



Project Compassion Sunday 14th February



Please take home a Project Compassion box and/or a set of donation envelopes and support Caritas Australia this Lenten season themed "Be More".

As Saint Oscar Romero said, "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

Through your generosity and by aspiring to "Be More", you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities. Thank you for being more!

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



Prayers of Intercession

Priest: Brothers and sisters, in times of trouble the Lord listens to our pleas. With confidence in God's mercy, let us turn to the Lord in prayer.

Reader: That our Church will show kindness to those who approach in faith.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are alienated through religious and social intolerance will be brought into the embrace of the community.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That men and women who minister to the sick and dying will be strengthened by Christ, the great healer.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who suffer the pain of sickness will be made whole by the touch of Christ,

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the dead including Sr Elizabeth and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, who hungered for the bread of life will be filled with eternal joy,

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That economies will promote dignified work for all and not resort to the evils of slavery and human trafficking.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That women who are victims of violence may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded. [Pope Francis' prayer intention for February 2021]

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That all people will have access to good healthcare, especially those who are vulnerable or marginalised.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That scientists will be guided by the Spirit in their work to find ways of dealing with the variant strains of the coronavirus.

In your compassion:

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 compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, on this Project Compassion Sunday, we will take to heart the words of Saint Oscar Romero and "Aspire not to have more, but to be more".

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We pray for the strength to heal divisions and to restore right relations in our lives as we approach this Lenten season. May we look beyond ourselves to end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity.

In your compassion:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Healing God, in Jesus you stretch out your hand to the outcast and offer the hope of new life. Hear these prayers, and make us eager to take our part in the work of your redemptive love, proclaiming your tender mercy to all. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.



St. Mary's Catholic Parish of Ararat Sunday 14 February 2021

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 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

Dear Parishioners, as of midnight tonight, Friday Feb 12th, Victoria will go into a 5 day LOCKDOWN in response to the recent outbreak of corona virus cases near Melbourne Airport. This will be a Stage 4 lockdown. You will only be allowed to leave your house for essential reasons.

This news was delivered by Daniel Andrews this afternoon.

This means Fr Andrew will celebrate Mass for the parishes in isolation.

No parish meetings can occur unfortunately.

Ash Wednesday February 22/21 Covid Rules

If we are allowed to celebrate Sunday Mass on Feb 20/21st we will distribute the ashes on that Sunday. The ashes will not be placed in a cross on the forehead. Ashes will be sprinkled onto the heads of people, in silence, with the person placing the ashes wearing a mask.



Statement from the Premier, Friday Feb 12

That means there will be four reasons to leave your home: shopping for the things you need, care and caregiving, exercise and work, if it is essential.

Exercise and shopping will be limited to five kilometres from your home. If there's no shops in your five-kilometre radius, you'll be able to travel to the ones closest to you.

Face masks will need to be worn indoors and outdoors – whenever you leave home. You won't be able to have visitors to your home. And any public gatherings won't be able to go ahead.

Pope Francis—Twitter

On the #WorldDayOfTheSick special attention goes toward those who are ill and to those who assist them. I think especially of those who suffer the consequences of the #coronavirus pandemic. I express my nearness to everyone, especially to the poorest.

Caritas Prayer

God of all peoples and nations as you accompany us on our Lenten journey,

May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity,

Our almsgiving be an act of justice, and our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.

Through living simply and loving generously, may we care for our global family and our common home, As we aspire not to have more but to be more. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen

ANNIVERSARIES: Feb 15th—21st

Tom Hourigan, Maria Deininger, Edna Colwell, Ron Baxter, Dawn Emerson, Sheila Brady, Daisy Sharman, Fr. Jim Kaye, Constance Hevey, Jim Tutton, Myra Lillis, Gerald Gleeson, Carmel Lembo, Robert Oliver, Janie Johnston, Betty White, Edward O'Boyle, Antonia Sultana, Bob Mahony, Vera Ruzic, Jackson Hunt, Thelma Day & Noel Hooper

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Fr. Hugh Thomas CSsR, Eloise Foo and Benjamin Wolfson, Julie Neale and Margaret Hassall

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)

Readings Feb 21st 2021

First Reading [Gen 9:8-15](#)

Second Reading [1 Pt 3:18-22](#)

First Reading Lv 13:1-2. 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven, whose sin is remitted.
O happy the man to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, in whose spirit is no guile. **(R.)**
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins; my guilt I did not hide.
I said: 'I will confess my offence to the Lord.'
And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin. **(R.)**
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord, exult, you just!
O come, ring out your joy, all you upright of heart. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Cor 10:31 – 11:1

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

A VOCATION VIEW:

Today's Gospel says that: "Jesus was moved with pity, when He saw a leper." Are you moved with love or pity when you see the outcast of today's society. Who will come forward to minister Christ today?

Gospel Acclamation Lk 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The leprosy left him and he was cured.

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

Gospel Reflection

It is hard to imagine a person in 1st Century Palestine who would be more of an outcast from society than the leper. Unfortunately, any form of skin disease was categorised as leprosy (known as Hansen's disease today). It was regarded as one of the greatest forms of uncleanness and seen as a physical manifestation of God's punishment on the person.

For a person like this to even approach Jesus is a huge risk and an enormous act of faith. He trusts that Jesus will not reject him like everybody else in his life has done. His request to Jesus is almost a demand; it is certainly filled with an utter conviction of Jesus' ability and good will: 'if you want to, you can cure me'. Jesus' reaction is one of equally strong emotion – he is so moved by this man's plight that he reaches out his hand and touches the man. To touch a person with leprosy was to break every rule of the clean/unclean social structure that dominated Jewish society. In this one action, Jesus challenges the entire basis on which Jewish society is constructed – the purity code. For Jesus to touch this man, according to the purity code, is to become unclean himself. But Jesus ignores these social rules and responds out of love and heals the man with word and action. However, Jesus knows that if the man is to be accepted back into society he needs to conform to the rules that dominate his world. He must present himself to the local priest who is the only one with the authority to declare someone cured of their disease and thus able to become ritually clean and welcome back into worship and back into everyday life.

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Hayes

andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Download Church Bulletin -

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretary: Joyce Clery

ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Office: 03 53525460

PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377

Office Hours: Wed/Thurs/Fri 10am-3pm

(Closed Public Holidays)

Safe Guarding Officer: Emma Coburn

ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Council Chairperson:

Charlie Reid

Finance Committee Chairperson:

Peter Gemmola

Funeral Ministry:

Joan Fitzpatrick, Sr. Maree, Harry Collins & Sioux Reid

Catholic Women's League:

Jan Crowe (President) & Anna Collins (Secretary)

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Vinnies Shop 03 5352 5560

President: Peter Brady

Manager: Kathleen Leggett

PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Roxanne Leed

Download newsletter: www.smararat.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 03 5352 1796

PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE: Mrs Carmel Barker

Download newsletter: www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 03 5352 3861

Parish Centre

Our Parish Centre is used for various activities—from Graduate Teacher Professional Development Days, Family Celebrations, Formal Meetings to a gathering place after a funeral.

It is a space that can accommodate up to 100 people comfortably and has an industrial kitchen. If you would like more information—please contact the office (Joyce) on 03 5352 5460

Other Important Numbers

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 Welfare Phone: 0459 163 461

Salvation Army Australia — 13 SALVOS

St Vincent de Paul, Stawell – 0437 344 323

Stawell Inter Church Council Welfare Cottage – 0408 038 949

Ararat Vinnies: 03 5352 5560

John Dunn Funerals 03 5352 1047

ids@westnet.com.au

Ballarat Cathedral Office 03 5331 2933

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Finances

If you would like to donate to a parish, please see the details below. Many thanks

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

Ararat QR Code



Location Code A5W FTY

You will need to have downloaded the APP onto your phone. It will not work if you just take a "photo" of the image above. There will be someone to help. But we would urge you to come 10 minutes earlier to Mass if you are unsure of what to do.