

St. Mary's Café & Community MENU

Pie & Salad	\$12	Quiche & Salad	\$10
Apple Crumble (For 2)	\$8	Evening Meal (For 2)	\$10-15 (phone for our weekly specials)

Free Delivery to all schools—between 12 noon and 1.30pm every Thursday during Term 4!

Want to donate or pay for your meal via EFT—deposit into our charity account:

Westpac Bank Boundless Plains BSB 033-201 Acc: 208810

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

Other News

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 provisions for ceremonies and gatherings in places of worship for regional Victoria as at October 28, 2020 is available from the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

On-line Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Registrations now open

The Ballarat Diocese in partnership with Dayton University offer low-cost online study and formation. Subjects include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. There are a small number of subjects on offer in Cycle 8 which begins November 29. The first study cycle for 2021 begins January 3. Registration for both cycles is now open. More information at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or email djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 5337 7121.

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR has issued information regarding gatherings in places of worship now that restrictions have eased in regional Victoria. All updates are on the diocesan website "news" section www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Prayers and Images in the Time of Virus

Following the success of Michael McGirr's *Trees in Solitude, Prayers and Images for Pentecost*, Garratt Publishing are pleased to present a complimentary second 'Trees' series from Michael – *Trees Without Masks*. Over the coming weeks these beautiful prayers and images will be shared. Download the prayers from the news section of the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.



**AT MY AGE, ROLLING OUT OF BED IN THE MORNING IS THE EASY PART.
GETTING OFF THE FLOOR IS A WHOLE OTHER STORY.**

Some days I amaze myself.

Other days, I look for my phone while I'm holding it.



**Sunday 8th November 2020
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time A**

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

God was in the Gentle Breeze / Let Us In

This weekend we might hear the premier ease restrictions, and then they'll all be swarming out of Melbourne. Some will love it, especially people missing family and people running businesses who need the visitors and their money. Others will be fearful that they'll bring Covid with them. Two edged sword. Here in the parish office we're gearing up for more things to happen. We've started Masses again and meetings and the busyness is creeping in. People are getting ready and systems are slowly coming back on line. We're wondering whether we, in ourselves, are ready. Are you ready? Still a bit cautious? My encouragement is for people to take our time moving into the 'Covid normal.' Rushing madly as we did before is not how it has to be. It's still ok to go quietly. Actually, it's been nice. God was in the gentle breeze rather than the cyclone.

We're also thinking here this morning that it's important that we be nice and that we welcome our visitors from Melbourne. Imagine coming out of the lockdown they've had and then coming out to the regions and not feeling welcome. A bit like the bridesmaids in the Gospel, "go and buy your own oil!" or again like the bridesmaids, just not being allowed in. So let's be ready, ready to be our welcoming selves, lamps full of oil waiting for the arrival of our special guests. I'll still be masking and sanitising and distancing. Covid normal.

Twenty for Mass

Our twenty limit may change this weekend when the premier announces a further easing of restrictions, but for now: In Ararat parishioners can book in for Masses by placing your name on the booking sheets on the office door. In Stawell Gloria will organise the bookings.

CWL

The CWL meeting is on in the Parish Centre at 1.30pm on Tuesday Nov 10th. Covid restrictions apply. Please stay at home if you are unwell.

St. Anne's Grandmothers Club

Next meeting is on Wednesday Nov 11th at 2pm in the Parish Centre. Covid restrictions and numbers apply.

Mass this Week

Stawell: Tues to Fri 10am (no booking required)

Ararat: Thurs 12th 11am followed by lunch (book via the office door)

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 there or on Facebook

St Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border: Mass celebrated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays can be viewed there. Follow their Facebook page

St Joseph's Parish, Warrnambool: Sunday Masses at 8.30am can be viewed there or follow the link on Facebook.

St Patrick's Parish, Camperdown: Sunday Mass at 10.30am livestreamed there.

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

1800RESPECT

Confidential information, counselling and support service for people affected by or experiencing sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse.

Relationships Australia — 1300 364 277

Support services for individuals, families and communities.

Australian Red Cross — 1800 RED CROSS

Vinnies Ararat Phone: (03) 5352 5560

Salvation Army Australia — 13 SALVOS

Covid Safe Plan & Buildings Inspection

Joyce and Emma are currently undertaking a Buildings Inspection Audit for all 4 Churches. Joyce is also in the middle of a Covid Safe Plan for the 4 Churches.

It will be advisable to call ahead to book a time in the office, as recommended in a Covid Safe Plan. So just to alert you of some more formal arrangements that will need to be made.

