

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

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.

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

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

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted: "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago but I don't know where I am". The woman below replied "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and between 59 and 60 degrees west longitude".

"You must be a technician." said the balloonist. "I am" replied the woman "how did you know?" "Well," answered the balloonist, "everything you have told me is probably technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information and the fact is, I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip with your talk."

The woman below responded, "You must be in management". "I am" replied the balloonist, "but how did you know?" "Well," said the woman "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are, due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is, you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow, it's my fault!"



Sunday 6th December 2020

Second 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 in Ararat

Wed 9th 11am Mass for CWL meeting

Thurs 10th 11am Mass and Lunch

Masses this week in Stawell

Tuesday to Friday 10am

Reconciliation for Christmas

2nd Rite Tuesday December 22

Ararat 5.30pm (please bring a plate to share)

Stawell 7pm (please bring a plate to share)

Landsborough's reconciliation will be during Mass on Saturday December 12

Lake Bolac's reconciliation will be during Mass on Saturday December 19

Vinnies have Columban Calendars and Christmas Cards for Sale

A-K/ L-Z in Ararat and Stawell

Surnames A-K are welcome at Mass on Sundays Dec 13, 27 and January 10

Surnames L-Z are welcome at Mass on Sundays Dec 6, 20 and January 3

Landsborough and Lake Bolac – 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.

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.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: Stawell 6pm / Ararat 7.30pm / Lake Bolac 9.15pm

Christmas Morning: Landsborough 9am

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.

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. One more week to comment.

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!

CWL Meeting (NOTE THE DATE CHANGE)

The next meeting of the Ararat CWL will be a lunch gathering WEDNESDAY 8th December at 11.30 am. Please bring a plate to share sweet or savoury. **NO** Kris Kingle just a get together and lunch.

First Reading Is 40:1-5. 9-11

Prepare the way for the Lord. 'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness

a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his Breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 84:9-14. R. v.8

(R.) Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. **(R.)**
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the Earth and justice look down from heaven. **(R.)**
3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps. **(R.)**

Second Reading 2 Pt 3:8-14

We wait for new heavens and a new earth.

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:1-8

Make straight the paths of the Lord.

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way.

A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight,

and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel captures beautifully the spirit of preparation and waiting that characterises the liturgical season of Advent. John the Baptist is portrayed as fulfilling the prophecies of Isaiah and others as the one who comes before the Lord preparing the way. He is a messenger, sent by God to 'do the groundwork' preparing the people for the coming of the Christ. Although this passage is used during Advent as preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, we know that John was a contemporary (indeed cousin) of Jesus and the time of preparation was immediately prior to Jesus' public ministry.

John appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism for forgiveness of sins. It may seem odd to think of going to the wilderness to try to influence people. Today we might think that the city centre or street corner might be the better venue to preach something. What is it about the wilderness? Reference is made to the wilderness several times in scripture. It is used as a place of preparation and encounter with God. The wilderness referred to was a vast expanse of emptiness on the eastern side of the Jordan River. It was not uncommon for wandering preachers like John and Jesus to go out into the wilderness as a way of making a break from their previous life and getting themselves ready in body and spirit to begin their ministry. The wilderness to the east of the Jordan was also the place in which many of the rebels based themselves. There was a sense that challenge and unrest came out of the wilderness. In many ways that is what Jesus – heralded by John – brought out of the wilderness as well.

ANNIVERSARIES: Dec 6th—Dec 13th

Athol Howman, Fr. Martin Gleeson, James Moneghett, Rudolf Schwab, Osmond Smith, Eric Hogan, Herman Krawczinski, Graeme Pora, Victims of Pearl Harbour Bombings 1941, Fr. John Monaghan, Josephine Neilson, Norma Lannen, Edmund Moran, Bishop Henry Cleary, Clare Rieniets, Florence Heenan, Daniel Ryan, Joan Boyle, Joan Ryan, Rodney Harvey, Margaret Mary Smith, Glenys Balchin, Noel McOwan, John Thomas, Fr. Gery Payne, Grace Harrison Florentina Uda de Torrecarpo, Janice Porter Norman Rowe, Mary Gellie

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

Today, as in the past, slavery is rooted in a notion of the human person that allows people to be treated like an object, it tramples their dignity. Slavery makes us "un-dignified" because it takes away everyone's dignity.

Readings Dec 13th 2020

First Reading [Is 61:1-2, 10-11](#)

Second Reading [1 Thes 5:16-24](#)

Sunday 13th Dec 2020

Priest: Brothers and sisters, let us bring our prayer before God who shows kindness to all who fear him.

Reader: That nothing will hinder the Church from receiving Christ with joy.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That basic rights and respect for human persons be established in all nations.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

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 your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

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 your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have been separated from loved ones will soon have safe and joyful reunions. In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have died, including Monica Fitzpatrick and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, will dwell in the house of God.

In your kindness:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

All: Amen. © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd