

Sunday December 25th, 2022

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS) DAY

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 9:1-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11](#)

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

Second Reading [Ti 2:11-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live

good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation [Lk 2:10-11](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Lk 2:1-14](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Today a saviour has been born for you.

Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to men who enjoy his favour.'

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
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Parish Office	304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm
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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 1st
Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God
[Nm 6:22-27](#)// [Gal 4:4-7](#)// [Lk 2:16-21](#):

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

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

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve Stawell 6pm
Christmas Eve Ararat 7.30pm
Christmas Eve Lake Bolac 9.15pm
Christmas Day: Landsborough 9am

Recent Deaths: Jennifer Margaret Molan

Anniversaries

Ellen Byrne, Anne Gregan 1954, Mary Clarkson 1976, Alex Haslett, William Casanova, Fr. Stephen O'Rourke, Lily Jones 1991, Stephen Pyke 1991, Stephan Sugden, Oliver Schwab, Norman Joseph Rowe, Maude Doecke 1961, Michael Young 1965, Patrick Phelan 1965, Rita Lardner, Jean McGuan 1992, Bill Foo 1984, Rose Hogan, Fr Michael Glennen, Jack Brennan, Vera Cox, Kevin Richards, Carl Spies, Heather Rose Allan 1981, Mary Rutter 1986, Timothy Shanahan 1991, Maurice Diggle, Sr. Rose Day RSM, Peter Newall 1973, 2Timothy Weeks, Pat Brennan, Margaret Fudge 1985, Stacey Walsh 2009, Donald Sladdin 2010

Golden Gate Roster Sun 25th Dec Libby //Sun 1st Jan Jim & Jan //Sun 8th Jan Jim & Jan //Sun 15th Jan Libby

Lake Bolac Roster Sat Dec 24th Reader Jane Higgins// Prayers of Faithful Damain Phillips// Cleaning Team Effort
Sat Dec 31st Reader Mick Brennan// Prayers of Faithful Rosemary Liston
Sat Jan 14th Reader Deb Glasson// Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins// Cleaning Rosemay Liston

Ararat Roster Sun 1st Jan Facil M Olle//Reader E Shea//Euch Min Mary C
Sun 8th Jan Facil C Reid//Reader P Lardner//Euch Min M Mason
Sun 15th Jan Facil P Brennan//Reader P Brady// Euch Min Sr John
Sun 22nd Jan Facil H Collins// Reader K Leggett//Euch Min A Collins

Stawell Roster Sat 24th Dec S/Minister MR Thomas// Reader J V Diesen// Offertory M McGaffin
Sun 1st Jan S/Minister M Howard// Reader I Stewart//Offertory Habben Family
Sun 8th Jan S/Minister MR Thomas// Reader H Potter// Offertory Pascual Family
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

Changes to Masses this Week

This week I hope to have a rest. Tuesday 27th in Stawell and Thursday 29th at Hopkins will be cancelled.
Wednesday 28th at ARV and Friday 30th in Ararat will be prayers with communion - thanks Libby.

St Patrick's Church will be open each day from 1st Jan – we are looking for volunteers to open the church on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. If you can help please contact Mary Rita Thomas -0438 836 180.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Parishioners are once again invited to contribute to the annual Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Thank you for your generosity last Christmas. \$42,000 was donated to Ukraine, Peru, Catholic Mission, Caritas, Various flood appeals, Nazareth House and to combat human trafficking. Collections will be taken at Masses this weekend and can be made online on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Caritas Australia - Take action on climate change

As climate change damages our homes and land, the impact on our neighbours in the Pacific is extreme. Our voices, together, can get governments and polluters to take action to achieve climate justice and protect our common home.

Sign the pledge at <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/climate-change-action/> to support Caritas Australia's climate action campaign.

Caritas Australia: A child's smile. A mother's joy. Yours to give this Christmas.

Christmas is a time of miracles – of hope and renewal. Throughout rural Vietnam, children and families living with disabilities, like Mrs Lan and her children Quan and Loah, are less likely to be employed, and children are less likely to go to school. Mrs Lan's dreams for her children are simple. She wants them to "live like every other child, going to school, playing, having a happy life, and growing and learning like other children." Through the generosity of Caritas supporters, Quan and Loah joined a community-based classroom and learned to socialise with other children and found confidence in themselves. They found more joy from having fun with others, learned to tell jokes and found themselves smiling more. This Christmas, you can help create opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and to enable more families like Mrs Lan's to access resources to improve their income and living status. Please join Caritas Australia's wonderful community of generous supporters this Christmas in giving loving parents of children with disabilities the incredible gift of seeing their children smile. Visit www.caritas.org.au/christmas this Christmas or call 1800 024 413 toll free to help bring more smiles to children's faces this coming year. (PowerPoint attached).

CatholicCare Victoria Giving Tree Appeal

The last two years of the COVID pandemic have had a devastating impact on low-income families. Unemployment, rent prices, mental and physical health issues are just some of the things which can lead to financial crisis. Please help a family in need this Christmas. To donate go to <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/19/giving-tree-appeal>

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal

Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

56th World Day of Peace – January 1, 2023

Pope Francis' message for the 56th World Day of Peace, "No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace"

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace: Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life

Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. The funds raised from these cards go towards supporting vulnerable communities around the globe, including right here in Australia. Whether you purchase your Global Gift for a

family member, friend or colleague, each gift reflects real items that will help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. Gifts of Education. Gifts of Health. Gifts of Empowerment. The beauty of these Global Gifts is that they bring joy to their recipient and provide someone in need the chance to build a better future. This Christmas please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse the range.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today the Christmas celebration gains a new depth of theological meaning. At midnight, the birth in history was proclaimed. At dawn, the initiative of God's gift was declared and the community's joyful gratitude was announced. In this third celebration, the identity of Christ and the new way of life that he brings is announced.

If our eyes are open and alert, we can see that God has won a victory for us, one that is tangible and realised in our midst. It is an overwhelming victory, one that permanently conquers the enemy. This victory has a profound impact on every place, every time and every people. The birth of the infant, the king in David's line, promises salvation to all who long for it. This salvation is a new vision of wisdom, one that has been realised in Christ, God's agent of grace in the world. It is a new world, one of inclusivity and of righteous honour. It is a new age, one that is ushered in by the child who is leading a victory procession.

Ultimately, only eyes of faith allow us to see the fullness of God's revelation. The glory of the infant king is the very presence of God made flesh. Jesus is the eternal incarnate Word who has pitched his tent among us. Ours is not a distant God; the incarnate wisdom of God is among us, and we are called to a change of heart that will allow us to see this wonder.

