



In Vietnam, young Nguyet was isolated as a result of her severe disabilities, until a Caritas-Australia supported program offered her education, creative outlets and community interaction.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and give children living with disabilities in Vietnam the opportunity for education and inclusion in their community You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



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 “Bible time shepherd”, to the eradication of the label “less worthy.”

Lenten Examen

1. Give Thanks. I thank God for this day, for my life, for all I am and have, and for His Word.
2. Pray for Light. I ask the Father to let me see my day as the Holy Spirit sees it, and to show me what I need to see.
3. Find God. I look at my day in the light of the Spirit. I look back over the morning, the afternoon, and the evening. Who talked with me or worked with me? Did I get done what I meant to do or leave things out?
4. Anything Wrong? Do I trust that God is with me when I fail? Where I was ungrateful, I repent and offer thanks.
5. What Now? I look forward in hope. What have I to do now? What have I to avoid?

Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers (no flowers during Lent)	Cleaning
Sat Mar 25 th	J. Clery	P. McAloon	A. Reynolds, L. Horsman & C. McAdie		Geoff White	I. Brady, P. Gemmola & L. Styles	Geoff White		P. Weeks
Sun Mar 26 th	J. Start	P. Lardner	C. Bulger, & K. Chamings	D&M Lister	D. Dijon & S. Pickering	(as above)	John Pola		(as above)
Sat Apr 1 st	H. Collins	P. Gemmola	T. Gemmola		R&M Jerram	P. Lardner, & P. Brennan	C. Brennan & V. Hooper	M. Dempsey & M. Jerram	?
Sun Apr 2 nd		K. Leggett	M. Cunningham, Sr. John & C. Reid	Elizabeth Shea	Elizabeth Shea	(as above)	J. Crowe	(as above)	(as above)

**Sunday, 26 Mar 2017
Fourth Sunday of Lent - Year A**

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.

25th/26th March 2017

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Alma Brennan, Evelyn Gleeson, Rd. Pat Claridge, Anna Drewniak, Damien Rees, Ena Brady, Annie Rowe, Maureen Davey, Ella Jeffries, Bill Laffan, Margaret Walsh, Leo Stevens, Maurice Brown, Joan Weeks, Edmund Abberton, Frank Liston, John Oliver, Frank Pola, Bowie Shevlin, Margaret Leigh, Tom Smith, Ben Patterson, Fr Meredith Delahenty, Brian Young.

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.

Bernie Sorsogon (Manilla), Barry Wilson, Wendy Shea, Shirley Billet, Natasha Martens.

Please pray for the intentions of:

Linden Horsman

Baptisms—Welcome to the World!

Oakley, Kodah and Edison—sons of Melissa and Nicholas Waight.

Elvie—Grand daughter of Brian and Margaret Joyce

First Reading 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 1013
Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. v.1
(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
 1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
 2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
 3. You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
 4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading Eph 5:8-14

Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 9:1-41

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LENTEN PRAYER

God of all peoples and nations, You accompany us on our Lenten Journey. Through the life and mission of Your Son, You give us the gift of mercy. May we learn to walk Your way of mercy And compassion with all Your people. In a special way, we keep in mind our neighbours, the men, women and children around the world who are most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Bless our prayers, our fastings and our Lenten gifts to Project Compassion. Through these actions, may our hearts be open to receive Your grace to love our neighbours as ourselves. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

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

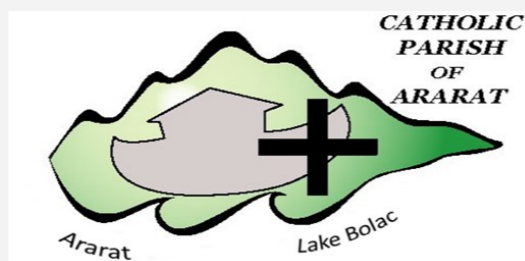
CONTACT US

PHONE: 03 5352 5460
EMAIL: ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au
WEBSITE: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

St. Mary's Parish, 304a Barkly St, (or PO Box 92), Ararat 3377

PRIEST:

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



Office Hours

Wed/Thurs/Fri 10am—3pm

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

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 28th	Convent	9.30am
Thurs 30th	Church	9.30am followed by Lenten discussion
Fri 31st	Hopkins	6pm

LAKE BOLAC—MASS

READER: V. Albert
PRAYERS: D. Phillips
EUCCHARISTIC
MINISTER: R. Liston
Lay Assembly: H. Smith

LAKE BOLAC—MASS

READER: M. Phillips
PRAYERS: D. Haslett
EUCCHARISTIC
MINISTER: John Higgins
CLEANING: J. Upton

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2017

Perhaps I can say that I am a bit astute, that I can adapt to circumstances, but it is also true that I am a bit naive. Yes, but the best summary, the one that comes more from the inside and I feel most true is this: I am a sinner whom the Lord has looked upon.

A VOCATION VIEW

This is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. "The harvest is great but the labourers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers into the Harvest."

Church Toilets

All children—Primary school age and under— must be accompanied by an adult.

Thank you for your understanding.



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.

Other Ethical Schemes

I did some research this week into other ethical themes and commitments that companies profess besides Fair Trade. The basket in the foyer now has products from the following schemes. Look for them when shopping.

Rainforest Alliance UTZ Certified



Lindt Sustainability



Nestle Cocoa Plan

Ethical Tea Partnership



Calendar for April

- Fri 31st** Marian College Year 12 Stations of the Cross at Alexander Gardens (9.20am, 9.50am, 10.20am, 11.20am and 12.20pm)
- Sun 2nd** Reconciliation Lake Bolac (during Mass)
- Thurs 6th** Tim Costello (World Vision) to speak at Ararat Uniting Church Hall 7.30pm
- Sun 9th** Passion (Palm) Sunday
- Monday 10th** Mass of the Oils St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat 6.30pm
- Tues 11th** 2nd Rite Reconciliation Ararat 7pm
- Wed 12th** Easter Prayer Hopkins 6pm
- Thurs 13th** Holy Thursday 5.30pm Mass Lake Bolac / 7.30pm Seder (Passover)Meal)
- Fri 14th** Good Friday Passion 3pm
- Sat 15th** Holy Saturday Easter Vigil 6pm
- Sun 15th** Easter Sunday 8.30am Lake Bolac / 10.30am Ararat

Retreat in Daily Life

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish is offering a "Retreat in Daily Life" from April 24 to May 20. This retreat involves a commitment to regular daily prayer at home and weekly session in Ballarat. These retreats are highly regarded and recommended. Interested? Contact Jacinta at the Cathedral office on 5331 2933.

Holy Thursday Passover Meal

Our schedule for Holy Thursday evening is as follows: Lake Bolac 5.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. Ararat 7.30pm Traditional Jewish Seder Meal followed by Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8.30pm. The Seder (Passover) meal is a 3000 year old tradition of praying the prayers of the Jewish people along with lamb, bitter herbs and wine. This is the Passover meal that Jesus was celebrating with the disciples on the night of the Last Supper. All are welcome. In the coming weeks we will ask for names so we know how big a sheep to slaughter, now that we've made peace with the shepherds. *Please write your name on the list on the Church Notice Board.*

Pentecost in the Catacombs

Sunday June 4th 2017 BOOK NOW!

Our Pentecost Sunday Mass in the drives (tunnels) at **Seppelt Great Western** is now in place.

(This Mass is *separate* to the usual Sunday Mass at 10.30am in St. Mary's Church)

- 11.30am** Gather at Seppelt.
- 11.45am** Tour & Mass begins.
- 1pm** Lunch
- 2pm** Visit the cellar door.

Places are limited.—almost half full now! Booking with payment (\$35) can be made through Joyce in the parish office. This is an all inclusive event. Due to the nature of the event, it is suitable for Grade 2 school children and above (as long as they don't mind the dark!)

Joke of the Week:

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on." The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now." The child ran back to his father and said, "You lied to me!" His father replied, "No, your mom was talking about her side of the family."

Lifeline: 131114 **Ararat Police:** 5355 1500 **Counselling service: Relationships Australia** – 1800 052 674

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Towards Healing – 1800 099 **Sexual Assault Crisis line:** 1800 806 292