

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Hayes  
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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 (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 9th May 2021

### 6th 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 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48

The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the gentiles also.

As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said, 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said, 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 97:1-4. R. see v.2

(R.) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

1. Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

(R.)

2. The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel. (R.)

3. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord all the earth, ring out your joy. (R.)

#### Second Reading 1 Jn 4:7-10

A reading from the first letter of St John

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

#### Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia! All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them. Alleluia!

#### Gospel Jn 15:9-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.

You are my friends, if you do what I command you, I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business;

I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

#### Gospel Reflection

As a young person, there is nothing better than being in love! Sure, loving your family and being loved by them is pretty important, but to 'fall in love' with someone and have that love returned is something quite extraordinary. Love sets us on fire! To be loved by someone else makes all the tough times endurable; it makes us believe in ourselves because someone else sees something worthwhile within us. It's exciting and it's incredibly life-giving!

This is something of the message that Jesus is trying to convey to his disciples in this week's gospel. He is trying to share with them some understanding of the incredible joy he experiences through his relationship with the Father. And just as he is loved by the Father, so Jesus loves his disciples and so are they invited to share in the love of the Father. Jesus' whole mission and ministry was to share with people the love of God that he knew so intimately. His actions towards the 'lesser ones' of the world was to demonstrate to them that they are not only worthy of love but were already loved. Jesus tells his disciples that all they have to do to constantly remain in his love is to keep his commandments and then he clarifies for them that his only commandment to them is to love one another as Jesus loved. To live in the love of Jesus and know the love of the Father, all we have to do is love one another. It seems simple. The challenge is that we are to love all people – even those who make our lives difficult and unpleasant. As we are told in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, 'If you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them!' (Lk 6:32; Mt 5:46)

## MASS TIMES

<b>Ararat</b> (Immaculate Conception)	<b>Stawell</b> (St. Patrick's)	<b>Lake Bolac</b> (St. Bernard's)	<b>Landsborough</b> (St. Francis)	<b>Glenthompson</b>
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<b>Saturday</b>		<b>6.30pm—Sat Vigil</b>	<b>6pm—Sat Vigil</b>	
<b>Sunday</b> (Sun)	<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)

### Masses this Week

**Stawell:** Tues to Fri 10am  
**Ararat:**  
 Wed 12<sup>th</sup> Lowe St 11am  
 Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> Hopkins 3.30pm  
 Fri 14<sup>th</sup> 11am Prayer and lunch

### Readings May 16th 2021

First Reading  
Acts 1:1-11  
 Second Reading  
Eph 1:17-23

**An invitation to anyone who would like to learn about the Catholic faith or be updated :**

**Ring Parish Office 535205460**

### Recent Deaths:

#### Anniversaries: May 10th—16th

Cathleen Sertori, Ted Holt, Bill Overington, Linda Weinert, Patricia Mahoney, Marie Scanlon, Michael Joseph Moran, Frank Sanderson, Mary Waring, Tom Upton, Aileen Brennan, Monica Weddison, Tony Brady, Len Miller, Sr. Mary Antonia Thomas, Thomas Cronin, Daphne Nailon, Fr John Meade, Norman Start, Annie Schirmer, Gordon Schirmer, Monica Kelly, Celine Fernando, Fr John Leyden, Fr Tom Bourke, Leo O'Rorke, Janet O'Rorke, Gerard Cudmore, Claud Harrison, Elizabeth Harrison, Joan Connellan, Reg Palmer, Bianca Bulger

#### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

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

### A VOCATION VIEW

God's love for us has been revealed: "Love one another as I have loved you. The world is in need to see people who are striving to love others with all their hearts. What about you?"

#### Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2021

Let us #PrayTogether that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate financial markets and protect citizens from its dangers. #PrayerIntention

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/>

### Ararat Notices

CWL—Note the date change.

The Ararat CWL will meet on Tuesday 18th May in the Parish Centre at 1.30pm All welcome.

#### National Volunteer Week: May 17-23, 2021

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. From May 17–23, 2021 NVW will celebrate the significant contribution of Australia's almost six million volunteers, which includes people in our parishes and agencies. Each year these volunteers dedicate over 600 million hours to help others. The theme for NVW 2021 is *Recognise. Reconnect. Reimagine.* which acknowledges that it is time to:

RECOGNISE, celebrate and thank volunteers for the vital role they play in our lives.

RECONNECT to what is important by giving our time to help others and ourselves.

REIMAGINE how we better support volunteers and communities they help.

For more information about National Volunteer Week 2021 go to <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/>

### Fr Andrew Hayes

Covid

I met some lovely people on Monday while I waited in line for two hours to get my first AstraZeneca shot. A couple of times the staff suggested that I and others go home due to the long wait. I stayed. I wanted to get the shot on the first day that it was offered. I wanted to do my bit for everybody's health. The Australian bishops are encouraging us to get ourselves vaccinated. There's a lollypop at the end of it.

There has been a lot of comment this week in the media regarding the closure of the border to people returning from India. It's not a simple decision or a simple moral issue. I am giving the government and health experts credit for keeping Australians on home soil so safe since Covid began. Unless you're good at cricket the border decision will greatly burden and threaten many people. I'm very conscious of our Indian parishioners and their families. One aspect to keep in mind is that it's only a two week decision is it not? Is it a temporary pause while the government gets its systems sorted? This morning on the radio I was listening to a lady who has been "stuck" in India for more than twelve months, trying to get home. If the cricketers get home in a fortnight that lady and others will have a right to feel aggrieved that some are more equal than others.

This Sunday the Gospel speaks of love, the words spoken by Jesus during the Last Supper, a time when death was impending. The border closure is not a simple moral issue. That the decisions made at a national and global level are made with love is an imperative.

This week in the office in Ararat we revisited our Covid Safe plan. A reminder please, that we QR code on arrival and sanitise hands and seats. I'm told that parishioners are aggrieved that I've been asking you to spread out at Mass. While this has been the advice of the health authorities, I give up.

Mother's Day

A blessed and happy Mother's Day to all mothers.

#### 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. 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