



2017 - Year for the Eradication of the Shepherd

In bible times the shepherds were considered by many to be of less worthy social standing. They were marginalized by the social and religious elite. In 2017 we still have “shepherds” who are less worthy of sanctuary in our country, less worthy of our company, less worthy of a place in line for holy communion. In 2017, in St Mary’s Parish, we are committed to the eradication of the “shepherd”, to the eradication of the label “less worthy.”

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 .

Very Special Kids – Volunteers Required

Very Special Kids children’s hospice and family support requires volunteers to support families caring for children with life-threatening conditions. Flyer on Church Notice Board



Sunday, 8 Jan 2017 The Epiphany of the Lord

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.

7th/8th January 2017

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Jim Green CSsR, Fr Frank Honan CSsR, Anthony Gordon, Geoffrey Lewis, Jack Flynn, Michael Joyce, Fr Brian James, Stephen Barry, Bartolo Mercovich, Jack Donovan, Linda Hughes-Soden, Clara Thomas, Peter Pola, Evie Moloney, Brian O'Donnell, Kathleen Canty, Peter Arandt, Imelda Gordan, Adorative McPhee, Bill Moloney, Bill Coster, Evelyn O'Neill, Brendan Moran, Stan Matthews, Fr John Kirby, Ian Pearce, John Shield, Mary Shield, Kathleen Lees, Percival Bushick, Fr. Frank Sexton CSsR, Francis Jaench, Stasia Matters.

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.

Bernir Sorsogon (Manilla), 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.*

First Reading *Is 60:1-6*

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11*

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king’s son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. *(R.)*

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth’s bounds. *(R.)*

3. The kings of [Tarshish](#) and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of [Sheba](#) and [Seba](#) shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. *(R.)*

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. *(R.)*

Second Reading *Eph 3:2-3, 5-6C*

Gospel Acclamation *Mt 2:2*

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 2:1-12*

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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.

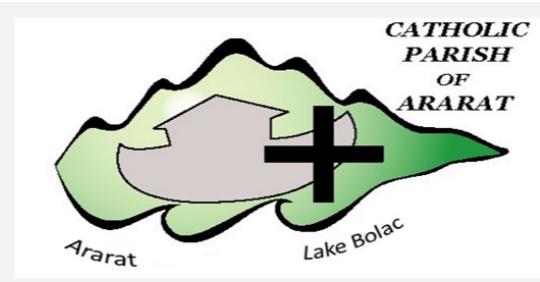
CHURCHES - Immaculate Conception, Ararat
St. Bernard's, Lake Bolac

CONTACT US

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WEBSITE: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



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

Office Hours
Tues/Wed/Fri 9am—2pm

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— we welcome Fr. Tom Brophy		
Ararat	6.00pm	Hopkins
Glenthompson (Sunday Jan 8th)	8.30am	

A VOCATION VIEW

More valuable than material gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, is the invaluable gift of our lives. There is no greater gift than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Church Toilets

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

Since many of you do not belong to the Catholic Church and others are non-believers, from the bottom of my heart I give this silent blessing to each and every one of you, respecting the conscience of each one of you but knowing that each one of you is a child of God.

Read more at [more at -Pope Francis @Pontifex 2017](#)

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: St. Raymond of Pennafort, Patron of Canonists, Feast Day January 7th

St. Raymond of Pennafort, Patron Saint of Canonists (Feast day - January 7) Born in Spain, St. Raymond was a relative of the King of Aragon. From childhood he had a tender love and devotion to the Blessed Mother. He finished his studies at an early age, and became a famous teacher. He then gave up all his honors and entered the Order of the Dominicans. St. Raymond was very humble and very close to God. He did much penance and was so good and kind that he won many sinners to God. With King James of Aragon and St. Peter Nolasco he founded the Order of Our Lady of Ransom. The brave religious of this Order devoted themselves to saving poor Christians captured by the Moors.

St Vincent de Paul Society Ararat Conference.

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Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning
Sat Jan 7th	P. Gemmola	T. Gemmola	H&A Collins		Marg Joyce & M. Ryan	E. Coburn & Jo Jackson	C. Brennan	G. O'Loughlan &	M. Fe Galoso & A. Galoso
Sun Jan 8th	C. Reid	J. Crowe	G. O'Loughlin, N. Billingsley & S. Reid	J. Start	Pat Lardner & S. Pickering	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)
Sat Jan 14th	P. McAloon	J. McAloon	A. Reynolds, L.Horsman & C. McAdie		D. Dijon & Sr Maree	P & M Brady & P. Gemmola	G. White & V. Hooper	A. Joyce & Marilyn Brady	P. Weeks
Sun Jan 15th	J. Clery	J. Brennan	C. Bulger, M. de Jong & K. Cham-mings	L. Shea	L&D Anderson	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)

LAKE BOLAC—Lay Assembly

READER: I. Meek
PRAYERS: H. Smith
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: P. Upton
Lay Assembly: Reg & Helen

LAKE BOLAC—MASS

READER: R. Liston
PRAYERS: L. Breen
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: Jane Higgins
MASS: L. Breen

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