



Holy Spirit  
Parish  
Gariwerd

# Sunday September 17th, 2023

## TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A

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

Sirach 27:30 – 28:7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus  
Resentment and anger, these are foul things,  
and both are found with the sinner.  
He who exacts vengeance will experience the  
vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of  
sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you,  
and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.  
If a man nurses' anger against another, can he then  
demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no  
pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his  
own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes  
resentment; who will forgive him his sins?  
Remember the last things, and stop hating,  
remember dissolution and death and live by the  
commandments. Remember the commandments,  
and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember  
the covenant of the Most High and overlook the  
offence.

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and  
rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being,  
bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord  
and never forget all his blessings. (R.)
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every  
one of your ills, who redeems your life from the  
grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.  
(R.)
3. His wrath will come to an end he will not be angry  
for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins  
nor repay us according to our faults (R.)
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so  
strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as  
the east is from the west so far does he remove our  
sins. (R.)

### Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans  
The life and death of each of us has its influence on  
others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die,  
we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to  
the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came  
to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead  
and of the living.

### Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!  
I give you a new commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.  
Alleluia!

### Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew  
Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must  
I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as  
seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you,  
but seventy-seven times.  
'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to  
a king who decided to settle his accounts with his  
servants. When the reckoning began, they brought  
him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he  
had no means of paying, so his master gave orders  
that he should be sold, together with his wife and  
children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At  
this, the servant threw himself down at his master's  
feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole  
sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him  
that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this  
servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow  
servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he  
seized him by the throat and began to throttle him.  
"Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell  
at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time  
and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on  
the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he  
should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply  
distressed when they saw what had happened, and  
they went to their master and reported the whole  
affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You  
wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of  
yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound,  
then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had  
pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him  
over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And  
that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you  
unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'



# Parish Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest	Fr. Andrew Hayes <a href="mailto:andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au">andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a>
Parish Bulletin Online	<a href="http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au">www.ballarat.catholic.org.au</a> – follow link to parish
Secretary / Child Safe	Jill Croxford <a href="mailto:gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au">gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a>
Parish Email	<a href="mailto:gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au">gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a>
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 8.30am
Stawell	Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays 12.30pm
Glenthompson	(Hamilton Parish) 2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays 8.30am

## Readings for next Sunday

24th September 2023  
Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A  
Isaiah 55:6-9/Philippians 1:20-24. 27/Matthew 20:1-16

## 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

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

## Changes to Weekday Masses

Stawell	Tues Sept 19 <sup>th</sup> cancelled /Tues Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> moved to Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> .
Ararat	Fri Sept 22 will be prayers.

Recent Death Mrs Marlene Mornane

## Anniversaries

Fr Edward Jerram, Kathleen Edwards, Tups Brady, John Griffin, Martha McGuan 1956, Mary Brown 1967, Eileen Rees, John Seild, Fr Frank McLaughlin, Ross McCann, John Hennessy, Patricia Egan, Mary Auld 1973, Mark Sladdin 1982, Gertrude Brennan, Ronald Ryan, Vin Fitzpatrick, Fortunata Di Domenico, Margaret Kerin 1961, Stacey Falloon 1984, Kathleen Monaghan 1989, Molly O'Connor, Keith Young, Teresa Conroy, Geoffrey O'Brien, Stephen Gavin 1971, Donald McLean 1983, Leith Galway Thomas 2003, Rose Harrison, Ruth Molloy, John Molloy, Martin Creenaune, Maureen Rathgeber, Maureen Rathgeber 2006, Patricia Vendy 2008, Eileen Arnold, Hugh Waring, Judith Vos, Naomi Phillips, James Fleetwood Smith 1961, Anthony Delahunty 1967, Thomas Brown 1967, Mary Fallon 1988, Carmel D'Arcy 2001, Jan Smith, George Tutton, Julia Sweeney 1962, Arthur Connell 1964

Golden Gate Roster Sun 17<sup>th</sup> Teresa/Sun Sept 24<sup>th</sup> Jim & Jan

Lake Bolac Roster Sat Sept 16<sup>th</sup> Reader Leanne Breen//Prayers of Faithful Jane Higgins  
Sat Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Reader Rosemary Liston//Prayers of Faithful Phillip Meek

