B Dillon

Following Weekend: 16th & 17th March

Saturday: 6.00pm
Reader: P O'Brien
Prayers: D Kierce
Minister: K Howman
Computer: A O'Brien
Sunday: 10.30am
Reader: M Schultz
Prayers: K Loftus
Ministers: M McGenniken
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



**3rd of March
2024
3rd Sunday in
Lent
Year B**



**Portland Daily Services
4th to 10th of March 2024**

Tuesday: No Mass
Wednesday: No Mass
4.30pm Rosary
Thursday: No Mass
Friday: 9.30am Morning Prayer
10.00am Anointing Mass
Evening Prayer 5.00pm

9th & 10th March 3rd Sunday in Lent

Saturday: 6.00pm Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Death: David Roy Stevens.
Anniversaries: 4th to 10th of March.

Lorna Barclay, Frank Webb, Dora Bourke, Anna Ackerley, Gerard Sculley, Kizzie O'Dea, John Muldoon, Barry Payne, Allan Radford, Thomas Carlon, Angelo Bagnato, Mario Real, Roger Graham, Tom Finnegan, Michael McLoughlin, Margaret Humphries, Kevin Cass, Ada Wilson, Kiah Finlayson, Eric Baudinette, Steve Wilson, Peg Quinlivan, Dennis O'Keefe, Owen Lance Henman, David Galvin.

Prayer Requests:

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

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

Sunday 17th of March; St Patrick's Day Lunch 11.30am at the Presbytery.

Passion Sunday 24th March

Mass of the Holy Oils; 11.30am, 25th March St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

Easter Triduum 28th to 30th March

Easter Sunday 31st March

Easter Anointing Mass Friday, 5th of April at 10.00am & 11.00am Morning Tea in Presbytery.

"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: 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.



Samoa may be a country surrounded by water, but access to clean drinking water is scarce in some areas, with many families facing extreme hardship as a result. Leaia lives with her five children, husband, brother and sister-in-law on the island of Upolu in Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water caused Leaia a lot of worry.

Their home is not connected to a piped water system, so they had to rely solely on rainwater collected in old fridges. When their water ran out, Leaia had to walk with her young children to collect water in buckets and containers from a neighbour down the street. With the support of Caritas Australia's local partner, Caritas Samoa, a water tank was installed at Leaia's home.

She and her family now have a steady supply of clean drinking water at home. Next year, they will also have a toilet built, with the support of Caritas Samoa, which will further improve their health and living conditions. "We are very thankful and grateful for the water tank. It has helped us so much and made our daily life easier," Leaia said.

Please donate to Project Compassion. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Our Parish Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Given inc. eft \$556.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023-2024, \$36,973.10

Project Compassion 2024 \$170.00 so far.

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: \$738.05

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 **Exodus 20:1-3,7-8,12-17**

A reading from the book of Exodus

20:1 God spoke all these words.

2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; **3** you shall have no other gods before me.

7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy.

12 Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

13 You shall not murder.

14 You shall not commit adultery.

15 You shall not steal.

16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

17 You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 18:8-11. R. Jn 6:68**

(R.) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. **(R.)**

2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. **(R.)**

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. **(R.)**

4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:22-25**

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

1:22 For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, **23** but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24** but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks,

Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation **John 3:16**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

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

Gospel **John 2:13-25**

From the holy Gospel according to John.

2:13 The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. **15** Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. **16** He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' **17** His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' **18** The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' **19** Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' **20** The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' **21** But he was speaking of the temple of his body. **22** After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

23 When he was in Jerusalem during the Passover festival, many believed in his name because they saw the signs that he was doing. **24** But Jesus on his part would not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people **25** and needed no one to testify about anyone; for he himself knew what was in everyone.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Clergy Appointments for 2024; Bishop Paul Bird announces the following Diocesan Clergy appointments that will take effect on April 10th, 2024.

Ballarat Cathedral Parish, Ballarat North Parish and Beaufort Parish.

