



St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



We acknowledge the Djap Wurrong people, the traditional custodians of our parish land.

We pay our respects to their elders past and present. We respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

Sunday October 31, 2021 31st Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading

[Dt 6:2-6](#)

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2](#)

(R.) I love you Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be to the God that saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown love for his anointed. (R.)

Second Reading

[Heb 7:23-28](#)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

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

[Mk 12:28-34](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord you God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him anymore.



Mass Times

Ararat	Sunday 8.30am
Stawell	Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac	1 st 3 rd 5 th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough	2 nd 4 th Sundays 6pm Vigil Sat
Glenthompson	(Hamilton Parish) 2 nd 4 th Sundays 8.30am

Aged Care Schedule

Eventide	1 st Wednesdays 11.15am
Lowe St	2 nd Wednesdays 11am
Garden View	3 rd Wednesdays 10.30am
ARV	4 th Wednesday 10am

Masses this Week

Stawell: Tues to Fri 10am

Ararat: Wed 3rd 10am (note time) – we will celebrate All Saints and All Souls // Fri 22nd 11am with morning tea

Readings for Next Sunday Nov 7 (32nd Sunday Yr B)

[1 Kgs 17:10-16](#)// [Heb 9:24-28](#) // [Mk 12:38-44](#)

Recent Deaths Tony Liston

Anniversaries Stawell

May Uniacke 1964, Daohne Pollock 1970, John Mullen 1989, Laurence Rutter 2011, Vincent Flynn 1969, Ethel Phillips 1980, Val Gaylor 1986, Charles Turner 1999, Benedicta Bartels 2002, Bernard Browne 2007, Anna Molan 1947, Catherine Mills 1947, Alice (Dolly) Kelly 1953, Robert Presser 1998, Charles Squire 1991, Veronica Dickenson 2013, James Morrissey 1982, William Elliot 2008, Agnes Andrew 1998

Anniversaries Ararat

Mons. Henry Nolan, Laurie Rutter, Mary Jaensch, Juan Alforique Snr, Florentini Alforique, Aproviani Alforique, Abraham Alforique, Servando Alforique, Joshine Radley, Julian Upton, Edward Lynch, Bridget Lynch, John Stapleton, Peter Dover, Bill Vilkavickos, Maria Hickey, Ivy Ferguson, James Norbury, Jeff Pendlebury, Anne Whitfield, Leanne Arnold, John Schwab, Jim Clinton, Max & Ethel Murray, Monica McGeogh, Tom Liston, Kevin Rowe, David Williams, Salvatore Cannata

Golden Gate Roster

November 7 Teresa // 14 Jim Jan // 21 Libby // 28 Harry Anna

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat 30/10 Reader Irene Meek // Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett // Cleaning Tricia Higgins
Sat Nov 6 Reader Tricia Higgins // Prayers of Faithful Michael Phillips // Cleaning Judy Aldous

Lake Bolac Appeal for Sister Gottfrieda's Indian Mission - Our annual appeal will take place next weekend, November 6.

Stawell CWL Dates

Wed 10th Nov 10am - Mass for deceased members // Sun 14th Nov cuppa after Mass // Sun 12th Dec - cuppa after Mass.
Thurs 25th Nov 1.30pm - AGM // Thurs 2nd Dec - Parish Christmas lunch.

Ecumenical Service Stawell

The last ecumenical service for 2021 will be held in the Anglican Church on Sunday 14th Nov at 5pm. It will be followed by a cuppa. In line with Government regulations those attending must be able to show their double vaccination certificates.

Inter Church Council Stawell

Stawell Inter Church Council will be holding its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 18th November in the St Pat's church hall at 7pm. This meeting will be immediately followed by our usual meeting so we are aiming to start the AGM promptly at 7pm. We really need as many of you as possible to attend.

November 7 – New Information Since Last Week

Numbers with certificates of double vaccination

We will be able to have 50 people in Ararat (4sqm) + 40 in the Parish Centre

We will be able to have 50 people in Stawell (4sqm) with overflow outside or in the hall for prayer and communion

For those who are not double vaccinated or don't have certificates

You will be welcome at Masses with fewer than 30 people.

Typically, that's every weekday Mass and Masses at Landsborough and Lake Bolac.

How do I get proof of vaccination?

- Attend a Medicare office and ask for a printout
- Call the Australian Immunisation Register 1800 653 809 – they will post you a certificate
- Through MyGov / Service Victoria App / Medicare App

Reflection on the Gospel-31st Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B (Mark 12:28-34) Veronica Lawson RSM

In today's gospel reading we encounter a good scribe, while in next week's we find some not so good scribes. This seems to fit the pattern of the Markan gospel. There are faithful disciples and not so faithful disciples. There are honest Jewish leaders like Joseph of Arimathea and not so honest leaders like those who try to entrap Jesus. There are principled Romans like the centurion who witnesses the death of Jesus and not so principled Romans like Pilate who condemns him to death. Goodness and fitness for the "kin-dom" or "empire of God" are never guaranteed, according to the Markan schema, by status or position or call or ethnicity or gender or by any other contingency of existence. Everyone has choices. For a Jew, the first and best choice is to love the God of Israel with one's whole being and then to love one's neighbour as oneself. Jesus and his questioner are agreed on that. Jesus is presented in today's gospel as a Jew who knows and observes the Law of Moses. He wins the respect of the scribe, a specialist in the Law, who has overheard him debating with the Sadducees. Jesus recognises the sincerity of the scribe and takes seriously the question that this teacher of the Law puts to him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" He responds in the words of the "Shema Israel" from Deuteronomy 6, today's first reading. Love of God comes first. It is a love that derives from gratitude for God's liberating action in the lives of God's people. Israel has known the unconditional love of God. Those who know anything about human behaviour would probably agree that the experience of unconditional love engenders an increased capacity for love. For the Jews, including those who throw in their lot with Jesus the Jewish Galilean, to love one's neighbour is to keep the second commandment of Leviticus 19:18, "...you shall love your neighbor as yourself".

In first-century Judaism, love of God was expressed in worship and in the prayers and rituals of daily life. Love of others likewise found expression in action, not only in care of family and close friends, but also in support of "the poor and the needy and the stranger." To seek peace was also a feature of neighbourly love. To accept and follow such a program is to be, with the scribe, "not far from" God's kin-dom or empire. Contemporary sensibilities might lead us to include the other-than-human among the neighbours or "kin" we are called to love. If we learn to love the earth and all that inhabits it, the human community, the birds and the beasts, the plants and the soil, the sky and the sea, then these words of Jesus might truly find a home in our hearts: "You are not far from the kin-dom of God".

Proposed Merger of the Parishes of Stawell and Ararat

Some years ago the diocese' "Looking Forward" document scheduled our parishes to share one priest and to work towards becoming one parish. We have been making small steps towards this. With Fr Eric's retirement we moved to sharing one priest (with a very helpful retired priest next door.) With Gloria's retirement we now have one parish office.

The procedures for merging parishes are well set up now, with many other parishes having undertaken the process in recent years. Our two parish councils met together this week. Our process will include substantial parish consultation. We will need to sort out finances, a new parish name, lots of things including what we would like our parish to be. What is important to us as church? Finally, the merger will require permission from Bishop Paul Bird. It is likely that the new parish will begin on July 1 next year to make things easier for financial reporting.

What's in a Name?

To begin with something exciting, what might our new parish name be? (Note: the churches won't change names. The new larger parish stretching from Landsborough to Lake Bolac will need a new name and description of the area.) For example, the parishes of Hamilton, Peshurst, Casterton, Coleraine, Edenhope and Harrow, with all of their smaller churches, merged to become St Mary MacKillop Parish, Western Border. Have a think. In the coming weeks parishioners will be asked for suggestions of names.

What's Happening in the Presbytery (Convent) in Stawell?

We are almost ready for tenants to rent the building.

The Parish Maintenance Committee have done a great job of cleaning up the outside

Furniture is being sold via Buy Swap and Sell

The dinner table will go into the hall

New carpet will be laid on November 9

Painting will begin on November 15

There is a big skip outside the pink shed. Rubbish has been cleaned out of the pink shed to make better use of the space.

The small room at the back corner, off the carport, will become the garden shed. (The new tenants will have exclusive use of the sheds in their back yard.)

Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF)

The Ballarat Diocese partnered with Dayton University offers online Faith Formation study. VLCFF is a growing initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. The goal is to support the church's professional ministry of religious education and faith formation in cyberspace. We encourage parish and diocesan staff to consider taking up the opportunity to enhance their faith formation by undertaking any of these courses on offer for a small fee of \$50usd. The 2022 Calendar of subjects is attached and more information is available on the diocesan website

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> as well as at <https://vlcff.udayton.edu/>

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre (MMHC)

'Cuppa with Mary' - MMHC is reopening for parishioners on Monday, November 8 from 9.00am – 5.00pm. Come visit the Museum that tells Mary and the Sisters of St Joseph's story, do a walking tour of the Mary MacKillop Heritage trail and Mary's place of birth. Special times have been set aside for parish groups to have a 'Cuppa with Mary' which includes a presentation, tour and prayer reflection in the Chapel where Mary prayed, at a cost of \$20.00 per person. Contact Kate, ph. 9926 9300 for a group booking.

'Advent with Mary MacKillop' - The Education Team at MMHC will be delivering an online Advent reflection program consisting of 4 one-hour sessions that will be held on Wednesdays from 7.00 – 8.00pm on November 24, December 1, 8 & 15. The sessions will be based on the Advent readings and will be combined with reflections on St Mary of the Cross. Each session will incorporate aspects of the program *Blessed*. To register go to <https://www.mmhc.org.au/advent-with-mary-mackillop/>. Access to sessions will be via a Teams link provided by MMHC after registering, where participants would be able to join using a computer, tablet or smart phone. It would be much appreciated if you would consider donating \$7.50 per session or \$25.00 for the 4 sessions.

Mary MacKillop Gift shop & SOSJ Calendar 2021 – With Christmas coming up, please consider supporting the work of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a 2022 Josephite Calendar (\$8.00) and/or a present from the Museum Gift Shop (communion and confirmation gifts, devotional items, Vatican Library collection, rosary beads, holding crosses, candles, cards, statues, crucifixes, books and Peruvian handmade items).

Accommodation Specials - With Melbourne opening up again, events like the Boxing Day Test and Australian Open will be big draw cards! Book your next stay at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Accommodation in the heart of Melbourne. Contact Kate, ph. 9926 9300.

CatholicCare Victoria - Free Mental Health & Wellbeing Guide

CatholicCare Victoria has been supporting the Ballarat community for almost 45 years. To help in these tough times, we've developed a free guide to mental health and wellbeing, created by regional Victorians, for regional Victorians. Download your copy today at https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/13/mental-health-and-wellbeing-guide?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&utm_campaign=mental-health&utm_content=ballarat&fbclid=IwAR26onSC87f6p89AM0li_Conf5W_cYPyRTwsDKzWwMk4xREnbkTGzUv07ec

"Streams of Light" – a collection of 2020 Easter Messages

"Streams of Light" is a collection of 2020 Easter messages from Australian bishops (including Bishop Paul) in the context of the pandemic. This collection of homilies and pastoral letters captures the moment of strangeness, deprivation and isolation, pierced by joyful good news and the faithfulness of the Church's pastors to their people. The book is available from St Pauls Publications for \$16.95 (plus postage costs) <https://secure.stpauls.com.au/strathfield/streams-of-light-easter-messages-from-australian-bishops-during-lockdown-2020.html>

Knox Public Lecture 2021

Presented by Professor Eleanor Bourke on "Truth Telling & the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission" on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 7.00pm online. Professor Bourke is a Wergaia/Wamba Wamba Elder and is Chair of the Yoo-rrook Justice Commission. For more information and to register, go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/knox-public-lecture/>

Synod of Bishops

Catholics across Australia are invited to participate in a period of local consultation for the next international Synod of Bishops, which has the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission". The People of God are invited to use a guided, prayerful reflection method to consider a series of questions and make submissions via an online portal. Those submissions will help the Bishops develop a national report to support the global process leading to an international gathering in 2023. Find out more at <http://www.catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Parish Information – Parishes of Stawell and Ararat

Parish Priest	Fr. Andrew Hayes	andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Bulletin Online	www.ballarat.catholic.org.au – follow link to parish	
Secretary	Jill Croxford	ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Emails	ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au or stawell@ballarat.catholic.org.au	
Parish Office	304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm	
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