First Reading Wis 6:12-16

Wisdom is found by those who look for it.

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen,
and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them. Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her and graciously shows herself to them as they go,
in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 62:2-8. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. O God, you are my God, for you I long;
for you my soul is thirsting.
My body pines for you
like a dry, weary land without water. **(R.)**
2. So I gaze on you in the sanctuary.
to see your strength and your glory.
For your love is better than life,
my lips will speak your praise. **(R.)**
3. So I will bless you all my life,
in your name I will lift up my hands.
My soul shall be filled as with a banquet,
my mouth shall praise you with joy. **(R.)**
4. On my bed I remember you.
On you I muse through the night
for you have been my help;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Thes 4:13-18

Those who died as Christians, God will bring to life with Jesus. We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another. We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 24:42. 44

Alleluia, alleluia!
Be watchful and ready:
you know not when the Son of Man is coming.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 25:1-13

Look, the bridegroom comes. Go out to meet him.

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Gospel Reflection

The three gospel accounts from the final three weeks leading up to the season of Advent all come from Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew. They can be seen together as an extended treatise on living life in response to Jesus' message and preparing for the end of time. This week's gospel starts out as a Kingdom parable and becomes a bit more of a metaphor for living a Christian life. The gospel parable relates to ten bridesmaids – five foolish and five wise – who are participating in a wedding ritual that involves meeting the bridegroom and escorting him the last part of his way to the wedding reception. The foolish bridesmaids have not brought sufficient reserves of oil for their lamps and have to leave at the critical time to try to obtain more. When they eventually arrive at the reception hall they are turned away because they have shamed themselves as well as the bride and groom by not fulfilling their duty.

Some of the original audience of Matthew's gospel, along with many of the early Christian followers, had an expectation that Jesus was going to return and usher in the end of the world in their lifetime. The message of this gospel is captured in Jesus' final words, 'So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.' The timing of Jesus' coming cannot be predicted and so all Christian believers, like the bridesmaids, need to continue to act with hope and expectation; being prepared for the fact that it may be further off than anticipated. Many early Christians were living their lives as though the world would end at any time. The gospel warns them, and us, to continue to follow the example of Jesus and not to become complacent – expecting that everything is about to come to an end.

ANNIVERSARIES: Nov 9th—Nov 15th

Majorie Holt, Hugh Fitzpatrick, Norma McGrath,
John Evans, Frances Kearney, Margaret McRae, Gerard
Mercovich, Leo Green, Keith Jerram, Albert Thomas, Moira
Flynn, Paddy Brennan, Hilda Cowell, Rodolfo Auxilio,
Julian McKenzie-McHarg, Enid Dower, Allan Hewitt, Evelyn
Moloney, Grace Schwab, Irene Wilson, Hughie Lees,
Wilham Parker, Fr Nik Serzants

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Sally Rook and Margaret Hassle

Pray For The Intentions Of:

Elizabeth Shea

Recent Death: Barry Shevlin



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

Prayer for the deceased, raised in the trust that they dwell with God, extends its benefits to us too: it educates us in a true vision of life; it opens us up to true freedom, disposing us to the continuous search for eternal goods.

<http://vatican.va/>

Readings Nov 15th 2020

First Reading Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

Second Reading 1 Thes 5:1-6

Office Hours

The office will be closed on Wednesday Nov 11th
Open again for normal hours on Thursday Nov 12th at 10am.

Sunday 08 Nov 2020

Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us lift up our hands in prayer and bring our needs to God who is our help and our strength.

Reader: That our Church will remain faithful and be prepared for when the Bridegroom comes. With the saints we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For nations facing second and third waves of coronavirus: that they will remain steadfast in working to protect their people. With the saints we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the vulnerable in our communities: that we will maintain our vigilance in preventing the spread of Covid-19. With the saints we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For businesses struggling because of the pandemic: that they will be supported by their governments and local communities. With the saints we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For scientists: that they will be guided in their work to develop vaccines for Covid-19 and other diseases. With the saints we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For differing groups: that they will work towards resolving their discord with respectful dialogue rather than violence. With the saints we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For students preparing for exams: that they will remain calm and focused and not be overwhelmed by fear or anxiety. With the saints we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died including Barry Shelvin and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, in Christ will be with the Lord for ever, With the saints we pray:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: O God, your wisdom comes to all who desire her. Hear our prayer and help us to heed her word that warns us to stay awake and be prepared for Christ's coming. We make our prayer in Jesus' name.

All: Amen. © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd