



Dhiaga Wines & EatPrayLove Travel are joining forces to raise funds for the Bushfire Victims. Dhiaga will be at The Merrigg in Port Fairy on Fri/Sat Jan 24/25th 3pm-6pm, donating their 2018 Arneis. 100% of sales will go to the Redcross & Wildlife Victoria. EatPrayLoveTravel are holding a raffle. Either pop down to The Merrigg take a screen shot of your \$10 donation to either of the two charities, text it to Emma and go into the draw for a \$100 Travel Voucher a bottle of delicious 2018 Arneis Dhiaga!



Joyce Clery M: 0421 034 444 Hand Crafted Wines E: info@dhiagawines.com.au
Emma Coburn Independent Travel Advisor Ph: 0419 157 841
 E: info@eatpraylovetravel.com.au

Explore Yoga Co.

Uali Ahmat
 Yoga Teacher & Student
 E. exploreyogaco@mail.com
 P: 0403 170 676
 Classes held in Parish Centre every 2nd Thursday .
 Next Class 30th Jan 2020 6pm-7pm



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St. Mary's Parish Board Room

Hire our boardroom for a very attractive fee. Nespresso Coffee on offer and convenient facilities. Ring the parish office to book – 5352 5460.
 Hire costs start @ \$80 per day (includes Nespresso Coffee!!)

Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning	Computer
Sat Jan 18th	P. Gemmo-la		N. Billingsley & A. Collins		Marg Joyce	E. Coburn & J. Jackson	V. Hooper	A. Joyce	Jo Donnan	Sr. Maree
Sun Jan 19th	Peter Brady	Imogen Tonks	M. Cunningham, C. Reid	A & H Collins	Blessie Stoneman	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)	R. North
Sat Jan 25th	A. Reynolds	Beck Rodger	N. Billingsley & A. Collins		Marg Joyce	Office	G. White	A. Joyce	K. Scherger	Sr. Maree
Sun Jan 26th	Pat Lardner	Charlie Reid	C. Bulger, Sr. John & K. Chamings		Shirley Pickering	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)	R. North
Lake Bolac Sun Jan 19th	Reader R. Smith	Prayers R. Liston	Eucharistic Minister M. Phillips	Cleaner J. Aldous	Lake Bolac Sun Jan 26th	Reader R. Liston	Prayers K. Glesson	Eucharistic Minister I. Meek	Cleaner J. Upton & K. Gleeson	



SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

19th January 2020

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which our Churches are built, the Tjapwurong people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

First Reading Is 49:3. 5-6

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2. 4. 7-10. R. vv.8. 9.

(R.) Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **(R.)**
2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **(R.)**
3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **(R.)**
4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord.

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:1-3

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 1:14. 12

Alleluia, alleluia!
 The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become the children of God.
 Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 1:29-34

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

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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.**

18th/19th January 2020

Recent Deaths:

Nicole Howe

ANNIVERSARIES:

Margaret Start, Nell Laffy, Sr Agnes Lyng, Mario Diana, Liam Fitzpatrick, Peter McLean, Peter Gorst, Michele DiDomenico, Mick Davey, Fr Charlie Fiscalini, Michael Hennessy, Patrick Kelly, Fr Paul Keenan SJ, Catherine Doery, Joan Quaiffe, Thelma Liston, Ron Mason, Ken Waring, Alan Dovaston, Eric Ericksen, Ray Toner, Irene Hogan, Christopher Lillis, Francis Shevlin, Lilian Burston, Mons. Eugene Galligan, Mollie Flynn, Molly Kenny

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Barbara Tobin, Sally-Anne Horsley

Anyone in hospital wishing to have communion, please contact the office on 53525460

Ministry to the Sick:

Mary Cunningham—Retirement Home
 E. Shea, T. Gemmola, D&M Lister, H&A Collins, J&J Crowe—Golden Gate
 Sr. John—Lowe Street & Garden View Court
 Other individuals in the parish to the sick at home

Next Week's Readings

Jan 26th 2020

First Reading
 Is 8:23 – 9:3

Second Reading
 I Cor 1:10-13. 17

A VOCATION VIEW

Isaiah's vocation was to be a light to the nations. Nations and neighbourhoods need missionaries - lay, clergy and religious. Listen to the call!

Gospel Jn 1:29-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

Gospel Reflection

Strangely, despite being in Ordinary Time again, the lectionary temporarily departs from the gospel of Matthew and today's reading is from the gospel of John. Given that last week's reading was the Matthean account of the baptism of Christ we must assume that there is a deliberate purpose in the choice of reading for today. Indeed, the three readings for today give a very specific slant to the baptism and mission of Jesus. The readings from Isaiah and Paul's letter to the Corinthians emphasise that God's salvation is for all the world, not just the people of Israel. We find this also in the gospel when John the Baptist declares, 'there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world'. It is the sin 'of the world' that Jesus takes away; that is, all humankind. This was a tough concept for the Jews whose relationship with God was grounded in the concept of being the 'chosen people'; a people set apart. It continues to be a difficult concept for many Christian people today who struggle with the notion that God's love and mercy are so extravagant that they are poured out for absolutely anyone and everyone. Some Christians like to maintain an 'us and them' approach to their faith and think that if you're not one of 'us' then salvation will be denied by God.

The role of John the Baptist in this passage is to be a witness; to point to Jesus and say 'He is the one!' Lots of us need the affirmation and direction provided by another person before we are ready to commit to a new direction in our lives. John gives the crowd confidence and effectively hands over to Jesus the authority that the crowd had perceived in him.

@gregsunter

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2019

"The Lord has so much compassion, He involves Himself in our problems. Let us often repeat this simple prayer: Lord, I am a sinner, have mercy on me, have compassion for me."



MASS TIMES

Ararat (Immaculate Conception)

Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday 10.30am

Lake Bolac (St. Bernard's)

8.30am 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays

2nd Sundays at Glenthompson at 8.30am

Weekday Masses

Tues 21st 9.30am

Thurs 23rd 3.30pm Hopkins

Fri 24th 9.30am

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Hayes

andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Download Church Bulletin—www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretary: Joyce Clery

ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Office: 03 53525460

PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377

Office Hours: Wed/Thurs/Fri 10am-3pm

(Closed Public Holidays)



The 2020 Bushfire Tragedy – Ecumenical Prayer

Our time of prayer together is focused where our hearts and minds have beckoned over the last weeks and more...

Individuals who have died

People who are missing

Those traumatised by the fires

Families whose homes have been destroyed

People forced to flee their properties

Those who have lost their livelihood

The death of farm animals and livestock

The destruction of habitat and wildlife

Those who try to hold the advance of the flames

Those who do what they can to help

The shift from crisis to recovery

The need to care for our good earth

Australia Day

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council is an advisory body to the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference. The NATSICC recently published the following statement which I think expresses very well the problem I'm having with Australia Day. For me, a special national day to celebrate what is good (and to reflect on what is not) is important and good and nation shaping, but doing it in memory of the original arrogant colonial conquering and land stealing continues an unnecessary hurt for people. *Fr Andrew.*

Here's the statement:

The 26th of January 1788 was not a day of celebration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people nor was it for the passengers upon the first fleet – a mix of prisoners and military personnel. Perhaps it is time that we rethink the date upon which our nation comes together as one to recognise and acknowledge the gifts that God has provided in our great southern land. For the past year, those that sit upon the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council have asked their community, peers, friends and fellow Catholics if they celebrate Australia Day. The resounding response was no. That answer was not followed by hatred or vitriol, it was simply that they felt it was not meant for them nor was it mindful of the hurt experienced by Australia's First People. For many, the opportunity to spend the day with family and friends is appreciated and our people understand and respect the pride that some Australians have for the day, however the foundation of unity and inclusiveness is just not there.

Celebrating our nation on a day that harbors grief, invokes painful memories and ignores the true history of our society just doesn't make sense. Given that the day has been celebrated on various dates and under different names in the past 100 years, what will be lost by moving the date?

Fire Appeal

The Australian Bishops have announced that an appeal / collection will take place on the Australia Day weekend.

Joyce (Secretary/*Dhiaga Wines*) & Emma (Child Safety Officer/*EatPrayLoveTravel*) are also fundraising for the Redcross & the Wildlife Fund in Victoria. Emma is donating a \$100 travel voucher in a raffle and Joyce is teaming up with The Merrjig in Port Fairy—please see the back of the bulletin.

Anniversaries

I will be updating the Anniversary book next week, so if anyone knows of a name to add or edit, please let me know. Many thanks—Joyce

Plenary Council Delegates from the Diocese of Ballarat

Bishop Paul is inviting us to nominate delegates from our diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Copies of Bishop Paul's letter are available through parishes, through the diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au and are also attached. Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by Friday, February 7, 2020.

Joke of the Week

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet.

So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time.

This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted, "Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box, "I heard you the first time! I'm putting my shoes on!"

Calling all volunteers!! We continually need to renew our list—we are down to a skeleton ministry! PLEASE POP YOUR NAME DOWN IF YOU CAN or email the office on ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone

Joyce on 03 5352 5460