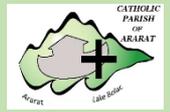




St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



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 January 23, 2022 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

First Reading [Neh 8:2-6, 8-10](#)

A reading from the book of Nehemiah
Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 18:8-10, 15. R. See Jn 6:63](#)

(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)

2. The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes. (R.)

3. The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just. (R.)

4. May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock! (R.)

Second Reading (Shorter form) [1 Cor 12:12-14, 27](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.



Gospel Acclamation

[See Lk 4:18](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring
Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia!

Gospel [Lk 1:1-4, 4:14-21](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

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

Readings for next Sunday

January 30
4th Sunday Ordinary Time Year C
[Jer 1:4-5. 17-19](#) // [1 Cor 12:31 – 13:13](#) // [Lk 4:21-30](#)

Weekday Masses

Tuesday:	10am Stawell (Check bulletin for occasional changes)
Wednesday:	Aged Care
Thursday:	3.30pm Hopkins
Friday:	11am Ararat (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Aged Care Roster

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

Recent Deaths: Sergio Fratin

Anniversaries Stawell

Ellen McCray 1953, Jennie Wood 1975, John Griffen 1954, Leah Seary 1972, Gordon Douglas 2011, Louisa Trevan 1990, Gerald Herald 1972, Mary Flynn 1996, William Borella 1962, Mae Hinniberg 1968, Michael Seary 1978, Jeni-Anne Dunn 1997, Valerie Seary 2019

Anniversaries Ararat

Fr Paul Keenan SJ, Catherine Doery, Joan Quaiffe, Thelma Liston, Ron Mason, Ken Waring, Alan Dovaston, Eric Ericksen, Ray Toner, Irene Hogan, Christopher Lillis, Francis Shevlin, Lilian Burston, Mons. Eugene Galligan, Mollie Flynn, Molly Kenny, Reginald Olle, Dennis Donovan, Maurice Donovan, Sarah Hogan, Leah Smith, Colleen Hodge, Anna McKenna, Mary Hennessy, Mons. Louis Conway, Wendy Vernon, Mary Riddington, Elizabeth Brennan, Frank Melbourne

Golden Gate Roster

January 23 Harry Anna // 30 Jim Jan
February 6 Libby // 13 Teresa // 20 Harry Anna // 27 Jim Jan

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Jan 29 Reader Tricia Higgins // Prayers of Faithful Helen Smith // Cleaning Irene Meek
Sat Feb 5 Reader Damian Phillips // Prayers of Faithful Jane Higgins // Cleaning Rosemary Liston

CWL Ararat: Next meeting: Tuesday February 8, 1.30pm, Parish Centre. All welcome

Caritas Appeal for Tonga

Tonga is coated in a thick blanket of ash after the eruption of undersea volcano Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai on January 15, which triggered tsunamis across the region, destroyed telecommunications and contaminated water supplies in the small Pacific Island nation. Coastal communities in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu have been impacted by tsunami waves, along with communities as far afield as Australia, Japan and the Americas. The Tongan government has said that "immediate assistance" is needed to deal with the fallout of the massive volcanic eruption. Visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/pacific/> or call 1800 024 413 toll free to provide much needed support by donating to our Pacific Emergency Appeal.

"Jesus The Social Entrepreneur" book launch invitation

A fascinating exploration of Jesus the greatest social entrepreneur integrating intellectual, emotional and spiritual awareness to "change society values and behaviours through a new relationship with God". The book launch and illustrated presentation by Em Prof L Murray Gillin AM will be held on Monday, January 31, 2022 at Federation University (SMB Campus) Seminar Theatre Technology Centre, 106-110 Lydiard Street South from 4.00pm – 5.30pm. Meet with author, identify power of human intention, obtain your signed discount copy and enjoy refreshments. RSVP for free ticket on www.makeithappenmindset.com

Commentary by Mary Coloe PBVM Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21 *The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.*

Dear God-lovers...

The first part of today's Gospel is in fact the opening sentence of Luke where he sets out his goal, which is to give an orderly account of recent events. Theophilus is a code word made up of two Greek words, *God* and *Love*, so in fact Luke is writing to all those who love God. Having told us *Luke's* goal, the Gospel then moves to chapter 4 where Jesus announces *his* goal within the synagogue of his home town, Nazareth. Jesus deliberately selects the text from Isaiah 61, so if we want to understand Luke's story of Jesus we need to understand this text. Jesus has a mission to the poor, to the outcasts, the alienated, the ones society despises, the 'down and outers', the ones living in darkness and pain. Jesus' role is to tell these people, who feel most unloved and rejected, 'You are not despised by God; God has not rejected you.' This is what is meant by 'the Lord's year of favour.' This year is the great fiftieth year of jubilee liberation, when slaves are to be released, when debts are to be written off and people are allowed to return home. Jesus says, 'God keeps Jubilee. Your debts to God are written off, do not let guilt and fear enslave you, come home to a welcoming God.' If we can understand that this is the goal Jesus announces then we will understand why in Luke's Gospel he spends so much time with sinners and outcasts. What Jesus announces in Nazareth he will then live out, to the great shock of his family and friends. What might Jesus' mission be for you?

Pathways Response Victoria

The Victorian Catholic Bishops launched Pathways Response Victoria last year, which will provide a further way of responding to those who have suffered abuse in the Catholic community. Pathways Response Victoria will be the successor to Towards Healing and The Melbourne Response from the start of 2022. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pathways-response-victoria/>

Looking Forward Booklet 2021-2025

The new "Looking Forward" pastoral planning booklet 2021-2025 is now available and can be accessed and/or downloaded from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/looking-forward/>. Hard copies will be distributed to parishes in the coming weeks. This new edition of "Looking Forward" provides principles to guide our pastoral planning, includes data about the diocese and offers information on changes to parishes over the next few years.

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>

World Interfaith Harmony Week Flag Raising Event

All are invited to the Ballarat Interfaith Network's celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at St Peter's Anglican Church, Sturt Street, Ballarat from 11.00am - 12.30pm. The program includes: Acknowledgement of Country; welcome on behalf of Ballarat Interfaith Network; welcome on behalf of City of Ballarat; raising of the Interfaith Flag; address by Sikh Keynote Speaker (Rajinder Singh Gill); prayers from various faith representatives; virtual choir presentations; and refreshments.

Ballarat Interfaith Network Forum – Sunday, February 6, 2022

The Ballarat Interfaith Network are hosting a forum, "Death, Sanctity of the Human Body, and Organ Donation" to be held on Sunday, February 6, 2022 from 2.00pm - 4.00pm at St Patrick Cathedral Hall, Ballarat. Speaker topics are organ donation, blood donation and interfaith perspectives - Aboriginal, Baha'i, Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh. Registration is essential, ph. 0400 650 234. This is a COVID compliant event – masks, QR check in, social distancing. Organ donor registration is available - bring Medicare card to facilitate.

Australia Day January 26

This Wednesday is Australia Day. In other years we have celebrated in Ararat with an ecumenical prayer hosted by our parish. I have been increasingly uneasy about the celebration on January 26. For many years Australia's first nations' people have shared distress at their "Invasion Day" being used to celebrate. Covid has given us a reprieve from having to make a decision. There is a much to celebrate about the great country in which we live. There is also much on which to reflect, not the least being that it's not a great country for everybody. Might Australia Day be more a reflection than a celebration?

We've found ourselves in something of a mess. I didn't ask to be born here. First nations people didn't ask to be born on land that was taken from their forebears. But here we are. I think it's vitally important that those (we) who benefitted from the colonial land grab listen deeply to the dispossessed, to feel the hurt, sooth the pain and emanate respect. When I proposed that we use "Djap Wurrong" as the land area for our new parish the anger from some was visceral. I understand that our new name needs to be accepted rather than imposed, so I've not pursued the idea, but I'm interested in the anger that bubbled up. As a name for our new parish area I think Gariwerd is more respectful than Grampians.

Parishioners may wish to look up <https://www.land.vic.gov.au/place-naming/aboriginal-place-naming>
Geographic Names Victoria is a government initiative to promote respect for aboriginal names of places.

In today's Gospel Jesus quotes Isaiah 61.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

I can't help but imagine that Jesus today would have been speaking of those dispossessed of land and language and culture. When I lived on Gunditjmara land the locals told me stories of people going to Mass on Sunday mornings and then hunting Aborigines in the afternoons. There are massacre sites all over the place. We have so much respect to re-find. That's why we're not having parish "celebrations" on January 26. I will call all parishioners to reflect and to wonder into a way forward, a future in which we truly live Isaiah's vision: the spirit of the Lord has been given to me ... to set the downtrodden free.

Having read and listened to many suggestions for our new parish, and having proposed and withdrawn some of my own, just now I'm wondering about "Isaiah Catholic Parish, Gariwerd." I think it has to be Gariwerd rather than Grampians. Isaiah was a champion of justice and integrity in God, and a great celebrator of God having set people free from bondage. I think Isaiah Catholic Parish would be both an invitation and a great challenge for our new parish. I also like the suggestion of Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd, which connects with the same piece of scripture, "The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me ...

Fr Andrew

An Aboriginal Prayer for Truth and Hope by Brooke Prentis

May the God of all wonder who set the stars in the sky,
bless you with relentless unsettledness
– that drives you to seek truth.

May the God of all justice who gave motion to the rivers,
bless you with righteous anger
– that drives you to seek freedom for all.

May the God of all love who placed laughter in the kookaburra,
bless you with the friendship
– that looks like the love where one lays down their life for another.

May the God of all comfort who determined
the height of the mountains,
bless you with tears from shared pain and mourning
– that shows you hope.

Now with wonder, righteous anger, sacrifice, and lament –
Go in truth, justice, love, and hope
– to Change the Heart of Australia.