Administrator: Fr Edward Moloney, Assistant Priests: Fr James McKay, Fr Francis Kureckal MST

Ballarat East Parish, Bungaree Parish and Gordon Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Justin Driscoll, Assistant Priest: Fr Matthew Restall

Redan Parish, Sebastopol Parish and Linton Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Concord Bagaoisan OSJ, Assistant Priest: Fr Eladio Lizada OSJ

Wendouree Parish, Creswick Parish and Daylesford Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Marcello Colasante VG

Paul VI Parish in the Wimmera-Mallee; Fr Sajan Mathew Assistant Priest.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

The Temple in Jerusalem was (and still is) a powerful symbol of holiness and a symbol of the connection and relationship between God and the Hebrew people. It is often assumed that Jesus' anger was directed at the traders and moneychangers because their business had infringed on and desecrated the temple precinct. But the reality is a bit more complicated. The Temple was the holiest site for sacrifice to God. The tradition dictated that sacrifice made by a priest on the altar was the highest form of worship. The best animal to sacrifice was a healthy, properly formed creature. Rather than walking a lamb all the way from somewhere like Galilee to Jerusalem, the faithful would purchase their sacrifice animal at the Temple itself – thus the presence of the people selling cattle, sheep and doves. However, to further complicate matters, the Temple traders would not accept Roman coins to purchase the sacrificial animals as they bore the image of the deified emperor. Therefore, money changers were required to exchange Roman currency for acceptable coinage – so the money changers were also playing their part in the prayer life of the Temple.

Jesus' outrage is not so much with the traders and the money-changers as with the whole religious practice and hierarchical structure that has developed to a point where the only way a person can pray in a 'valid' way is to purchase an animal and hand it over to a priest who goes behind a screened wall to sacrifice the animal. The only way to seek God's forgiveness and mercy was to 'buy' it at the Temple. This was what outraged Jesus. He could not stomach the injustice nor the barriers that had been erected between the people and their God.

Scriptural context

This episode of outrage in the Temple is recorded in all four of the Gospels. Interestingly, the three synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke place the event in the final days leading to Passion events while the Gospel of John places the event in the very early days of Jesus' public ministry. While the three synoptics are likely to be more chronologically correct, the Gospel of John uses the event very deliberately to make the point that Jesus is the new Temple – the new focus of God's presence in the world; the Word made flesh.

Historical Context

In Jewish tradition, the Temple marked the point of physical connection between God and humankind and between the past and the present. It was where God's story and humanity's story met. However, in the year 70 C.E. – some 40 years after Jesus – the Temple was destroyed by the Romans. The gospel of John is written another 20+ years later and so the reality of the Temple's destruction is still trying to be absorbed by the people. It was a very powerful image for the gospel writer to suggest that Jesus was the new Temple – the new point of connection.

Different View – Just like Jesus

This gospel passage must be one of the most commonly misused passages in the Bible. So often it is used as justification for someone losing their temper, or worse, an outrageous temper tantrum, or 'dummy spit'. People will declare in their defence, 'Well, Jesus lost his temper and got angry in the Temple!' They fail to appreciate the difference between their own hot-headedness and the outrage against injustice that was being expressed by Jesus. They also seem to miss the significance of the fact that this was a 'one off' for Jesus!

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. In what ways is this a 'difficult' story about Jesus?
2. What was Jesus' dream of the way people should be able to relate to God?
3. Are there Church practices today that may be seen as unjust or discriminatory?
4. What everyday forms of injustice exist in your local community?
5. How can you challenge injustice?

Learning moments:

- Develop a mind map of different people who would have witnessed Jesus' actions in the temple; what their reactions may have been; and how that event may have affected them. (e.g. traders, money-changers, disciples, priests, wealthy worshippers, poor and outcast, a woman)
- Identify a situation of injustice at a national level and write to relevant local and federal politicians to encourage peaceful and just solutions.

© 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.