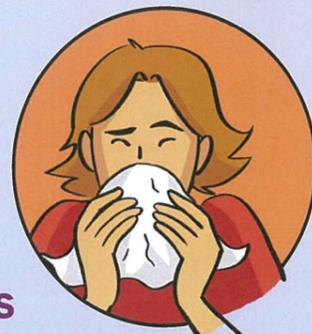




Ten ways to reduce your risk of coronavirus

- **WASH** hands often with soap and running water, for at least 20 seconds. DRY with paper towel or hand dryer.
- **TRY** not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth.
- **COVER** your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow.
- **ISOLATE** yourself at home if you feel sick. If you take medication ensure you have adequate supplies.
- **PHONE** your GP first if you need medical attention. They will tell you what to do.
- **CONTINUE** healthy habits: exercise, drink water, get plenty of sleep, and now is the time to quit smoking. Call the Quitline 137 848.
- **DON'T** wear a face mask if you are well.
- **BUY** an alcohol-based hand sanitiser with over 60 per cent alcohol.
- **GET** the flu shot (available April).
- **SHAKING HANDS** is optional!

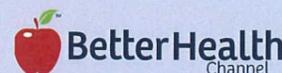


Find out more
www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus

If you are concerned, call the
Coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398 (24 hours)

Please keep Triple Zero (000) for emergencies only

To receive this publication in an accessible format email COVID-19@dhhs.vic.gov.au
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Catholic Parishes of:
Ararat—Immaculate Conception



Stawell—St. Patrick's



Lake Bolac—St. Bernard



Landsborough—St. Francis



Next Week's Readings

Mar 29th 2020

First Reading

[Ez 37:12-14](#)

Second Reading

[Rom 8:8-11](#)

Sunday 22nd March 2020

Fourth 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.

Dear parishioners of Stawell, Landsborough, Ararat and Lake Bolac,

I'm writing this letter on Friday morning, with information changing daily. The news of church closures, job losses, the threat of Corona virus, the panic buying, all of these things are distressing aren't they?

Here in the office in Ararat we're working feverishly. We've never had a busier Friday! We planning lots of things: Mass online, weekly bulletins and prayers, food for battling people, all sorts of things. I actually think this next few months might be the best our parish has even been. I'm speaking for Ararat and inviting Stawell parishioners to join us.

We need to bring the good news of Jesus. We need to be saying our prayers and looking out for the vulnerable people in our street. Can you do the shopping for the oldies in your street? Get out and sing like the Italians? Something!

Let's make the most of a difficult time. Don't walk away. Let's celebrate Jesus, still. We need helpers. We need willing hands.

I wish parishioners God's every blessing and will pray for you all. I will celebrate Mass privately for you and for your intentions. We'll be ok.

Fr Andrew

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.

A VOCATION VIEW

If we can't see where we're going, we'll never get there. The Good Shepherd leads us to green pastures, refreshes our souls and brings light to a darkened world.

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD Sunday 22 Mar 2020

First Reading 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel. The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

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. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored. As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

Gospel Reflection

Today's gospel reading is the second in a series of three quite lengthy readings from the gospel of John that are a feature of the Lenten season in Year A of the liturgical cycle. The three readings address three significant themes and images: water; light; and new life. Although today's passage is about the healing of a blind man, the event takes place as part of a longer section of the gospel dealing with the image of light and specifically the image of Jesus as Light of the World. The question asked by the disciples at the opening of this event is an interesting one. They ask, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' In Jewish culture at the time, any physical affliction was deemed to be punishment from God for sinful behaviour. As the man had been born blind, the suspicion falls on his parents as having committed such a terrible offence against God that their son is born blind. Jesus immediately rejects this interpretation of the man's affliction. Physical and mental illnesses or disabilities are in no way punishment from God.

