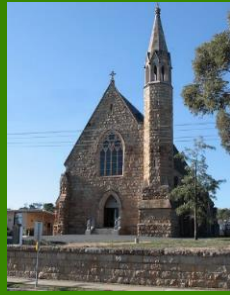




HOLY SPIRIT PARISH



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 the traditional custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their elders both past, present, and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions and culture of our ancient land, Australia. We honour the presence of these ancestors who reside in the imagination of this land and whose spirituality flows through all creation.

Sunday 17th August 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

First Reading

Jeremiah 38:4-6. 8-10

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The king's leading men spoke to the king. 'Let Jeremiah be put to death: he is unquestionably disheartening the remaining soldiers in the city, and all the people too, by talking like this. The fellow does not have the welfare of this people at heart so much as its ruin.' 'He is in your hands as you know,' King Zedekiah answered, 'for the king is powerless against you.' So they took Jeremiah and threw him into the well of Prince Malchiah in the Court of the Guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the well, only mud, and into the mud Jeremiah sank. Ebed-melech came out from the palace and spoke to the king. 'My lord king,' he said, 'these men have done a wicked thing by treating the prophet Jeremiah like this: they have thrown him into the well where he will die.' At this the king gave Ebed-melech the Cushite the following order: 'Take three men

With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us, we too, then, should throw off everything that hinders us, especially the sin that clings so easily, and keep running steadily in the race we have started. Let us not lose sight of Jesus, who leads us in our faith and brings it to perfection: for the sake of the joy which was still in the future, he endured the cross, disregarding the shameful of it, and from now on has taken his place at the right of God's throne. Think of the way he stood such opposition from sinners and then you will not give up for want of courage. In the fight against sin, you have not yet had to keep fighting to the point of death.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 39:2-4. 18. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, come to my aid!

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. **(R.)**
2. He drew me from the deadly pit, from the miry clay. He set my feet upon a rock and made my footsteps firm. **(R.)**
3. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. Many shall see and fear and shall trust in the Lord. **(R.)**
4. As for me, wretched and poor, the Lord thinks of me. You are my rescuer, my help, O God, do not delay! **(R.)**

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1-4

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Gospel

Luke 12:49-53

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Jesus said to his disciples: 'I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already! There is a baptism I must still receive, and how great is my distress till it is over! 'Do you suppose that I am here to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on a household of five will be divided: three against two and two against three; the father divided against the son, son against father, mother against daughter, daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'



Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest Fr. Neville Stanislaus neville.stanislaus@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



Mass Times

Ararat Sunday 9am
Stawell Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac 1st 3rd 5th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough 2nd 4th Sundays 12 noon
Glenthompson (Hamilton Parish) 2nd 4th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

24th August 2025
Isaiah 66:18-21/Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Luke 13:22-30

Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

Tuesday: 10am Stawell (**Not on the 1st Tuesday of each month**)
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 10am Lowe St
3rd Wednesday 10am Garden View
4th Wednesday 10am ARVillage

If there is a Funeral on Tuesdays (Stawell) or Fridays (Ararat) there will be NO Mass on that day.

Anniversaries

Marjorie Carlson, Br. James Threadgold, Brain Pickering, Myrtle Leggett, Mary Stephens 1974, Ronald Lewis 1975, Harriet Torney 1987, Margaret Miethke, Maureen Pye, John Vermeend, Des Callaghan, Janine Ryan, Eileen Carroll, Jean Williams, Barry McArthur, Bernadette Maddocks 1974, Christopher Tilley 1997, Eileen Gavin 2001, John Hozjan 2007, Barry McArthur 2018, Jeanette Ryan, Fr Rodger Shepherd, Barbara Caporn, Gladys Merrett 1983, John Fallon 1991, May Harrington, Kevin Moore, Michele Di Domenico, John Harvey, Berenice Rutter 1997, Mary Colwell, Sergio Tognon, Melrose Naylor 1959, George Thompson 1992, Mary Hickey, Diana Cashin, Frank McAloon, Leila Petersen, Maude Forster 1957, Edward Evans 1960, Charles Lightfoot 1987, Ethel Lannen, Kevin Brady, John Scarsi 1971, Joseph Earle 1987, Margaret Nunweek 1999, Lorna Sargent 2000, Dorothy Woolley 2016, Helen Prowd

Lake Bolac

Sat Aug 16 Reader Rebecca Rodger/ Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins
Sat Aug 30 Reader Tricia Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful Phillip Meek

Ararat Roster

Sun Aug 17th Facilitator Harry / Reader TBA / Euch Min Anna/Charlie
Sun Aug 24th Facilitator Pat M / Reader Jenny M / Euch Min Marg O/Nora
Sun Aug 31st Facilitator MA Mc/ Reader P Brady / Euch Min Genara/Blessie

Stawell Roster

Sun Aug 17th S/Minster S DeLeon & K Ashton /Reader K Dallinger / Offertory G Pascall/P Gooden
Sun Aug 24th S/Minster M R Thomas/D Jones /Reader M Howard / Offertory J Croton
Sun Aug 31 S/Minster L McIntyre & M Howard /Reader G Madafferi / Offertory Heenan Family

Stawell CWL Will be hosting a cuppa after this Sunday's 17th Mass. Everyone welcome.

Stawell St Vincent de Paul will meet at 2pm on Monday 18th August in the St Pat's Church hall.

Combined Churches Service. There will be Fifth Sunday Combined Churches Service on Sunday 31st August hosted by the City Heart, Church of Christ at 5pm. There's a cuppa afterwards and everyone will be made most welcome.

