



First Australian Evangeline is an Artswoker at the Djilpin Arts Ghunmarn Culture Centre where she is flourishing with new skills and a passion for the preservation and promotion of her Aboriginal culture.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help First Australians to gain new skills and renewed passion to preserve and celebrate traditional culture.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion 1800 024 413

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – 6 March

Today is traditionally known as Laetare Sunday, when the church invites us to take a ‘break’ from the austerity of Lent and add to our liturgy instrumental music, rose coloured vestments, and even flowers to adorn the church. But this is not a time for lessening our vigilance. In the collect prayer Christians are reminded to continue the ‘Lenten Campaign’ with the assurance that we are coming closer to the solemn celebrations of Easter.

Our Gospel today is John’s account of the blind man’s encounter with Jesus. In John the blind man doesn’t ask for healing. Rather the evangelist uses the man born blind to teach about God’s goodness. The Pharisees believed that sickness and physical disabilities were God’s punishment for sin. Jesus teaches rather that illness offers the possibility of God’s graciousness. This is a powerful message for our own times where many people in the world suffer from some kind of hardship, be it physical, mental or material. It would be simple to blame God for their misfortunes, but as Christians we know that their wellbeing depends not on God, but ourselves, who are disciples of Christ.

In Australia many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have become separated from their culture and struggle to find their identity. They are often ignored and marginalised in conversations and policies which affect their well-being. It is our responsibility to give back to our first peoples what our forebears have taken from them - land, dignity and freedom.

In remote Aboriginal communities, such as the one featured in Project Compassion this week, art, storytelling and ritual are important ways to preserve culture and so uphold the dignity and self-worth that is a basic human right. Jesus invites us to live the message of today’s Gospel, to be the missionaries of the word who reflect the goodness of God. We who have much, have the means to uphold the dignity of our first peoples by our generous giving of our resources.

Saint of the week: Born 1380, Dies 1447. Colette was the daughter of a carpenter named DeBoilet at Corby [Abbey](#) in Picardy, France. She was born on January 13, christened Nicolette, and called Colette. Orphaned at seventeen, she distributed her inheritance to the poor. She became a Franciscan tertiary, and lived at Corby as a solitary. She soon became well known for her [holiness](#) and spiritual wisdom.

Joke of the week

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large tray of apples. A nun lettered a note and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."
Moving along the lunch line, at the other end was a large tray of chocolate chip cookies. A girl wrote a note, which she put next to the tray of cookies, "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

Children and the Toilet –

Just a reminder that all children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult when going to the toilets during Mass. This is for the safety of the children.

Lifeline: 131114 Ararat Police: 5355 1500 Sexual Assault Crisis line: 1800 806 292
Counselling service: Relationships Australia – 1800 052 674 Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Towards Healing – 1800 099 340



**Sunday, 6 Mar 2016:
Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year C**

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which The Church of The Immaculate Conception is built, the Tjapwurong people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

First Reading *Jos 5:9-12*

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9*
(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

- I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. **(R.)**
- Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free. **(R.)**
- Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him & rescued him from all his distress **(R.)**

Second Reading *2 Cor 5:17-21*

Gospel Acclamation *Lk 15:18*
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.
Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel *Lk 15:1-3. 11-32*

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5th/6th March 2016

RECENT DEATHS:
Alison Burmester, Arthur Spiller
Bernadette Ferguson *nee Joyce* (Hamilton)

ANNIVERSARIES:
Margaret Sinnott, Fr. Wladyslali Ziolkos, Pat Kenny, Zita Thomas, Phyllis Sertori, Leo Heenan, George Edwards, Amy Sertori, Tony Guinan, May Mercovich, Kieran Hennessy
Trevor Mast, Irene Ferguson, Ken Haslett, Fr Brian Murphy SJ, James Hennessy, John Costello, Betty Stevens

SICK:
Shirley Billet, Fr. Brendan Davey, Natasha Martens and Wendy Shea.

Please Pray for the Intentions of:
Libby Shea, Audrey Brown

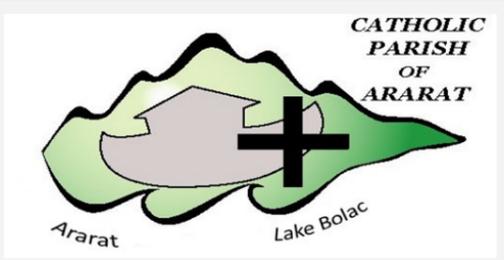
Baptisms: Welcome to the World!
Sophie Grace Morgan—daughter of Renee and Michael

Prayer of Pope Francis for the Year of Mercy
Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

CHURCHES - Immaculate Conception, Ararat
St. Bernard's, Lake Bolac

CONTACT US

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PRIEST:
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Office Hours
Tues/Wed/Fri 9am—2pm

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

	<u>Ararat</u>	<u>Lake Bolac</u>
Saturday	6.00pm	
Sunday	10.30am	8.30am
2nd Sunday of Every Month		8.30am Lay Assembly

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Wed 9th	9.30am	Ararat
Thurs 10th	9.30am	Ararat
Fri 11th	10.30am	Retirement Village
	6pm	Hopkins

A VOCATION VIEW

Jesus came to forgive. Since people continue to sin, we need people who will continue to forgive in Jesus' way. How about YOU?

