

Liturgy Rosters:
 Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish
 This Weekend: 20th & 21st April

Vigil: 6.00pm
 Reader: D Bennett
 Prayers: D Baudinette
 Minister: Di Kierce
 Computer: Volunteer Please

Sunday: 10.30am
 Reader: M Picard
 Prayers: A McIntyre
 Minister: I Eichler
 Computer: B Dillon

Next Weekend: 27th & 28th April

Vigil: 6.00pm
 Reader: D Baudinette
 Prayers: P Howman
 Minister: K Howman
 Computer: Volunteer please

Sunday: 10.30am
 Reader: B Healy
 Prayers: K Loftus
 Minister: B McGennisken
 Computer: B Dillon

Following Weekend: 4th & 5th May

Vigil: 6.00pm
 Reader: P Howman
 Prayers: D Baudinette
 Minister: K Howman
 Computer: Volunteer please

Sunday: 10.30am
 Reader: P Couttie
 Prayers: I Eichler
 Minister: 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 normally 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.

We currently have a pressing need for Volunteers on each of the days of operating during our advertised Hours.

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



**21st of April
 2024
 4th Sunday in
 Easter
 Year B**



4th Week in Easter Services

23rd to 28th of April 2024

**Tuesday 2.00pm Graveside Service
 Heywood Cemetery - Mrs. Susan Fitzpatrick
 5.00pm Mass with Bishop Paul & DOBCEL Board**

**Wednesday: 10.00am Mass
 4.30pm Rosary**

Thursday: 10.00am Mass

**Friday: 9.30am Morning Prayer
 10.00am Mass**

**2.00pm 140th Anniversary Service
 Bayview College Gymnasium
 5.00pm Evening Prayer**

27th & 28th April 5th Sunday in Easter

Saturday: 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Deaths: Alan Amphlett Lewis, Susan Fitzpatrick, Linda May Pevitt, Kevin Cherry.

Anniversaries: 22nd to 28th of April.

Joan Johnson, Peter Harris, Rudy Legray, Christopher Powell, Pat Glennen, Teresa Howard, Peter West, Greg Pound, Carmen del Fierro, Hazel Miriam Stevenson.

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

Prayers for ANZAC Day

We pray for all airmen, sailors and soldiers who served and bravely lost their lives in battle during times of conflict, especially members of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. May they rest in the peace of Christ and rise in glory on the last day.

We remember all families, parents and children who lost loved ones through war. May the light of God's hope and strength comfort them.

"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 Gundiṯimara 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.

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 below and banners for April attached "Learn about your food". Did you know? Discovering more about food helps you eat meals that are better for the planet. Learn if your snack grew on a tree or comes from a farm. How did it end up in that wrapper?

World Day of Prayer for Vocations: Sunday, April 21, 2024

The Universal Church celebrates Vocation Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Easter. This is an opportunity for all to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life.

We remember young women and men throughout our country and diocese and pray they may be open to hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to marriage, the single life, the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit of wisdom and divine love, awaken in the hearts of the young, Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel.

May they discover the vocation wherein they can best serve God to be of service to their sisters and brothers. In flame all young hearts with courage and grant them your peace.

Mary, Mother of our Saviour, and our Mother, pray for us.

Our Parish Finances

Planned Giving for Parish Account

Planned Given inc. eft \$702.00

Target \$62,400

Total YTD 2023-2024, \$43,428.10

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: \$ 831.60

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

Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men: it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. **(R.)**

2. I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**

3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John

^{3:1} See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia!

Gospel

John 10:11-18

From the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said:

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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Praying with Pope Francis: The Pope's World-wide 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.

Pope's intention for April:

For the role of women: Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

Diocesan History Timeline & Parish History

As part of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, a timeline of significant dates and events over the past 150 years has been published on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/history-2/

There has also been an "Our History" section added to parish pages on the website for parishes to update with their own history. If you would like to add any dates to the diocesan timeline or need assistance with adding information to the parish "Our History" section, please email pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

The image of Jesus as the good shepherd is such a familiar image that it can sometimes become over-familiar and cease to engage us. Countless works of art have presented this image literally, picturing Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep or even with a lamb draped around the back of his neck. The image from this week's gospel often gets merged with the image from the parable of the lost sheep that appears in the gospels of Luke (15:1-7) and Matthew (18:10-14) where artists frequently place Jesus as the hero of his own parable and portray him as the 'good shepherd' going out to retrieve the one lost sheep. Such amalgamations of different gospel images can become very confusing. Some of this confusion and literal interpretation stems from the gospel writer's choice of metaphoric language. In the gospel, Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd', not 'I am like the good shepherd'. The writer's use of metaphor, rather than simile, provides a much more compelling image but can result in a more literal interpretation.

The emphasis of the image is on the adjective. Jesus is the good shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people – more like the scum of the earth! – so the choice of image is a deliberate one to unsettle the listeners. Unlike their normal expectation of shepherds – cut-throats who would run away at the first sign of danger – Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep. The final verses of the passage make an interesting extension to the image of shepherd and sheep. Unlike the 'sacrificial lamb', the good shepherd chooses to lay down his life and also has the power to take it up again.

Historical Context – The GOOD Shepherd?

The John gospel writer's use of the image of Jesus as the good shepherd would have been a confronting image for the initial audience. Shepherds in first century Palestine were far from the idyllic pastoral image that we generally associate with the image. They occupied one of the lowest steps on the social ladder – men of such poor reputation that they could only be trusted to herd sheep; they certainly couldn't be trusted around other people! Jesus' use of the image cut two ways: it was a confronting image for the audience; but it was also a challenge to those leaders who had been charged to 'shepherd' their people and behaved no better than thieves – Jesus was giving them an image of what it means to be a good shepherd.

Scriptural context – The Shepherd Messiah

The gospels go to great lengths to affirm the lineage of Jesus and associate him with the house of David, the first great Jewish king. David began life as a simple boy tending his father's flock of sheep. When the line of kings was instigated through David they were charged with being 'shepherds' of their people. However, down through the line of kings, this care for the people was lost and they ceased to be 'shepherds'. Jesus' claim to be the good shepherd is his claim to be in the line of the true kings of Israel – a shepherd of the people.

Different View – The Australian Shepherd

Australian audiences can tend to struggle a bit with the image of Jesus as the good shepherd. The Australian image of sheep is one of huge flocks of sheep that number in their hundreds and thousands and roam freely over enormous open plains. I guess we also tend to look on sheep as pretty stupid animals that will follow anything anywhere. It doesn't seem to work to put Jesus into this image of vast sheep stations. The idea of a shepherd knowing his sheep individually seems a bit ridiculous in this context.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. How does the image of the good shepherd speak to your life and experience?
2. Have you ever seen yourself as needing to be the good shepherd for someone else?
3. Are there times you have acted more like the 'hired man' – fleeing in the face of threat or difficulty?
4. How might this image be misinterpreted?

Learning moments.

- Explore the history of the kings of Israel from King David to King Herod – were they ever truly shepherds to the people?
- Create a prayer that reflects the image of Jesus as the good shepherd.

© 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.