



St Patrick's Stawell, Immaculate Conception Ararat, St Francis of Assisi Landsborough and St Bernard's Lake Bolac form Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd. We acknowledge recognise and respect the elders and families of the Barengi Gadjin and Eastern Maar people, the traditional owners of the land on which our parish gathers. We commit ourselves to walking in unity with our First Nations people.

First Reading **2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23**

A reading from the second book of Chronicles
All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 136. R. v.6**

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!
By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew where we hung our harps. **(R.)**
For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' **(R.)**
O how could we sing the song of the Lord on

alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! **(R.)**

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! **(R.)**

Second Reading **Ephesians 2:4-10**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation **John 3:16**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!



Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest	Fr. Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Bulletin Online	www.ballarat.catholic.org.au – follow link to parish
Secretary / Child Safe	Jill Croxford gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Email	gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Office	304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm
Phone	03 5352 5460
Post Box	PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377



The Office will be closed on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th March.

Changes to Masses this Week

Tues 12th Mass and Lenten Discussion in Stawell - Cancelled

Fri 15th 11am Mass in Ararat will be prayers.

Mass Times

Ararat	Sunday 8.30am
Stawell	Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac	1 st 3 rd 5 th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough	2 nd 4 th Sundays 12.30pm
Glenthompson	(Hamilton Parish) 2 nd 4 th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

17th March 2024
Jeremiah 31:31-34/Hebrews 5:7-9/John 12:20-33

Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

Tuesday: 10am Stawell (Check bulletin for occasional changes)
Wednesday: Aged Care
Thursday: 2.30pm Hopkins
Friday: 11am Ararat (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Aged Care Roster

1st Wednesday 11.15am Eventide
2nd Wednesday 11am Lowe St
3rd Wednesday 10.30am Garden View
4th Wednesday 10am ARVillage

Easter Schedule

Reconciliation (2nd Rite) (Bring a plate to share) Tues March 19th 5.30pm Stawell // 7pm Ararat

Lenten Discussion February 13th – March 21st Stawell after 10am Mass on Tuesdays / Ararat 10am on Thursdays

Holy Week in Stawell Sunday 24th – Saturday March 30th Each day during Holy Week Moira will lead stations of the cross at 10am. Everyone welcome.

Monday March 25 11.30am Mass of the Oils, St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

Holy Thursday Mass 6.30pm Lake Bolac

Good Friday Passion 3pm Stawell

Holy Saturday Vigil 6.30pm Lake Bolac

Easter Sunday 8.30am Ararat // 10.30am Stawell // 12.30pm Landsborough

Anniversaries

Jason Bond, Stanley Mair 1968, Marjorie Forster 1988, Theresa Lightfoot 2003, John Heyward 2008 Francis Vernon (Frank), Tom Hennessy, Phillip Comitti 1981, Fr. Gerard Gasper CSsR, Patricia Monaghan 2007 Margaret Sinnott, Fr. Wladyslali Ziolkos, Pat Kenny, Dorothy Perry 1992, Zita Thomas, Phyllis Sertori, Leo Heenan, George Edwards, Ross McSparron 1969, Roland Charles Thurston, Amy Sertori, Tony Guinan, May Mercovich, Trevor Mast, Kieran Hennessy, Evelyn Monaghan 1967, Irene Ferguson, James Hynes, Alexander Rutter 1946, Patrick Scallaw 1953, Michael Dodd 1963

Lake Bolac Roste

Sat Mar 16th Reader Denise Haslett/ Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgings
Sat Mar 30th Reader Phillip Meeks/ Prayers of Faithful Damian Phillips/Cleaning Team Effort
Sat Apr 6th Reader Val Albert/ Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett/ Cleaning Leanne Breen

Ararat Roster

Sun Mar 10th Facilitator P Brennan/Reader Kath L /Euch Min Anna C
Sun Mar 17th Facilitator Cathy McA/Reader Peter B /Euch Min C Reid
Sun Mar 24th Facilitator Charlie R /Reader Teresa G /Euch Min Mary C

Stawell Roster

Sun Mar 10th S/Minster M Rowe /Reader L Morgan / Offertory M McGaffin
Sun Mar 17th S/Minster K Ashton /Reader J Van Diesen / Offertory Pasqual Family
Sun Mar 24th S/Minster H Potter /Reader C Barker / Offertory Gooden/Pascall

Ararat CWL : The next meeting of the Ararat CWL will be held on Tuesday March 12th at The Ararat Cafe and Bistro for coffee at 2pm.

Harmony Day in Ararat

The Grampians/Gariwerd Rural Australians for Refugees and the Ararat Rural City Council are pleased to invite the Parish of Gariwerd (Stawell & Ararat) to the Ararat Rural Harmony Day 2024 event.

Date: Saturday, 16 March 2024 // Time: 10.00am to 1.00pm // Location: Ararat College , 4 - 30 Barkly St // Cost: Free. No RSVP required . The event will be filled with many mesmerizing performances, delectable cuisines, and engaging activities, showcasing the rich tapestry of cultures within the Ararat Rural City community in a vibrant celebration of cultural diversity. All members of the community, families and children are welcome.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - God's Works of Art

How does God picture us? St Paul reveals one of God's favourite ways of regarding us. 'We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus, to live the good life as from the beginning He had intended us to live it.' Just as an artist respects the medium he or she is working in, whether it be oils or crayon, so too God respects us as human beings with free will. Which is why His works of art don't always look the way He intended! Now, if one has a work of art in the house, a picture or print that means a lot to you, or perhaps the first sketch by a child, do you put it in the darkest corner of the room? Or do you allow just enough light to fall on it so as to reveal how terrific it is, why it gives you pleasure? Of course, the latter. Now, if you and I are God's work of art, God wants exactly the same. He wants us to be revealed in the light. What sort of light? Christ our Light. Of course, it might be necessary for the Light to dispel some darkness, some shadow dimension of our lives. In this regard Christ is a healing Light, but this is so that he might illuminate us in a way which more clearly reveals the love which the Divine Artist has for His creation. We might take a moment to pray for the courage to expose ourselves to Christ's healing light this Lent to be more beautifully illuminated at Easter.

Gospel Reflection

To fully understand this week's gospel passage, it is important to take the first reading into consideration as well. The account from 2 Chronicles describes the way in which the people began to neglect their relationship with God. Despite prophets and messengers being sent to them, they turned their backs on God. At about this time the Israelites were conquered, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the survivors taken into exile in Babylon. For many, this was seen as a punishment from God because of their neglectful and selfish behaviour. But the reading demonstrates God's infinite patience with humankind. God gives the people another chance and calls on them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. God is willing to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It is in this context that we must understand the gospel passage. In yet another attempt to demonstrate love and forgiveness, God's only Son – the Word made Flesh – is sent into the world to lead the people from darkness to light. Despite the many, many attempts by God to demonstrate love and foster a relationship with humankind, the people have repeatedly rejected the relationship with God and preferred to live a life of selfishness and darkness. Yet we see through both of these readings the unquenchable nature of God who keeps giving humankind one more chance. In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love – will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

Being God's handiwork means God took great pride and care in creating us. What are some of your gifts and talents – characteristics that God takes great pride in? Do you feel awkward when you are asked to list your gifts and talents? Why or why not? We were created in Christ to do good works. What are some good works you have already participated in? What are some needs in your school, in your family, in your neighbourhood, in your country and in your world? What is one good work you can focus on doing in the near future? God created a path for us beforehand, so that we might walk on it. Do you think God created a very specific path for each individual? Or do you think God created a very general path of goodness so that each individual might find his or her own way to walk? Explain your answer.

9 & 10 March.

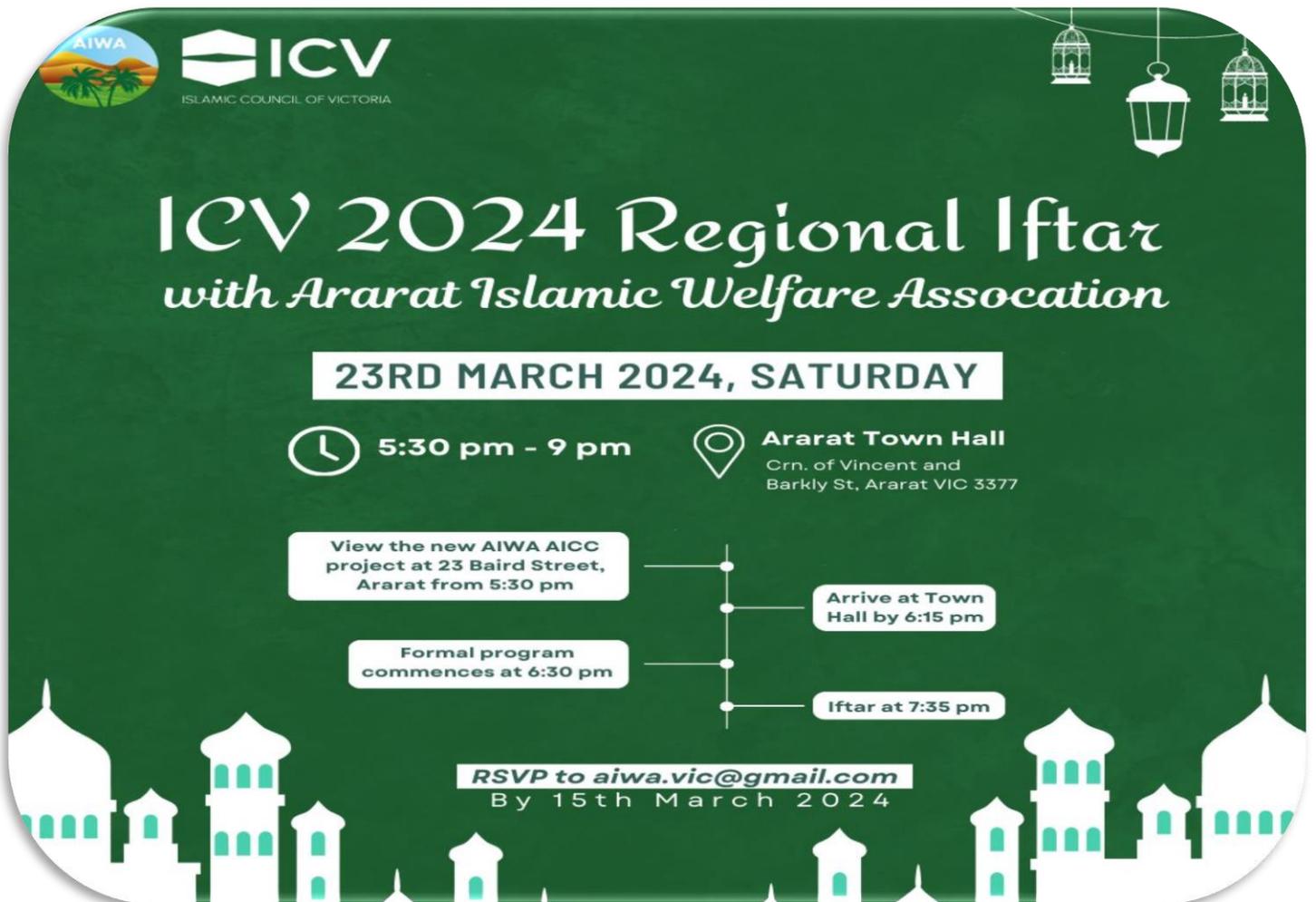


Memory is 26 years old and lives in rural Malawi. As the eldest child in a low-income farming family, Memory had to take on many household chores and farming activities to support her parents. They struggled to pay for Memory's school fees and school supplies, and Memory often had to walk to school barefooted. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM), Memory was able to enrol at a technical college where she learnt technical skills in carpentry. She undertook a three-year carpentry course, with CADECOM supporting part of her tuition and boarding fees. Memory became the first female carpenter from her village. Today, she works as a carpenter at one of Malawi's largest hydroelectric power stations. With the income from her job, she can provide financial support to her family and inspire other young women in her community so that they may have the opportunity to succeed in a male-dominated industry.

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.



AIWA
ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

ICV 2024 Regional Iftar with Ararat Islamic Welfare Association

23RD MARCH 2024, SATURDAY

5:30 pm - 9 pm

Ararat Town Hall
Cnr. of Vincent and Barkly St, Ararat VIC 3377

View the new AIWA AICC project at 23 Baird Street, Ararat from 5:30 pm

Formal program commences at 6:30 pm

Arrive at Town Hall by 6:15 pm

Iftar at 7:35 pm

RSVP to aiwa.vic@gmail.com
By 15th March 2024

A married couple are out one night at a dance club. There's a guy on the dance floor: break dancing, moon walking, back flips, the works. The wife turns to her husband and says, "See that guy? Twenty years ago he proposed to me and I turned him down." The husband says, "Looks like he's still celebrating!"