



QR Code for Young People

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

GIVING TREE

(NOTE THE DATE CHANGE FOR DROP OFF of GIFTS!)

A 'Giving Tree' has once again been placed in the Church. On the Giving Tree will be decorations with gift ideas. Families are invited to take a decoration and purchase a gift for those in need in our district. Please place gifts under the tree (*unwrapped*) and members from St Vincent de Paul will collect and distribute. We ask that all donated gifts be placed under the tree by **Sunday Dec 20th** in order to give the volunteers time to sort, wrap and distribute the hampers/gifts before Christmas. Many thanks.



Children and the Toilet – Just a reminder that all children **MUST** be accompanied by an adult when going to the toilets during Mass. This is for the safety of the children.

Saint of the week: St Adelaide, Born 932, Died 999, Patron of abuse victims, exiles, parenthood, in-law problems, parents of large families, widows, second marriages and princesses.

Mary MacKillop: From Portland to the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Sainthood

Events are planned on the weekend of Saturday 30 & Sunday 31 January, 2016 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Mary MacKillop departing Portland in January 1866. Flyer is on the Church Notice board.

Farewell to Godwin

After six months with us Godwin leaves us on Christmas Day to continue his studies. Parishioners are invited to a farewell cuppa on **Christmas Eve at 10am in the presbytery**.

Honouring Grandparents

The nearest thing to the love of God is the love of GRANDPARENTS - **Anonymous**

Perfect love sometimes does not come until the first GRANDCHILD. ~**Welsh Proverb**

Because GRANDPARENTS are free to love and guide and befriend the young without having to take daily responsibility for them, they can often reach out past pride and fear of failure to close the space between the generations.

~**Jimmy Carter**

The only thing better than having you for Parents is my children having you for Grandparents—

A Thankful Son



4th Sunday of Advent - Year C

20th December 2015

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.

FIRST READING Mi 5:1-4

Out of you will be born the one who is to rule over Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM IPs 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. *(R.)*
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. *(R.)*
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. *(R.)*

SECOND READING Heb 10:5-10

I am coming to do your will.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 1:39-45

Why should it happen that I am honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?

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Prayer of Pope Francis for the Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

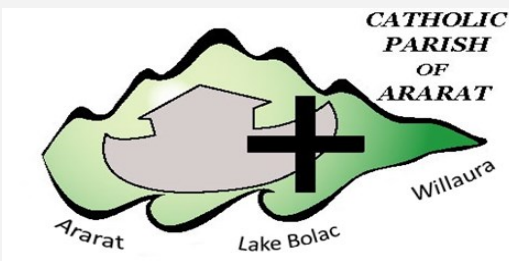
Show us your face and we will be saved.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, ARARAT, ST. BERNARD'S, LAKE BOLAC,
SAINT PATICK'S, WILLAURA

PARISH PRIEST: Fr Andrew Hayes
304a Barkly Street, Ararat Vic 3377, PO Box 92, Ararat Vic 3377
ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Mr Tom Hogan
PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE: Mrs Carmel Barker

ST. MARY'S PARISH OFFICE: Ph: 5352 5460
Fr Andrew Hayes Email andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au



OFFICE HOURS:
Wednesday: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm
Friday: 8.30 am - 4.30 pm

ARARAT MASS PROGRAMME FOR THIS WEEK

Tuesday 22 nd	9.30 am	Ararat
Wednesday 23 rd	11.00am	Funeral Prayers for Margaret Smith

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday 24th	6.00pm	Ararat
(Christmas Eve)	8.00pm	Lake Bolac
	Midnight Mass	Ararat
Friday 25th	9.00am	Ararat—Christmas Day Mass

I will be having a rest on the weekdays between Christmas and New Year
and hope that you will be too!
Fr. Andrew

A VOCATION VIEW

Can you honestly pray: "I have come to do your will, O God"? Blessed are you who trusts that the Lord's words to you will be fulfilled.

"We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love. Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach peach."

-Pope Francis @Pontifex 2015

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KAIROS
CATHOLIC JOURNAL

19th/20th December 2015

RECENT DEATHS:

Margaret Smith

ANNIVERSARIES:

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, Christina O'Brien, Roslyn Lillis, Ellen Byrne, Alex Haslett, William Casanova, Fr. Stephen O'Rourke, Stephan Sugden, Oliver Schwab, Norman Joseph Rowe, Rita Lardner, Rose Hogan, Fr Michael Glennen, Jack Brennan, Vera Cox, Maurice Diggle, Sr. Rose Day RSM, Timothy Weeks, Pat Brennan, Doris Tognon, Fr Paddy Bushell, John Sullivan, Evie Hayes, Matthew Sullivan

SICK:

Pat Davis, Shirley Billet, Hilary Doveton, Arthur Spiller and Natasha Martens

THIS WEEK 19th/20th

FACILITATOR

SAT: Harry Collins SUN: Greg Carroll

READERS

SAT: Anna Collins SUN: Terry Arnold

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SAT: A. Reynolds, R. Jerram, Sr. Maree
SUN : K. Chamings, M. de Jong

COUNTERS

V. Hooper, C. Brennan, G. White

GOLDEN GATE COMMUNION

Teresa

FLOWERS Mary Cunningham

CHURCH CLEANING

Christmas Cleaning Volunteers Please

WELCOMERS

SAT: Duane & Mary Stapleton
SUN: Lupe & David Anderson

LAKE BOLAC

READER: Jane Higgins

PRAYERS: T. Higgins

EUCCHARISTIC

MINISTER: R. Liston

CLEANING: R.Liston

NEXT WEEK 26th/27th

FACILITATOR

SAT: Geoff White SUN: Marg Olle

READERS

SAT: Jewell Start SUN: Kath Leggett

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SAT: M. Stapleton, A. Reynolds
SUN : M. de Jong, C. Bulger

COUNTERS

T. Rees, B. Rieniets, P. McAloon

GOLDEN GATE COMMUNION

Margaret

FLOWERS Joan Bond, Una Hunt

CHURCH CLEANING

WELCOMERS

SAT: Duane & Mary Stapleton
SUN: Lupe & David Anderson

LAKE BOLAC

READER: I. Meek

PRAYERS: V. Albert

EUCCHARISTIC

MINISTER: D. Haslett

CLEANING: J. Upton

MEETINGS & EVENTS

A Message from Fr Andrew

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make both Ararat and Lake Bolac communities flourish during 2015. As I approach my second Christmas here I am feeling more and more at home and more and more encouraged about the future of our robust and vibrant parish. I look forward to these exciting developments in the parish in 2016:

- Having every parishioner with a job in the parish, whether large or small
- Continuing to build on our parish's friendship with the Muslim community in Ararat
- Developing our understanding of the needs of people seeking asylum in our country
- People from the diocese will be visiting mid-year to help to train our Mass Readers and to help us to develop our Funeral and Bereavement ministry
- Continuing to support those who are hurting from abuse within the Church
- Continuing with our prison ministry

By the time you read this our Making a Scene at Christmas exhibition may have taken place. I do hope that this helped to make the miracle of the birth of Christ in our midst a joy for you. For my own part I put a lot of myself into this exhibition because I believe that God coming amongst us to be one of us and to transform us is an amazing story. I wish you all a safe, holy and happy Christmas.

After Mass today will be your last chance to see this amazing exhibition. So pop in to the Parish centre and enjoy all the different Nativity scenes from around the country and indeed Fr. Andrew's shed—he owns many of them! **The exhibition runs until 4pm today.**

Hot Weather

Remember to bring your bottles of water to mass during these hot days.
Keep hydrated!

Sharing the load

Watch out for a questionnaire that will be handed out in the coming days asking "not what your Church can do for you, but what you can do for your Church?!"

Thank You

Thank you to all those who helped set up for the Nativity Exhibition in the very hot weather on Friday and thank you in advance to all those who will help pack it up.