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Stawell QR Code



Location Code **RE5 ZWJ**

You will need to have downloaded the APP onto your phone. It will not work if you just take a "photo" of the image above. There will be someone to help. But we would urge you to come 10 minutes earlier to Mass if you are unsure of what to do.

"Heal Country" **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander**

Reflection

This year the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council have adopted the NAIDOC theme for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sunday – Heal Country. In Laudato Si', Pope Francis has called us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

Today's Gospel is very fitting because Mark tells us of Jesus returning to his 'native place' – Nazareth – to a non-accepting, hostile reaction. Jesus had been welcomed and revered in other places, why is it that he is mocked and disregarded in his own home? "Is he not the carpenter?" the crowd called because they saw him as "without honour" and were unable to believe in him. He did not fit into their ideological view and thus did not deserve respect in their eyes.

In Australia, our own First Nations people have suffered a similar reception to Jesus in Nazareth. Their knowledge and complex cultural systems, created and honed over millennia, are often dismissed as primitive and irrelevant to our fast-paced world of today. This could not be further from the truth, particularly as we become more aware of their continued care, love, and respect for 'country', grounded in a relationship with the creator that formed independently of Western influence.

2021 marks the 250th Anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in Australia. Yet the Spirit of God was poured out onto the original inhabitants of this great Southern Land many, many thousands of years prior. God's Spirit could be heard through the singing of the birds, the cascade of the waterfall, the rustle of the wind and, most importantly, in silence.

Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann, a respected Ngangiwumirr Elder, artist and 2021 Senior Australian of the year explains the importance of listening and understanding the silence:

"My people today, recognise and experience in this quietness, the great Life-Giving Spirit, the Father of us all. It is easy for me to experience God's presence. When I am out hunting, when I am in the bush, among the trees, on a hill or by a billabong; these are the times when I can simply be in God's presence. My people have been so aware of Nature. It is natural that we will feel close to the Creator."

Finances

If you would like to donate to a parish, please see the details below. Many thanks

Details for Ararat Parish:

Parish Account "Main Church Account"
Westpac Bank **BSB** 033 201 // Acc 810035

Presbytery Account "Presbytery Account"
Westpac Bank **BSB** 033 201 //Acc 810043

Details for Stawell Parish

Parish Account **BSB** 013 815 **Acc:** 286326347
Presbytery Account **BSB** 013 815 **Acc:** 286326355



St Patrick's Parish Newsletter **Stawell and Landsborough** **Sunday July 4th 2021** **14th Sunday of Ordinary Time Yr B** **"Heal Country"** **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday**



First Reading Ez 2:2-5

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The people are rebellious; they shall know there will be a prophet in their midst.

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 122. R. v.2

(R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens: my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. **(R.)**
2. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of his mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he shows us his mercy. **(R.)**
3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain. **(R.)**

Second Reading 2 Cor 12:7-10

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

I will glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 6:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

A prophet is despised only in his own country.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

Home town crowds and 'mighty works'

I recommend viewing the film 'Billy Elliott' in which a youngster found that his body 'went electric' when he danced. To give expression to this, he had to break from the expectations of his family in a decaying mining town in the north of England.

Jesus had a similar experience. His home town of Nazareth wanted to keep him in the box they could deal with: 'the carpenter's son'. But he was aware of a divine dynamism which welled up from the depths of who he was and it had to find expression in 'mighty works'. So, he left Nazareth, never to return.

Each person has a unique identity and role conceived by God. Of course, we must be careful not to stifle it in others. But, first, we must try to discern what it is for ourselves. Why was I loved into existence just now, and not in the third or the twenty-third century? The cosmos as desired by God will be incomplete if I let others dictate who I am. God's plan of salvation history will be disrupted if I don't fulfil the role he wants me to play.

We could take a moment to pray for certain gifts of the Holy Spirit; understanding and wisdom to be enlightened as to one's unique identity and role, and then courage to persevere against the odds, perhaps confounding the expectations of others, so as to go on and perform his 'mighty works'.

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<u>MASS TIMES</u>				
<u>Ararat</u>	<u>Stawell</u>	<u>Lake Bolac</u>	<u>Landsborough</u>	<u>Glenthompson</u>
(Immaculate Conception)	(St. Patrick's)	(St. Bernard's)	(St. Francis)	
Saturday		6.30pm—Sat Vigil	6pm—Sat Vigil	
Sunday	8.30am	10.30am	of the 2nd & 4th Sun	8.30am (2nd & 4th Sun)
<u>Masses this Week</u>				
Masses this Week				
Stawell: Tues to Fri 10am				
Ararat: Friday 9th July 11am prayer				

H	J	E	K	E	C	D	R	C	K	F	O	O	D	A
X	A	C	H	R	I	S	T	T	U	R	N	T	W	O
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W	S	K	G	Z	G	I	A	T	X	L	K	A	A	Y
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