



Sunday December 4th—We welcomed a group of Muslim women last Sunday to have an informative chat about their culture and religion. Many came all the way from Melbourne! Not only was the afternoon informative, it was a buzz of chatter, wonderful baklava and sharing of rituals. If you see a Muslim woman doing the shopping in the street or pushing a buggy—say “Salam” to her—it means “Peace”. We hope to have their feet under our chairs on another occasion.

Christmas Mass Times

Note that Christmas Day is a **Sunday** this year. These are **not** the usual Sunday Mass times. There are special times for Christmas.

Sat Dec 24th

6pm Ararat
7.45pm Lake Bolac

Midnight Ararat
9.15pm Glenthompson

Sun Dec 25th

9am Ararat

Reconciliation for Christmas

Ararat 2nd Rite Reconciliation Thursday December 22nd 7pm. Please bring supper to share.

Carols

Ararat Anglican Church, Lake Bolac Uniting Church, Streatham St. Columba's **ALL on** Dec 18th 7.30pm

Christmas Hamper

Thank you to Catholic Church Insurance who have donated a beautiful hamper. This has been given to Vinnies for a local family at Christmas.

Making a Scene at Christmas

A display of Christmas Nativity scenes will be held in St Patrick's Hall, Ballarat from Wednesday evening December 14 – Sunday, December 18. On display there will be in excess of 300 nativities from over 40 countries. Opening hours are Thursday and Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm; Saturday 10.00am – 8.00pm and Sunday 9.00am – 7.00pm.

Office Christmas Opening Hours

Dec 5th—16th Normal Hours

Dec 20th Tues 9am-1pm

Dec 21st Wed **CLOSED**

Dec 23rd Fri 10am-1pm

Dec 27th/28th Tues/Wed **CLOSED**

Dec 30th Fri 10am-1pm

Christian Christmas Cards

Vinnies have Christian Christmas cards available at \$2.50 per pack. Let's do our bit to maintain Christmas as a celebration of the birth of Christ!



Sunday, 11th Dec 2016: Third Sunday of Advent - Year A

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which The Church of The Immaculate Conception is built, the Tjapwurong people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

First Reading **Is 35:1-6, 10**

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4**

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, **Zion's** God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading **Jas 5:7-10**

Gospel Acclamation **Is 61:1 (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 **Mt 11:2-11**

Copyright ICEL. Used

10th/11th December 2016

RECENT DEATHS:

Justin McCarthy

ANNIVERSARIES:

Noel McOwan, John Thomas, Fr. Gery Payne, Grace Harrison, Florentina Uda de Torrecarpo, Janice Porter, Norman Rowe, Hayley Pugh, Maureen Dalton, Norman William Rowe, Emma Brennan, John Hearn, Pepito Galang, Myra Campbell, Fr Bill Egan, Barry Karlake, John McSparron, Laurence Cashin, Fr. John Connellan, Fr. Billie Close, Fr. Pat O'Dowd, Joan Dadswell, Damien Gordon, Joan Fogarty, Christina O'Brien, Roslyn Lillis

SICK:

Barry Wilson, Margaret Kidd, Wendy Shea, Shirley Billet, Natasha Martens.

(thank you for your continued prayers)

Hospital: *If you are in hospital and would like to receive Communion, could a family member please contact the office.*

Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Pat Lardner

Up-Coming Baptisms:

Charles Ferguson, son of David & Kateryna, Dec 18th

Advent Prayer

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

CHURCHES -

CONTACT US

PHONE:

EMAIL:

WEBSITE:

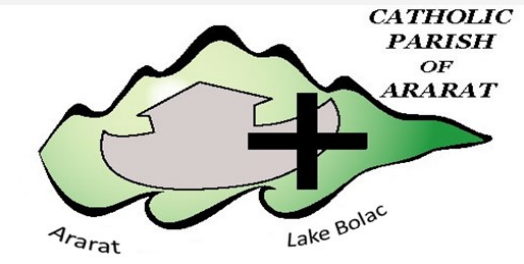
Immaculate Conception, Ararat

St. Bernard's, Lake Bolac

03 5352 5460

ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



PRIEST:

Fr Andrew Hayes

andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours

Tues/Wed/Fri

9am—2pm

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Ararat

Lake Bolac

Saturday

6.00pm

8.30am

Sunday

10.30am

8.30am

2nd Sunday of Every Month

Lay Assembly

Fr Andrew Away

Fr Andrew will be away from the parish from Tuesday 6th until Tuesday 20th December presenting the Making a Scene at Christmas Exhibition. During this time the phone will still be monitored daily.

Bishop Peter Connors will celebrate Mass with us on the two weekends Fr. Andrew is away.

A VOCATION VIEW

"As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." (James5:10) A vocation is responding to the call of God.

Church Toilets

All children—Primary school age and under— must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you for your understanding.

