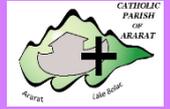




St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



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 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

First Reading [Mi 5:1-4](#)

A reading from the prophet Micah
The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4](#)

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you;
let us see your face and we shall be saved.
1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

Second Reading [Heb 10:5-10](#)

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation [Lk 1:38](#)

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel [Lk 1:39-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



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: Tues 22nd ARV 10am Prayers

Readings for Christmas

At all Masses we will read the readings for Midnight Mass

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve: Stawell 6pm, Ararat 7.30pm, Lake Bolac 9.15pm Christmas Morning: Landsborough 9am

2nd Rite Reconciliation for Christmas

2nd Rite will be celebrated on Monday 20th at 5pm in Stawell and at 7pm in Ararat. Please bring a plate to share.

Recent Deaths: Ron Jerram, Neil Stapleton, Mary Rogers, the children in Devonport

Anniversaries Stawell

Anne Gregan 1954, Mary Clarkson 1976, Lily Jones 1991, Stephen Pyke 1991, Maude Doecke 1961, Michael Young 1965, Patrick Phelan 1965, Jean McGuan 1992, Bill Foo 1984, Heather Rose Allan 1981, Mary Rutter 1986, Timothy Shanahan 1991, Peter Newall 1973, Margaret Fudge 1985, Stacey Walsh 2009, Donald Sladdin 2010

Anniversaries Ararat

Ellen Byrne, Alex Haslett, William Casanova, Fr. Stephen O'Rourke, Stephan Sugden, Oliver Schwab, Norman Joseph Rowe, Rita Lardner, Rose Hogan, Fr Michael Glennen, Jack Brennan, Vera Cox, Kevin Richards, Carl Spies, Maurice Diggle, Sr. Rose Day RSM, Timothy Weeks, Pat Brennan

Golden Gate Roster

December 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

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

Office Hours

The parish office will be closed on Christmas Eve, but will open Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd

Wanted. Helpers for the St Pat's Christmas Eve Mass.

Please put your names on the clipboards at the entrances to the church. We need – Two Readers; One Special Minister; Three Collectors; Two Offertory bringer uppers; One Powerpoint Person.

Changes to Requirements for all Masses

Scan your QR Code



or

sign in with
pen and paper



vaccination
no longer required
(but recommended)



masks no longer required
(but recommended)



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.

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.

Tenants in Stawell

Our new tenants will take possession of Fr Eric's house in Stawell on Monday December 20. The lease includes the use of the carport and four carparks which will be clearly marked. Please leave the carparks empty at all times.

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.

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>

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>

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 until Christmas Eve. Entry by gold coin donation. All welcome.

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

Accommodation Required in Ararat

A lady is seeking somewhere to rent in Ararat. Jane is the sister of Charlie Reid and is described as a gentle health conscious non-smoker without pets and "just a lovely person." There were more superlatives in the email to Fr Andrew. She sounds nice. Jane is looking for independent living rather than billeting. Please contact Sioux Reid 0418563294

Are you a Spiritual Leader? – The Spiritual Leaders Program is an online (via Zoom) one-year, part-time program and will be a mix of selected Thursday evenings, Saturdays, and a 3-day Intensive. It is suitable for people in outreach ministries and various positions of leadership within their faith community, such as priests, ministers, members of religious Orders, lay ecclesial ministers, community and spiritual leaders, chaplains, pastoral carers, and those in health and education. The program, which commences in March 2022, focuses on personal integration of the theory and practice of a contemplative, discerning approach to pastoral ministry. Previous participants have commented that this Program has been transformational in terms of their personal spirituality and their leadership skills. The closing date for applications for the Spiritual Leaders Program is 28 January 2022. Places are limited and so we encourage applications as early as possible. Apply to Heart of Life Centre for Spiritual & Pastoral Formation in Malvern, VIC. Fee-Help is available to qualifying participants. Brochure and application form at www.heartoflife.melbourne or tel 03 9890 1101.

Coping with Christmas - a guide for separated parents

Christmas can be a tricky and often stressful time of year for separated families – particularly for those who are spending their first Christmas apart. As a way to support separated families this Christmas, our Shepparton Family Relationship Centre team have produced a free guide for co-parents to help improve communication, reduce conflict, and respectfully negotiate Christmas holiday arrangements for the kids. This guide can also be used by extended family, friends, and professionals to support separating families. Learn more by clicking the link below!

<https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/news/217/coping-with-christmas-a-guide-for-separated-parents>

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

There is always excitement at this time of the year. It is as if everything is filled with promise. Animosity is set aside; estrangement dissolves into reconciliation; the whole world seems gentler; and we are filled with the spirit of generosity. In the days just before Christmas, the possibility of newness is almost palpable. The spirit of the season has caught hold of us even before the actual day has arrived. Today we stand on the threshold of fulfilment. The future that God has prepared for us is open before us, even though we have not yet stepped out into it. The incarnation takes place in human history, thus affirming the fundamental goodness of human life and concerns, and sanctifying them even further. The child comes from simple people, from a place that is relatively insignificant, thus underscoring God's preference for what is ordinary. The body that was offered for our salvation, the body that consecrated us through having been offered up, was the body that grew in the womb of Mary. The extraordinary salvific deed of God was accomplished through his coming into the world as one of us. The obedience that Christ played out through his body fulfilled for us the promises made by God. We stand on the threshold of fulfilment, the fulfilment of an event that has already taken place. We ritually reenact it so that we never take it for granted, so that we never forget that it is in and through human history that the marvellous deeds of God are accomplished.

All Things New Ignatian Gathering 2022

The Society of Jesus (Australian Jesuits) invites you to its Ignatian Gathering for Young Adults (18-30 years) to take place in Melbourne from January 17 – 21 2022 at Newman College (<https://newman.unimelb.edu.au/about/architecture/>). This gathering is a chance for young people to 'reset, reconnect and re-engage' through building friendships, sharing values, celebrating gratitude, offering service. As implied by the theme, 'All Things New - 2022: spirituality + service + wellbeing', the gathering will focus on these three areas. Cost is \$320.00 plus \$8.50 trybooking fee. Price includes all meals, program activities and individual rooms. All participants will need to comply with the venue's COVID-safe and vaccination requirements at the time of the event, to be able to take part in the gathering. For more information please contact magisaustralia@sjasl.org. To register go to <https://www.trybooking.com/BUNRC>.

Name for the New Parish

Thanks everyone. New ideas are welcome. These are the suggestions so far. Three from this week are included in full.

- Our Lady of the Grampians
- 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
- 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 / Holy Communion Parish / Lumen Christi (Light of Christ),
- 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 ..."



Name for the New Merged Parish

The parish will comprise St Patrick's Stawell, St Francis of Assisi Landsborough, St Mary's Ararat and St Bernard's Lake Bolac
It is likely that St John the Baptist Beaufort will be included by 2025

My suggested religious or patronal name for the new parish is: _____

My suggested name for our geographical area is _____

Explanation for my suggestions: