



QR Code for Young People



GIVING TREE

Many thanks to all those who donated gifts for the Giving Tree. It is very much appreciated. St. Vincent de Paul members wish you all a very Merry Christmas and New Year.

Saint of the week: St. Anysia, Born 284, Died 304, Martyr of Greece, she was a wealthy woman of Salonika who used her personal funds to aid the poor.

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.

Making a Scene at Christmas

Thank you everyone for your support of our exhibition last weekend. It's a good barometer of the health of our parish that so many people were willing to help to set up and pack up and help in between. Thanks to the CWL for the great catering!!! We have a committee who meet in Ballarat throughout the year to plan these exhibitions. This year we will have presented to 3000 people in Ararat, Nazareth House and schools in Ballarat and Melbourne – about thirty days of work. Why do Fiona, Keith, myself and the committee do this? The birth of Christ can be forgotten in the hustle and bustle of December. We enjoy the story, the art and the company.

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.

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.

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



Christmas Day & Sunday December 27th Mass— Feast of the Holy Family

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.

Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Mass

First Reading Is 9:1-7

A son is given to us.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 95:1-3, 11-13 R. Lk 2:11

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the
peoples. (R.)
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be
glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
et the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.
(R.)

Second Reading Ti 2:11-14

God's grace has been revealed to all people.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 2:10-11

Alleluia, alleluia!

Good News and great joy to all the world:
today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:1-14

Today a saviour has been born for you.

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Sunday Mass December 27th

First Reading Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and
walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive,
around your table. (R.)
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life. (R.)

Second Reading Col 3:12-21

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

Gospel Acclamation Col 3:15, 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within
you.
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:41-52

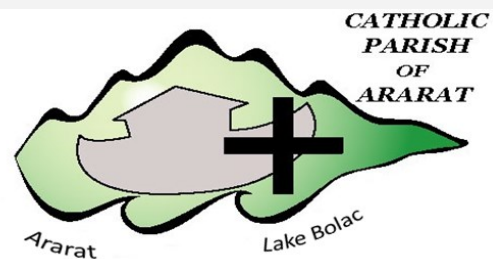
*His parents found him in the temple, sitting
among the learned men, listening to them.*

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PARISH PRIEST: Fr Andrew Hayes
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
Tues/Wed/Fri 9am—2pm

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

ARARAT MASS PROGRAMME FOR NEXT WEEK

Saturday Jan 2nd	6.00pm	Ararat
Sunday Jan 3rd	8.30am	Lake Bolac
	10.30am	Ararat

I will be having a rest on the weekdays between Christmas and New Year and hope that you will be too. The phone lines will be checked everyday so keep the communication lines open! Fr. Andrew

A VOCATION VIEW

“Christmas comes but once a year. But you can be Christ to others the remaining 364 days. In fact, He is counting on you.”

“God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If he gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it.”

-Pope Francis @Pontifex 2015

26th/27th December 2015

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Kath Schwab, Fr Pat Culligan, Peter Sinnott, James Sinnott, Fred Mason, Kathleen McLeod, Mary O'Neill, Shane Walls, Anne Handley, Joseph Colwell, Mary Pola, Peter Williams, Andrew Jackson, Bishop Joe Grech, Zsonella McGrath, Joan Fogarty, James O'Connor, Fr Ted Glowey, Johanna Lannen, Winifred Hynes, Bernice Clinton, Bernardino Torrecampo, Ivan Lee, Des Brennan, Sr Veronica O'Brien, Bernie Maloney, Stephanie Mitchell

SICK:

Hilary Doveton, Arthur Spiller and Natasha Martens

THIS 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

Any Volunteers please

WELCOMERS

SAT: Duane & Mary Stapleton

SUN: Lupe & David Anderson

LAKE BOLAC

READER: I. Meek

PRAYERS: V. Albert

EUCCHARISTIC

MINISTER: D. Haslett

CLEANING: J. Upton

NEXT WEEK Jan 2nd/3rd

FACILITATOR

SAT: Carmel Brennan SUN: Kaye Chamings

READERS

SAT: Pat McAloon SUN: Vin Hooper

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SAT: L. Horsman, A.M. Joyce & J. Start

SUN : M. Cunningham, K. Chamings

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: V. Albert

PRAYERS: I. Meek

EUCCHARISTIC

MINISTER: M. Phillips

CLEANING: Jane Higgins

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

Farewell to Godwin

After six months with us Godwin leaves us on Christmas Day to continue his studies. We wish him a very Happy Christmas and hope he enjoys time with his family.

Dec/Jan Office Hours

Fri Dec 25th CLOSED
Tues Dec 29th CLOSED
Wed Dec 30th 9.00am-2pm
Fri Jan 1st CLOSED
Tues Jan 5th 9.00am-2pm
Wed Jan 6th 9.00am-2pm
Fri Jan 8th 9.00am-2pm
Normal hours onwards

Hot Weather

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

Volunteers

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers in the Ararat and Lake Bolac Parishes. Please do let the Parish office know if you are happy to continue in your various roles.

Have a Safe and Happy Christmas!

www.kairos.com.au
The latest & LAST issue of Kairos is now available at the back of the church. \$2 each.
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