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Want to advertise in this space? Then call Joyce in the office on (03) 5352 5460.
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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 @ \$50 per day (includes Nespresso Coffee!!)



Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. [Until now Sakun, an indigenous Gond woman, has been isolated](#) in her community, unable to earn a livelihood and without knowledge of government schemes that could help her.

In 2018, Sakun joined a Caritas Australia-funded program which is implemented by Caritas India and its local partner, Samarthan.

With your help Sakun now earns her own income and makes a small profit which goes towards her family's basic needs. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help fathers like Barry continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families. **Let's Go Further, Together.** You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Planned Giving ENVELOPES

The last bundle of envelopes are now in the foyer to collect. We will have some changes next financial year as we are using old stock to save money!!

CWL March Meeting

Please note that the March CWL meeting has changed from the 10th to the 17th. It is now at 1.30pm on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th in the Parish Centre

Finances

We are hoping to raise funds to fix the Bell Tower, carry out works on the church roof, fixing some leaks and general maintenance in Ararat this year 2020

Church Collections	Planned Giving	Presbytery
Dec '19	\$3763.00	\$3317.80
Jan '20	\$1790.00	\$2970.65
Feb '20	\$1822.00	\$3074.45
Variation from previous 3 months 2019	-\$1221.00	-\$546.85

Sunday 15th March 2020
Third Sunday of Lent 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.

14th/15th March 2020

First Reading Ex 17:3-7

Give us water to drink.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.8

(R.) If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

- Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
- Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
- O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 5:1-2. 5-8

The love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us.

Gospel Acclamation See Jn 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 4:5-42

The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life.

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Lenten Prayer

God of all peoples and nations, As you accompany us on our Lenten journey, May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity, Our almsgiving be an act of justice, And our prayers anchor us in love and compassion. Awaken our hearts and minds that we may be one human family As we all go further together. We ask this in Jesus' name, **AMEN**

ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr John McDonnell CSsR, Astrid Nyhagen, Henrietta Phillips, Arthur Harrington, Mons James Timmons, Darrell Maddern, Joe Rees, Fr John Harrington, Jean Jones, Beverley Ford, Ivan Evans, Clifford Horsman, Bert Stephens, Ann Stephens, Fr Robert Paterson SJ, Dawn Wilson, Bob Mottram, Aminda (Min) Hamilton, Dorothy O'Brien, John Leggett, John Thomas, Tom Carter, Sr. Joyce White RSJ, Lily Rose McConnell, Dave Dampsey, Fr John Henehan

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

Geraldine McKendrick, Margaret Clery (Joyce's Mum)

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

Mar 22nd 2020
First Reading
[1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13](#)
Second Reading
[Eph 5:8-14](#)

A VOCATION VIEW

Only the Lord can give true living water, fullness of life. Our body cannot survive without water; our spirit cannot survive without living water. Now is the time to renew our lives in the waters and Spirit of Baptism.

Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	G. Gate Communion	Welcomer	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning	Computer
Sat Mar 14th	J. Clery		L.Horsman or C. McAdie						J. Clery	?
Sun Mar 15th		P. Lardner	K. Cham-mings,	T. Gemmola	V. Hooper	Office	J. Pola & V. Hooper		As above	R. North
Sat Mar 21st		Beck Rodger	M. Mason, L.Horsman & C. McAdie		Marg Joyce		G. White		K. Scher-ger	?
Sun Mar 22nd	C. Reid	P. Lardner		J&J Crowe	K. Leggett	E. Coburn & J. Jackson	J. Pola & V. Hooper		As above	R. North
Lake Bolac 15th Mar	Reader I. Meek	Prayers V. Albert	Minister R. Liston	Cleaner I. Meek	Lake Bolac 22nd Mar	Reader T. Higgins	Prayers Jane Hig-gins	Minister R. Smith	Cleaner T. Higgins	

Gospel Jn 4:5-15. 19-26. 39-42 The water that I shall give will turn into a spring of eternal life. Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again: but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman, 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth. 'The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he. 'Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Gospel Reflection

The encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well is rich in historical and cultural nuance that enhances our understanding and interpretation of this passage. When he asks the woman for a drink, Jesus breaks two cultural taboos: firstly, for a man to speak directly to an unchaperoned woman was somewhat scandalous; secondly, as the woman points out, Jesus is a Jew and directly addresses a Samaritan – another scandal. Jesus successfully gains the woman's attention by ignoring these social taboos but she fails to fully understand his reference to 'living water'.

