



St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



We acknowledge the Djap Wurrong people, the traditional custodians of our parish land.

We pay our respects to their elders past and present. We respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

Sunday February 20, 2022 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

First Reading [1 Sm 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23](#)

A reading from the first book of Samuel
Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. R. v.8](#)

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

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. The Lord is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)

4. As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins.
As a father has compassion on his sons,
the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Cor 15:45-49](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation [Jn 13:34](#)

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

Gospel [Lk 6:27-38](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

Parish Information – Parishes of Stawell and Ararat

Parish Priest	Fr. Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Bulletin Online	www.ballarat.catholic.org.au – follow link to parish
Secretary	Jill Croxford ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Emails	ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au or stawell@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 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 6pm Vigil Sat
Glenthompson	(Hamilton Parish) 2 nd 4 th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

February 27
8th Sunday Ordinary Time Year C
[Sir 27:4-7](#) // [1 Cor 15:54-58](#) // [Lk 6:39-45](#)

Weekday Masses

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 ARV

Changes to Masses this Week

This week I will be away for our annual priests' retreat

Tues 22nd Mass in Stawell is cancelled // Wed 23rd at ARV will be prayers // I will be back in time for 11am Friday in Ararat

Recent Deaths: Daniel Barry, Teresa Duffy

Anniversaries Stawell

Peter Monaghan 1986, Margaret Forster 1987, Geoffrey Dalton 2002, Edna Wells 2010, Norman Juegan 2014, Joyce Pola 1953, William Coughlan 1959, Margaret Borella 1974, Mabel Connell 1966, Mary Dalziel 1963, Therese (Dinny) O'Driscoll, Elizabeth Phillips 1943, Patrick Walsh 1944

Anniversaries Ararat

Betty White, Edward O'Boyle, Antonia Sultana, Bob Mahony, Vera Ruzic, Jackson Hunt, Thelma Day, Noel Hooper, Sr Ursula Hayes, Wal Davis, Edward Arnold, Harold Bryant, Kaz Sobczak, Mons James Brophy, Julieta Formentera, Lorna Martin, Michael Scherger, Michael Stapleton, Mary Lugg, Brian Coffey, Hazel Gleeson, Catherine Doery

Golden Gate Roster

February 20 Harry Anna // 27 Jim Jan
March 6 Teresa // 13 Libby // 20 Harry Anna // Jim Jan

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Feb 19 Reader Irene Meek // Prayers of Faithful Michael Phillips // Cleaning Tricia Higgins
Sat Mar 5 Reader Rosemary Liston // Prayers of Faithful Leanne Breen // Cleaning Judy Upton

Lent in Stawell

Ash Wednesday (Tuesday) Mass and distribution of the Ashes in St Pat's church at 10am Tuesday 1st March.

Mass Every Tuesday 10am

Lenten discussion group in the St Pat's church hall each Tuesday at 10.30 after Mass.
Beginning Tuesday 1st March. Everyone welcome for all, or just some, of these discussions.

Stations of the Cross in St Pat's church each Friday at 10am.

Lent in Ararat

Ash Wednesday Prayer and distribution of the Ashes in St Mary's church at 10.30am Wednesday 2nd March.
Ashes will also be distributed at 11am Mass on Friday 4th March

Lenten Discussion Thursdays 10am

Mass Every Friday 11am

Holy Week and Easter Roster

Reconciliation	2 nd Rite Reconciliation Wed April 6, 5.30pm Stawell // 7pm Ararat
Mass of the Oils	6.30pm Monday April 11, St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
Holy Thursday	7pm Mass Ararat
Good Friday	3pm Passion Stawell
Holy Saturday	6.30pm Easter Vigil Lake Bolac
Easter Sunday	8.30am Ararat // 10.30am Stawell

St Pat's St Vincent de Paul Conference meeting this Monday 21st Feb in the St Pat's church hall at 1.30pm.

St Pat's CWL

Next Meeting: Thursday 10th March at 2pm in the St Pat's church hall.

Raffle: CWL will be holding a raffle over Lent Tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Drawn after Easter Sunday Mass. Two prizes – a handmade doll with baby carrier and a change of clothes and wine & chocolates.

What's Happening with Fr John's House

New tenants will move into Fr John's house at the beginning of March. Very little needs doing to the inside, but the outside needs maintenance. Coming soon. There will be carparks set aside for up to six new tenants.

Visit by Fr Gary Jones, Diocesan Liturgical Commission

On Tuesday February 8 Fr Gary Jones came to look at St Patrick's Church. He made a number of recommendations and had a good chat with the handful who were there to hear him. There's lots to tell and lots to discuss. We'll need a Parish Council meeting ASAP and then a discussion with parishioners. The most urgent and non-negotiable is that we make the sanctuary safe with hand rails, and probably by lowering the sanctuary to one step. Gary also spoke about the visual clutter in the church. We talked about electrical wiring, painting, carpet, the screen, lots of things. More to come.

World Day of Prayer

Stawell: Friday 4th March at 2pm in the City Heart Church of Christ.

Lake Bolac: Saturday 5th March during 6.30pm Mass

St Patrick's Day in Stawell

On St Patrick's Day Thursday 17th March there will be a short Liturgy in the Church followed by a shared Lunch in the St Pat's church hall. Wear some green and come along and celebrate our patron saint and our church community.

Study Tour of the Biblical Lands

Olive Tree Travel have planned a study Tour of the Biblical Lands from December 3-14, 2022. This tour is focussed on the Gospel of Luke engaging the narrative in the contextual landscape. The tour will be escorted by Dr Rosemary Canavan of Catholic Theological College. More information available from <https://www.olivetreetravel.com.au/upcoming-tours/>



A message from *Aid to the Church in Need Australia*: In many places throughout the world there is a shortage of priests and therefore religious sisters are the custodians of the faith. These sisters however often struggle to live and support the faithful, so across the course of a year ACN supports more than 18,000 religious sisters in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. Could you help support a religious sister? Visit www.aidtochurch.org/sisters

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Perhaps one of the most difficult lessons to learn is forgiveness of those whom we consider our enemies, those who have wronged us. As challenging as this may be, the Gospel calls us to a very high standard: we must be merciful as God is merciful. If such perfection can become a reality in our lives, we will be able to forgive. Paul assures us that we can indeed attain such perfection, not by ourselves, but through the power of the risen Lord whose image we bear. Paul plays with the theology of creation. In the beginning, we were made like the first Adam, earthly, limited, weak, concerned about the things of this world, and committed to our own well being. Through baptism we have been fashioned after the image of the second Adam, Christ the risen Lord. Being like Christ, we become godlike, empowered with his saving power, transformed with him into new beings. It is now in our power, which is really the power of the resurrection, to be merciful as God is merciful. In the risen Lord we experience a mystical transformation. From now on, all of our actions can flow from this new reality. Transformed by the power of the resurrection, we are capable of unprecedented good works. We can live without retaliation; we can render good for evil. We can be prodigal in our generosity toward others; we can relinquish any rights of proprietorship that we might enjoy. We can live with others without unfairly judging them. We can be like God, boundless in our forgiveness.

Martha and Mary Parish, Djap Wurrong Country

I'm making a specific proposal now, that we name our parish: Martha and Mary Parish, Djap Wurrong Country.

Martha and Mary

Martha and Mary were friends of Jesus and the sisters of Lazarus. They are referred to in Luke 10:38-42. Martha busied herself in service of the people while Mary sat with Jesus and listened. Listening to the Word of God and actively serving those around us is a good model for our parish. Luke 10:38-42 will appear on July 17 this year, the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C. Martha and Mary also appear in John 12:1-11 on the Monday of Holy Week, April 10 this year. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead in a forerunner to his own resurrection. Again, Martha and Mary, as witnesses to the resurrection (of Lazarus) are a good model for our parish.

During the suggestions phase of our consultation one particular suggestion was that we honour the women of our parish. Another was specifically about Martha and Mary. It is clear to me that the shifting place of women both in our church and in our society will be an ongoing and important growth point in the coming years. I had wondered about "the holy women of the bible" which was always going to be too vague. I had thought we could have chosen a different heroine each year. At a time when women across the world are saying they have had enough of being disrespected in myriad ways, this is a good time to laud the women who were and are faithful friends of Jesus. What do you think of Martha and Mary?

Djap Wurrong Country

Another important growth point over the coming years will be the esteem with which we hold the people who tended this land for millennia before the colonial land grab. Just now the world is aghast that Russia might invade Ukraine, but too many don't seem to mind that Britain did it to the people who lived in "Australia". It is uncomfortable. It's messy. People were disrespected. They still feel disrespected. They claimed respect at the birthing tree while people claimed "white power" at Gariwerd. It is incumbent on the Church to be a prophetic voice in this messy and unfolding time of awareness and healing in which we find ourselves.

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted ... [Isaiah 61:1](#)

Will the Djap Wurrong people be affirmed by this renaming of our parish? I don't know. I hope so. I'm asking. This is a once in a century opportunity to change the narrative and to establish a prophetic voice of respect not only in our local area but across Australia.

In today's Gospel. Jesus calls us to up the ante in love of the other. It hurts me that our first nations people are "the other." Time to change the story. While I'm consulting with our first nations people I'll be happy to receive your comments, by tearing off the bottom of the bulletin or by email. andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Fr Andrew

Martha and Mary Parish, Djap Wurrong Country

Martha and Mary Parish is formed from the cooperation of the Catholic communities of

St Patrick's Stawell, St Francis of Assisi Landsborough, Immaculate Conception Ararat and St Bernard's Lake Bolac

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Djap Wurrong people, the traditional custodians of the land on which our parish resides

Martha and Mary Parish _____

Djap Wurrong Country _____