



Doney and her family have often gone months without enough to eat in their remote village Malawi. Today they are building new livelihoods, improving health and growing literacy to create paths towards a better future.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help people in remote areas of Malawi harness their strengths.

**REFLECTIONS: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – 14 February**

Today's collect prayer invites us to 'grow in understanding of the riches hidden in Christ'. This is at the heart of our Lenten 'campaign of service'. The Gospel invites us to go into the desert – the place within us where we contemplate in quiet reflection. It is here we come to selflessness and openness to Christ that can only be found in reflection and prayer. If we empty ourselves in prayer and almsgiving our eyes will be open to see the hidden riches of Christ in the many faces of our global neighbours.

During the Lenten season we also fast from excessive food and drink, and give alms to those without access to sufficient basic needs. By turning our minds to the needs of others through Project Compassion, our prayer and contemplation reaches out to others. Our giving can enable our brothers and sisters in Malawi, featured in this year's Project Compassion, to create paths towards a better future.

During this Lenten season, the Church invites us to be more loving and generous with our time, our talents and our material possessions. When we go into our own desert we discover that it is God's abundant love that motivates us, that invites us to reach out in love to others, our family and friends, our neighbours, and those who need our compassionate love.

**Lenten Retreat Online**

I have found a good Lenten retreat to do at home. Go to [www.sacredspace.ie](http://www.sacredspace.ie) and follow the link to Lent Retreat 2016: Year of Mercy, Lent of Healing

**Saint of the week:** St. Valentine of course! Patron Saint of Love, Young People and happy marriages. Feast day Feb 14th. Death 269.

**Joke of the week** The rain was pouring down. And there, standing in front of a big puddle outside the pub, was an old Irishman, drenched, holding a stick, with a piece of string dangling in the water. A passer-by stopped and asked, "What are you doing?" "Fishing," replied the old man. Feeling sorry for the old man, the gent says, "Come in out of the rain and have a drink with me." In the warmth of the pub, as they sip their whiskies, the gentleman cannot resist asking, "So how many have you caught today?" "You're the eighth." says the old man.....

William Butler Yeats  
Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,  
Enwrought with golden and silver light,  
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths  
Of night and light and the half light, I  
would spread the cloths under your feet:  
But I, being poor, have only my dreams; I  
have spread my dreams under your feet;  
Tread softly because you tread on my  
dreams.

**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.

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



**Sunday, 14 Feb 2016: First Sunday of Lent - Year C**

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** Dt 26:4-10

*The confession of faith of the elect.*

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 90:1-2, 10-15. R. v.15

**(R.)** Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble.

1. He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides in the shade of the Almighty says to the Lord: 'My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!' **(R.)**
2. Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach where you dwell. For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways. **(R.)**
3. They shall bear you upon their hands lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread and trample the young lion and the dragon. **(R.)**
4. His love he set on me, so I will rescue him; protect him for he knows my name. When he calls I shall answer: 'I am with you.' I will save him in distress and give him glory. **(R.)**

**Second Reading** Rom 10:8-13

*The confession of faith of the believers in Christ.*

**Gospel Acclamation** Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

**Gospel** Lk 4:1-13

*Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus was led by the Spirit through the wilderness where he was tempted.*

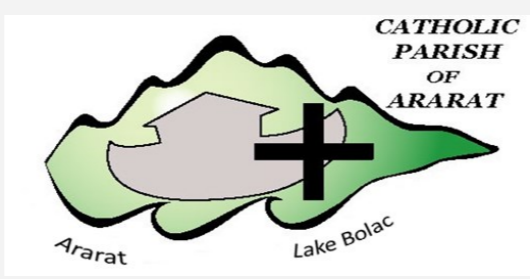
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**Prayer of Pope Francis for the Year of Mercy**  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,  
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.  
Show us your face and we will be saved.  
Send your Spirit and 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.

**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

**WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

	<u>Ararat</u>	<u>Lake Bolac</u>
<b>Saturday</b>	6.00pm	
<b>Sunday</b>	10.30am	8.30am
<b>2nd Sunday of Every Month</b>		8.30am Lay Assembly

**WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

<b>Tues 16<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Ararat
<b>Wed 17<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Ararat
<b>Thurs 18<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30am	Ararat (followed by Lenten discussion)
<b>Fri 19<sup>th</sup></b>	6pm	Hopkins

**A VOCATION VIEW**

“Try not to pray for an easy life; rather, pray to be a strong person. Strong in trust, hope, care, love. Follow the Master.”

