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Download Church Bulletin -  
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

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Office Hours: Wed/Thurs/Fri 10am-3pm  
(Closed Public Holidays)

Safe Guarding Officer: Emma Coburn  
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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

#### 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

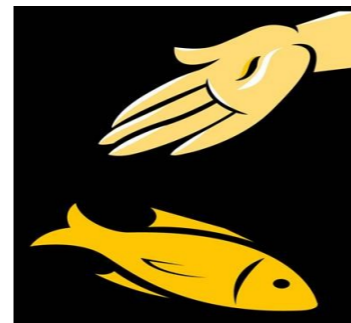
If you would like to donate to a parish, please see the details below. Many thanks

#### 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



## St. Mary's Catholic Parish of Ararat Sunday 18th April 2021

### 3rd Sunday of Easter

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which our Churches are built, the Tjapwuring people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

#### First Reading Acts 3:13-15. 17-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life. God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brothers, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 4:2. 4. 7. 9. R. v.7

**(R.) Lord, let your face shine on us.**

1. When I call, answer me, O God of justice;  
from anguish you released me, have mercy and hear me!  
**(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who grants favours to those whom he love  
the Lord hears me whenever I call him. **(R.)**
3. 'What can bring us happiness?' many say.  
Lift up the light of your face on us, O Lord. **(R.)**
4. I will lie down in peace and sleep comes at once,  
for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety. **(R.)**

#### Second Reading 1 Jn 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of St John I am writing this, my children, to stop you sinning;

but if anyone should sin, we have our advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, who is just;  
he is the sacrifice that takes our sins away,  
and not only ours,  
but the whole world's.

We can be sure that we know God only by keeping his commandments. Anyone who says, 'I know him', and does not keep his commandments, is a liar, refusing to admit the truth. But when anyone does obey what he has said, God's love comes to perfection in him.

#### Gospel Acclamation See Lk 24:32

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, make your word plain to us: make our hearts burn with love when you speak. Alleluia!

#### Gospel Lk 24:35-48

It was written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead. The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread. They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes. Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

#### Gospel Reflection

This week we again see something of the quirky nature of the selection of readings for the Sunday lectionary. This passage from the gospel of Luke immediately follows the magnificent story of the road to Emmaus and the risen Jesus' appearance to two disciples. Rather than hearing that story we have this account that follows; an account that is very similar to the passage of last week in which Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples and dispelled the doubts of Thomas. This week's reading is almost identical except that it does not place the blame of doubt on just one single disciple. Why select this reading as opposed to the Emmaus story? Perhaps the decision focused on the fact that this passage shows the risen Jesus appearing to all of the disciples and not just two.

However, what this account gives us that last week's account from the gospel of John did not, is a powerful message about understanding scripture. In the final verses of the passage, Jesus reveals to the disciples that his presence with them is what he'd been talking about when he'd spoken about the fulfilment of the scriptures. And then, 'He opened their minds to understand the scriptures.' This is an important gospel indication that the scriptures are to be read for understanding and for meaning. It is an imperative that we delve into the scriptures and look for meaning rather than a surface, literal interpretation that is prominent in much of society today. When we only read the scriptures 'literally' i.e. accepting the exact wording as literally true, we deny the depth and breadth of the scriptural messages that are conveyed through image, metaphor, irony and other forms of figurative speech as well as ignoring the rich contextual information that is often hidden within and behind the text. Jesus' enlightenment of the disciples makes plain the importance of 'understanding' scripture not just blindly accepting it.

### MASS TIMES

	<u>Ararat</u>	<u>Stawell</u>	<u>Lake Bolac</u>	<u>Landsborough</u>	<u>Glenthompson</u>
	(Immaculate Conception)	(St. Patrick's)	(St. Bernard's)	(St. Francis)	
<b>Saturday</b>			<b>6.30pm—Sat Vigil</b>	<b>6pm—Sat Vigil</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>10.30am</b>	of the 1st, 3rd, 5th Sun	of the 2nd & 4th Sun	<b>8.30am</b> (2nd & 4th Sun)

### Masses this Week

<b>Stawell</b>	Tues to Fri 10am
<b>Wed 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Garden View 10.30am
<b>Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	Hopkins 3.30pm
<b>Fri 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Ararat 11am with lunch



**Recent Deaths:** Jessie Christian

### Anniversaries: Apr 19th—25th

Emanuel Jotn Penza-Vella, Ellen Hennessy, Edward Bulger, George Shea, Eric Carter, Jim Brennan, Colin Gleeson, Albert Stainsby, Jim Lavery, Ian Kirkham, Val Gemmola, Sr Catherine O'Halloraran, Alex Murray, May Richards, Cosmos Fernando, Tom McGrath, Len Davies, Martin Keogh, Clare Heard, Peter Sheehan, Kevin Shea

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

### Readings Apr 25th 2021

First Reading [Acts 4:8-12](#)  
 Second Reading [Ljn 3:1-2](#)

### A VOCATION VIEW

What could convince someone to turn to God? That God became man and is the sacrifice that takes our sins away. Let us pray - Lord Jesus, make Your word plain to us and set our hearts on fire with love when You speak. Enable us to respond to the call to be witnesses of Your love.

### Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2021

Even death trembles when a Christian prays, because it knows that everyone who prays has an ally who is stronger than it: the Risen Lord. [#Prayer](#) [#Easter](#)

### Are places of worship open?

Yes, all places of worship of all denominations are able to open. Religious gatherings can be held indoors or outdoors. Venues must apply the [two square metre rule](#). Our churches are at the capacity of 100 and you can come to Mass every week.

- All venues must use electronic record keeping through the Service Victoria app or a government API-linked digital system (venues will have a 28-day compliance amnesty, until April 23 2021).
- While attending a religious gathering there are steps you need to take to keep yourself and others safe including not sharing food, drink or other items. A venue can have indoor or outdoor religious gatherings at the same time. Ceremonial participants other than faith leaders are included in the [two square metre rule](#). You must carry a [face mask](#) with you at all times when you leave home, unless you have a lawful reason not to.

It is recommended to wear a [face mask](#) when you cannot maintain 1.5 metres distance from other people. PLEASE FIND A MASK IN THE FOYER if you need one. Places of worship can open to conduct weddings and funerals.

Places of worship are open for private worship, for example individual prayer.

### Good Shepherd Sunday: Word Day of Vocations - April 25 (Fourth Sunday of Easter) Bulletin Notices

**Next Sunday is the World Day of Vocations:** Pope Francis tells us: "There can be no greater joy than to risk one's life for the Lord! I would like to say this especially to you, the young. Do not be deaf to the Lord's call. If he calls you to follow this path, do not pull your oars into the boat, but trust him. Let us pray for the young people in our community, and in our families and circle of friends. May our prayers help them to be open to the Lord's call to consecrated life or priesthood."

### Pope Francis – Message for 2021 World Day of Vocations.

**Saint Joseph:** "The Dream of Vocation 'God looks on the heart (cf. 1 Sam 16:7), and in Saint Joseph he recognized the heart of a father, able to give and generate life in the midst of daily routines. Vocations have this same goal: To beget and renew lives every day. The Lord desires to shape the hearts of fathers and mothers: Hearts that are open, capable of great initiatives, generous in self-giving, compassionate in comforting anxieties and steadfast in strengthening hopes. The priesthood and the consecrated life greatly need these qualities nowadays, in times marked by fragility but also by the sufferings due to the pandemic, which has spawned uncertainties and fears about the future and the very meaning of life. Saint Joseph comes to meet us in his gentle way, as one of 'the saints next door.' At the same time, his strong witness can guide us on the journey."

**A prayer request:** We remember to pray for all our young people in our Diocese and their future. They are the present, future and hope of the Church. God has a plan and hope for all of them to live out their vocational call whatever that may be - marriage, the single life and also amongst them are some who would make a good priest or religious. Holy Hours with prayer before the Blessed Sacrament are good opportunities for the parish to gather in silence to listen, discern and pray for the future of our young people. Let us support them and those entrusted to their formation especially parents, educators and role models, with our prayers.

### Enquiry Day for prospective Seminarians at Corpus Christi College - May 22, 2021:

An Enquiry Day for any young man who is interested to know more about a Diocesan Priestly vocation will be held at Corpus Christi College Carlton for all dioceses in the province. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please email Fr Edward Moloney [Edward.moloney@cam.org.au](mailto:Edward.moloney@cam.org.au) or Fr James Kerr [james.kerr@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:james.kerr@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

### Church Toilets

All children—Primary school age and under— must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you for your understanding.

### "Journeying towards the Light"

We have just journeyed through the darkness to the new light and life of the Easter mysteries. We also find ourselves slowly coming out of the worst of the Covid pandemic here in Australia.

Perhaps it is timely that we might find ourselves asking what is the legacy of the pandemic in the things of my life and my family, friends and community and the planet?

What needs to change in response to what we might have experienced and learned?

What is the good news, and how can I contribute towards new life as we move out of the worst of the pandemic?

Session 1	Transformation
Session 2	Where is my life centred?
Session 3	Sailing into deeper water
Session 4	Eyes to see, ears to hear

4 sessions of Centering Prayer with handout guides for inner reflection and silent prayer at home between each session.

These sessions will take place at 2-3pm in the St. Patricks Hall on **Wed. 28 April, 5 May, 12 May, 19 May**

All welcome. Lesley Morgan

### AGED CARE SCHEDULE

#### Eventide

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays 10am—start April 7

#### Lowe St

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays 11am—start April 14

#### Garden View

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays 10.30am—start April 21

#### ARV

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10am—start April 28

### 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