Together with a culture of work, there must be a culture of leisure as gratification. To put it another way: people who work must take the time to relax, to be with their families, to enjoy themselves, read, listen to music, play a sport.

Read more at more at -Pope Francis @Pontifex 2016

St. Mary's Parish

304a Barkly St.

Ararat, 3377

PARISH PRIEST:

PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL:

Download newsletter—www.smararat.catholic.edu.au

PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE:

Download newsletter—www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au

PARISH SECRETARY:

or

PO Box 92

Ararat, 3377

Fr Andrew Hayes

Mr Tom Hogan

Mrs Carmel Barker

Ms Joyce Clery

Golden Gate Christmas Party

Thank you to all who contributed in anyway to our Christmas Party this week. Our friends from Golden Gate Lodge thoroughly enjoyed themselves!!

Saint of the week:

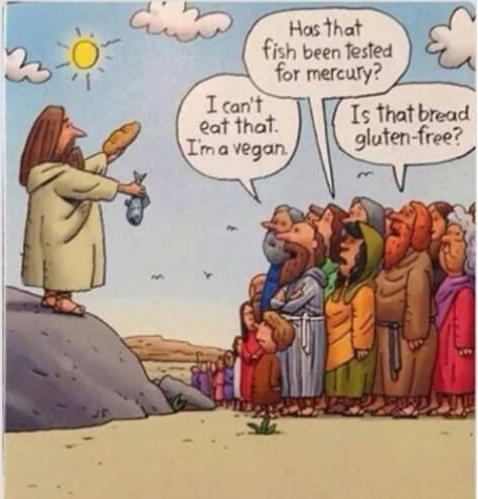
St. Gorgonia

Feast Day Dec 9th, patron Saint of people afflicted by bodily ills or sickness. Death 375. The daughter of St. Gregory [Nazianzus](#) and St. Nonna and the sister of St. Gregory [Nazianzus](#) the Younger and St. Caesarius. Her brother preached at her funeral, declaring her a model [Christian](#) matron.

Read more on [www.catholic.org](#)

Joke of the Week

If Jesus tried to feed the 5000 today... :)



Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning
Sat Dec 10th	C. Brennan		H&A Collins (N/A)		D&M Lister	The Reynolds Family & P. McAloon	Geoff. White	M. Cunningham	M. Fe Galoso & A. Galoso
Sun Dec 11th	P. Lardner	C. Bulger	G. O'Loughlin, N. Billingsley & S. Reid	Anne-Marie	Pat Lardner & Kathy Leggett	(as above)	V. Hooper	(as above)	(as above)
Sat Dec 17th		P. McAloon	A. Reynolds, L. Horsman & C. McAdie		Geoff White & M. Ryan	I. Brady, P. Gemmola & L. Styles	Geoff White	Anne Joyce & M. Brady	P. Weeks
Sun Dec 18th	J. Start	P. Lardner	C. Bulger, M. de Jong & K. Chamings	J&J Crowe	D. Dijon & S. Pickering	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)

LAKE BOLAC—Lay Assembly

READER:

PRAYERS:

EUCCHARISTIC

MINISTER:

Lay Assembly:

Jane Higgins

P. Meek

R. Liston

Peter & Leanne

LAKE BOLAC—MASS

READER:

PRAYERS:

EUCCHARISTIC :

MINISTER:

CLEANING:

V. Albert

I. Meek

L. Breen

I. Meek

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Our Parish Feast Day is Thursday Dec 8th. Next weekend (Dec 10th/11th) there will be a cuppa after both Masses to mark the occasion. **BRING A PLATE TO SHARE!**

PARISH NATIVITY SCENE—ITS FIXED!!

The large Parish Black & White Nativity scene has been fixed but we are looking for parishioners to help "fix" it to the Presbytery balustrades. It is heavy and needs to be placed where no-one could injure themselves (expecially a child). It also needs a lick of paint and a clean. There is a power point on the Presbytery verandah where we thought it could go.....HELPERS PLEASE!! If anyone would like to help, please have a chat with Mary Cunningham. The CRIB—if anyone has anytime to bring down the Crib from the Choir Gallery?

CALL OUT!

Is there anyone available to sand & varnish the Presbytery outdoor furniture? If so please phone the office on 5352 5460 THANK YOU!

Foyer Notice Board

There are a few new notices from the Diocese on the Notice board for your perusal. There is avery interesting article about Pope Francis in the latest edition of TIME Magazine.



Fair Trade Chocolate and Other Products

St Mary's Parish abhors the practice of underpaying workers in plantations producing chocolate and other products. We bring to your awareness the Fair Trade logo. Look for the logo when purchasing.

Lifeline:

131114

Ararat Police:

5355

1500 Sexual Assault Crisis line:

1800 806 292

Counselling service: Relationships Australia

— 1800 052 674

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Towards Healing

— 1800 099 340