

## Other Notices

### St. Mary's Café

Our Café will be taking a break over the festive period. Last day for pie orders will be Wednesday Dec 16th for pick up on the Thursday Dec 17th. Pies are \$6 each. \$10 with a salad. We will have Chicken & Leek, Beef & Guinness and a Veggie Option.

### Vinnies Shop

The St. Vincent de Paul shop's last day of trading for the Christmas period is Dec 18th at 12 noon. Get your Columban Calendars and Christmas Card packs before then! Many thanks for your continued support.

### 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](https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal?_ga=2.45291745.433958477.1606174687-2061808706.1606174687)

### #AdventHope

Read the latest from the Global Catholic Climate Movement at <https://preview.mailerlite.com/u9i6z9/1558374805588153901/o6p7/>

### 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](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

### 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](http://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translations)**

**Vinnies Ararat Phone: (03) 5352 5560**

**Salvation Army Australia — 13 SALVOS**

St Vincent de Paul, Stawell – 0437 344 323

Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage – 0408 038 949

## 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

### Joke of the Week



Got up this morning and ran around the block 5 times. Then I got tired, so I picked up the block and put it back in the toy box.



## Ararat, Sunday 13th December 2020

### Third 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 Fri 10am

Ararat: **Prayers** with lunch – Fri 11am Dec 18th

Fr Andrew will be away this week

#### 100 at Mass - Sundays

##### Easy explanation

Everyone can come to Mass now, every Sunday. We can have 100 people at Mass, but we need to register everyone who attends by scanning a QR code with our smart phones. For those who have a smart phone and can do this, please scan yourself in and be prepared to help others who don't have a fancy phone. If you haven't got a smart phone, no problem, we'll do it for you.

##### Technical explanation

If we register everyone with pen and paper we can have 4sq metres per person = 50 people. If we QR code everyone we can have 2sq metres per person = 100 people. Why the difference? If we QR code, the contact tracers have instant access to data rather than contacting the parish to find and scan the handwritten notes, thus wasting precious hours. There is a different QR code for each church and this will be at the doors, in the pews, on the bulletins, easily available. You might need to download a code reader app. Sometimes it works straight from your camera.

We can handwrite the names and numbers for weekday Masses (smaller numbers) and also at Lake Bolac and Landsborough for Sundays. Lake Bolac and Landsborough will need to QR for Christmas and funerals because we'll be wanting to fit more people in at 2sqm.

#### Bookings Required for Christmas Masses in Ararat and Stawell

Christmas Masses in Stawell and Ararat – will be by **Advanced Bookings Only**

With 100 people allowed for Christmas Masses (Stawell 6pm Christmas Eve) (Ararat 7.30pm Christmas Eve) we just won't fit everybody who wants to come. So, here's what we're going to do. We're going to have Christmas Masses on Christmas Eve, and then again (the exact same Mass) on Sunday morning December 27.

In Stawell, Christmas Masses will be 6pm Christmas Eve and 10.30am on Sunday December 27.

In Ararat, Christmas Masses will be 7.30pm Christmas Eve and 8.30am on Sunday December 27.

These Masses will need to be booked in advance. Ararat's booking sheet is on the office door. Stawell's booking sheet is in the church, pinned to the wall.

#### New Principal of St Mary's School

Our new principal for St Mary's has been appointed. Congratulations and welcome to Roxanne Leed

#### PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES

If you have run out of Planned Giving Envelopes, please take some from the main foyer in the leaflet stand.

Write your unique Planned Giving Number on it and the date and pop it into the basket during Mass or just inside the Presbytery door in the secure box to the right.

#### Vinnies Tree

Don't forget the Vinnies Giving Tree. Pop your gift (**UNWRAPPED**) under the tree in the main foyer of the church by **SUNDAY Dec 20th**.

