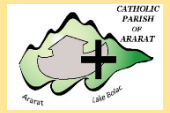




St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



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.

Christmas Day 2021 Feast of the Holy Family Year C, December 26, 2021

Readings for Christmas

First Reading [Is 9:1-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase; they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time, as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils. For the yoke that was weighing on him, the bar across his shoulders, the rod of his oppressor, these you break as on the day of Midian. For all the footgear of battle, every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt and consumed by fire. For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace. Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 95:1-3. 11-13 R. Lk 2:11](#)

(R.) Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
O sing to the Lord, bless his name. (R.)
2. Proclaim his help day by day,
tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. (R.)
3. Let the heavens rejoice and earth be glad,
let the sea and all within it thunder praise,
let the land and all it bears rejoice,
all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at the presence of the Lord for he comes,
he comes to rule the earth. (R.)
4. With justice he will rule the world,
he will judge the peoples with his truth. (R.)

Second Reading [Ti 2:11-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus
God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self-restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world,

while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good.

Gospel Acclamation [Lk 2:10-11](#)

Alleluia, alleluia! Good News and great joy to all the world: today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Lk 2:1-14](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and travelled up to Judaea, to the town of David called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn. In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to people who enjoy God's favour.'



Readings for Sunday December 26

First Reading [Sir 3:2-6. 12-14](#)

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiasticus
The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1](#)

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life. (R.)



Second Reading [Col 3:12-21](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation [Col 3:15. 16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

Gospel [Lk 2:41-52](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and men.

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: Thurs 30th 3.30pm Hopkins / Fri 31st 11am Mass with morning tea

Readings for Sunday January 2 – The Epiphany

[Is 60:1-6](#) // [Eph 3:2-3. 5-6](#) // [Mt 2:1-12](#)

Recent Deaths: Vincent Phelan

Anniversaries Stawell

Teresa Devery 1954, William Thomas Foo 1984, Edward Phelan 1944, Alby Vendy 2000, James McMahom 2000, Blanche Wadsworth 1949, Mary Monaghan 1961, Glen Byron 1985, Judi-Anne Parry 1967, Stewart Perry 1970, Lindsay Vendy 1980, James Tonkin 1984, Madge Phillips 1985, Graeme Delahunty 2008

Anniversaries Ararat

Doris Tognon, Fr Paddy Bushell, John Sullivan, Evie Hayes, Matthew Sullivan, Edward Mulcahy, Peter Carthew OAM, Kath Schwab, Fr Pat Culligan, Peter Sinnott, James Sinnott, Fred Mason, Kathleen McLeod, Mary O'Neill, Shane Walls, Anne Handley, Joseph Colwell, Mary Pola, Peter Williams, Andrew Jackson, Bishop Joe Grech, Zsonella McGrath, James O'Connor, Fr. Ted Glowrey, Johanna Lannen, Winifred Hynes, Annette Mair, Bernice Clinton, Bernardino Torrecampo, Ivan Lee, Des Brennan, Dorothy Phyland, Sr Veronica O'Brien, Bernie Moloney, Stephanie Mitchell, Jacob Pitcher, Theresa McColl

Golden Gate Roster

December 26 Harry Anna

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

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Jan 1 Reader Val Albert // Prayers of Faithful Rosemary Liston // Cleaning

Sat Jan 15 Reader Michael Phillips // Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins // Cleaning Leanne Breen

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>

Changes to Requirements for all Masses

Scan your QR Code



or

sign in with
pen and paper



masks are now required



vaccination
no longer required
(but recommended)



A lot has happened ...

Merry Christmas everyone. It's been a big couple of years has it not? Masks, lockdowns, zooming, remote learning, state borders, Daniel Andrews press conferences. Teachers achieved legend status and nurses became super heroes.

- Fr Eric retired
 - Mary (Ararat housekeeper) retired
 - Linda (Stawell housekeeper/gardener) became the Ararat housekeeper /gardener
 - Chris McAloon became the principal of St Patrick's
 - Roxanne Leed became the principal of St Mary's
 - Joyce (Ararat Parish Admin) moved to other employment
 - Gloria (Stawell Parish Admin) retired
 - Jill (former St Pat's School Admin) became the Ararat Parish Admin and now also the Stawell Parish Admin
 - The parish offices merged and the new office is in Ararat
 - Steve (Stawell gardener) has just this week moved to new employment
 - New tenants have moved into Fr Eric's house. The house has new carpet and new paint. Please respect the five carparks they have been allotted.
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- With Steve moving to new employment we will determine a strategy for the garden in Stawell
 - Fr John will vacate his house and move to Apollo Bay at the end of January
 - We will negotiate for new tenants to move into Fr John's house
 - We will also need to discuss arrangements for weekday Masses / prayers in Fr John's absence
 - Fr John's house will require external painting

Parish Merger

The two parishes have been working towards a merger in mid-2022. The two parish councils have been meeting and discussing goals and vision and possible new names. There is much to do in terms of bank accounts, ABN, BAS and so on involved in a company merger.

Name for the New Parish

While we will still attend the same churches and schools with the same names, we will need a name for our new merged parish. I am grateful for the many thoughtful suggestions and have been enjoying how the suggestions have changed over a couple of months. The Catholic Church in Australia won't be renewed, transformed or challenged by the announcement of another parish named in honour of Our Lady. We've got lots of those. This is our once in a century opportunity to be prophetic, to invite both our own parish and our neighbours into a new vision.

The readings for Christmas were originally written to people who were dispossessed, by the Babylonians and then by the Romans. The writings for those people in those times were courageous and prophetic and called for a new reality in God.

- *The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone ... the yoke that was weighing on them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, these you break ...* [Isaiah]
- *Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.* [Luke]

I contend that we do some very deep listening to the dispossessed, the people to whom Isaiah was writing, the people to whom Luke was writing. Who are we writing to? Who is the new parish name for? Across Australia who will hear our new name and feel called or validated or enabled or feel a burden lifted. I think we answer the following questions and then our parish name will emerge. I say we go big.

- Who walks in darkness?
- Who lives in deep shadow?
- Who has a yoke weighing on them?
- Who needs to hear the liberating story of Jesus Christ?

*Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.
Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you.*

Every blessing
Fr Andrew

