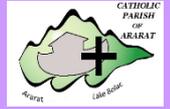




St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



We acknowledge the Djap Wurrung 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 March 27, 2022 4th Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading

[Jos 5:9-12](#)

A reading from the book of Joshua

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 33:2-7. R. v.9](#)

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading

[2 Cor 5:17-21](#)

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

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on his reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

Gospel Acclamation

[Lk 15:18](#)

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

[Lk 15:1-3. 11-32](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the

father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. 'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. 'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property – he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening." The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."'

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

April 3
5th Sunday of Lent Year C
[Is 43:16-21](#) // [Phil 3:8-14](#) // [Jn 8:1-11](#)

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 ARV

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries Stawell

John Rutter 1973, Michael Akers 2001, Valerie Phelan 2006, Agnes Borella 1960, Willem Sijmons 2007, Michael Szewczuk 1982, Kevin Stewart 1986, Malcolm McKinnon 1987, Dorothy Peters 2006, Roland Wadsworth 1970, Shane Lamb 1979, Albert Gay 1999, Alida Sijmons 1986

Anniversaries Ararat

Alma Brennan, Evelyn Gleeson, Dr. Pat Claridge, Anna Drewniak, Damien Rees, Ena Brady, Annie Rowe, Maureen Davey, Ella Jeffries, Noel Stevens, Bill Laffan, Margaret Walsh, Leo Stevens, Maurice Brown, Joan Weeks, Edmund Abberton, Frank Liston, John Oliver, Frank Pola, Bowie Shevlin, Margaret Leigh, Tom Smith, Ben Patterson, Fr Meredith Delahenty, Brian Young, Erin Hooper

Golden Gate Roster

March 27 Jim Jan
April 3 Teresa // 10 Libby // 17 Harry Anna // 24 Jim Jan

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat April 2 Reader Leanne Breen // Prayers of Faithful Val Albert // Cleaning Leanne Breen
Sat Apr 16 Reader team effort // Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett // Cleaning team effort

Lent in Stawell

Mass Every Tuesday 10am

Lenten discussion group In the St Pat's Church hall each Tuesday at 10.30 after Mass.
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

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 CWL Easter raffle - tickets on sale after Mass

2 Prizes – Wine and chocolates/a beautiful hand-made doll with carrier and a spare set of clothes.

Tickets - \$2 for 1 or 3 for \$5. Raffle drawn after Easter Sunday Mass

Mass of the Oils 2022

All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils to be held on Monday, April 11, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall. Any COVID restrictions applicable at this time will apply to the Mass of the Oils.

Choir for Mass of the Oils 2022

Singers and musicians in the diocese are invited to join the music group which is being formed for the Mass of the Oils on Monday, April 11, 2022. Practice times are Sunday, March 27, Sunday, April 3 and Sunday, April 10 from 6.00pm – 7.00pm (following 5.00pm Mass). Please contact Julie Boyd in the Pastoral Ministry Office to register your interest julie.boyd@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7159.

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for March: For a Christian response to bioethical challenges - We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges. May they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

Project Compassion – Fourth Sunday of Lent

From her life as a child soldier in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rosalie is now a business owner, a community leader and a role model for other ex-combatants seeking to readjust to civilian life. Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 and help women like Rosalie to succeed in the future, providing hope For All Future Generations. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting www.lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Conversations about Project Compassion 2022

Explore the stories, programs and issues for each week of Project Compassion with our Caritas Conversations. These one-hour sessions are open to individuals over the age of 18 as well as parish, youth and community groups. Rosalie's Story: March 29 at 7.30pm (Sydney Time); March 30 at 11.00am (Sydney time); March 31 at 2.30pm (Sydney Time). Register at <https://calendly.com/conversations-about-pc-22>

Walk for Justice & Freedom for Refugees*

Date: Palm Sunday, 10th April 2022

Time: 2:00pm (music from 1:30pm, with speeches starting at 2:00pm)

Location: State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Carlton 3053

*organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network (info: 0409 252 673).



Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

In the midst of Lent we are given a moment for rejoicing, Laetare Sunday. All of the readings provide us with reasons for rejoicing. The overarching theme is the prodigal goodness of God. The responsorial psalm sets the context for the reflections. The other readings show how needy people were showered with divine favour. Even in the midst of this rejoicing, we find a challenge. We must undergo a change of heart if we are to rejoice in God. The goodness of God is strikingly portrayed in the radically new image of father. This is a God who allows us to follow our own dreams, who is partial to no one, who faithfully and patiently waits for us to return, who gently corrects our misperceptions. God longs to be reconciled with us even more than we long to be reconciled with God. The challenges placed before us set out some of the conditions required if we are to be a new creation. We are called to a profound and total reconciliation, first with God and then with each other. Christ was identified with sin so that we might be identified with God's righteousness. Reconciliation requires that we be open to giving and receiving forgiveness. It requires that we both remember and forget. We must always remember the causes of alienation, so that we not succumb to them again. However, we must forget the resentment that we felt so that we not allow it to influence our lives.

Russia and Ukraine

Letter from Bishop Paul regarding Russia and Ukraine

Hello Everyone,

In the Information to Parishes today, there was a notice about Pope Francis' proposal to consecrate Russia and Ukraine to Mary in a ceremony in Rome this Friday, March 25.

The Pope has invited us to join him in this prayer throughout that day. Here I would like to quote from a letter that Pope Francis has sent to bishops around the world.

"Nearly a month has passed since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine that is daily inflicting immense suffering upon its sorely tried people and threatening world peace. At this dark hour, the Church is urgently called to intercede before the Prince of Peace and to demonstrate her closeness to those directly affected by the conflict.

"In response to numerous requests by the People of God, I wish in a special way to entrust the nations at war to the Blessed Virgin Mary. As I announced yesterday at the conclusion of the Angelus prayer, on 25 March, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, I intend to carry out a solemn Act of Consecration of humanity, and Russia and Ukraine in particular, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

"This Act of Consecration is meant to be a gesture of the universal Church, which in this dramatic moment lifts up to God, through his Mother and ours, the cry of pain of all those who suffer and implore an end to the violence, and to entrust the future of our human family to the Queen of Peace. I ask you to join in this Act by inviting the priests, religious and faithful to assemble in their churches and places of prayer on 25 March, so that God's Holy People may raise a heartfelt and choral plea to Mary our Mother. I am sending you the text of the prayer of consecration, so that all of us can recite it throughout that day."

Please find attached a copy of the prayer of consecration. I will be praying this after the gospel at our usual midday Mass in the Ballarat Cathedral this Friday. Each parish could include this prayer in their Masses on Friday and in any other gatherings that day. I encourage each parish community to recite this prayer for the gift of peace in Ukraine and throughout the world.

God bless you all. Bishop Paul

Prayers for Ukraine and Russia

On Friday, March 25, Pope Francis consecrated Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. March 25 is the Feast of the Annunciation, celebrating Mary's acceptance of the invitation to become the mother of Jesus. The consecration echoed the Pope's prayers that Mary, the Queen of Peace, might intercede for all those suffering from the current war in Ukraine and that Mary might pray for the blessing of peace throughout the world. Bishop Paul encourages all the members of our diocese to join with Pope Francis in this prayer, both personally and in gatherings with others.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you. Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom. You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this Day. Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace. May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests. Please, no more war.

Caritas Australia Ukraine Crisis Appeal

In a matter of weeks, millions of people have fled the conflict in Ukraine. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis. Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance including shelter, food, clean water, medicine and psychological support to people affected by this crisis. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free. Keep up to date on the latest activities by Caritas agencies on the ground www.caritas.org.au/ukraine-news