



St Patrick's,  
Stawell

# St Patrick's Parish Newsletter Stawell and Landsborough

4th Sunday of Lent —Year A  
May 3rd, 2020



St Francis of Assisi,  
Landsborough

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.

## Fr. Andrew Hayes

### Interim Leadership Group in Stawell

In time I expect we will form a Parish Pastoral Council in Stawell. As Parish Priest I will value the input of parishioners as we move forward into a new way of being Church. Of course it will be different when you haven't got a priest living in your presbytery. It will be different for Ararat's parishioners too with my time be drawn towards Stawell. I won't know lots of things for myself. I will need to be listening to people. I have asked a group of wise heads to come together (online) to talk to me. They are Gloria Pickering, Mary-Rita Thomas, June Raeburn, Helen Potter, John Launder, Kevin Dallingar and Michael Habben. In time we will choose with more process but for now, with all the limitations of the times, I'm thankful for this group.

### Mass Times

After much discussion between Stawell's Interim Leadership Group and Ararat's Parish Pastoral Council I can announce our Mass times for the immediate future. Thank you everyone for the thoughtful discussion in trying to meet an array of needs. When the Covid-19 arrangements allow us to return to public liturgy we will have the following Mass times:

**Ararat 8.30am**

**Stawell 10.30am**

**Landsborough 6pm Sat Vigil 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays**

**Lake Bolac 6.30pm Sat Vigil 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays**

**(Glenthompson have Mass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays)**

Whether Landsborough and Lake Bolac parishioners have Sunday Assemblies on their other weekends is yet to be seen. For now we have Mass times that we can make public. Please note that Landsborough and Lake Bolac's Masses are the Saturday night of Sunday. For example, Landsborough doesn't have Mass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday. They have Mass the night before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday.

### Priest Appointments

Congratulations to James Kerr who has been appointed Parish Priest of Holy Family Parish, Northeast Malee. This is the parish formed a couple of years ago by amalgamating the parishes of Swan Hill, Sea Lake and Quambatook. Matthew Thomas will

move from Swan Hill to Mildura. Michael McKinnon will move from Mildura to Peru. The moves will take place once public liturgy is allowed.

### Global Inequality and Misunderstanding and Colonialism and China and Bats

Two important, if disturbing, anniversaries this week. Captain Cook landed 250 years ago and the Dachau Concentration Camp was liberated 75 years ago. I haven't been to Botany Bay but I have been to Dachau. The arrogance of thinking it was ok to travel the world stealing countries. The arrogance of killing six million Jews. I was in a lecture in Belgium a couple of years ago by a Holocaust expert who said the 6 million Jews executed during WWII would be the same numbers as having September 11 in New York every day for three years! We still shudder at the memory of one day.

I'm quite taken by the mistrust of China, the Facebook posts dedicated to counting the number of properties the Chinese have purchased in Australia. Purchased! Captain Cook, purchased. Ought we be thankful that China are purchasing land legally? The British turned up and took ours. Last night I drove past the tent embassy out at the tree. I'm trying to put Captain Cook, the anger at the Chinese purchasing land and the derision directed at the tree embassy all in the same sentence. Some of the same people who are aghast that China are buying land are wholly supportive that Britain stole it in the first place. The accident on the highway last night gives further weight to the need for a divided highway. And the "close the wet markets" rancour. That we think the markets have no right to exist because they're not like our supermarkets is a bit like Captain Cook and his party thinking the aborigines didn't have a right to exist because they weren't like the British. It looks like the Chinese bat sellers do need to change their procedures and I sincerely hope the science people sort out Corona. We need to find a way not to make people sick, but when it's alright to eat a chicken or a quail but not a bat that's Western imperialism. Isn't it?

In the mean-time, I suppose we stay home and keep washing our hands. The sisters and I are still having Mass and praying for you all. Difficult times. Stay calm and carry on, five feet apart! Fr Andrew **Parish Priest**

## **First Reading Acts 2:14. 36-41**

*God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.*

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the Eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.'

Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

## **Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-6. 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 1 Pt 2:20-25**

*You had gone astray but now you have come back to  
the shepherd and guardian of your souls.*

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment patiently when you are punished after doing your duty.

This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

## **Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord;  
I know my sheep, and mine know me.  
Alleluia!

## **Gospel Jn 10:1-10**

*I am the gate of the sheepfold.*

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and a brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them.

So Jesus spoke to them again:

'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold.  
All others who have come are thieves and brigands;  
but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate.  
Anyone who enters through me will be safe:  
he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture.  
The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.  
I have come so that they may have life  
and have it to the full.'

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## **Gospel Reflection**

The fourth Sunday of Easter is sometimes known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In the three different cycles of the liturgical year, the gospel on this Sunday comes from John, chapter 10 – an extended discourse by Jesus on the image of himself as the good shepherd. This year the reading is the beginning of the chapter and stops just immediately before the words, 'I am the good shepherd'.

Our understanding of this whole image and the scene that is set in today's passage is very dependent upon a contextual understanding of the times. Whilst shepherds were generally regarded as being little better than criminals, they often put their lives in danger to tend to their flocks. Of a night time, several flocks of sheep would be penned in a communal sheepfold, usually made of stone walls. There was only one entrance to the sheepfold and one of the shepherds would effectively become the gate by sleeping across the entranceway. This was to keep the sheep in but also to guard against thieves. Thieves might climb over the wall into the sheepfold but the sheep were trained to respond to their shepherd's voice alone so thieves could only steal what sheep they could carry off or those that were not sufficiently trained to their shepherd's commands.

When Jesus described himself as the gate of the sheepfold, his audience would have immediately understood the analogy. For a shepherd to become the gate to the sheepfold of a night was to risk his life for not only his own sheep but all the sheep in the fold overnight. It took courage and demonstrated utter commitment.

@gregsunter

**Next Week's Readings**

**May 10th 2020**

**First Reading**      [Acts 6:1-7](#)

**Second Reading**    [1 Pt 2:4-9](#)



**Pope Francis—Twitter**

“Many times we make comments that set off a small daily lynching. May the Lord help us to be righteous in our judgments and not to begin or follow gossip that provokes an undeserved condemnation.”

**OFFICE INFORMATION**

**Parish Priest:**    **Fr. Andrew Hayes    Ararat & Stawell**

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Download Church Bulletin—[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Finance Manager: Gloria Pickering**

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**Parish Office:**    **03 5358 1119**

PO BOX 87, Stawell, VIC 3380

Office Hours:    **Thurs 11am-5pm**

**ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL**

**Principal: Mrs. Michelle Hogan**

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**catholic.edu.au**

**Prayers of the Faithful**

**4th Sunday of Easter**

**Priest:** Gathered as God's own people let us now pray for the needs of the world and for the work of the Church.

**Reader:** That the young and old reborn through the Easter sacraments will continue to dwell in Christ's love.

In your glory

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who are lonely and sad will experience God's friendship through others.  
In your glory

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That exhausted healthcare workers will be given patience and determination to mirror Christ's compassion in their ministry of healing. We pray especially for those at the forefront of the coronavirus outbreak. In your glory

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For people who are isolated, that they will be filled with the comfort of Christ the risen saviour. We pray especially for those experiencing isolation during the coronavirus restrictions. In your glory

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those living with the fear of disease will find a sense of calm and shelter in Christ. We especially pray for people who are sick from the coronavirus. In your glory

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** For countries where health infrastructure is limited, that they will be granted equipment and resources. We pray especially for generous sharing between nations during the coronavirus pandemic. In your glory

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Reader:** That those who have died, including Bernadette Willey, Margaret Clery & Sr. Gottfrieda, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, will live forever with the risen Christ. In your glory

**All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Priest:** Wise and loving God, during these Easter days you bring new life into the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Accept our prayers and sustain our deeds and words by your Spirit. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



**Finances**

Thank you for your continued support at this incredibly hard time. Please phone the office 03 5358 1119 to discuss contributions for the Planned Giving Program and the Presbytery. During office hours—Thurs 11am-5pm, there will be a box to place your envelopes in. Otherwise you can make a direct debit into the following account:

St Patricks Parish    BSB 013 815    Account No 2863 26347

Please reference your Family name

*Deus te Benedicat—God Bless You*

**WHO CAN I CALL FOR HELP?**

<p><b>LIFELINE</b></p> <p><b>13 11 14</b></p> <p>24 HOURS/7 DAYS CRISIS SUPPORT SUICIDE PREVENTION</p>	<p><b>BEYOND BLUE</b></p> <p><b>1300 22 4636</b></p> <p>24 HOURS/7 DAYS ONLINE FORUMS &amp; CHAT FUNCTION</p>
<p><b>HEADSPACE</b></p> <p><b>1800 650 890</b></p> <p>AGES 12-25 PHONE &amp; ONLINE SUPPORT (eheadspace)</p>	<p><b>KIDS HELPLINE</b></p> <p><b>1800 551 800</b></p> <p>AGES 5-25 24 HOURS/7 DAYS COUNSELLING</p>
<p><b>HEADSPACE BALLARAT</b></p> <p><b>5304 4777</b></p> <p>AGES 12-25 REFERRALS DROP IN SERVICE: MON-FRI 9AM-4PM VIA TELEHEALTH</p>	<p><b>NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE</b></p> <p><b>1800 020 080</b></p> <p>24 HOURS/7 DAYS INFO ON COVID-19</p>

**SICK LIST**

Noah Amarant; Kathryn Young; Glenis Leddin; Lourdes de la Cerna; Kath Hayes (Ballarat); John Delaney; Lynn Wright; Simon Monas; Angela Moore; Kate Sargent; Yvonne Evans; Margaret Boag; Nigel James (Canberra); Ian Kindred; Sharron Pickering; Andrew Van Diesen; Benjamin Wolfson; Robbie Loxton; Nicole Lee (Horsham); Brian O'Loughlin; Steven Oates; Maree Parkin; Rosemary Chisholm (Bendigo); Harry Comitti, John Dalziel; Mollie Barton; Patty Fenwick; Bailey Young, Graeme Blake, Pat Rathgeber; Kate Whelan; Sam Sharrock.

**NB: A Family member of the sick person must contact the Parish Office to have names added. They must also have the permission of the sick person if they are able to give it.**

**Volunteer**

We are looking for a volunteer to put together a Registers list of those parishioners from Stawell and Landsborough who have passed away.

Please email Joyce on

ararat.@ballarat.catholic.org.au

**Humour**

BREAKING:

GETTING OUTDOORS **NOT CANCELLED**

MUSIC **NOT CANCELLED**

FAMILY **NOT CANCELLED**

READING **NOT CANCELLED**

SINGING **NOT CANCELLED**

LAUGHING **NOT CANCELLED**

HOPE **NOT CANCELLED**

LET'S EMBRACE WHAT WE HAVE.

unsinkable.

*What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other? - George Elliott*