

Have you made any New Year's resolutions for 2016? If not, there's still time, and Pope Francis [has some ideas for you](#).

These are the ten things that he called upon Vatican employees to do:

1. *"Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are."*
2. *"Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love."*
3. *"Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy."*
4. *"Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence."*
5. *"Heal wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others."*
6. *"Look after your work, doing it with enthusiasm, humility, competence, passion and with a spirit that knows how to thank the Lord."*
7. *"Be careful of envy, lust, hatred and negative feelings that devour our interior peace and transform us into destroyed and destructive people."*
8. *"Watch out for anger that can lead to vengeance; for laziness that leads to existential euthanasia; for pointing the finger at others, which leads to pride; and for complaining continually, which leads to desperation."*
9. *"Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker ... the elderly, the sick, the hungry, the homeless and strangers, because we will be judged on this."*
10. *"Making sure your Christmas is about Jesus and not about shopping."*

It's a good list: it's clearly rooted in Catholic teachings, but presented in a way that non-Catholics can embrace (I discovered this list via a Protestant friend who had posted it on Facebook, in fact). And I think that all of us can find on this list at least one or two resolutions that speak to areas in which we really need to grow.

Hope this helps, and happy New Year!



Sunday 1st January 2017

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

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

1st January 2017

RECENT DEATHS:

Sr. Laserian Kaye CSB

ANNIVERSARIES: Jacob Pitcher, Theresa McColl, Roger Gleeson, Vincent Daly, Margaret Cochrane, Eileen Field, Fr Pat McGuire, Jessie Fleming, Vincent Thomas, Vera Shea, Anthony Gordon, Peter Keogh, Michael Campion, Don Richard, Margaret Haslett

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

If you would like a sick person prayed for, ask for their permission. Names will be included for the duration of ONE MONTH after which family or friends can request more time.

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

Margaret Kidd would like to thank every one for their prayers during her recent illness.

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:

PARISH PRAYER

Loving God, Good Shepherd of us all,
gather us and form us into a welcoming Parish family.
Touch our hearts with your love so that we, in turn,
may reach out in love to one another,
in a neighbourly community.
We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

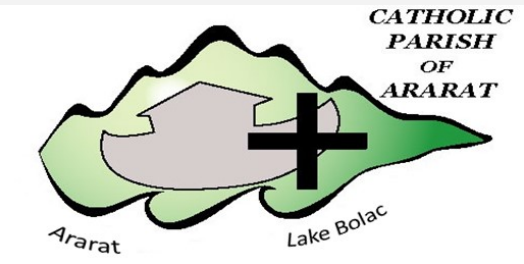
CHURCHES - Immaculate Conception, Ararat
St. Bernard's, Lake Bolac

CONTACT US

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PRIEST: Fr Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours Tues/Wed/Fri 9am—2pm

MASS TIMES		
	Ararat	Lake Bolac
Saturday	6.00pm	
Sunday	10.30am	8.30am
2nd Sunday of Every Month		8.30am
Lay Assembly		
Masses this Week		
Friday 30 th	Hopkins 6pm.	

A VOCATION VIEW

Mary, Mother of the Priest Jesus, is especially Mother to all Priests. Pray to Mary to ask her guidance in your life.

Church Toilets

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

Christian unity is a priority, because we realize that much more unites us than separates us.

Read more at more at -Pope Francis @Pontifex 2016

St. Mary's Parish
304a Barkly St. or PO Box 92
Ararat, 3377 Ararat, 3377

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Andrew Hayes

PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Mr Tom Hogan

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

PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE: Mrs Carmel Barker

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

PARISH SECRETARY: Ms Joyce Clery

Saint of the week:
Saint Stephen, (died AD 36, Jerusalem; feast day December 26), Christian deacon in Jerusalem and the first Christian martyr, whose apology before the Sanhedrin (Acts 7) points to a distinct strand of belief in primitive Christianity. His defense enraged his hearers, and he was taken out of the city and stoned to death. He lived in Jerusalem become a Christian. and was recognized as a man with special gifts as an evangelist.

Advance Notice – dates for 2017:
Rite of Election: Saturday, March 4 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
Mass of the Oils: Monday, April 10 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

St Vincent de Paul Society Ararat Conference.
Members of the local Vinnies would like to thank the generous support we received for our Christmas Appeal from the parishioners of Immaculate Conception Ararat and St Bernard's Lake Bolac. A total of \$2060.00 was donated to the appeal . This money will be utilised to assist families in the Ararat parish .

The next meeting of Vinnies will be held on Tuesday 7th February 2017

Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collec-tor	Flowers	Clean-ing
Sat Dec 31st	Volunteer please	I. Brady	M. Mason, P. Brady & AM Joyce		Geoff White	V. Hooper, C. Brennan & G. White	V. Hooper	M. Lister & Anne Joyce	Jo Donnan K. Scher-ger
Sun Jan 1st	P Brennan	S. Reid	C. Reid, M. Ollie & J. Start	Derek & Maureen	Lois Rowe	(as above)	J. Crowe	(as above)	(as above)
Sat Jan 7th	P. Gemmola	T. Gemmola	H&A Collins		Marg Joyce & M. Ryan	E. Coburn & Jo Jackson	C. Brennan	G. O'Lough-lan &	M. Fe Galoso & A. Galoso
Sun Jan 8th	C. Reid	J. Crowe	G. O'Loughlin, N. Billings-ley & S. Reid	J. Start	Pat Lard-ner & S. Pickering	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)

LAKE BOLAC—MASS		LAKE BOLAC—LAY ASSEMBLY	
READER:	M. Phillips	READER:	I. Meek
PRAYERS:	P. Phillips	PRAYERS:	H. Smith
EUCCHARISTIC		EUCCHARISTIC	
MINISTER:	R. Smith	MINISTER:	U. Upton
CLEANING:	J. Upton	Lay Assembly	Reg & Helen

Lay Pastoral Ministry Program - start in 2017!
The Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers, both employees and volunteers. Details on the diocesan website (link to Program on lower front page) email: amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone 5337 7125

Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2017 leads to Year of Youth 2018
The Catholic Bishops of Australia invite Catholics across the country to join in celebrating a Year of Youth from the beginning of Advent 2017 to the end of 2018. The theme is, 'Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment'. The emphasis is on local discussion and dialogue in parishes, schools, youth groups and dioceses. The Year of Youth will be launched at the next Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney in December 2017. More information on diocesan website News and Youth and Young Adult pages www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



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