The reference to the woman's five husbands has often been construed to suggest that she was either a prostitute or a serial widow. However, it may in fact be a reference to the Samaritans binding themselves (wedding themselves) to the five books of the Torah and ignoring the writings of the prophets and other later writings. This reference is followed by another fact that set Jews and Samaritans apart: the Samaritans worshipped God on a local mountain, Mt Gerazim, whilst the Jews held that true worship could only take place in Jerusalem. Jesus dismisses this major difference between Jews and Samaritans by declaring that soon 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. He is indicating the much more personal relationship with God that he models; not bound up by ritual, place and law.

Having set the scene for breaking down the walls between Jews and Samaritans, Jesus then reveals to the woman unequivocally that he is the promised Messiah. The woman rushes back to the town to spread the good news about Jesus. She becomes a missionary for him; and a remarkably effective one. The people are convinced by her testimony and flock to Jesus where they have their own personal faith encounter with him.

@gregsunter

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 18th 9.30am Ararat

11am Prayer Lowe St

Thurs 19th 3.30pm Hopkins

Fri 20th 10am Stawell

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)

Plenary Council—Joy, hope filled & Servant Community

Following on from the last Plenary discussion, Joyce had reached out to the Orbost Catholic Parish Community in the Diocese of Sale in East Victoria for their thoughts on developing a "SISTER PARISH" - more info to follow. Joyce will speak with Mary & Susan next week.

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2020

"We ask the Lord today for the grace of not falling into indifference, the grace that all the information we have about human suffering might penetrate our hearts and move us to do something for

Prayer for Volunteers

God strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents.

AMEN

From Fr Andrew We had a wonderful meeting in Stawell on Wednesday evening. Thank you to everyone who attended. We came away with lots of work to do. A few things are clear at this stage:

- With thanks to the priests in Ballarat, Masses will continue for all church communities "as is" until Easter.
- Beginning April 19, Stawell and Ararat will have one weekend Mass each. Lake Bolac and Landsborough will have Masses twice each month.
- Fr Andrew will cease his Masses in Glenthompson. He's sad about that because Glen have great sponges. Hamilton will continue the two Masses in Glenthompson.
- Ararat's Mass will be Sunday morning at a time to be decided. (Ararat must be Sunday because Lake Bolac and Stawell can't be on together – they are too far apart.)
- Stawell can choose Saturday night or Sunday morning. With more people attending Sunday morning that is looking likely, but yet to be decided.
- If Stawell chooses Sunday morning then Bolac and Landsborough will have Saturday nights. Talk to me about that.
- Stawell will need to set up or enhance the work of a number of groups, including a leadership group or Parish Council and Finance Council. (With a priest who doesn't live in Stawell, we will need strong leadership groups.)
- Both parishes will need groups of people to assist with liturgy (getting ready for special days like Palm Sunday for example.)
- Both parishes will need to have people ready to lead prayer in the retirement homes when Fr Andrew is working in Ballarat.
- When parishioners call the Stawell phone number it will now be answered in Ararat – because the office is staffed.

These are just a few of the adjustments that both parishes we will need to make. We'll do the urgent things first. We'll be calling for dozens of volunteers. Within a fortnight we will need to decide and publish our new Mass times. Things will be ok.

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.

Pastoral Statement from the Vicar General

As a result of the increased spread of the coronavirus, the following health directives have been issued:

- In those parishes and communities in the diocese where Holy Communion is distributed under both kinds (Host and Chalice), this practice will cease. The Host can be distributed to all but Communion of the Precious Blood will be for the celebrant only. Given that one of the easiest ways to transmit a virus is by the transmission of saliva, Communion will be received in the hand and not on the tongue.
- At the Sign of Peace, parishioners with coughs and sneezes, the vulnerable and those parishioners who may feel uncomfortable about shaking hands at the Sign of Peace, may wish to exchange the Peace of Christ with a smile or a bow, and should be encouraged to do so.
- All ministers of Holy Communion (both ordinary and extraordinary) are to use hand sanitisers before the distribution of Holy Communion commences, and are not to physically touch anyone in the act of blessing.
- Holy water has been removed

Real Life Celebration

Ararat Town Hall, 21st march, Free family BBQ 12pm—4pm. Please see the flyer on the notice board

Grand Mother's Group (St. Anne's)

The Grand Mother's Group will meet next Wednesday, March 18th at 2pm in Bernadette Harrington's home. All welcome

Stations of the Cross Marian College

Marian College are again preparing to present the Stations of the Cross in the College grounds on Friday March 27. There will be two fifteen minute presentations (11.45am and 12.10pm). Parishioners are very welcome to attend. Marian College asks that every person who enters Marian College does so through the office to sign-in. Come early because sign-in might take a few minutes.

Security at Marian College