



Other Notices

St. Mary's Café

Our café is still operating. As mentioned, we have suspended deliveries as we are concentrating on the lunch after the weekday Mass. However, should you wish to order some pies, please do not hesitate to email or phone Joyce at the office.

Phone/email by Tuesday evening for a delivery or collection on Thursday!

Vinnies launches 2020 Christmas Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society in Australia is asking people in a position to do so to dig a bit deeper this year as the Society launches its Christmas Appeal after a very tough year. To donate go to https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal?_ga=2.45291745.433958477.1606174687-2061808706.1606174687

Catholic Care Victoria

Victoria's bishops have announced the merging of CatholicCare Melbourne and Gippsland, Centacare Ballarat and CatholicCare Sandhurst, to form a new entity, CatholicCare Victoria from January 1, 2021. Statements and further information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-care-victoria/>

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Information on the easing of restrictions in places of worship as of November 23, 2020 is available from the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

No Interest Loans Scheme

Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand continues to offer No Interest Loans (NILS) for essential goods and services such as fridges, washing machines, car repairs and medical procedures for up to \$1,500. Repayments are set at an affordable amount over 12 to 18 months. NILS is offered by 170 local community organisations in over 600 locations across Australia. Chances are there'll be a local NILS provider near you or one who can help over the phone. For more information go to <https://nils.com.au/?fbclid=IwAR1yXO4BQBURX43G6zwWn1L8LpHmCJeASgKxi140daBnc0EIJ7-F13gDM0>

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

Translations for Victorian Government coronavirus website - www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translations

Vinnies Ararat Phone: (03) 5352 5560

Salvation Army Australia — 13 SALVOS

Finances

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

Details for Stawell Parish

Parish Account
BSB 013 815 **Acc:** 286326347
Presbytery Account
BSB 013 815 **Acc:** 286326355

The Official flag of 2020



Sunday 29 Nov 2020 First Sunday of Advent B

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

Masses this Week

Stawell: Tues to Friday 10am

Ararat: Tues 1st 7pm Memorial Mass

Thurs 3rd 11am Mass and lunch

Covid Arrangements for Mass

With our return to larger numbers for Mass, a reminder that we need to continue with our Covid arrangements.

Names and contact details. Please arrive early enough to complete the paperwork before Mass time. Masks while indoors. No holy water at the doors. No shaking hands at the sign of peace, unless with members of the same household. Social distancing. In Stawell this will mean up to 15 people may need to sit up behind the altar. In Ararat this may mean some sitting upstairs. Ararat and Stawell can have 50 people. Landsborough and Lake Bolac can have 35.

Christmas Mass Times

After consultation with the Parish Councils, the following are the times for Christmas Masses.

Christmas Eve: Stawell 6pm / Ararat 7.30pm /

Lake Bolac 9.15pm

Christmas Morning: Landsborough 9am

50 People for Mass, by Alphabet

Sundays 29th A-K / 6th L-Z / 13th A-K / 20th L-Z

This may change as the rules change

Landsborough and Lake Bolac are able to have 35 people at Mass – so no need to have alphabets or booking. Just come along.

Rosters in Ararat

Now that we are returning to the church, Joyce has posted a roster on the board in the foyer for hospitality (cuppas after Mass, turning heaters and lights on and off etc.) and for cleaners. We will also be asking for names for readers. Please check the board in the foyer.

Cont'd

Changing of the Colours in Ararat

In Ararat we would also like a small number of people to take care of arranging the changing of the seasons. Putting on the coloured cloths. Getting the Advent Wreath and Easter fire ready, the crib, those sorts of things.

Memorial Mass December 1

Usually held in November, on Tuesday December 1 at 7pm we will have our Memorial Mass in Ararat. Parishioners are invited to come and pray for all who we have loved and lost, especially during 2020. Please bring a plate for supper.

Plaque

In Ararat, at the entrance to the Parish Centre, we have a plaque on the wall celebrating the opening of the extension of the church which was blessed by Bishop Mulkearns in 1979. Fr Andrew and the Parish Council have received criticism of the plaque for its implied honour given to Bishop Mulkearns. To help in the healing for people whose lives were so damaged by the priests during this disgraceful time in our history, we are proposing that we erect a new sign, alongside the existing one, acknowledging our failings. A draft of this new sign is posted in the foyer for consultation. We will be happy to hear your comments.

