

Pledge to Asylum Seekers

To those who come from desperation and despair, To those who have endured violence and unrest. To those who have no place of safety, Who come to our shores seeking sanctuary:

You are welcome here.

We pledge to the mothers and to the fathers, We pledge to the children and pregnant women, We pledge to those tortured, broken and dispossessed, We will acknowledge you with kindness and compassion;

You are welcome here.

We pledge as part of the human family; We pledge as members of a global community; We pledge as people who have sought and found A peace and safety such as that you seek,

You are welcome here

.As the children and grandchildren of displaced persons, We will not shirk our responsibilities. We will not stand by while you are hidden offshore. We will insist on change to the current system.

You are welcome here.

If you dream of your children living in safety, Of sharing the hard work and the rewards; If you long to contribute to a caring and just society And subscribe to a 'fair go for all',

You are welcome here.

Bring respect, fellowship and goodwill. Bring your heart, your courage and your aspirations. We are fair, honest, open-minded and generous, We greet you in friendship.

And you are welcome here.

Signed: _____ Written by L. Clancy and L. Mariah. Authorised by Bendigo for Refugees, May

2014 Visit www.PledgeToAsylumSeekers.org to find out more and take action. Follow the Pledge to Asylum Seekers on Facebook for regular news and updates.



Sunday, 8 May 2016 The Ascension of the Lord - 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 Acts 1:1-11

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:

a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **(R.)**

2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**

3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 24:46-53

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7th/8th April 2016

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Peg Ronald, Jack Ronald, Anthony Cain, Aileen Grinter, Terrance Coleman, Marie Scanlon, Cathleen Sertori, Ted Holt, Bill Overington, Linda Weinert, Patricia Mahoney, Frank Sanderson, Mary Waring, Tom Upton, Aileen Brennan, Monica Weddison, Tony Brady, Sr Mary Thomas, Len Miller, Thomas Cronin Daphne Nailon, Fr John Meade, Norman Start, Annie Schirmer, Gordon Schirmer, Monica Kelly and Celine Fernando

SICK:

Kevin Joyce, Maurice Rutter, Shirley Billet, Fr. Brendan Davey, Kerrie Mulcahy, Natasha Martens and Wendy Shea.

Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Tom Rees, Libby Shea and Audrey Brown

Baptisms: Welcome to the World!

Confirmation/Eucharist: Congratulations!

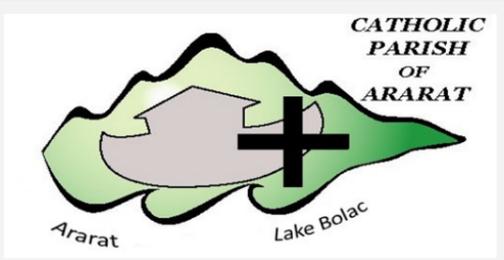
Prayer of Pope Francis for the Year of Mercy

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. Amen

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

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Office Hours
Tues/Wed/Fri 9am—2pm

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

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

Masses this Week

Tues 10th	9.30am	Ararat
Wed 11th	9.30am	Ararat
Thurs 12th	9.30am	Ararat
Fri 13th	6.00pm	Hopkins

<u>LAKE BOLAC—Lay Assembly</u>	<u>LAKE BOLAC—MASS</u>
<u>This Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>
READER: R. Liston	READER: L. Breen
PRAYERS: H. Smith	PRAYERS: M-A Otto
EUCCHARISTIC	EUCCHARISTIC
MINISTER: I. Meek	MINISTER: P. Upton
Lay Assembly: John & Jane	Cleaning: M-A Otto

A VOCATION VIEW

Our Spiritual Life is a Journey - following the Call of the Master to "Go and teach all people my Gospel." Say "Yes" over and over again.

"More and more people work on Sundays as a consequence of the competitiveness imposed by a consumer society."

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

Children's Box

Please help yourself to any items in the Children's Box during Mass time.

New Blinds in the Parish Centre

The CWL have purchased new blinds in the Parish Centre and have contributed to the cost of a new air conditioner for the Parish Centre kitchen. Thank you ladies!

Joke of the Week:

"Sugar, why don't you sit down by the table and we'll start dinner," said Dorothy to her husband and his guest, Bob. "Sure thing," he replied. "Now darling would you like the soup first or the bread?" Dorothy asked. "The soup," he responded. After a whole meal of one endearing term after another, Bob couldn't contain his curiosity any longer. He snuck into the kitchen and said, "Dorothy do you always talk to your husband like that?" "Bob, I'll be honest with you," Dorothy replied. "It's been five years now, I just can't remember his name, and I'm too embarrassed to ask."

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

QR Code for Young People



Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning
Sat May 7th	P. Gemmola	Ian Brady	A. Reynolds, L. Horsman & C. McAdie	N/A	Marg Joyce	Emma Coburn & Jo Jackson	Geoff White	M. Egan & M. Brady	M. Fe Galoso & A. Galoso
Sun May 8th	Pat Lardner	Charlie Reid	?	D&M Lister	Blessie Stoneman	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)
Sat May 14th	?	P. McAloon	M. McDougall (2 more needed)	N/A	?	The Reynolds Family & T. Rees	?	Una Hunt	P. Weeks
Sun May 15th	Nicole Potter	Kathy Leggett	G. O'Loughlan, N. Billingsley & T. Rees	?	Pat Lardner & Kathy Leggett	(as above)	Tom Rees & V. Hooper	(as above)	(as above)

Asylum Seekers

In light of the recent PNG decision regarding the legality of detention on Manus Island, one would imagine that Australia's leaders must be doing a lot of thinking and talking about the fate of asylum seekers. Here are three things that we can do.

1/ Pledge to Asylum Seekers – see back page

This Pledge has no political affiliations. It simply asks for the fair and just treatment of asylum seekers who come from desperate and vulnerable situations. It supports kindness and understanding, and it acknowledges that this is a two way street: that we have a responsibility to assist and support people seeking asylum in Australia, and that those who come here have a responsibility to respect our values and contribute to our diverse community. There is a rising groundswell of support to change the current hard line approach to asylum seekers, to find a better way that acknowledges people's basic human rights.

What that way is, we don't personally know. But we hope that those who sign the Pledge will think deeply about how we can do this better, act in whatever way they feel they can to make a difference, and find the humanity that lives within us all. And share their stories here! If this resonates with you, please sign it and display it somewhere public. Follow the links to let the organisers know that you have signed and displayed the pledge. Note from Fr Andrew: sign it and display it on your fridge. Would be a good start and might start something interesting discussions with family and other visitors.

2/ Sign this petition – BRING THEM HERE – go to www.getup.org.au/refugees/bring-them-here

3/ Ever written to a politician? This might be a very good time to do so. (To save typing, this sample email can be copied from the online bulletin on our parish website)

"Dear Prime Minister / Minister Dutton, local MP / Senator, etc
It's time now to abandon the failed policy of off-shoring Australia's responsibility for asylum seekers. The current arrangements shame us all. We must find our way back to a principled and decent approach, which protects the rights and dignity of people seeking our protection. The PNG Prime Minister has taken a stand for justice – now it is time for you to do likewise. It has never been clearer that the camps on Manus Island and Nauru must be closed immediately, and the people who have suffered there be brought here to Australia and treated with compassion and dignity. We can and must adopt an approach which gives asylum seekers a fair process to have their claims assessed while they live in our communities – other countries do this and we can too. It is just not good enough to pretend that we are acting in anyone's interest by maintaining this abusive, grubby and exorbitantly expensive regime of cruelty. Be brave, and take a stand for decency. Please do not further humiliate us all by looking for some other shabby deal with another poor neighbouring country."

Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au Peter.Dutton.MP@aph.gov.au dan.tehan.mp@aph.gov.au