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Support Local Business

Want to advertise in this space? Then call Joyce in the office on

(03) 5352 5460. Competitive rates available. Introductory offer of \$150 for 12 months advertising rather than \$240.

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!!)

Recurring Dates

Retirement Village	1 st Tuesday	10am	Mass
Vinnies Committee	1 st Tuesday	7pm	
Garden View	2 nd Tuesday	10am	Mass
CWL (Parish Centre)	2 nd Tuesday	1.30pm	
Grandmothers	2 nd Wednesday	2pm	
Lowe St	3 rd Wednesday	11am	Prayer
Parish Council	4 th Wednesday	6pm	



Sunday 16 Feb 2020 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

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 Sir 15:15-20

He never commanded anyone to be godless.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. (R.)
2. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. (R.)
3. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. (R.)
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 2:6-10

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.

Gospel Acclamation See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 5:17-37

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

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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.

15/16th February 2020

ANNIVERSARIES:

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, Vera Ruzic, Jackson Hunt, Thelma Day, Noel Hooper, Sr Ursula Hayes, Wal Davis, Edward Arnold, Harold Bryant, Kaz Sobczak, Mons James Brophy, Julieta Formentera, Lorna Martin, Michael Scherger

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Please contact the office if you would like your name to be on the sick list. Names are kept on this list for one month—and be put on again.

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

Plenary Council 2020

The next topic for discussion is "Prayerful and Eucharistic." All parishioners are invited to this discussion to take place in the Parish Centre on Sunday February 23 from 2-4pm.



Next Week's Readings

Feb 23rd 2020

First Reading

[Lv 19:1-2. 17-18](#)

Second Reading

[1 Cor 3:16-23](#)

A VOCATION VIEW

God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began. Some people he predestines to be priests or religious – might you be one of them? Listen to the call!

Gospel Mt 5:20-22. 27-28. 33-34. 37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Gospel Reflection

Today's First Reading, Psalm and Gospel all relate to the way in which we are called to live in right relationship with God and with one another. What is referred to as the 'Law' is generally used as shorthand for the Torah – the first five books of the Bible – which first of all establishes the history of relationship between God and humanity through the books of Genesis and Exodus and then provides detailed instructions about how that relationship should be honoured and observed. When Jesus speaks about the Law and the Prophets, he is deliberately including the extensive collection of prophetic writings that interpret the Law in terms of justice and right relationships with others as being a reflection of the right relationship with God.

By declaring that he has come not to abolish the Law and the Prophets, but to complete – or fulfil – them, Jesus is making it perfectly clear that his ministry and teaching is in alignment with and in accordance with the historical tradition and he is not setting out to overthrow the Jewish tradition. Rather, throughout his ministry, Jesus repeatedly calls the people to be true to the teachings of old and to live them with integrity and dedication. His constant complaint is against those who live by the letter of the Law and ignore what we would call the spirit or intention of the Law. This is the root of his swipe at the shallow virtue of the scribes and Pharisees in today's gospel. The criticism that Jesus levelled at these two groups was that their adherence to the Law made no room for the compassionate heart that the writings of the Prophets demanded.

@gregsunter

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2020

"Often we forget the Lord and deal with other gods: money, vanity, pride. Let us ask for the grace to understand when our heart begins to slide into worldliness. God's grace and love will stop us if we ask in prayer."

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

Wed 19th 11am Lowe St Prayer

Thurs 20th 3.30pm Hopkins

Fri 21st 11am Marian College
Opening Mass – in the Gym

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)

Saint of the Week

St. Margaret of Cortona; Feastday: February 22
Birth: 1247 Death: 1297

Margaret of Cortona, penitent, was born in Loviana in Tuscany in 1247. Her father was a small farmer. Margaret's mother died when she was seven years old. Her stepmother had little care for her high-spirited daughter. Rejected at home, Margaret eloped with a youth from Montepulciano and bore him a son out of wedlock. After nine years, her lover was murdered without warning. Margaret left Montepulciano and returned as a penitent to her father's house. When her father refused to accept her and her son, she went to the Friars Minor at Cortona where she received asylum. Yet Margaret had difficulty overcoming temptations of the flesh. One Sunday she returned to Loviana with a cord around her neck. At Mass, she asked pardon for her past scandal. She attempted to mutilate her face, but was restrained by Friar Giunta. Margaret earned a living by nursing sick ladies. Read more on www.catholic.org

From Fr. Andrew:

Corona Virus

We have been advised by the Australian Catholic Bishops that, despite significant concern regarding the spread of the Corona virus, it is to be "business as usual" with regards to holy communion. This might however be a good time to remind people of the usual practices with regard to managing infections. Please do not use the chalice for communion if you have a cold, flu or cold sore etc. For Ministers of the Eucharist, please remember to wipe the chalice well after each communicant, to rotate the chalice and to find a dry part of the purifier for each wipe. These will help to keep the germs away.

Assembly instead of Mass in Ararat on March 7

On the long weekend in March Ararat will have Mass on Sunday at 10.30 as usual. The Saturday night Mass time, for one week only, will be a Lay Led Sunday Assembly.

Lenten Discussion Group Ararat

The first Lenten discussion in Ararat will be after Mass on Tuesday February 25, the day before Ash Wednesday. All welcome

Plenary Council 2020

The next topic for discussion is "Prayerful and Eucharistic." All parishioners are invited to this discussion to take place in the Parish Centre on Sunday February 23 from 2-4pm.

Child Safety for the Children of the Parish

On Sunday March 22, during Mass, we will be inviting all children of the parish to the Parish Centre for a "child-safety" discussion. This session will be led by Christine Bulger (Deputy Principal of St Mary's School, Ararat) and Jo-Anne Bond (Principal of Emmaus Catholic Primary School, Mt Clear.) We intend that there will be a separate session at the same time for secondary students.

Grand Mother's Club—St. Anne's Club

Meets Wednesday, Feb 19th, convent, 2pm.

World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March

Details for Lake Bolac: St. Bernard's Catholic Church 11a.m. Shared lunch to follow. Speaker Mrs. Jenny Beales.

Details for Ararat: Hosted by Holy Trinity Anglican Church – details to follow

Ireland Group Tour, "Eat Pray Love"

Joyce Clery and Emma Coburn (Ararat Parishioners) are co-hosting a tour of Ireland from 1-13, September 2020. Itinerary on the notice board. ONLY A FEW PLACES REMAINING! So if you'd like a trip of a lifetime, co-hosted by an Irish native, then look no further! 0419157841 The itinerary has been praised by Irish Tour Company's!

St. Mary's Church Roster

Work is being carried out on a new roster. Please let the office know if you would like to volunteer. 03 5352 5460

Tap & Go

It was decided the Tap & Go machine in the foyer was not financially viable. We are always grateful and in need of pledges to our Planned Giving Program to help maintain the Church and the grounds. The options are the following: Direct Debit, weekly, monthly or yearly cash pledges and credit card donations. Please contact Joyce in the office 03 5352 5460

Resilience Project coming to Ararat!

Register now at www.eventbrite.com.au. 7pm to 8.30pm, Feb 24th (Monday) at the Ararat Town Hall.

The Resilience Project delivers emotionally engaging programs to schools, sports clubs and businesses, providing practical, positive mental health strategies to build resilience and happiness.