CWL Meeting

The next meeting of the Ararat CWL will be a lunch gathering Tuesday 8th December at 11.30 am.

Please bring a plate to share sweet or savoury. **NO** Kris Kringle just a get together and lunch.



First Reading Is 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8

Oh that you would tear the heavens apart and come down. You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come Down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with Integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Cor 1:3-9

The revelation we looked for, Christ Jesus our Lord. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Stay awake! You never know when the Lord will come.
Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Gospel Reflection

Stay awake! With these words, Jesus cautions his disciples to be constantly vigilant and to be alert to the return of the Lord. It is a very fitting way to begin the season of Advent. Advent has traditionally been observed as a time of preparation and waiting. It culminates in the Christmas season and so the waiting and preparation is related to the celebration of the coming of Christ into the world.

Perhaps the time of preparation this Advent is also a call to stay awake and stay alert in faith. One of the great challenges to faith today is the complacency that has taken hold of many in our society. When life is comfortable, the perceived need for faith appears to diminish. Many young people in our society cannot see the value of religious belief or religious practice. In a world of instant communication and instant 'satisfaction', the reflective and slow work of faith can seem too much effort for some people. The gospel call to stay awake in preparation for the coming of the Lord is a call to continue the work of bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Over the last three weeks, the gospel passages from Matthew 25 were reminders about continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom. This week, with the beginning of Advent, it is the gospel of Mark that also reminds us that we cannot take the Kingdom for granted and must remain vigilant in working to realise the Kingdom. This vigilance needs to be applied to nurturing our own faith life as well as making a difference in the lives of those around us and the needy in society. Rather than 'Stay awake!' maybe some of us need to be told, 'Wake up!' It is never too late to pay closer attention to faith and perhaps this Advent is an ideal time to do that.

ANNIVERSARIES: Nov 30th—Dec 6th

James Sertori, Terry Phillips, Ireneo Torrecampo, William Davies, Eddie Walls, John Presser, Sr Elizabeth McGovern CSB, Mary Rix, Mons. Bill McCunnie, Matt Brennan, Phyllis Brown, Ellen Mullins, Patrick Mullins, Maura Brown, Nel Wagener, Bernard Joyce, Penny Lang, Agnes Joyce, Fr. John Martin, Fr. Syd Morey, Maureen Dagleish, Athol Howman, Fr. Martin Gleeson and James Moneghetti

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Julie Neale, Jean Rolfe and Margaret Hassle

Sally Rook would like to extend her thanks to all those for their prayers and well wishes. She is doing well at the moment.

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.

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 5358 1119 Stawell (Thursdays)

Pope Francis—Twitter

Too often, women are insulted, beaten, raped, forced to prostitute themselves.... If we want a better world, that will be a peaceful home and not a battlefield, we all need to do a lot more for the dignity of each woman.

Readings Dec 6th 2020

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11
Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

St. Mary's Café

Our café is still operating. As mentioned, we have suspended deliveries as we are concentrating on the lunch after the weekday Mass. However, should you wish to order some pies, please do not hesitate to email or phone Joyce at the office.

Phone/email by Tuesday evening for a delivery or collection on Thursday!

Sunday 6th Dec 2020

Priest: As we begin this time of joyful expectation let us turn to the Lord who comes to the aid of those who call out in need.

Reader: That nations will put away instruments of violence and hatred and enter an age of peace and understanding.
In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the hungry, the unemployed and the homeless will find new hope.
In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the hand of God will rest on those of our community who are sick,
In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That developments in science and technology will serve all humanity.
In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all those who work in healthcare will be blessed and encouraged in their commitment to those they serve.
In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have been separated from loved ones will soon have safe and joyful reunions.
In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That students who are completing their studies will find meaningful opportunities in the next phase of their lives.
In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That public health officials will be supported in their work to protect their communities.
In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have completed their earthly pilgrimage and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, will have the promise of endless life, In faith we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God our Father, you are the potter, we the work of your hands. Hear these prayers, and help us to faithfully keep watch for the coming of our redeemer. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen. © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd