



St Patrick's,
Stawell

St Patrick's Parish Newsletter

Stawell and Landsborough

2nd Sunday of Easter —Year A



St Francis of Assisi,
Landsborough

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which our Churches are built, the Tjapwurong people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

Fr. Andrew Hayes *The Early Church*

The first reading this Sunday speaks of a time when the Church might have felt a bit like ours. The early Christians went through stages when gathering for Eucharist was life-threatening. I'm thinking of lions or what-have-you rather than a pandemic, but either way life was fraught and gathering together was difficult. How did the early Christians respond? The reading says that they "met in the temple every day, but met in their houses for the breaking of bread;" What is that about? Many people were Jews who had now become Christian, so they prayed the Jewish prayers on Saturday in the temple and then the Christian prayers on Sunday, in their homes because they didn't yet have churches. I hope people are finding the resources useful for your prayers at home. Are you reading the scripture together from the bulletin, or downloading prayers or using what you've got? I was in the highlands of New Guinea one Sunday many years ago and we had neither bible nor prayer book, so on Sunday we sat in a circle and told our favourite bible stories. It's been nice to hear from people who have found Masses online or watched on television. I laughed at this one, "I choose my online Mass by which one is the shortest!" Fair enough.

The Acts of the Apostles also says, "The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles ... and to the prayers ... they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone ..." Yes, let us share our food and toilet rolls gladly and generously and look after one another. I'm trying to shop weekly rather than every day, only giving the plague one weekly shot at catching up with me. Never needed to be so organised. "Looked up to by everyone..." Did you watch the Cardinal Pell interview? We're not looked up to by a lot of people. Cardinal Pell spoke about that. We have a long way to go. There remains a lot of apologising to do. A lot of healing is yet to happen.

Blessed Sacrament Chapel in Stawell

I was advised, for security reasons, to remove the Blessed Sacrament from the presbytery window in Stawell. I'm sorry that this seemed necessary. The taking away seemed a bit like Good Friday.

April 19th 2020

Pentecost

Maybe the answer is in the Gospel. "Receive the Holy Spirit..." When the early Church couldn't see Jesus they had Pentecost to enliven them. I don't suppose it will happen, but wouldn't it be GREAT if the lockdown ended in time for Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 31? Tongues of fire, all of that. We would emerge from the cold isolation, emerge from the churches newly fired in the Spirit. Wouldn't it be a great sign of God's presence in the Church in the world! Don't suppose it will happen. Whatever Sunday we're allowed back in, this year or next, maybe we could start with Pentecost Mass. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church, the re-enlivening of the spirit-filled people of God. In the meantime, wash your hands and share your toilet rolls!

Half a Priest Each

Now that we have half a priest in each parish we'll need to have lots of parishioners doing a little bit. We'll need a parish council in Stawell, and funeral helpers in both parishes. We'll need liturgy people to organise things. Who will order the bread and wine and change the colours of the seasons? Lots and lots of jobs that half a priest each won't be able to do. Pleased wonder about what you can do. Stay tuned for a list of jobs, for both Stawell and Ararat. The plague has given us a good chance to be up and ready when we're allowed. Let's be ready. More information to come.

Collections

Thank you to all those who have been able to contribute to the Presbytery and Church Collections at this unprecedented time. Every little helps. We need to keep our churches standing and the parish priest ready and able to organise the most wonderful celebratory Mass, once we can gather again!

Details for direct debit are as follows:

Details for Stawell parish: St Patricks Parish BSB 013 815
Account No 2863 26347

Fr. Andrew Hayes

Parish Priest



First Reading Acts 2:42-47

The faithful lived together and owned everything in common. The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4. 13-15. 22-24. R. v.1

**(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.**

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' (R.)
2. I was thrust, thrust down and falling
but the Lord was my helper.
The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour.
There are shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the just. (R.)
3. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 1:3-9

He has given us a new birth as his children, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me;
happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!
Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

After eight days Jesus came in and stood among them.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me.

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

The themes for the second Sunday of Easter set the tone for the entire Easter season. They are all directed toward mystagogical instruction, primarily of the neophytes who were baptised during the Easter Vigil, but also of the whole Christian community. The readings for this season provide us an extended meditation on the resurrection and on our own incorporation into it through the mysteries of initiation.

Most of us are like Thomas who looked for some tangible evidence of the resurrection. We do not find it any easier to live by faith than he did. However, when we do live by faith, we actually discover tangible proof. This proof can be seen in the way the community reaches out in care and support to others. Jesus extends his wounded hands to us as he did to Thomas, and the community is invited to touch his wounds as we touch the wounds of our world. We find a similar situation in the reading from Acts where the fledgling Christian community grew in number as a result of the teaching of the apostles. So it has always been. Those who are not eye witnesses of the actual events are called, through the teaching of others, to witness to the power of the resurrection.

Although the blessings that we derive from the resurrection are clearly gifts from God, they are nonetheless costly gifts. They have been won through the blood of Christ, and we too may have to pay dearly for having received them.

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Next Week's Readings **Apr 26th 2020**

First Reading

Second Reading

Recent Deaths

Carla Bowles (Bullumwaal);

OFFICE INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Hayes Ararat & Stawell

andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Download Church Bulletin—www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Finance Manager: Gloria Pickering

stawell@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Office: 03 5358 1119

PO BOX 87, Stawell, VIC 3380

NOTICES

Stawell Inter Church Council Welfare

- provide direct food aid as well as supermarket, chemist, fuel, VLine and limited accommodation vouchers for the needy. We are based at "The Cottage" 20 Sloane St Stawell. Ring – 0408 038 949 We now only conduct interviews over the phone and we will home deliver aid to those in need. If a household is in isolation/quarantine or any member of that household has any symptoms of C19, we will deliver the required aid to an agreed designated family member, friend, neighbour or case worker who will then deliver that aid to the needy household.

Stawell St Vincent de Paul Society

- is still providing aid to those in need in our community. We help with limited accommodation, rent assistance, utility bills, school expenses, etc. Ring 0437 344 323 After conducting a phone interview we will deliver aid to anyone in need. If a household is in isolation/quarantine or if any member has any symptoms of C19 we will deliver that aid to a designated family member, friend, neighbour or case worker.

Prayers of the Faithful

2nd Sunday of Easter

Priest: God calls us to respond in faith to the risen Lord. Let us bring our needs and those of the world before the God of all.

Reader: For peace on earth, that nations will put aside division and hate and seek peace. Lord Hear Our Prayer:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For this community, that we always place our trust in the risen Lord and bear witness to our faith.

Lord Hear Our Prayer:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That Catholics around the world will experience the strength of their faith community when gathered worship is not possible. Lord Hear Our Prayer:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For people who are isolated, that they will be filled with the comfort of Christ the risen saviour. We pray especially for those experiencing isolation during the coronavirus restrictions Lord Hear Our Prayer:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those living with the fear of disease will find a sense of calm and shelter in Christ. We especially pray for people who are sick from the coronavirus. Lord Hear Our Prayer:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For countries where health infrastructure is limited, that they will be granted equipment and resources. We pray especially for generous sharing between nations during the coronavirus pandemic. Lord Hear Our Prayer:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died, including Carla Bowles, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, will live forever with the risen Christ. Lord Hear Our Prayer:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Lord God, you breathe your Spirit on your people and strengthen the hearts of believers. Hear our prayers which we make in the name of Christ Jesus, who is Lord for ever.

All: Amen.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.



Other Notices

Easter Message from Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop Paul has recorded an Easter message for the people of the diocese. The message can be viewed on the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

With Jesus in the Desert: A retreat for a time of isolation

The staff of Jesuit Communications have prepared a 14-day retreat for the use of people who have to isolate themselves for 14 days during the Coronavirus crisis. Of course, other people who may find it helpful are also welcome to use it. The retreat has suggestions for each of the 14 days, though participants are free to follow it through or to pick out particular days. A shorter retreat that keeps the basic pattern could involve days 1, 2, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14. More information at <https://www.pray.com.au/with-jesus-in-the-desert-a-retreat-for-a-time-of-isolation/>

Deus te Benedicat—God Bless You

Prediction: There will be a minor baby boom in 9 months, and then one day in 2033, we shall witness the rise of THE QUARANTEENS.

Humour

Caritas AUSTRALIA

If you haven't already done so, please could you drop off your Project Compassion Contributions to GLORIA at the office on THURSDAY after 10am. Many Thanks

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion
#projectcompassion

1800 024 413

SICK LIST

Noah Amarant; Kathryn Young; Glenis Leddin; Lourdes de la Cerna; Kath Hayes (Ballarat); John Delaney; Lynn Wright; Simon Monas; Angela Moore; Kate Sargent; Yvonne Evans; Margaret Boag; Nigel James (Canberra); Ian Kindred; Sharron Pickering; Andrew Van Diesen; Benjamin Wolfson; Robbie Loxton; Nicole Lee (Horsham); Brian O'Loughlin; Steven Oates; Maree Parkin; Rosemary Chisholm (Bendigo); Harry Comitti, John Dalziel; Mollie Barton; Patty Fenwick; Bailey Young, Graeme Blake, Pat Rathgeber; Kate Whelan; Sam Sharrock.

NB: A Family member of the sick person must contact the Parish Office to have names added. They must also have the permission of the sick person if they are able to give it.

WHO CAN I CALL FOR HELP?

<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">LIFELINE</div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">13 11 14</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">24 HOURS/7 DAYS CRISIS SUPPORT SUICIDE PREVENTION</p>	<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">BEYOND BLUE</div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1300 22 4636</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">24 HOURS/7 DAYS ONLINE FORUMS & CHAT FUNCTION</p>
<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">HEADSPACE</div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1800 650 890</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">AGES 12-25 PHONE & ONLINE SUPPORT (eheadspace)</p>	<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">KIDS HELPLINE</div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1800 551 800</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">AGES 5-25 24 HOURS/7 DAYS COUNSELLING</p>
<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">HEADSPACE BALLARAT</div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">5304 4777</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">AGES 12-25 REFERRALS DROP IN SERVICE MON-FRI 9AM-4PM VIA TELEHEALTH</p>	<div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 5px; text-align: center; margin-bottom: 5px;">NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE</div> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1800 020 080</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">24 HOURS/7 DAYS INFO ON COVID-19</p>

“The joy of the Lord is your strength” Neh 8:10