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Download Church Bulletin -  
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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 (Ararat) 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

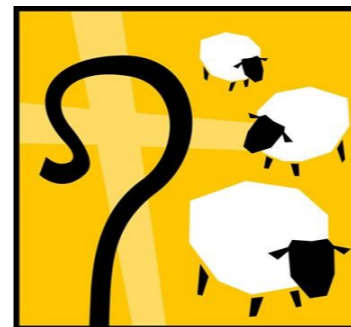
Presbytery Account "Presbytery Account"

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 25th April 2021

### 4th Sunday of Easter—ANZAC Day

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 4:8-12

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said: 'Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence, today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:1. 8-9. 21-23. 26. 28-29. R. v.22

**(R.) The stone rejected by the builders has become the cornerstone.**

1. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men: it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. **(R.)**
2. I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour.  
The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. **(R.)**
3. Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes. We bless you from the house of the Lord; I will thank you for you have given answer and you are my saviour. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his love has no end. **(R.)**

#### Second Reading 1 Jn 3:1-2

A reading from the first letter of St John

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are.  
Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us.  
My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

#### Gospel Acclamation Jn 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!  
Gospel Jn 10:11-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd;

I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

Gospel Reflection The image of Jesus as the good shepherd is such a familiar image that it can sometimes become over-familiar and cease to engage us. Countless works of art have presented this image literally, picturing Jesus as a shepherd with a crook and surrounded by sheep or even with a lamb draped around the back of his neck. The image from this week's gospel often gets merged with the image from the parable of the lost sheep that appears in the gospels of Luke (15:1-7) and Matthew (18:10-14) where artists frequently place Jesus as the hero of his own parable and portray him as the 'good shepherd' going out to retrieve the one lost sheep. Such amalgamations of different gospel images can become very confusing. Some of this confusion and literal interpretation stems from the gospel writer's choice of metaphoric language. In the gospel, Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd', not 'I am like the good shepherd'. The writer's use of metaphor, rather than simile, provides a much more compelling image but can result in a more literal interpretation. The emphasis of the image is on the adjective. Jesus is the good shepherd. Shepherds generally were not regarded as particularly good people – more like the scum of the earth! – so the choice of image is a deliberate one to unsettle the listeners. Unlike their normal expectation of shepherds – cut-throats who would run away at the first sign of danger – Jesus is the good shepherd: the one who does not abandon his flock; the one who has concern for his sheep; the one who will lay down his own life for his sheep. The final verses of the passage make an interesting extension to the image of shepherd and sheep. Unlike the 'sacrificial lamb', the good shepherd chooses to lay down his life and also has the power to take it up again.

### 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

**Stawell** Tues to Fri 10am

#### Ararat

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup>** 10am ARV and 3pm Church

**Thurs 29<sup>th</sup>** 3.30pm Hopkins

**Fri 30<sup>th</sup>** 11am Mass and lunch

#### Readings

**May 2nd 2021**

First Reading

[Acts 9:26-31](#)

Second Reading

[1 Jn 3:18-24](#)



### Recent Deaths:

#### Anniversaries: Apr 26th—May 2nd

James Lannen, Nora Hogan, Mary Lugg, Agnes Joyce, Richard Williams, Shirley Baker, John McRae, Peter White, Baden Edwards, Margaret Clark, Brian Broderick, Michael Hogan, Stan Kelly, Milton Neilson, Shayne Byron, Kathleen Morris-Rowe, Frank Peterson, Fr Tom Brophy

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

### A VOCATION VIEW

This is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs worthy leaders, Good Shepherds of the 21st Century, caring unselfishly for the needs of God's people. Please, pray for Vocations.

#### Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2021

We have broken the bonds of our relationship with the Creator, with our fellow human beings, and with the rest of creation. We need to heal the damaged relationships that are essential to supporting us and the entire fabric of life. [#EarthDay](#)

Want to see a great play in the Ararat Town Hall? Well book "The Merger"! Details below

<http://www.ararattownhall.com.au/event/the-merger/>

### 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.

### Fr Andrew Hayes

#### Kildare Ministries Conference

This week Marian College will be hosting a number of people from Kildare Ministries, the body that governs Marian College, for a conference. There will be visitors from a number of Brigidine Schools.

#### Sacrament Meetings in Stawell

This year's sacrament program is about to begin in Stawell. Parents of children in Yrs 3 and above are invited to a meeting at school this Tuesday, April 27. The meeting will be offered twice, at 3.30pm and again at 5.30pm

#### It's All About the Roads

This week in the news I saw that the Western highway upgrade seems to be on again, and that the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative in Victoria has been scrapped. Two roads, two lightning rods of cultural angst. The European colonial expansion, while centuries old, is still very young. Two or three hundred years isn't long in the contexts of China and indigenous Australia. My hope is that we can look on each other with new eyes and open ears. In this Sunday's Gospel we read of listening to the voice of the shepherd. Let's do that.

#### ANZAC Day

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning We will remember them.

#### Get vaccinated for the common good

Vaccination against COVID-19 is a morally good thing, providing protection for the person vaccinated and the wider community. Some COVID-19 vaccines are associated with ethically questionable production and research practices, but Pope Francis and the Australian Bishops have advised that it is morally permissible to receive any vaccine made available. More information is available at <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>. A media release and FAQ information from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is available from the diocesan website "news" section <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholics-in-australia-encouraged-to-receive-covid-19-vaccine/>

### "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