

Planned Giving

St. Mary's Parish would like to acknowledge the continued and consistent commitment by parishioners to our Planned Giving Program, especially during these trying times. Without your financial support, we would not be able to run the parish and reach out to those in need. Many thanks

Joke of the Week

An attorney arrived home late, after a very tough day trying to get a stay of execution. His last minute plea for clemency to the governor had failed and he was feeling worn out and depressed. As soon as he walked through the door at home, his wife started on him about, 'What time of night to be getting home is this? Where have you been? Dinner is cold and I'm not reheating it'. And on and on and on. Too shattered to play his usual role in this familiar ritual, he poured himself a shot of whiskey and headed off for a long hot soak in the bathtub, pursued by the predictable sarcastic remarks as he dragged himself up the stairs.

While he was in the bath, the phone rang. The wife answered and was told that her husband's client, James Wright, had been granted a stay of execution after all. Wright would not be hanged tonight.

Finally realizing what a terrible day he must have had, she decided to go upstairs and give him the good news. As she opened the bathroom door, she was greeted by the sight of her husband, bent over naked, drying his legs and feet.

'They're not hanging Wright tonight,' she said.
He whirled around and screamed,
'FOR THE LOVE OF GOD WOMAN, DON'T YOU EVER STOP?!'

ST. MARY'S PARISH CAFÉ BIG SALE!!

The St. Mary's Parish Café are having a big sale of Gift Baskets (\$25 each), Drinks (from 50c), individual jams/pickles just phone Joyce at the office 5352 5460 to organise getting your hands on some! All monies raised will go back into the parish centre to enable us to meet the requirements of our café, "Pay it Forward" program and of prospective hirers of the hall.



All drinks are within date and have been donated. A very big thank you to the Stapleton Family. Thank you to all the people who donated jars and ingredients to the café.



FLAVOURED DRINKS - \$1.50 EACH

All jams and pickles have been hand-made. You can pick and choose your jam/pickle to go in your basket. It makes a great gift!



Sunday 2nd August 2020 Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

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.

Mass this Week

Friday 11am followed by lunch.

Why are we having lunch but not cuppa's after Masses? Because lunch is seated at tables, and that keeps us apart. Cafes are still open. When we have a cuppa we stand nose to nose to chat – and that's when the trouble begins.

Parish Offices Closed

For the safety of the staff of both parishes, our parish offices will now be closed to visitors. Staff may be working inside, but parishioners will be asked to make contact by email, phone, post or putting things under the door. We have a responsibility to ensure that our workplaces are safe workplaces. Just for now we're limiting physical contact.

Changes to How We Book in for Mass

In Stawell: Please phone Gloria (0438 150 058) between 11am and 5pm on Thursdays to put yourselves into the 20 for Sunday.

In Ararat: Please phone or email Joyce in the parish office (Wednesday to Friday) to put yourselves into the 20 for Sunday. The list of names for Ararat is also in the porch of the parish office. You're welcome to put your names there if that suits.

Fr Andrew stresses that he'd like parishioners to use the allotted office hours. The office staff in both parishes are employed to take calls of this nature during their work hours. Please don't be calling them at home for work things. Stay safe and well.

For God's Sake, Wear a Mask

I am writing this bulletin piece on Thursday evening. Parishioners will have seen the new requirements coming in from midnight Sunday. It is clear that the Victorian government and health experts are concerned and are calling for a higher level of vigilance at this time. As parish priest I believe my role is to support the message. WEAR YOUR MASKS WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR HOUSE! AND WASH YOUR HANDS! AND SOCIAL DISTANCE. In the Northern Territory children have been told to keep a kangaroo's distance apart. Whatever works for you. Shopping trolley, kangaroo ... just distance, mask up and wash your hands! Let's keep one another well and healthy. We'll not have cuppas after Mass until further notice. From Sunday night we'll be required to wear masks at Mass. We can remove them if we're the reader and to receive communion.

OTHER Covid 19 Arrangements

For all public liturgy we will require names and numbers and sanitising of hands, seats and door knobs.

Weekday Mass in Stawell – Everyone welcome

Usually Tues-Fri 10am but do consult the website and bulletin.

Funerals – We are able to have 35 people. We will not yet be catering for cuppas after funerals.

First Reading

Is 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Hasten and eat.

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18. R. v.16

(R.) The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 8:35. 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia!
No one lives on bread alone,
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The response of today's psalm is an excellent summary of the theme that runs throughout today's readings: *The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs*. The compassion of God is foremost in these readings – recognising need within the people and responding with an overflowing abundance. In the gospel, the abundant response of God is the miraculous feeding of more than five thousand people with twelve baskets full of leftovers.

As it became late in the day, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away to the nearby villages so that they could buy food for themselves. But Jesus is moved with compassion for the people. He knows that as it is now evening they probably won't be allowed to enter any of the local villages and, even if they were, they probably didn't have money with which to buy food. So it is compassionate care that moves Jesus to act. Remember, he had tried to get away from the crowds to spend some private time mourning the death of John the Baptist. He was entitled to be frustrated and angry with them for intruding on his grief. Instead, when they tracked him down, he went ashore and healed them and taught them. When it came to the evening he went one step further in his compassion and made sure that all were fed.

At the time of writing, the gospel writer knew that his audience would be familiar with the Eucharistic meal. The words and actions of Jesus in this miraculous feeding event foreshadow the events of the Last Supper: he *took* the bread and fish, *gave thanks*, *broke* the bread, and *gave* it to the disciples to distribute. This event is a Eucharistic one just as much as the Last Supper.

© Greg Sunter

ANNIVERSARIES: August 3rd - 9th

James Stapleton, Veronica Butler,

Bp Francis Thomas, Beverley Austin, Arthur Mark, Leila Spiller, Gina Galea, Irene Hunter, Ada Maconachie, Robert McKibbin, Stan Weeks, Robert Steer, Maureen Daly, Kenneth McAdie, Pat McDougall,

Bruce Atkinson, Kevin Beer, Pat Liston,

Fr Leo McCormick, Rosalia Kolotelo, Lina Daghero, Denise Fromager, William Oliver, Jan Tutton, Edward Byrne, Lola Lindholm, Danny Pollock, May Lenehan, Pat Liston, Fr. Brendan Davey

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.

Margaret Hassall, 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

Readings August 9th 2020

First Reading [1 Kgs 19:9,11-13](#)

Second Reading [Rom 9:1-5](#)

A VOCATION VIEW:

If some people did not hoard the riches of this world, all people would have enough to eat and drink. Too many people starve to death every day. Who will speak loudly of justice today?

Pope Francis—Twitter

Men and women who pray know that hope is stronger than discouragement. They believe that love is more powerful than death, and that love will surely triumph one day, even if it be in times and ways we do not know. [#Prayer](#)

@Pontifex July 29th 2020

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest: Nothing can come between us and the love of God. With confidence let us bring our prayer before God who answers all our needs.

Reader: For the Church, that during times of trial it will show forth the love of God, acting with kindness and compassion. Hear us we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who lack food and clothing. That nations with abundant resources will come to their aid with urgency. Hear us we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are lonely, that the love of God will be their constant strength and companion. Hear us we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are sick, that they will be comforted and healed by the compassionate one. Hear us we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those working in nursing homes: That they will continue to lovingly care for those entrusted to them. Hear us we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have died, that those who once ate the Bread of Life will be called to the eternal banquet. Hear us we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For scientists, working to develop vaccines for Covid-19 and other diseases: That they will be blessed and supported in their endeavours. Hear us we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God of love, you sustain and nourish all who hunger for your presence. Hear us and help us to reach out to your inviting hand.

All: Amen.

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