

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 **Is 49:3. 5-6**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nation's so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.**

(R.) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.
I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. (R.)
You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. (R.)
In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. (R.)
Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

Second Reading **1 Cor 1:1-3**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 1:14. 12**

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Jn 1:29-34**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'



Parish 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 ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Email	ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Office	304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm
Phone	03 5352 5460
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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

January 22nd
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Is 8:23-9:3// 1Cor 1:10-13,17// Mt4:12-23:

Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

Tuesday:	10am Stawell (Check bulletin for occasional changes)
Wednesday:	Aged Care
Thursday:	3.30pm Hopkins
Friday:	11am Ararat (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Aged Care Roster

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

Anniversaries

Bartolo Mercovich, Jack Donovan, Linda Hughes-Soden, Arthur Baird 1970, John Scaletti 2001 Clara Thomas, Peter Pola, Evie Moloney, Brian O'Donnell, Kathleen Canty, Justin Henriksen, Carol Naylor 1969 Peter Arandt, Imelda Gordan Adorative McPhee, Bill Moloney, Bill Coster, David Seary 1950 Evelyn O'Neill, Brendan Moran, Rita Higgins, Ann Wood 1950, Stanley Matthews 1998, Barry Seary 1972, Joan Elliot (Maddocks) 2017 Stan Matthews, Fr John Kirby, Ian Pearce, William Walsh 1970, Sergio Fratin John Shield, Mary Shield, Kathleen Lees, Percival Bushick, Fr. Frank Sexton CSsR, Francis Jaench, Stasia Matters, Norma Wilson, Percival Bushby 1962, Joseph Looby 1991, Andrew Ritchie 2010.

Recent Deaths

William (Dick) Banks & Jan Peterson

Golden Gate Roster

Sun 15th Jan Libby/ Sun 22nd Jan Margaret Olle/ Sun 29th Jan Harry & Anna/ Sun Feb 5th Libby
Sun 12th Feb Teresa/ Sun 19th Feb Jim & Jan / Sun 26th Feb Harry & Anna

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Jan 14th Reader Deb Glasson// Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins// Cleaning Rosemay Liston
Sat Jan 28th Reader Damian Phillips// Prayers of Faithful Helen Smith

Ararat Roster

Sun 15th Jan Facilitator P Brennan//Reader P Brady// Euch Min Sr John
Sun 22nd Jan Facilitator H Collins// Reader K Leggett//Euch Min A Collins
Sun 29th Jan Facilitator Pat McA// Reader Jenny M// Euch Min M Olle

Stawell Roster

Sun 15th Jan S/Minister Kath Ashton// Reader D O'Donnell// Offertory Heenan Family
Sun 22nd Jan S/Minister Marg Rowe// Reader L Morgan// Offertory P Gooden
Sun 29th Jan S/Minister Kath Ashton// Reader M Howard// Offertory J Croton

Thank you Message

Lesley Habben and her family would like to thank every parishioner who passed on their condolences and prayers on the passing of Michael. She would also like to thank Mary Rita and Kevin Dallinger for all their help and support, Fr. Andrew, thank you so much for a lovely service, and your musical expertise. All your efforts were very much appreciated."

St Vincent de Paul

The St Pat's St Vincent de Paul conference would like to thank all parishioners who donated to help those in need in Stawell and region have a happier Christmas. With your help we and Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage helped 138 households made up of 396 people. We helped 198 adults, 51 children aged 14 -18 years old and 147 children aged 0 – 13 years old.

There will be no St Vincent de Paul meeting in Stawell in January.

Catholic Womens League

St Pat's CWL is hosting a cuppa after this Sunday's Mass. Everyone welcome.

Family Reunion in Stawell

Next weekend, January 21 and 22, there will be a family reunion at St Patrick's in Stawell. John Sheehy b 1836 in Kilmoyley, Co Kerry, Ireland married Mary Teresa Murphy b 1857 at St Patricks Catholic Church, Stawell (Pleasant Creek) on January 23, 1873 and lived in Fisher Street Stawell. That is 150 years ago and that is why we the descendants of John and Mary are gathering here in Stawell next weekend. The descendants of Mary's 6 siblings (Murphy-Gallagher) are also included in this reunion which will take place in St. Patricks Church Hall.

Living the Gospel – Pointing the way

John the Baptist fills the role of 'pointing the way' to Jesus. In our own lives we also have the ability to 'point the way' towards Jesus. It doesn't need to be as blatant as John's 'Look, there he is!' However, the way we choose to live our life can point the way just as powerfully as John did. More often than not, our actions speak much more powerfully than any words we might utter. Consistently treating others with respect, maintaining prayer as a central part of life and working for justice in the world will make an impression on others and point the way to Jesus.

Scriptural context – Baptism of Jesus

Each of the three synoptic gospels (Mark, Luke and Matthew) presents an account of the baptism of Jesus. All three versions record the Spirit descending in the form of a dove. In the fourth gospel, it is interesting that the gospel writer does not actually give an account of the baptism as by the time of this gospel's writing the story is well entrenched in the Christian culture. Instead of a baptism account, John the Baptist appears to recall the event. Rather than needing to describe the event, this gospel writer treats it as a given and simply refers to it.

Gospel Focus – Ranking

There is an odd line in today's passage. John reminds the crowd that he had said 'A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me.' In Jewish tradition, the prophets and patriarchs who came earlier in their history ranked higher than those who came later. They believed that the history of salvation was at its pinnacle with God's self-revelation to Abraham. Successive episodes and characters were regarded as lesser. But John affirms that Jesus ranks before himself because Jesus existed before John. He is saying that Jesus is more than simply the latest in a long line of prophets.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist

John refers to himself in terms of the one who baptises and he calls Jesus the 'lamb of God'. Here washing and the burnt offering, baptism and the Cross intersect. In terms of images, fire and water meet at an impossible juncture which confounds natural law, but this paradox is native to God's kingdom.