Ararat Roster Sun Sept 17<sup>th</sup> Welcomer Genara//Facilitator Marg O//Reader Rebecca//Euch Min Sr John  
Sun Sept 24<sup>th</sup> Welcomer Rosie//Facilitator Pat L//Reader Kath L//Euch Min Charlie

Stawell Roster Sun Sept 17<sup>th</sup> S/Minister M R Thomas/Reader K Dallinger/Offertory M McGaffin  
Sun Sept 24<sup>th</sup> S/Minister M Maestros/Reader D O'Donnell/Offertory Pascual Family

Stawell CWL Cuppa after this Sunday 17th Mass.

St Brigid's College Horsham invite past pupils of the Classes of 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003 & 2013 for the milestone reunion! The reunion will be held at St Brigid's College on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2023, at 2pm. Attendees can RSVP by calling the Front Office on (03) 53823545 or via this link: <https://forms.gle/uKfjHb2KM5Z1huXa9>

### **Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Collection for Sick and Retired Priests**

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund". Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSIBILITY

### **Samaritans Purse operation Christmas child shoeboxes are available now.**

Each preprinted shoebox costs \$1 and contains directions on how to pack the boxes and what you might like to include. This year the shoeboxes are being coordinated through the Stawell Uniting Church. To get a shoebox ring Jane – 0498 700 027 or Robyn – 0419 133 189. Filled shoeboxes need to be dropped off at the Stawell Uniting Church hall on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October between 10am and 12 Noon along with \$12.50 for the shipping of the box to children in need overseas.

### **The Voice Conversation**

Opportunity to dig deep into understanding and be informed before 14th October voting day. Table conversations on the referendum for a First Nations Voice to Parliament. A last round of table conversations, involving respectful, small group, facilitated discussion will be held: First Part 2pm Sunday 24 September AND Second Part 2pm Sunday 8 October, At the Stawell Uniting Church Hall. Scallan St. Each part approx 1.5 – 2 hours. The program expects attendance at both sessions. Booking essential Julie 0407 561135

### **Season of Creation: September 1 - October 4, 2023**

Every year from September 1 - October 4, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" drawing on the river imagery of in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. Resources for the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/>

### **Synod on Synodality Ecumenical Prayer Vigil**

Catholic communities around the world have been invited to host an ecumenical prayer vigil on the weekend of September 30 – October 1 in solidarity with a major international gathering in Rome ahead of the first session of the Synod on Synodality. Fifteen people from Australia will be participating in the Synod and they have asked for the Catholic community's prayers as they prepare for their important task. A prayer vigil would be a great way to respond to their request and to gather with Christian sisters and brothers in our shared faith. Register your vigil at <https://together2023.net/>. Prayer service suggestions available at <https://together2023.net/info-page/prayers-elsewhere-in-the-world-suggested-service-order/>

### **Music for Referendum from Monica Brown**

Monica Brown is one of Australia's well respected Catholic/Christian composers who has been ministering for over 40 years through the not-for-profit organisation of Emmaus Productions. Monica has composed two songs for the referendum, "One People One Land" and "Spirit Dream". All copyright restrictions of the songs have been waived by way of setting the songs free to contribute in some way to this critical national discernment. Music, sheet music and lyrics are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/music-for-referendum-from-monica-brown/>

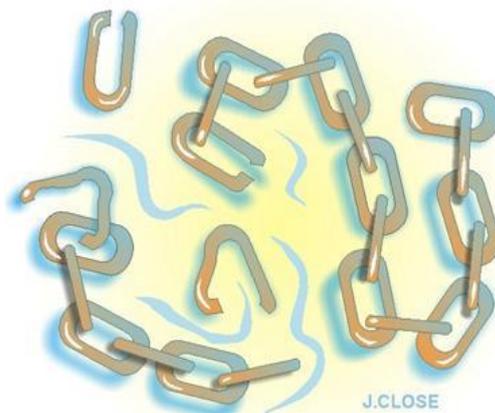
### **Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea Chapter**

ISMAPNG would be grateful for your prayer, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, during the coming weeks as they gather for their Chapter – a time of evaluating the past and planning for the future. Venerable Catherine McAuley, pray for us.

**There was a preacher** who fell in the ocean and he couldn't swim. When a boat came by, the captain yelled, "Do you need help, sir?" The preacher calmly said "No, God will save me." A little later, another boat came by and a fisherman asked, "Hey, do you need help?" The preacher replied again, "No God will save me." Eventually the preacher drowned & went to heaven. The preacher asked God, "Why didn't you save me?" God replied, "Fool, I sent you two boats!"

## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close /Reflection by Artist

Being forgiven is aligned to being freed from slavery in this week's gospel reading. Forgiveness and freedom are key values in 'the kingdom', where the chains of guilt and debt cannot withstand the force of persistent, heart-felt forgiveness. In the real world (especially in war-torn countries), forgiveness is a radical and even outrageous option. True forgiveness is a divine attribute, but one which is within our grasp – according to Jesus.



### REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Forgiveness

I don't like the phrase: 'Forgive and forget'. Remembering can be an important part of healing. Forgiving is about giving up the desire 'to get even', making sure that the 'punishment fits the crime'. It is that sort of forgiveness which we dare to ask of God for ourselves. But here's the catch: it is that sort of forgiveness which we must practise towards others. When we don't, we are like the principal debtor in Jesus' story. In harshly dealing with a minor debtor, he refused to share his king's quality of forgiveness. If we don't pass on this aspect of God's life to others, then we are warned that we will end up in a hellish situation unable to share in the fullness of Divine life. It is easy to talk 'Big Picture' forgiveness. It is much harder within the family or circle of acquaintances. It seems impossible to simply will it. But we have to ask for the grace to do it. We could pause for a moment to pray: 'Our Father who art in Heaven . . . forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.'

### SEASON OF CREATION by Nick Brodie

Twice in today's gospel we hear indebted servants cry 'Give me time'. Through this parable Jesus shows us that patience and forgiveness are high virtues. These inform the Church's teaching on what Pope Francis calls an 'integral ecology', which basically insists that human progress should be sustainable and compassionate. All human beings exist as part of nature and in relation with each other. God too is part of this dynamic by virtue of the mystery of Creation, but also in a special way through Jesus in the Incarnation and through the Spirit in the Church. We Christians are called, therefore, to be patient and forgiving with nature and with each other as part of God's transcendent plan. Our opportunities to do this come in many forms. We can reconsider whether our consumer habits are too burdensome on our planet, extracting resources more quickly than they can be replenished. We can choose to buy foods that are sustainably produced, and which justly supports small farmers. And we can encourage our political leaders to be like the good master, supporting debt relief for impoverished countries, abiding by international climate agreements, and taking other such actions that might give our world and its people time to heal.

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

Jesus is pretty clear about forgiving people. Seventy times seven is a lot of times – four hundred and ninety times, to be exact! Can you imagine forgiving someone that many times, if they hurt you that many times? Why or why not? Can you imagine Jesus forgiving someone that many times? Why or why not? Forgiveness of a crime doesn't mean that it was okay for that crime to have been committed. It means that the forgiver is no longer going to spend energy on hatred and anger related to the crime and to the person being forgiven. It actually frees up the forgiver as much as it does the forgiven, for anger and hatred are a very heavy burden that drains a person and affects the person's whole life. Because you forgive someone, does it necessarily mean that you trust that person again? If you have to forgive someone seven times for a crime, is it healthy or smart to continue to trust that person? Would Jesus want you to continue a close relationship with that person, or would he just ask you to give up on the anger and hatred and get on with your life?

### Living the Gospel – Just like Peter

Throughout the gospels, Peter is a fantastic example of the common person. He has insights of faith at times but usually messes it up with his next breath. His question in this week's gospel is one that any one of us might ask. I try to do what's right, but how long do I have to hang in there? There has to be a limit to patience with someone who keeps upsetting me, surely? Jesus shows us that if we operate from a motivation of compassion and a desire to constantly build relationships that are life-giving for both parties, then there is no end to the number of times that we try to re-build that relationship.