Although the man's physical sight is restored by Jesus simply enough, his journey from darkness into light is a more complicated affair. He faces disbelief, ridicule and even abuse from the Jewish authorities as they try to discredit Jesus and diminish the impact of the miracle. In fact, their treatment of the man is what drives him along the road from recipient of an act of mercy to a confirmed believer. Furthermore, the Jewish authorities, despite their physical capacity for sight, are shown to be the ones who are truly blind and trapped in darkness because they deny the light that is before their very eyes.

@gregsunter

Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A Sunday 22 Mar 2020

Priest: My sisters and brothers, let us pray to the Shepherd who comforts those in need.

Reader: For our Church, the light of Christ to the world, For nations ravaged by poverty and sickness. Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those tormented by the darkness of fear and secrecy and for those who are shunned because of their faith. Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are shunned because of their faith. Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are preparing for the Easter Sacraments. Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those affected by disease may be strengthened by God's love and comfort. We especially remember communities affected by the spread of the coronavirus.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those in the medical profession working in difficult and uncertain circumstances will be granted courage and endurance. We pray especially for those assisting in the coronavirus outbreak.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the Holy Spirit will guide the church in Australia to listen humbly with open heart as it prepares for the 2020 Plenary Council.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for our sisters and brothers around the world who are living with disability: that together we can work to ensure the God given dignity of all is upheld, removing obstacles and overcoming the structures that exist preventing equality in our communities.

Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have died and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, and for those who grieve. Lord hear us:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God, the source of light, you hold out your arms to all who seek you. Hear our prayers and open our eyes that we may see the light of your presence among us. We ask this through Jesus the Lord.

All: Amen.



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.



Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.



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Joke of the Week

Dad and Dave were watching the Tour de France on TV. Dave shook his head and asked, "Why do they do that?"
 "Do what?" asked Dad
 "Go on them bikes for miles and miles, up and down the hills, day after day, if it's icy, raining, snowing, hailing....why would they torture themselves like that?"
 "It's all for the prestige and the money," replied Dad. "You know the winner gets about a half a million bucks?"
 "Yeah, I understand that," said Dave. "But why do all the others do it?"

OFFICE INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Hayes
Ararat & Stawell

andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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

Ararat

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)

Stawell

Finance Manager: Gloria Pickering

stawell@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Office: 03 5358 1119

PO BOX 87, Stawell, VIC 3380

Office Hours:

Thurs 11am-12

1pm—5pm

Saint of the Week

All of us if we look after each other!

St. Toribio Alfonso de Mogrovejo

Feastday: March 23 **Patron:** of Native rights; Latin American bishops; Peru, Birth: 1538, Death: 1606. Bishop and defender of the rights of the native Indians in Peru, Born in Mayorga, Spain, he studied law and became a lawyer and then professor at Salamanca, receiving appointment-despite being a layman-as chief judge of the court of Inquisition at Granada under King Philip II of Spain. *Read more @catholic.org*

21st/22nd March 2020

Ararat ANNIVERSARIES:

Fr Bill O'Driscoll, Bea Kelly, Elizabeth Hustler, Benita Una Pieters, John Colwell, Barry Smith, Phillip Brown, Cliff Murray, John Kelly, Helen Kneebone, Betty Beer, Paz Navarro, Elizabeth Overington, Gwen Murray, Alma Brennan, Evelyn Gleeson, Dr. Pat Claridge, Anna Drewniak, Damien Rees, Ena Brady, Annie Rowe, Maureen Davey, Ella Jeffries, Noel Stevens

Stawell ANNIVERSARIES:

Humble apologies—Stawell Anniversaries will appear on next week's bulletin along with their SICK LIST

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:

Postponed for the time being

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2020

"#PrayTogether, entrusting ourselves to the intercession of St. Joseph, who knew precariousness and bitterness. Though he worried about the future, he knew how to walk through the darkness of certain moments, always letting himself be guided by God's will without reservation"

All Masses and Gatherings Suspended

For the foreseeable future, all Masses and public liturgies in the state of Victoria have been suspended by the bishops. This is different and in addition to the government's 100 people rule. The bishops' rule is no public church gatherings at all.

Aged Care Facilities: Eventide, Lowe St, Garden View, Golden Gate and Ararat Retirement Village have asked us not to attend. We hope to send the residents the Sunday bulletins, the readings and prayers to pray.

Funerals: All Catholic funerals in our parishes will take place at the cemeteries. I will speak to individual families about requiem Masses – maybe in the family home for a handful of people. There will be no public Masses. We won't be gathering or catering in our parish facilities.

Baptisms: We can baptise your babies, but not with a large gathering of the wider family.

Parish Meetings: All parish meetings, including Parish Council, Lenten Discussion and the like, all public gatherings, have been suspended.

Cancellations

The Royal High Jinx band playing at Mass in Ararat on April 19

Marian College Stations of the Cross on Friday March 27 (still happening but without parishioners)

Child-safe day planned for today, March 22, during Mass in Ararat

That's the strategy for now. We're doing our part to keep people well and healthy and separated.

What will we do now? We will still say our prayers – lots and lots of prayers.

St. Patrick's in Stawell and St. Mary's in Ararat will still be open daily. Please come and spend some time with God. The parish intends to provide parishioners with prayers for the church or for home, perhaps especially with regard to the Sunday readings. There are a number of Masses that are streamed online. We intend that Fr Andrew will live-stream Mass – we're getting sorted for this. In the mean-time, here are some links to Mass online:

St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne: The 1.00pm Mass is streamed live daily (Mon-Fri) and is then available as a recording on-demand until one hour prior to the next Mass. Sunday Mass is available, with the 11.00am Mass live streamed and it is also available as a recording on-demand.

Watch here <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Pope Francis' daily Mass: Pope Francis' daily Masses are available online through the Vatican's website and YouTube channel. Watch here <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta.pagelist.html>

Mass for You at Home: This program is broadcast on Eleven and Network Ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel on Foxtel every day. Watch at <http://www.mfyah.com/video.html> or <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

Word on Fire: Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and founder of Word on Fire, Bishop Robert Barron:

Watch at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcMjLqeWNwqL2LBGS-iPb1A> or <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass>

Parish Communication

We intend to still publish weekly bulletins. Some will get this online. For those who cannot, please come to the churches to collect your bulletins, readings and something to help with your prayer. For Lake Bolac and Landsborough it might be at a shop that's open, we'll see what we can organise.

Church Cleaning

In Stawell and Ararat it will be imperative that we continue to disinfect doors, seats and things that can hold and transfer the germs. Please complete the Cleaning Roster in the church foyer if you have time to clean. Cleaning products will be left on the glass windowsill. Maybe we could have a different person for each day of the week.

Parish Collections

We will still need to pay the bills. We will need to pay nearly all of the same bills except altar bread and wine. Please continue to support the parishes financially. Diocesan arrangements will ensure that all priests will be provided for, but please consider putting some money into both the parish and presbytery collections.

Options for payment

1 Direct debit –

Details for Stawell parish: coming soon

Details for Ararat Parish:

Parish Account "Main Church Account" Westpac Bank BSB 033 201 // Acc 810035

Presbytery Account "Presbytery Account" Westpac Bank BSB 033 201 //Acc 810043

2 Boxes in the Church

There will be clearly labelled and secure boxes in Stawell and Ararat churches for your envelopes. These will be emptied daily. Please label your planned-giving clearly. For security you might consider writing cheques rather than cash. If doing this, consider a monthly large cheque rather than lots of small cheques.

3 Parish Office

Come in to the parish offices with your envelopes (Thursdays in Stawell / Wednesday to Friday in Ararat)

4 Project compassion

Don't forget your Project Compassion contributions. This can be done online or by clearly labelling envelopes and putting them in with your planned-giving.

Fr Andrew Hayes

Parish Priest