

Liturgy Rosters:

Many thanks for your ministry in the Parish

Weekend of 25th & 26th of January:
3rd week in Ordinary Time Year C
Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: G Priestley
Prayers: D Baudinette
Minister: M Lambert
Computer: Volunteer Please

Sunday: 10.30am
Reader: M Picard
Prayers: J Sandeman
Minister: I Eichler
Computer: Volunteer Please

Weekend of 1st & 2nd of February:
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
Vigil: 6.00pm

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

Sunday: 10.30am
Reader: K Loftus
Prayers: K Arnott
Minister: D Arnott
Computer: B Dillon

Weekend: of 8th & 9th of February
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C
Vigil: 6.00pm

Reader: D Bennet
Prayers: D Baudinette
Minister: K Howman
Computer: A O'Brien

Sunday Mass: 10.30am
Reader: D Kierce
Prayers: I Eichler
Minister: K 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 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 2-3 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, and for on-call volunteers who can fill in at other times.

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



26th of January 2025
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C



Parish Services

29th January to 2nd February 2025

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

Weekend Masses
1st & 2nd of February
4th week in Ordinary Time
Saturday: 6.00pm Mass
Sunday: 10.30am Mass

Recent Death: Josie Trimble, Mather Bell, Evelyn Bush, Betty Lindbeck.
Anniversaries: 27th January to 2nd of February. Jim Ketelaars, John Wilson, Margaret Brown, 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.

If you have any prayer requests please contact 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

Please Mute your phone in the Church during Mass



Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old.

Prayer for January – For the right to an education: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

"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.



A year of hope.

So, a new year begins. It is a Jubilee Year which has the theme Pilgrims of Hope. Speaking to pilgrims at the Vatican earlier this month, Pope Francis emphasised that hope is not merely a character trait but rather a theological virtue.

"Many of you are here in Rome as 'pilgrims of hope ... the jubilee is a new beginning, the possibility for everyone to start anew from God. With the jubilee we start a new life, a new phase."

Hundreds of thousands of people are expected to travel to Rome for the various events on offer. The first major event of the 2025 holy year is the Jubilee of the World of Communications to be held from Friday to Sunday. The Vatican expects thousands of journalists and media professionals to attend.

We will also celebrate Australia Day this Sunday while the holiday is scheduled for Monday. Who doesn't like a long weekend? While the date has been somewhat controversial in recent times, no matter whether you believe we should keep January 26 or change the date, there needs to be respect for all views.

One thing is certain. This is a great country and we are lucky we can call it home. What else 2025 brings only time will tell. We must continue to pray for peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and Sudan. While an uneasy truce exists between Hamas and Israel and more hostages are being released which is a welcome development, too many people have suffered for too long.

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We now have CDF Pay; You can use this QR Code portal for all you giving if you wish.

****Before using please cancel any prior electronic payments**.**

When you access this code, follow the prompts for frequency of payment, then amount, then; "My giving is for ..." Stewardship, (Parish Account) or Priest Support (Presbytery Account), then record your personal and Card details as the prompts ask you. Thank you. Fr Gregory Tait PP

Planned Giving for Parish Account
Given this week inc eft \$551.00

Target \$55,000

Total YTD 2024-2025, \$30,056.40

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: \$661.90

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

3rd Week in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading Nehemiah 8:1-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel.

²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8-10, 15. R.

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and 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. May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Cor 12:12-14, 27

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

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body Jews or Greeks, slaves or free and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21

From the holy Gospel according to Luke.

^{1:1}Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. ¹⁴Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C 2025, Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter:

This week marks the beginning of the liturgical use of the gospel of Luke that will feature throughout this year. The choice of passage to begin our journey with Luke is most appropriate. We have the first four verses of the gospel in which the writer makes his purpose clear. We then skip over all the infancy narrative and pick up again in chapter 4 of the gospel where Jesus makes his first public appearance.

Jesus returns to the synagogue in which he has worshipped all his life. He is given the scroll of Isaiah to read and reads the first two verses of Isaiah, chapter 61. But in the middle of this passage he flips back to chapter 58 of Isaiah and reads an additional line, 'to set the downtrodden (oppressed) free'. This event in Nazareth is sometimes referred to as Jesus' inauguration or declaration of mission. The inclusion of the additional verse from Isaiah signals very clearly the way in which Jesus will be portrayed throughout this particular gospel. The gospel of Luke is characterised by the focus of Jesus' mission on the outcast; the oppressed; the downtrodden.

The gospel of Luke is often described as a gospel of compassion. Throughout the gospel we see Jesus enact the verses from Isaiah – bringing good news to the lowliest of society; inviting the least to share in the reign of God. In fact, having read from the scripture, Jesus' very simple homily on the text is 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen'. Jesus declares himself to be acting out and fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah. This short extract from Isaiah that Jesus adopted as his own 'mission statement' is indeed a mission statement for all Christian people. This is what we too are called to do.

Scriptural context – Framing

On either side of the quote from Isaiah in today's gospel there are very symmetrical actions. Before reading, Jesus stands, is handed the scroll and then unrolls the scroll. On completion he rolls up the scroll, hands it back and then sits down. There is a balance to every action. This framing or bracketing technique is used throughout the gospel of Luke as a cue to the audience. Whenever this framing occurs, it means that there is a very important teaching or action that occurs within the frame. On this occasion, the frame surrounds Jesus declaring his intentions for his ministry.

Have you thought? – Different accounts

The gospel of Luke begins, 'Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us ...' It indicates that there were many different accounts of Jesus' life circulating at the time of writing. In the years following Jesus' death there developed many different oral traditions that described the life and teachings of Jesus. A large number of these traditions were written down as what are now regarded as non-canonical or apocryphal writings – not recognised as part of the 'canon' of the Bible. They include gospels of Thomas, Peter, Mary, Philip and Barnabas.

Historical Context – Theophilus

The gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles are written by the same person, or at least the same community. They are often regarded as a single work – Luke-Acts – as one flows directly into the other. Both books begin with an inscription to Theophilus. The Greek name, Theophilus, translates as 'lover of God'. Some scholars suggest that the name is a pseudonym for any lover of God or someone in particular whose identity must be shielded. Others argue that Theophilus was an influential Roman who had taken a great interest in the early Christian movement.

Questions for your personal reflection:

1. What effect does the author achieve through the opening four verses of the gospel?
2. In what way can this gospel passage be seen as a declaration of mission by Jesus?
3. What might be meant by 'the Lord's year of favour'?
4. In what ways are you able to work toward achieving the actions Jesus named as his mission?

Learning moments:

- Create concept maps to explore the meaning of each of the actions named in the Isaiah text (good news to the poor; liberty to captives; new sight to the blind; set the downtrodden free; and proclaim the Lord's year of favour.)
- Compare the opening lines of the four gospels. How would you characterise each of the four beginnings and what it may indicate about the gospel?

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.