

St. Mary's Take Away Café

Thank you to everyone for their support of our Café and all the sugar and jars being dropped off. We now have delicious Quince Jam (\$5) and Onion Relish (\$5) for sale along with shortbread biscuits (\$4). Just email Joyce—ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone her at the office 03 53525460 or mobile 0421034444.

We have Indian Chicken Curry with Rice or a Vegetarian Curry with Rice from our Frozen section—\$10 per curry. It's not too hot! We continue with our Friday deliveries of the "Pay it Forward" meals for families. If you are going through a tough time and need a little help, please phone us at the office. Having a home-cooked meal delivered can brighten your day.

We want to wish all the teachers a smooth transition when schools re-open next week. And all the families getting back into a routine! Thank you to our volunteers too. We really are all in this together.

Would you rather donate?

If so, we would really appreciate donations of the following:

Sugar, butter, pastry sheets, tinned apples, flour, fruit, vegetables, jam jars, herbs, spices or plastic containers.

Drop off at the presbytery during office hours – **Wed-Fri 10am to 3pm**

Many thanks for your support during this venture!

Humour

- A man died and went to heaven. As he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him. He asked, "What are those clocks?"
- St. Peter answered, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Every one on earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie, the hands on your clock will move."
- "Oh", said the man. "Whose clock is that?"
- "That's Mother Teresa's. The hands have never moved, indicating that she has never told a lie."
- "Incredible", said the man. "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abe told only two lies in his entire life."
- "Where's Trump's clock?" the man asked. "His clock is in Jesus' office. He's using it as a ceiling fan."

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The Ascension of the Lord

24th May 2020



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

Fr. Andrew Hayes

Sunday Mass

It was lovely to have Mass last weekend if even for a handful of parishioners. The Masses in Ararat will continue to be in the Parish Centre for the moment. It's warm. Stawell, Landsborough and Lake Bolac will be in the churches. Parishioners will be invited when your turn arrives and will be required to leave your names and numbers for contacting if necessary. We will need to sit at a distance and sanitise hands, chairs, door handles and so on.

Feast of the Ascension

I came across this statement recently from Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI. It speaks of the theology that we might draw from the Ascension story.

The theology and spirituality of the ascension is essentially contained in these words: Refuse to cling to what once was, let it go and let it bless you, so that you can recognize the new life you already have with and within you and receive its spirit. The synoptic gospels teach that to us in their pictorial rendering of the ascension; Jesus blesses everyone and then rises bodily out of their sight. John gives us the same theology, in a different picture, in his description of the encounter on Easter morning between Jesus and Mary of Magdala: "Mary don't cling to me!" Ron Rolheiser

Today, Thursday, we will celebrate the requiem Mass of Don Urquhart. We will use the Ascension readings and I will speak about today being a GREAT faith-filled day to be returning to God. The Feast of the Ascension is about the profound love of God who invites everyone on of us to live in God.



Mass Times

We are returning to public liturgy. The following will be our new Mass times: **Max 10 people, by invitation ONLY**

Ararat 8.30am—by ballot system

Stawell 10.30am—by ballot system

Landsborough 6pm Sat Vigil 2nd 4th Sundays

Lake Bolac 6.30pm Sat Vigil 1st 3rd 5th Sundays

(Glenthompson have Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Our Lady is Missing

A carved in Bavaria wooden statue of Our Lady is missing in Ararat. She's in a small green case. Find the case you'll find Mary. Maybe she was taken home for prayer and then forgotten. We would very much like to have her back.

Reward offered: They make great cheesecakes in Bavaria. Mike will make you a Bavarian cheesecake! Today's Yorkshire Tea was lovely. Thanks Mike! Now, where's Mary? C'mon people. Find Mary.

Recent Death

Don Urquhart

Weekday Masses in Stawell

Beginning this week Fr John Pothiyittel will celebrate Mass in St Patrick's Church in Stawell from Tuesdays to Fridays at 10am, with the exception of funeral days and Eventide Mass days. As per the Covid 19 regulations, these Masses will be limited to 10 people. Be prepared to go home if you are the 11th. Please sit on the seats at the front of the church and observe the sanitising requirements, including that seats are cleaned at the end of Mass.

Pope Francis—Twitter

Receiving the joy of the Spirit is a grace. Moreover, it is the only force that enables us to preach the Gospel and to confess our faith in the Lord. Faith means bearing witness to the joy that the Lord gives to us. A joy such as this cannot be the result of our own efforts.

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Project Compassion raised \$3438

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Help Small Businesses Get Through This!!

Consider supporting the smaller local businesses before the big guns.

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

Why are you standing here looking into the sky? Jesus has been taken into heaven.

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. **(R.)**
2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. **(R.)**
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. **(R.)**

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Mt 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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Gospel Reflection @gregsunter

The short gospel passage for today is taken from the final words of the gospel of Matthew. It is known as 'The Great Commission' as Jesus is portrayed commissioning his disciples to go out to the world and spread the good news. They are charged to 'Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations.' This is the basis of much of the missionary work of the Church that has gone on ever since then. However, the focus of today's feast is much more on the first reading than the gospel. The opening verses of the Book of Acts, from the author of Luke-Acts, describe the final instructions of Jesus to his disciples and then his 'lifting up'. The Luke-Acts writer is the only gospel writer to actually describe the Ascension. The fact that the other gospels don't discuss the Ascension in any detail at all is a good indication that this description should not be taken literally. However, the message of the Ascension is a powerful one. It reminds us that Jesus, the human incarnation of God on earth, was limited to a specific time and place in history. Despite the physical limitations of his life on earth, Jesus ensured that his message and ministry would continue through those he had taught. Knowing that the disciples would need time to grieve and come to terms with all that had occurred in a relatively short space of time, Jesus promised that the Spirit would come upon them in the days to come. That visiting of the Spirit upon the disciples at Pentecost was the motivation to set about doing what Jesus had charged them to do. Without the Ascension, there is no Pentecost.

ANNIVERSARIES:

Mick Schwab, Kathleene Creenaune, Redmond O'Halloran, Mary Lewer, Patsy Hinchey, Peter O'Rorke, Jennifer Laidlaw, Peggy McAdie, Gladys Lister, Fr Laurie Gallagher, Eva Neulist, Brian Carr, Harold Hockley, Erik Van Opstal, Josip Curak, Bridget Thistlethwaite, Phillip Shields, Thomas Eastick, Jane Howlett, Fr Mick Grady, Frank Sertori, Sr. Anne Dunbar, Jack White, Dora Jones, John Studd

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

Sally Rook, Geraldine Mckendrick

Ministry to the Sick:

Please email Fr. Andrew during these difficult times to discuss Ministry to the sick on

Andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Or phone the office on 5352 5460

MASS (*we are using planned giving numbers for a ballot system. If your number comes up, you will be invited to MASS. 10 is the max. number. If you are not on the Planned Giving but would like to go into the ballot, please phone Joyce at the office*)

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)

Ararat Virtual Relief Centre

The Ararat Rural City Council are operating their Virtual Relief Centre (53550980). This is another way that people might receive help if you are struggling.

Prayers of the Faithful

Ascension of the Lord

Priest: My sisters and brothers, awaiting the return of Jesus let us pray to the God of all life for the needs of world.

Reader: That all the baptised will carry the Good News of Jesus Christ to every nation, culture and race.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those working in communications will use their skills with honesty and integrity.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For communities and nations experiencing suffering due to the Covid-19 pandemic. .In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For students, facing uncertainty in their lives. In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are suffering financial hardship because of the pandemic. In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That students, facing uncertainty in their lives, will be guided and encouraged by their families and teacher.

In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For scientists, working to develop vaccines for Covid-19 and other diseases. In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have died and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time and this week and for their loved ones and friends. In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God of all creation, Christ moved beyond our sight, leaving us the power of his Spirit. Through the prayers we offer, guide our deeds and words so that all may be drawn into the embrace of your mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen. © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

Next Week's Readings

May 31st 2020

First Reading

[Acts 2:1-11](#)

Second Reading

[1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13](#)