“Parents, can you “waste time” with your children? It is one of the most important things that you can do each day. “  
Read more at more at **-Pope Francis @Pontifex 2015**

**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  
**PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE:** Mrs Carmel Barker  
**PARISH SECRETARY:** Ms Joyce Clery

**13th/14th February 2016**

**RECENT DEATHS:**

Eunice Downes

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Tom Hourigan, Maria Deininger, Edna Colwell, Ron Baxter, Dawn Emerson, Sheila Brady, Daisy Sharman, Fr. Jim Kaye, Constance Hevey, Jim Tutton, Myra Lillis, Gerald Gleeson, Carmel Lembo, Robert Oliver, Janie Johnston, Betty White, Edward O'Boyle, Antonia Sultana, Bob Mahony, Jackson Hunt, Thelma Day and Noel Hooper

**SICK:**

Shirley Billet, Fr. Brendan Davey, Natasha Martens and Wendy Shea (please see note on the notice board in the foyer)

**Please Pray for the Intentions of:** (see below)

**The Sick List**

New Arrangements for Prayers for the Sick  
This section of the bulletin will now have two sections:

1. “The Sick”
2. “Please pray for the intentions of ...”

As has been our custom, people on the “Sick” list (or their next of kin) will need to give permission.

If you wish to pray for someone but do not have his or her permission, you may now place your own name on the “Please pray for the intentions of ...” list. People will know to pray for your intentions.

Names will remain on these lists for two months.

Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning
<b>Sat Feb 13<sup>th</sup></b>	Carmel Brennan	Pat McAloon	M. McDougall (2 more needed)	N/A	Geoff White & M. Ryan	G. Carmichael, B. Holland & P. McAloon	Geoff White & Carmel Brennan	M. Jerram & Marilyn Brady	M. Fe Galoso & A. Galoso
<b>Sun Feb 14<sup>th</sup></b>	T. Gemmola	P. Gemmola	G. O'Loughlan, N. Billingsley & T. Rees	T. Gemmola	Kathy Leggett & Shirley Pickering	(as above)	John Pola & P. Gemmola	(as above)	(as above)
<b>Sat Feb 20<sup>th</sup></b>	Rachel Copper	Kevin Joyce	H&A Collins & M. Mason	N/A	D&M Lister	A&V Joyce	Tom Rees & G. White	M. Stapleton & Joan Bond	H. Collins & E. Shea
<b>Sun Feb 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Margaret Olle	Charlie Reid	M. Cunningham, C. Reid & Sr. J. Spurr	Margaret Olle	Lois Rowe	(as above)	Charlie Martin	(as above)	(as above)

**LAKE BOLAC—Lay Assembly**

**READER:** I. Meek  
**PRAYERS:** A-M Randall  
**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:** R. Liston  
**Lay Assembly:** Peter & Leanne

**LAKE BOLAC—Next Week**

**READER:** R. Liston  
**PRAYERS:** H. Smith  
**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER:** L. Breen  
**CLEANING:** H. Smith

**MEETINGS & EVENTS**

**5pm Family Mass Cancelled**

Our monthly 5pm Sunday Mass prepared especially for children and families will no longer occur in Ararat. Fr Andrew will be celebrating Mass in Glenthompson instead. The children will not miss out. A 10.30 Sunday Mass will be prepared from time to time with young children in mind. Watch this space!

**OFFICE HOURS**

We apologise for any inconvenience but the Parish Office will be CLOSED Tuesday Feb 16th. The office will be open as normal on Wed 17th and Fri 19th.

**Daily Travel to Lake Bolac**

A request has come in for anyone who travels daily to Lake Bolac from Ararat who would be willing to take a teenager to school and home again each day. The family is willing to contribute to the cost. Ph. 0437 408 006

**Lenten Discussion Ararat**

Our Lenten discussion will be **after Mass** on Thursday mornings. All welcome.

**Are you buying Slavery-free Easter Chocolate this year?**

Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH) is urging people to eat only slavery-free chocolate, especially this Easter. Did you know that much of the chocolate available in Australia is made using cocoa beans picked by children, many of whom have been enslaved, or forced to work in exploitative conditions?



**Palms Australia**

Encounter Mission and Development, Encounter Love and Justice, Encounter humble volunteers, Encounter faith, Encounter God.

[Palms Australia will be conducting a guided tour of the communities in which their global volunteers are working in East Timor from](http://www.palms.org.au)

11 -23 April 2016

4 – 16 July 2016

26 September – 8 October 2016

There are limited places. Enquiries need to be processed by **February 22nd** so call 02 9518 9551 or register interest online:

[www.palms.org.au/Encounters](http://www.palms.org.au/Encounters)

**QR Code for Young People**

