

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

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

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

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



St. Mary's Catholic Parish of Ararat 5th Sunday of Easter Year B May 2nd

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which The Church of The Immaculate Conception is built, the Tjapwuring people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

First Reading Acts 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill.
They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him.
May their hearts live for ever and ever! **(R.)**
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord,
all families of the nations worship before him.
They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. **(R.)**
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him.
They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come,
declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn:
'These things the Lord has done.' **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Jn 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:4-5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;
my branches bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine,

and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.

You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

Gospel Reflection

The Lectionary of this Easter season draws out some of the 'classic' gospel passages, particularly some of the discourses from the Gospel of John. Like many 'famous' or familiar passages, it can be true that familiarity breeds contempt – we think we are so familiar with the passage that we don't need to pay it much attention.

At first glance, it appears that there is a certain ruthlessness about the image of the vinedresser pruning the vine: perform or perish! However, the process of cutting away and pruning branches is an incredibly nurturing action; it is removing the unproductive portions of the plant so that the vine has an even better opportunity to produce fruit in the next season. It is an act of love; not an act of economic rationalism. Within our own lives we are called to make decisions about which of our thoughts and actions are life-giving (fruit-bearing) and which are unproductive; negative; crippling; life-diminishing. If we are able to 'prune' our life-diminishing thoughts and actions we allow ourselves the freedom and the ability to really flourish. Feelings of jealousy, greed, resentment, self-doubt and lack of confidence can limit our ability to be fully alive just as addictive and harmful behaviours can physically take away our ability to perform at our best.

I am reminded of the old *Karate Kid* movie when the boy, Daniel, is introduced to the art of bonsai. He is told to close his eyes, imagine the perfect tree and then start clipping and shaping the plant to make real the perfection that lies within it. It is only through a process of cutting away and pruning that we can nurture ourselves to realise the beauty of our potential.

MASS TIMES

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

Masses This Week

Stawell	Tues to Fri	10am
Wed 5 th	Eventide	10am
Ararat		
Thurs 6 th	Hopkins	3.30pm
Fri 7 th	Mass and Lunch	11am

Our Diocesan Community

The next edition of ODC is now available in the churches

Readings May 9th 2021

First Reading	Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48
Second Reading	1 Jn 4:7-10

A VOCATION VIEW

Who shall come forward to explain the love God has for His people who should be one in faith? We need more faith-filled, prayerful and spirited people to make the Vine and the Branches One again. How about you?

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2021

The Christian journey begins from the grace of receiving mercy. If we trust in our own abilities, in the efficiency of our structures and projects, we will not go far. Only if we accept the love of God, will we be able to offer something new to the world.

Recent Deaths: Audrey Brennan

Anniversaries: May 3rd to May 9th

Mons. Dan Brazil, Joe Price, Joyce (Bub) Joyce, Eileen Dawson, Robert Wilson, Cath Howman, Eric Pinzone, Winifred Brookward, Des North, Fr Matt Joyce CSsR, Michael McNamara, Pat Mahoney, Josef Kapp, Gerald Harrington, Fr Mick Philbin, Kerry Shea, Robert Cummins, Tony Shea, Archbishop Patrick Delaney, Fr Basil Thomas, Wendy Shea, Harriett Jackson, Des Woods, Peg Ronald, Jack Ronald, Anthony Cain, Aileen Grinter, Terrance Coleman, Anna Homzova, Dolores Thomas

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

Golden Gate Lodge Roster

May 7th	Libby
May 9th	Harry & Anna
May 16th	Libby
May 23rd	Jim & Jan
May 30th	Teresa

Ararat Church Cleaning Roster

Our church needs care. We would like to make as simple as possible for everyone. Equipment is provided but we need the volunteers.

Areas in need—glass doors, dusting and vacuuming the carpet. Please sign the form on the table in the foyer

Saint of the Week

St. James the Lesser Feastday: May 3 **Patron:** of Hat makers St. **James** the Less, the author of the first **Catholic** Epistle, was the son of Alphaeus of Cleophas. His mother **Mary** was either a sister or a close relative of the Blessed Virgin, and for that reason, according to **Jewish** custom, he was sometimes called the brother of the Lord. The **Apostle** held a distinguished position in the early **Christian** community of Jerusalem. **St. Paul** tells us he was a **witness** of the Resurrection of Christ; he is also a "pillar" of the Church, whom **St. Paul** consulted about the Gospel. (I've done quite a bit of research and cannot find out **WHY** St. James is the patron saint of milliners, so if anyone can find out this information—there's a lovely bottle of wine in it for you! Joyce)
Read more www.catholic.org.com

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. This video, published to Facebook and YouTube, includes a personal message from the Pope as he asks us to pray for each monthly intention. You can find it at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for May:

May universal intention for evangelisation – The world of finance: Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

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/>

Volunteers urgently needed at Kalumburu Mission, Diocese of Broome

We need volunteers for a life experience at the remote community of Kalumburu located in the northern region of the Kimberley in Western Australia. This region is home to some of Australia's oldest indigenous communities and picturesque landscapes. Volunteers play an important role in helping our parishes continue an active presence amongst the local people, both in Broome and remote indigenous communities like Kalumburu. Your role as a volunteer will include running the General Store with some assistance from local community members, handy-man maintenance and gardening as required and associated light machinery use and truck and fork-lift driving if you have the required licence. This is an opportunity to contribute and apply your range of acquired skills to the Kalumburu Mission and we would love to hear from you whether as couples or singles. For further information please contact the Diocese of Broome Chancery, ph. 08 9192 1060 or by email secretary@broomedioocese.org

"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. 5 May, 12 May, 19 May All welcome.

Lesley Morgan

Ararat Church Cleaning Roster

Our church needs care. We would like to make as simple as possible for everyone. Equipment is provided but we need the volunteers.

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Joke of the Week