St Patricks Primary School Stawell - Parishioners are warmly invited to join St Patrick's Primary School for our school liturgy celebrating the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. The liturgy will be held on Friday 15th August at 9:00am in the school hall.

Expression of Interest. Holy Spirit Parish owns five one bedroom units in Stawell close to the church. These units were built to house elderly parishioners. If any parishioner wishes to be put on a list to be a tenant when a vacancy occurs please contact Jill on 53525460 or email gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au for an application form.

Season of Creation Outdoor Liturgy – Save the Date

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invites all members of our diocesan parishes to the Season of Creation outdoor liturgy on Friday, September 19, 2025 from 10.30am – 12.00noon (location tbc). More information to follow in the coming weeks. This event will be livestreamed for participation across the diocese.

Mass of the Oils starting time

The Ballarat Catholic Diocesan Liturgical Commission is seeking feedback on the starting time for the annual Mass of the Oils, which is held at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat. Click or scan the QR to indicate your preference.



Caritas Australia - Relay of Hope

The Relay of Hope is a symbolic gesture on a global scale proposed by Caritas Internationalis as part of the Turn Debt into Hope campaign for the 2025 Jubilee. Inspired by the Olympic torch, this candle-lighting activity reflects our shared mission to spread light, life and hope. Rooted in the official Jubilee theme of Pilgrims of Hope, the Relay of Hope will connect communities worldwide and symbolize our unity and solidarity in calling for debt and economic justice. This gesture was chosen because light represents hope that the Jubilee principles will inspire much-needed change. The relay signifies the Caritas family and wider global community journeying collectively to spiritual and social transformation. Each lit candle represents a call to action for debt justice and turning debt into hope. Although it can be done at any time in the Jubilee Year, we are invited to especially organize a Relay of Hope during the Season of Creation between Monday, September 1 and Saturday, October 4, 2025. This will contribute to a wave of action around the world, forming a symbolic chain of unity and solidarity. Resources are available at <https://www.caritas.org.au/resources/parish-materials/tdih-relay/>

Caritas Australia invites us to light a candle and pray for the people of Gaza

God of light, You meet us in the darkest places.

Every year, when we light our Easter candle, we pray 'may the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our minds and hearts.' We pray today that all people may work with you to dispel the darkness of violence and war. May this fragile light be a sign of our hope for the people of Gaza. May they find healing and lasting peace. Amen.

Employment Opportunity - Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator

The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat requires an experienced safeguarding professional to assist the Diocese to maintain and expand the existing safeguarding practices. Further information regarding this position is available at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>

Save with CDF Community Fund – it's in everyone's best interest

When you open a savings or term investment account with CDF Community Fund, you not only get a great return on your savings, but you will also help build new parishes for growing communities, classrooms for students, hospitals for the sick, aged care homes for the elderly, and social service facilities for the poor and vulnerable. With competitive interest rates across a range of accounts, including 4.55% p.a.* on a 6-month Term Investment, it's a way to save while doing good. Open an account today – it's in everyone's best interest. Visit www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund, scan the QR code, or speak to us on 1800 134 135. *Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.





REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - I have come to bring fire

A fierce fire in a eucalyptus forest bursts open the seed pods, cleanses the soil of smothering undergrowth, and returns nutrients to the soil to germinate the seeds. It is that sort of fire which Jesus brings to the earth. So, at Pentecost, He sent His Holy Spirit '... like tongues of fire', bursting the early disciples out of the protective shell of the 'Upper Room', allowing them to be germinated as seeds of the early Church. It is the same in every generation which has to ask: What personal, family or social situations provide a hard casing which must be cracked open? What is the smothering undergrowth which prevents our germination as fearless disciples? Jesus himself felt smothered by the small-minded people of Nazareth to which He never returned. He warns that families and good friends can try to smother the spark He wishes to ignite. We might pause for a moment to pray that the fiery Holy Spirit might enable us to become a stand of tall trees reaching for the Risen Son in all His glory.

Gospel Reflection

This week's short and sharp gospel brings to mind two popular sayings (sometimes regarded as blessings, and sometimes regarded as curses). The first is fictitiously ascribed as an ancient Chinese saying, 'May you live in interesting times!' The inference of the blessing/curse is that 'interesting times' equate to disturbing, tumultuous times or times of rapid change. Some people thrive on such change and upheaval, while others dread the thought of change. The second blessing/curse is, 'May the peace of Christ disturb you!' It occasionally turns up around Christmas or Easter and is sometimes provocatively used by those who advocate for justice and peace. The saying cuts to the heart of what Jesus says in today's gospel: the message he brings is not a cosy, complacent peace, but rather a message that confronts and challenges, even turning loved ones against each other. Jesus reminds us that if we take on his message of compassion, hospitality and table fellowship then it can set us apart from those who have not accepted the message – even family members. It's a challenging message that even love and loyalty within a family can be disrupted by seeking to authentically live the model of Jesus. If we authentically place the needs of the lowly and the outcast ahead of our own and ahead of our family, then this can be very confronting and very disrupting. What are the consequences for family gatherings? What might the gathering at Christmas dinner look like if we take this message seriously? Jesus says that the normal obligations to family have to take second place to acting on his message and bringing about the kingdom of God.

Historical Context – Family ties

In the ancient world, and particularly in Jewish culture, family meant everything. One's identity was completely tied up with family. Families absolutely depended on one another for survival and for personal identity. Young men were identified by who their father was. Women quite literally 'belonged' to their father or husband. The entire fabric of society and tradition was held together by extended families. For Jesus to say that his message would tear families apart was to say that all of society would be transformed by the message. The kingdom of God turns expectations and society on their head, breathing new life into tired, restrictive structures.