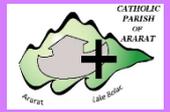




St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



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 December 12, 2021 Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

First Reading

[Zep 3:14-18](#)

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of
Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence;
he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king
of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to
fear. When that day comes, word will come to
Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands
fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a
victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he
will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of
joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness:
for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation,
I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song,
he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!
Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples!
Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord
for he has done glorious deeds,
make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

Second Reading

[Phil 4:4-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I
repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your
tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very
near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything
you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and
thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much
greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts
and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

[Is 61:1 \(Lk 4:18\)](#)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel

[Lk 3:10-18](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?'
he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share
with the man who has none, and the one with
something to eat must do the same.' There were tax
collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to
him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them,
'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked
him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?'
He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be
content with your pay!'

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people,
who were beginning to think that John might be the
Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you
with water, but someone is coming, someone who is
more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the
strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy
Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear
his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his
barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never
go out.' As well as this, there were many other things
he said to exhort the people and to announce the
Good News to them.



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
Phone	03 5352 5460
Post Box	PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377

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 15th Garden View Prayer 11am // Fri 17th 11am Prayer

Readings for Next Sunday Dec 19 (Advent 4, Yr C)

[Mi 5:1-4](#)// [Heb 10:5-10](#)// [Lk 1:39-45](#)

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve: Stawell 6pm, Ararat 7.30pm, Lake Bolac 9.15pm

Christmas Morning: Landsborough 9am

Recent Deaths: Bert Austin, Lyndsay Cahill, Mary Rogers

Anniversaries Stawell

Mick Streeter 1996, Linda Thomas 1976, Edna Noone 1985, Roderick (Rick) Healy 1998, Helen Healy 1998, Elizabeth Coffey 1957, Robert Soule 2000, Kathleen Nicholson 1960, Bridget Hourigan 1976, Phillis Phelan 1946, Catherine Lloyd 1954, Harold Carr 1980, Leo Stewart 1985

Anniversaries Ararat

Noel McOwan, John Thomas, Fr. Gery Payne, Grace Harrison, Florentina Uda de Torrecarpo, Janice Porter, Norman Rowe, Mary Gellie, Hayley Pugh, Maureen Dalton, Norman William Rowe, Hughie Lees, Emma Brennan, John Hearn, Pepito Galang Myra Campbell, Fr Bill Egan, Barry Karlake, John McSparron, Arthur Clark, Laurence Cashin, Fr. John Connellan, Fr. Billie Close, Fr. Pat O'Dowd, Joan Dadswell, Damien Gordon, Joan Fogarty, Christina O'Brien, Roslyn Lillis

Golden Gate Roster

December 12 Libby // 19 Teresa // 26 Harry Anna

January 2 Jim Jan // 9 Libby // 16 Teresa // 23 Harry Anna // 30 Jim Jan

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Dec 18 Reader Val Albert // Prayers of Faithful Irene Meek // Cleaning Helen Smith

Cuppa in Ararat and Stawell

There will be a cuppa after today's Sunday Masses (Hosted by CWL at St Pat's.) Everyone welcome.

Christmas Cards and Columban Calendars – now available in both Ararat and Stawell after Mass

Liturgy Set Up in Stawell

Can you spare one hour a month to help with preparing our St Pat's Church for our Sunday celebrations? No vacuuming or mopping required. Contact Kath Ashton if you can help with this, or any of our Sunday ministries.

Prayers for the Sick

Parishioners who are sick are very welcome to ask for your names to be published on the bulletin. Names will only be accepted from the person who is sick, or your next of kin if you are unable. Names will be printed for one week. You are very welcome to ask again in the following weeks.

Advent Discussion in Stawell - after Tuesday Masses during Advent (10.30am approx.)

This Advent discussion will include a hearing and reflection on the coming Sunday's readings. Everyone is welcome.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

The Bishop's Christmas Appeal is on again this year. Letters from Bishop Paul are available in the churches.

New Tenants in Presbytery (Convent) in Stawell

Painting is almost finished and carpet is ready to be laid. New tenants will take possession of the house on Monday December 20. Included in the lease will be five car-parking spaces. These will be clearly marked. Parishioners are asked to leave these parks vacant at all times.

Accommodation Required in Ararat

A lady is seeking somewhere to rent in Ararat when she moves here for work in the new year. Jane is looking for independent living rather than billeting. Jane's contact is 0451 964375

Christmas Tree in Ararat

The Christmas tree is up again at the back of the church. Please bring toys for distribution to those who can do with some extra loving this Christmas. The toys will be sorted and packed for delivery by Vinnies on the 20th Dec. Thank you for your generosity.

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal

This Christmas donate to Vinnies. Your gift can change a life. There are families who are experiencing poverty and homelessness this Christmas and your help can provide them with much needed essentials like food, clothing and a place to call home. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-kindness>

CatholicCare Victoria Giving Tree Appeal

This pandemic has been hard on us all. But as with every disaster, COVID-19 is making the already vulnerable more vulnerable still. Your generous donation to this year's Giving Tree Appeal will provide practical and financial support for struggling Victorian families - from three square meals a day to help with utility bills... every gift you choose helps. To donate go to <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/14/giving-tree-appeal>

Stawell Inter Church Council

Last Christmas Stawell Inter Church Council welfare and Stawell St Vincent de Paul helped 71 households, made up of 116 adults and 141 children, 13 years old and younger. They distributed Christmas grocery shopping vouchers totalling \$6,705. This year they expect the demand to be even greater. Owing to Covid 19 there will be no distribution of toys and children's books but if you would like to donate money towards helping those in need in our community this Christmas could you please give it to Mary Rita Thomas – 0438 836 180

Making a Scene at Christmas

A display of over 500 Christmas nativities from more than 60 countries will be held in the Bridge Mall Ballarat on December 11-23, 2021. Entry by gold coin donation. All welcome. More information available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/making-a-scene-at-christmas/>

Prayer for Matthew Restall and William Lowry who were ordained as deacons this week

We pray for Matthew Restall and William Lowry who have been called to serve in Holy Orders. As ministers of God's Word, may they believe what they read, preach what they believe and practice what they preach.

Highways and Byways Small Grants Program 2022

The 2022 Highways and Byways Small Grants Program is now open for applications. The theme is Healing the Land – Healing Ourselves – Together. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available to community organisations, especially in rural and regional areas, for projects that focus on healing the land in holistic ways and increasing opportunities to build community through practical projects, leadership and skills acquisition, and knowledge transfer. For more information go to <https://highwaysandbyways.org.au/grants/>

St John of God Healthcare Ballarat - Pastoral Associate Role

The hospital has exciting opportunities available for dedicated and committed Pastoral Associates to join the Pastoral Services team in promoting the Mission and Values of St John of God Health Care. To view the job description and/or to apply, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/>

A Climate that Reflects Justice – prayer suggestions in Advent. Caritas Australia Sent from Catholic Earthcare Ballarat

- Advent Week 3 God of Compassion Breathe into us solidarity with all who suffer now and the future generations who will suffer because of our environment irresponsibility. Help us to put people before profit and being before having.
- Advent Week 4 God of Justice Empower us to work together as one global community To find creative and just solutions to protect those Most vulnerable in our world And all of creation for future generations. Move us into action for climate justice and to restore your creation. Amen

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

Vaccination Certificates

If you have your proof of vaccination certificate (12 years+) you can come to any Mass - We have no limits on numbers.

If you do NOT have a proof of vaccination certificate

you will be welcome to attend smaller Masses eg. Lake Bolac and Landsborough and on weekdays

Christmas in Lake Bolac - Lake Bolac will exceed your non-vaxxed number (50) at Christmas.

You will need your vaccination certificates to attend Christmas Mass

Masks for Smaller Masses

At all Masses at which we don't check vaccination status (eg. Weekdays) masks are required to be worn.

Two Steps for Entry to Mass

Scan your QR Code

(or have someone help you)



2 Show your Vaccination Certificate to the Covid Marshal



Name for the New Parish

- Our Lady of the Grampians
- Mountain Views Parish of Our Lady of the Holy Saints
- Holy Spirit of the Grampians, Gariwerd-Mitchell
There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; [1Cor 12:3-7, 12-13]
- Noah / Mount Ararat – I like the idea of new life and hope emerging from our parish
- Good Shepherd / Holy Family / St Joseph / St Brigid
- Grampians / Grampians Gariwerd / Grampians Pyrenees / South East Grampians / Gariwerd-Mitchell
- Djap Wurrong Country / Lakes District Parish / Hopkins Parish
- Scullin Parish (Born in Trawalla, James Scullin was Australia's ninth prime minister and first Catholic prime minister)
- St Joseph the Worker Parish / All Saints Parish / Saints of God / Holy Communion Parish / Lumen Christi
- Exodus Parish, Gariwerd "Moses brought the people out to the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain." [Exodus 19:17]
- The Parish of the Prophet Isaiah, Gariwerd
"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news [Isaiah 52:7]
- The Parish of Isaiah 61, Gariwerd "The Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor ...