



First Sunday of Lent  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2021



Jamila, 22, is a Rohingya woman living in the world's largest refugee camp in Bangladesh. She was forced to flee the armed conflict in Myanmar to save herself, her elderly mother and her eight-month-old baby. With the support of Caritas Australia, through Caritas Bangladesh, Jamila was able to access emergency food and shelter. She also received counselling, emotional support, and learnt sewing skills to help her earn an income. Jamila now feels less alone, with a sense of community around her. She is able to 'Be More' to her little family. "Thank you, and thanks Caritas Australia," Jamila says.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 to help mothers like Jamila be more for her family and her community. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting [www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion) or phoning 1800 024 413.

### Prayers of Intercession

Priest: Brothers and sisters, as we begin these forty days of Lent let us offer our fervent prayers to the God of mercy.

Reader: That the Church will be led by the Spirit and preach the good news to all.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That nations facing famine, fire or flood may receive generous assistance.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That men and women who are tempted by evil will choose the right path and not be deceived.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who are preparing for baptism may persevere in their desire to be washed in the saving waters of new life.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That the sick will be sustained by the care of this community.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That we who are gathered will know the Lord more deeply in our Lenten prayer, fasting and works of charity.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That Myanmar and other places experiencing political and social unrest will find peaceful and just strategies to resolve their differences.

In your mercy: **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 mercy: **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 mercy: **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 mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That parishes will find new ways to create community whilst complying with health requirements.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That we will respond generously to the needs of refugees who are forced to flee their homeland and help create a safe future for all.

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: That those who have entered eternal life and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time, will be seated with the risen Christ,

In your mercy: **All: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Priest: God of the covenant, by the power of Christ's victory you have redeemed a fallen world. Hear our prayers and change our lives that we may be faithful to the gospel. We ask this through Christ your Son, who is Lord for ever.

All: Amen. © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

St. Mary's Catholic Parish of Ararat Sunday 21 February 2021

First Sunday of Lent

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.

### First Reading Gen 9:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10

**(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.**

1. Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths.  
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:  
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.  
He shows the path to those who stray,  
he guides the humble in the right path;  
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

### Second Reading 1 Pt 3:18-22

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

### Gospel Acclamation Mt 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!  
No one lives on bread alone,  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel Mk 1:12-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

### Gospel Reflection

The First Reading, from Genesis, and the Gospel this week need to be looked at together. In the Genesis reading, God has just wiped clean the earth and is ready to re-establish the relationship with humanity through Noah and his family. In the short gospel passage, Jesus enters the wilderness as a time of preparation and renewal, ready to embark on his mission of re-establishing the relationship between God and humanity. In both readings there is a sense of a fresh start – a clean slate – for humankind. It is a clear indication of God's commitment to humanity, even when we have totally distanced ourselves from God and forgotten about keeping up our part of the relationship, God is willing to make a clean start of it all again. Both readings offer a reminder of God's constant desire for us to be in right relationship with God and with the world. The presence of Jesus in the world was as clear a signal as the rainbow in the sky that God was willing to give us another go – give us a chance to again see God with new eyes and new understanding.

In the gospel passage, we have a picture of Jesus preparing himself for his public ministry. He takes himself out into the wilderness, away from all that he has known until this time, to reflect on his life so far and this next vital stage that he is about to enter. In the wilderness, Jesus is tempted. He has to face his own doubts and demons before he sets off on the road of his public ministry. When he leaves the desert wilderness and enters back into Galilee he immediately begins to preach and, in the first words accredited to him in this gospel, Jesus announces that the kingdom of God is at hand and it's time to repent and believe. It's a call to open your eyes and get with the program!

## Notices

Fr Andrew will be on retreat for the week Feb 22nd to 25th incl.

The following Masses will be celebrated in our parish next week:

Fri 26th Feb 9.30am	Stawell
Sat 27th 6pm	Landsborough
Sun 28th Feb 8.30am	Ararat
Sun 28th Feb 10.30am	Stawell

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Stawell Baptist and Uniting Churches will host the World Day of Prayer on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in the Stawell Uniting Church, 13 Scallan St.

**“Live our Christian Life”** Sacrament Program  
Fr Andrew has created a unique sacramental program for our parish. If you would like your child to enrol in the program, please bring them along to one of the following meetings:

**Tues 9th March 3.30pm or 5.30pm in the Parish Centre**

Please let Joyce know via phone or email if you and your child would like to attend. The session should take about 30 mins.

## Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

The latest updates regarding COVIDSafe practices are available from the diocesan website “news” section [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

## ACRATH

**Slavery-free Easter Chocolate Campaign:** ACRATH's Slavery-free Easter Chocolate Campaign kicks off on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. This year we are asking people to name their change. What will you do in 2021 to help eliminate slavery or child labour?

<https://acrath.org.au/take-action/slavery-free-easter/>

## A VOCATION VIEW:

*Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert. Where is the Spirit leading you ?*

## 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 22nd—28th

Sr Ursula Hayes, Wal Davis, Edward Arnold, Harold Bryant, Kaz Sobczak, Mons James Brophy, Julieta Formentera, Lorna Martin, Michael Scherger, Michael Stapleton, Mary Lugg, Brian Coffey, Hazel Gleeson, Catherine Doery, Matthew Leggett, Brian Walshe, Nell Hooper, Flora Coad, Alison Burmester, Arthur Spiller, Mary Radley, Bill Lavery, Mons Tom O'Brien, Jim Rix, Mavis Stewart, Marcia Shalders

## 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](mailto:andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Or phone the office on 5358 1119 Stawell (Thursdays)

**Readings Feb 28th 2021**

**First Reading** [Gen 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18](#)

**Second Reading** [Rom 8:31-34](#)

## Pope Francis—Twitter

[#Lent](#) is precisely the season of hope when we turn our gaze back to the God who is patient. Saint Paul passionately urges us to place our hope in reconciliation: “Be reconciled to God” (2 Cor 5:20).

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Andrew Hayes

[andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

Download Church Bulletin -

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

**Parish Secretary:** Joyce Clery

[ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.smararat.catholic.edu.au)

Ph: 03 5352 1796

**PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE:** Mrs Carmel Barker

Download newsletter: [www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au](http://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

## 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.

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

**Vinnies Ararat Welfare Phone:** 0459 163 461

**Vinnies Stawell Welfare phone** 0437 344 323

### Salvation Army Australia — 13 SALVOS

**Stawell Inter Church Council Welfare Cottage**

– 0408 038 949

**Fred Crouch & Sons (Stawell)** 03 5358 1043

**John Dunn Funerals** 03 5352 1047

[jdfs@westnet.com.au](mailto:jdfs@westnet.com.au)

**Ballarat Cathedral Office** 03 5331 2933

[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://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