**First Reading Is 61:1-2. 10-11**

I exult for joy in the Lord. The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison;

to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

**Responsorial Psalm Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10**

**(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Thes 5:16-24**

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

**Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel Jn 1:6-8. 19-28**

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:  
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

**Gospel Reflection**

This week's gospel should sound very familiar. It is the gospel of John version of the passage used in last week's liturgy, which came from the gospel of Mark. Again it recalls the ministry of John the Baptist but it is given the particular slant of the gospel of John. Aside from the greater focus on the conversational interaction, it presents John as a 'witness'. This is perhaps more typical of the John gospel emphasis on personal encounter with Jesus. Rather than acting as something of a herald, as in last week's account, here John the Baptist is witnessing 'to speak for the light'. He makes a very clear distinction between himself and the Christ, his mission is simply to point towards the light; the Christ.

Our common understanding of the word 'witness' tends to be related to legal situations: providing a witness statement or acting as a witness to a fact in court. The use of witness in this gospel carries a different connotation: to provide witness through action and lifestyle that draws others to wonder about and perhaps come to accept the motivating belief. It is this understanding of witness that all Christians are called to provide. We are called to witness to our beliefs in the way that we live our lives, engage with others and hold to certain truths. Of course, there are some Christians who believe that their witness needs to be more obvious and more clearly stated. They feel that providing witness, or testimony, to their faith through spoken proclamation has a greater potential to change lives. Whether we choose to witness through our words or through our actions it is essential that both words and actions have integrity; that there is no clash between what we proclaim and the way we live.

**ANNIVERSARIES: Dec 13th-Dec20th**

Fr. Gery Payne, Grace Harrison, Florentina Uda de Torrecarpo, Janice Porter, Norman Rowe, Mary Gellie, Hayley Pugh, Maureen Dalton, Norman William Rowe, Hughie Lees, Emma Brennan, John Hearn, Pepito Galang, Myra Campbell, Fr Bill Egan, Barry Karlake, John McSparron, Arthur Clark, Laurence Cashin, Fr. John Connellan, Fr. Billie Close, Fr. Pat O'Dowd, Joan Dadswell, Damien Gordon, Joan Fogart, Christina O'Brien, Roslyn Lillis, Ellen Byrne, Alex Haslett, William Casanova, Fr. Stephen O'Rourke

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:**

*Julie Neale, Jean Rolfe and Margaret Hassell*

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](mailto:andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au) Or phone the office on 5358 1119 Stawell (Thursdays)

**Pope Francis—Twitter**

God listens to the cry of those who invoke Him. Even our reluctant questions, those that remain in the depths of our heart. The Father wishes to give us the Holy Spirit, which inspires every #prayer and transforms everything. It is a question of patience, of supporting the wait.

Readings	Dec 20th 2020
First Reading	<u>2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16</u>
Second Reading	<u>Rom 16:25-27</u>

**Saint of the Week**

St. John of the Cross, [Feastday:](#) December 14  
[Patron:](#) of Contemplatives, mystics and Spanish poets  
Birth: 1542, Death: December 14, 1591  
aint John of the Cross was born Juan de Yepes y Alvarez, in Fontiveros, Avila, Spain in 1542. His father was employed by wealthy family members as an accountant, but they disowned him when he married a poor woman from the lower class. As a result of his family's poverty, John's family suffered greatly. [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)

**Sunday 13th Dec 2020**

**Priest:** With faith in God we now present our petitions.

**Reader:** That people living with disability will be treated with respect and given any assistance needed to enable them to live fulfilled lives.

In faith we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** That we will all spend time in prayer and with the gospels and come to know Christ more deeply.

In faith we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** That we will maintain our vigilance in preventing the spread of Covid-19, remembering its threat to the vulnerable in our communities.

In faith we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** That vaccines to protect against Covid-19 will soon be available to those in greatest need.

In faith we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** That wealthy nations will find ways to assist the poor of the world who are in desperate need because of the pandemic and economic crisis.

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:** For all the members of our community, that we may make a straight way for the Lord.

In faith we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** That leaders of nations act with justice and integrity in all their dealings.

In faith we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** For those who have died recently, and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time,

In faith we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Reader:** For our own personal intentions ... ..

In faith we pray:

**All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Priest:** God of peace, hear the prayers we offer for all people and grant them through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.