

St. Mary's Cafe

We are changing again!! Isn't that the theme of 2020. We will be resuming our take-away Café in Term 4, on Thursdays only at this stage. We will start off with pies and salad or quiche and salad. We will also be able to deliver. More information to come in future bulletins.

We shall continue with a limited number of frozen meals too. Profit will be given to the Ararat Emergency Relief Fund. We have a separate bank account with the fund and our Vinnies team is involved with the decision making about the distribution of these funds. For example, meal vouchers have been purchased from the RSL and the Blue Duck. It's important to keep the funds running through our community.

We are doing a little promotion in our café -

If you buy a meal—you receive 2 Free drinks or a Free soup—GET IN QUICK

MENU

Soups \$5

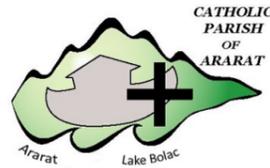
Tuscan Bean Soup or Pea & Mint (GF), Mushroom (GF) or Tomato (GF)

Evening Meals (Serves 2)

Cottage Pie	\$12
Vegetarian Lasagne (GF)	\$10
Chicken Fried Rice	\$8
Tuna, Tomato & Cheese Pasta Bake	\$8

Deserts

Apple Crumble (serves 2)	\$8
Biscuit Dough (8 biscuits)	\$5



Rotary Club of Ararat

Masks

Happen to be passing the Presbytery and Church and have a dollar handy? Then grab yourself a mask and pop the coin in the tin or the brown box on the right. ALL coins donated to the Ararat Emergency Relief Fund. Hand Sanitiser provided too.

Mr Chris McAloon – Principal

Congratulations and every blessing to Chris McAloon who has been appointed principal of St Patrick's School, Stawell. This appointment follows Michelle Hogan's decision not to seek reappointment at the conclusion of her contract. Chris will begin at the beginning of Term IV. Appreciation, too, to Bill Hill and the St Mary's team for enabling the quick turnaround of this appointment. Let's look forward to a whole term of children turning up to school. Singalong ... and my head I'd be scratching while my thoughts were busy hatching ...

Plenary Council Discernment papers now available in audio format: The Diocese of Bathurst has taken the discernment papers to another format, recording audio versions to help with the reception of the documents. All six discernment papers have now been recorded and can be accessed on the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>



Sunday 20th September 2020
25th 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.

Fr Andrew Hayes

Churches Open for Private Prayer

We are now able to have our churches open for private prayer. St Mary's Ararat is open. St Patrick's Stawell will open from Monday 21st. Please remember to sanitise hands and chairs and to record that you have visited.

When Will We Have Mass?

We're allowed Mass outside for ten people. We've had much discussion and I'll say I'm conflicted. Should we have Mass regardless of a suitable venue? Anywhere will suffice. Doesn't matter if it rains, snows or blows a gale. Or is it important that Mass is celebrated in a dignified manner and dignified place, such that we ought celebrate Mass well and, if we can't, be prepared to wait until we can. The Victorian bishops have sought an amendment from the government to allow us into the churches for Mass. I'm conflicted, but for now we'll wait.

Parish Offices Open

Our parish offices will now open for the usual hours. Thursday in Stawell, Wednesday to Friday in Ararat. Please remember your social distancing, masks, hands, all that.

Mary Cunningham Retires

Mary Cunningham has been looking after our priests seemingly forever. Having gotten old, she has hung up the washing basket and gone straight into the housekeepers' hall of fame. While Mary's role of caring for the priests is more personal than public I wish to thank her publicly. Mary has had a special place in my life for six years and in the lives of the many priests whom she has looked after. A virtual social distanced with a mask on hug for Mary!

Prayer for the Moment

We Bring Your Love. Loving God, Help us to focus on what we have not on what is removed or changed. Strengthen us when we feel discouraged or overwhelmed. Embrace us so that we know your loving presence within us and among us. Walk with us as we bring your love, and carry your light, into our world. Amen. Sandra Lucas, MDiv., BCC

Mass Online

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au has a number of helpful resources Some of the links are listed here:

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat: Mass livestreamed daily from the Cathedral at 10.00am can be viewed [here](#) or on [facebook](#).

St Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border: Mass celebrated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays can be viewed [here](#). Follow their [facebook](#) page

St Joseph's Parish, Warrnambool: Sunday Masses at 8.30am can be viewed [here](#) or follow the link on [facebook](#).

St Patrick's Parish, Camperdown: Sunday Mass at 10.30am livestreamed [here](#).

Phone Lines

Victorian Coronavirus Hotline — 1800 675 398

If you suspect you may have the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) call the dedicated hotline – open 24 hours, seven days.

Older persons COVID-19 Support line — 1800 171 866



First Reading Is 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;

for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth

as my ways are above your ways,

my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
the Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. 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.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading Phil 1:20-24, 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

See Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 20:1-16

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the import of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment.

The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of divine judgment when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way, if God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy. © Dianne Bergant CSA

ANNIVERSARIES: Sept 21st—27th

Joseph Nunan, Enid Froggatt, James Hogan,

David Sweeney, Nell Smith

Fr. Paul Mercovich, Nicholas Dempsey

Marc Watson, Mary Brick, Robert Milesi

Bill McKinnon, Alice Parker, Jack Parker

Joyce Henning, Edmund Gleeson

Margaret Johnson and Bruce Harrison

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

We also pray for those affected by Covid 19.

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

A VOCATION VIEW:

"We can never be called "generous". All that we possess we have received from God. It is our vocation to return to God all the talents God has entrusted to us."

Readings Sept 27th 2020

First Reading [Ez 18:25-28](#)

Second Reading [Phil 2:1-11](#)

Pope Francis—Twitter

Today, the nature that surrounds us is no longer admired, but "devoured". We must return to contemplation; so as not to be distracted by a thousand useless things, we must find silence; for the heart not to become sick, we must be still. [#Sea-sonOfCreation](#)

Arrangements during Stage 3 Restrictions

Masses and Funerals

All public Masses have been cancelled for now. The churches are closed. Funerals in our parishes will be at the cemeteries with a maximum of 10 people

Prayers

Fr Andrew and Srs Maree and John will continue to pray for the intentions of parishioners

The Sunday readings and prayers of the faithful will be on the bulletins

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au has a number of helpful resources

Mass on Television Mass for You at Home

6am Sunday on Channel 10

Bulletins Bulletins will be prepared weekly

Some bulletins will be hand delivered

Bulletins will be emailed to those who have given us your addresses. Bulletins can be found on the parish websites

If you miss out on all of those options, bulletins can be collected from the doors of the parish offices.

Prayers for the Pandemic

When this is over, may we never again take for granted
A handshake with a stranger,
Full shelves at the shops, Conversations with neighbours,
A crowded theatre. Friday night out,
The sharing of Eucharist, A routine check-up,
The school rush each morning. The roar of the G,
Each deep breath, A boring Tuesday, Life itself.
And when this ends,
May we find that we have become more like the people
We wanted to be,
We were called to be, We hoped to be.
And may we stay that way –
Better for each other because of the worst.
- Laura Kelly Fanucci

Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.