“The Vine” will be available this week

“I think we too are the people who, on the one hand, want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: mercy. I think — and I say it with humility — that this is the Lord's most powerful message: mercy.”

Read more at more at **-Pope Francis @Pontifex 2015**

St. Mary's Parish

304a Barkly St. or PO Box 92
Ararat, 3377 Ararat, 3377

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Andrew Hayes
PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Mr Tom Hogan
PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE: Mrs Carmel Barker
PARISH SECRETARY: Ms Joyce Clery

Diocese's Notices

Nazareth House Ballarat St Patrick's Day Coffee Party

Once again the Nazareth House Auxiliary is having its annual St Patrick's Day Coffee Party on Thursday, March 17, 2015 at 1.30pm in the Hall. All welcome.

Diocesan RCIA & Sacrament Facilitator

Applications are sought for a new position within the Ballarat Diocese - Diocesan RCIA and Sacrament Facilitator (3 days per week). Details are in the attached Position Description. Applications close March 15, 2016.

Are you buying Slavery-free Easter Chocolate this year?

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) is urging people to eat only slavery-free chocolate, especially this Easter. Did you know that much of the chocolate available in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved, or forced to work in exploitative conditions?

Walk for Justice for Refugees 2016

Palm Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 2.00pm at the State Library, cnr Swanston and La Trobe Streets, Melbourne. More information at www.facebook.com/palmsundaywalk. Flyer is on the notice board in the Church Foyer

Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning
Sat Mar 5th	Bill Slatter	Peter Brady	A. Reynolds, L. Horsman & C. McAdie	N/A	Marg Joyce	Emma Coburn & Jo Jackson	Tom Rees & Jim Crowe	M. Dempsey & M. Jerram	Jo Donnan & K. Scherger
Sun Mar 6th	H. Collins	A. Collins	C. Bulger, M. de Jong & K. Chamings	H&A Collins	L&D Anderson	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)
Sat Mar 12th	Charlie Reid	Ian Brady	M. McDougall (2 more needed)	N/A	Geoff White & M. Ryan	The Reynolds Family & T. Rees	Geoff White & C. Brennan	M. Egan & Maureen Brady	M. Fe Galoso & A. Galoso
Sun Mar 13th	Peter Brennan	Rachel Cooper	D&M Lister & Tom Hogan	D&M Lister	L&D Anderson	(as above)	Jim Crowe	(as above)	(as above)

LAKE BOLAC—This Week

READER: H. Smith
PRAYERS: J. Higgins
EUCCHARISTIC
MINISTER: M. Phillips
CLEANING: J. Aldous

LAKE BOLAC—Lay Assembly

Next Week
READER: J. Higgins
PRAYERS: T. Higgins
EUCCHARISTIC
MINISTER: John Higgins
CLEANING: Reg & Helen

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Rural Australians for Refugees

Andrew Jackson is the teacher who changed his mind on Asylum seekers and refugees after his experience as a part of the SBS Series 3 of 'Go Back To Where You Came From.' He will be speaking at the Uniting Church Hall on Saturday March 19 at 1.30pm.

Julian Burnside AO QC

Human rights and refugee advocate, Julian Burnside, will present "Is this really Australia?" at the Hamilton PAC on Sunday April 10 at 2pm. Info in church foyers or email refugee2015hamilton@outlook.com

Lenten Discussion Ararat

Our Lenten discussion will continue after Mass on Thursday morning in the Presbytery.

World Day of Prayer

Ararat—Sunday March 6th 6pm Church of Christ. All welcome.

Stawell C.W.L. Tuesday 8th March Northern Regional Conference ,9.30am start. St. Patrick's School hall Stawell. Reflection led by Father Justin Driscoll at 11am. Mass Celebrated at 12.00 Midday, Reflection recommences at 1.30pm Concludes at 3.00 pm. Morning Tea, Afternoon Tea & Lunch provided Cost \$ 12.00. all Parishioners are welcome.

For catering purposes ... R. S.V.P. 1st March Liz Driscoll. E/Mailedriscoll@westnet.com.au ph.53581724



Palms Australia

Encounter Mission and Development, Encounter Love and Justice, Encounter humble volunteers, Encounter faith, Encounter God.

[Palms Australia will be conducting a guided tour of the communities in which their global volunteers are working in East Timor from](http://www.palms.org.au)

11 -23 April 2016

4 - 16 July 2016

26 September - 8 October 2016

There are limited places. Enquiries need to be processed by **February 22nd** so call 02 9518 9551 or register interest online:

www.palms.org.au/Encounters

QR Code for Young People

