



St Patrick's,
Stawell

St Patrick's Parish Newsletter Stawell and Landsborough

5th Sunday of Lent — Year A
March 29th, 2020



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

We'll be ok!

Everybody washing your hands, keeping your distance and flattening the curve? If this goes on for months we will also need to remain socially connected. Don't leave family members and neighbours to hibernate until Spring. That won't be good for us either. Keep the conversations going. In Ararat? Take your children on a bear hunt. Do you have oldies who need shopping or cooking? I've been pleased in recent days to hear people trying to do the best distancing they can, rather than trying to comply "just." Let's keep healthy.

Have you kept up with the recommendations? No unnecessary gatherings. We can still baptise your babies. Now is the cheapest time ever to have a wedding – the priest, the couple and the two witnesses! Funerals are to be with a maximum of ten people. In our parishes we will have our (ten people) funerals at the cemetery.

Mass is continuing to be celebrated for you and your intentions. We've set up Blessed Sacrament chapels under the carport in Stawell and under the Parish Centre veranda in Ararat. There will be some prayers available, or bring your own. Collect a Sunday bulletin. Importantly, only two people at a time. We're not trying to comply "just."

Mass Online

youtube: Search for St Mary's Hamilton (Fr Paddy Muga-vin is live streaming Mass each day)

youtube: Search for Fr Rob Galea, Bendigo priest

St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Pope Francis <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta.pagelist.html>

Mass for You at Home: Network Ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel on Foxtel every day. <http://www.mfyah.com/video.html>

Word on Fire: Bishop Robert Barron: <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass>

Websites

Liturgyhelp.com is an Australian Catholic organisation who provide fantastic resources to parishes to prepare for each Sunday. Our parishes subscribe to this site. Liturgyhelp are providing free access to every parishioner to a limited section of the site. Highly recommended.

Sacredspace.ie is a ministry of the Irish Jesuits. I use this every day

Apps

Laudate (free)

Universalis (less than \$20)

I have both of these apps on my phone and use them every day. They have the daily readings and reflections and lots of useful things to think and pray about.

Parish Communication

We intend to publish weekly bulletins. Some will get these online. For those who cannot, please come to the outdoor chapels to collect yours.

Parish Collections

We will still need to pay the bills. Please continue to contribute to the parish and presbytery collections.

Options for payment

1 Direct debit – Details for Stawell parish:

St Patricks Parish BSB 013 815

Account No 2863 26347

2 Parish Office

Come in to the parish offices with your envelopes (Thursdays in Stawell / Wednesday to Friday in Ararat)

3 Project compassion

Don't forget your Project Compassion contributions. This can be done online or by clearly labelling envelopes and putting them in with your planned-giving.

Fr. Andrew Hayes

Parish Priest

Outdoor Blessed Sacrament Chapel



First Reading Ez 37:12-14

I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live.

The Lord says this: I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this – it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 129. R. v.7

(R.) With the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice! O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you. (R.)
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
(Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.) (R.)
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 11:25. 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Second Reading Rom 8:8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the
dead is living in you, then he will give life to your
own mortal bodies.*

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

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Gospel Jn 11:3-7. 17. 20-27. 33-45

I am the resurrection and the life. The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him. *copyright One License Used with permission*

SCRIPTURE COMMENTARY by Dianne Bergant CSA

As a metaphor, death can stand for many things. The prophet Ezekiel witnessed the death of the nation. The gospel reports the death of Lazarus. Although Paul refers to the mortal character of our physical bodies, he is more concerned with spiritual life and death. Death attacks each one of us in all three of these ways. We are all mortal and subject to physical death; we are all sinners and must deal with the implications of spiritual death; we are all subject to the consequences of social sins such as terrorism, violence, group hatred, greed and ecological exploitation. The question before us is whether or not we are going to allow death to reign in our lives and in our communities.

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Next Week's Readings

Apr 5th 2020

First Reading

[Is 50:4-7](#)

Second Reading



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

Office Hours: Thurs 11am-5pm

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Michelle Hogan

PO Box 856 Stawell. 3380.

Phone 03 5358 2493 **Email:** principal@spstawell.catholic.edu.au

Prayers of the Faithful

Priest: With the Lord there is mercy and redemption. Let us turn to God who hears our every prayer.

Reader: That those affected by disease may be strengthened by God's love and comfort. We especially remember communities affected by the spread of the coronavirus.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those in the medical profession working in difficult and uncertain circumstances will be granted courage and endurance. We pray especially for those assisting in the coronavirus outbreak.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That nations will put right their failings of the past.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who grieve will be comforted by Christ who wept at the tomb of Lazarus.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who are preparing for the Easter sacraments will meet Christ face to face and be set free.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who have died and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time will rise with Christ on the last day,

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the Holy Spirit will guide the church in Australia to listen humbly with open heart as it prepares for the 2020 Plenary Council.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That Catholic organisations will be supported by our Lenten almsgiving especially Caritas Australia through Project Compassion.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Priest: God of compassion, your Spirit calls all back to life in Christ. Hear our prayers and set us free from the darkness of sin. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord,

All: Amen.

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Lenten Prayer

God of all peoples and nations, As you accompany us on our Lenten journey, May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity, Our almsgiving be an act of justice,

And our prayers anchor us in love and compassion. Awaken our hearts and minds that we may be one human family

As we all go further together.

We ask this in Jesus' name, **AMEN**



Finances

Thank you for your continued support at this incredibly hard time. Please phone the office 03 5358 1119 to discuss contributions for the Planned Giving Program and the Presbytery. During office hours—Thurs 11am-5pm, there will be a box to place your envelopes in. Otherwise you can make a direct debit into the following account:

St Patricks Parish BSB 013 815 Account No 2863 26347

Please reference your Family name

Deus te Benedicat—God Bless You



Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help fathers like Barry continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Dominic, 47 is a former teacher and father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with the Caritas Australia's Safe House and Family Anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around.

The program provides gender-based violence prevention training, counselling services and safe accommodation for women and children survivors of violence. Now a community trainer, he works with other men to help them to change their behaviour and build more harmonious family lives. Dominic and his wife, Christophylda say that their relationship has been transformed – and their family life is now

harmonious, happy and safe

Humour

MY CAT JUST CAME HOME WITH 24 BAGS OF KITTY LITTER.

Time to stop this nonsense.

WHO CAN I CALL FOR HELP?

LIFELINE

13 11 14

24 HOURS/7 DAYS
CRISIS SUPPORT
SUICIDE PREVENTION

HEADSPACE

1800 650 890

AGES 12-25
PHONE & ONLINE
SUPPORT (eheadsapce)

HEADSPACE BALLARAT

5304 4777

AGES 12-25
REFERRALS
DROP IN SERVICE:
MON-FRI 9AM-4PM
VIA TELEHEALTH

BEYOND BLUE

1300 22 4636

24 HOURS/7 DAYS
ONLINE FORUMS & CHAT
FUNCTION

KIDS HELPLINE

1800 551 800

AGES 5-25
24 HOURS/7 DAYS
COUNSELLING

NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE

1800 020 080

24 HOURS/7 DAYS
INFO ON COVID-19

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned