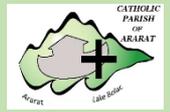




St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



We acknowledge the Djap Wurrung 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 February 27, 2022 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

First Reading [Sir 27:4-7](#)

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
Do not praise someone before they have spoken. In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2](#)

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

Second Reading [1 Cor 15:54-58](#)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians
Victory has been given to us through Jesus Christ. When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

Gospel Acclamation [Phil 2:15-16](#)

Alleluia, alleluia! Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Gospel [Lk 6:39-45](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your

brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

Disciples or Mask-Wearers?

In ancient Greece actors wore masks which concealed the face. One may say they were 'two-faced'. They were called 'Hypocrites', and we derive our word and the idea of 'hypocrite' from that. As did Jesus. He could always see through the veneer which people (such as you and I) present to the outside world, and his gaze would (and still can) penetrate through to the heart – the core of the personality. For us, judging the heart of someone is fraught with risk. As Jesus humorously put it, how readily we see the smallest splinter of sawdust in someone else's eye, and in super-critical mode fail to see the plank of wood which impairs and distorts *our* vision. We should not rush to judgment. The fact is that only the gaze of God can really penetrate to the heart of someone. We know that the gaze of Jesus, who is God, is always a loving gaze visualising a heart open to salvation. (Mk 10:17-22)
This is one of the reasons why recent Popes have opposed capital punishment. Time must be given for the heart of the convicted criminal to respond to that loving gaze. And it leaves the Final Judgment, even of the murderer, to God. Listen to the dying moments of Our Lord. His loving gaze penetrated beyond the masks and actions of his tormentors and focused on their hearts. Then he cried out this plea: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.' We are all conscious of the times we have fallen short of the practice and teaching of our Master despite our praying: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' We could pause for a moment to pray that The Teacher's loving gaze fall upon us to make us whole-hearted disciples willing 'to be formed by divine teaching'.

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

February 27
8th Sunday Ordinary Time Year C
[Sir 27:4-7](#) // [1 Cor 15:54-58](#) // [Lk 6:39-45](#)

Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

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

Changes to Masses this Week

Tuesday 1 st	10am Mass in Stawell will include distribution of ashes – all welcome
Wednesday 2 nd	9.15am Ararat (extra Mass for St Mary's students only due to Covid)
Wednesday 2 nd	10.30am Ararat Readings and Distribution of Ashes – all welcome
Friday 4 th	11am Ararat Distribution of Ashes during Mass

Recent Deaths: Tony Nolen, Ron De Boer

Anniversaries Stawell

Thomas Smith 1962, Dulcie O'Connor 1963, William (Bill) Holzgal 1972, Dennis McMahon 1998, Peter Wister 2008, Beryl Walsh 2020, Keith Peters 1980, Dulcie Stewart 1982, John Duscher 1944, Bertha Naylor 1970, James Healy 1984, John Sullivan 1999, Stanley Mair 1968, Marjorie Forster 1988, Theresa Lightfoot 2003, John Heyward 2008, Phillip Comitti 1981

Anniversaries Ararat

Matthew Leggett, Brian Walshe, Nell Hooper, Flora Coad, Alison Burmeister, Arthur Spiller, Mary Radley, Bill Lavery, Mons Tom O'Brien, Jim Rix, Mavis Stewart, Marcia Shalders, Arthur Spiller, Fr Thomas O'Brien, Geoff Dohnt, Bernadette Ferguson, Julie O'Brien, Brian Toner, Bill Campigli, William Kneebone, Gwen Clark, Teresa Cairns, Fr. Matt McGloin, Jason Bond, Francis Vernon (Frank), Tom Hennessy

Golden Gate Roster

February 27 Jim Jan
March 6 Teresa // 13 Libby // 20 Harry Anna // Jim Jan

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Mar 5 Reader Rosemary Liston // Prayers of Faithful Leanne Breen // Cleaning Judy Upton
Sat Mar 19 Reader Denise Haslett // Prayers of Faithful Irene Meek // Cleaning Jane Higgins

Lent in Stawell

Ash Wednesday (Tuesday) Mass and distribution of the Ashes in St Pat's church at 10am Tuesday 1st March.

Mass Every Tuesday 10am

Lenten discussion group in the St Pat's church hall each Tuesday at 10.30 after Mass.
Beginning Tuesday 1st March. Everyone welcome for all, or just some, of these discussions.

Stations of the Cross in St Pat's church each Friday at 10am.

Lent in Ararat

Ash Wednesday Prayer and distribution of the Ashes in St Mary's church at 10.30am Wednesday 2nd March.
Ashes will also be distributed at 11am Mass on Friday 4th March

Lenten Discussion Thursdays 10am

Mass Every Friday 11am

Holy Week and Easter Roster

Reconciliation	2 nd Rite Reconciliation Wed April 6, 5.30pm Stawell // 7pm Ararat
Mass of the Oils	6.30pm Monday April 11, St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
Holy Thursday	7pm Mass Ararat
Good Friday	3pm Passion Stawell
Holy Saturday	6.30pm Easter Vigil Lake Bolac
Easter Sunday	8.30am Ararat // 10.30am Stawell

St Pat's CWL

Next Meeting: Thursday 10th March at 2pm in the St Pat's church hall.

Raffle: CWL will be holding a raffle over Lent Tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Drawn after Easter Sunday Mass. Two prizes – a handmade doll with baby carrier and a change of clothes and wine & chocolates.

World Day of Prayer

Stawell: Friday 4th March at 2pm in the City Heart Church of Christ.

Lake Bolac: Saturday 5th March during 6.30pm Mass

St Patrick's Day in Stawell

On St Patrick's Day Thursday 17th March there will be a short Liturgy at 11.30am in the Church followed by a shared Lunch at noon in the St Pat's church hall. Wear some green and come along and celebrate our patron saint and our church community.

Readers in Stawell

The new roster for March and April is available for collection at the back of the church this morning. We are going to operate with only one reader for the present time. Thank you Kath Ashton

Project Compassion Sunday today – February 27

Please take home a Project Compassion box and a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and "For All Future Generations." With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2022 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come to build better future for all. As St Pope John Paul II said, "The future starts today, not tomorrow." Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow "For All Future Generations." You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish or by visiting www.lent.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413.

Invitation to Blessing of Statue of St Patrick for the Cathedral

A statue of St Patrick will be placed and blessed in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR during Evening Prayer (Vespers) on the Vigil of St Patrick's Day (Wednesday, March 16) at 7.00pm. On St Patrick's Day itself, there will be Masses at 10.00am and 7.00pm. Fr Ed Moloney and Fr Abraham Thomas will preside and acknowledge the blessing of the statue during those Masses. All Welcome. Info: on diocesan website

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre (MMHC)

- 'Cuppa with Mary': When visiting Melbourne, please include a visit to the Mary MacKillop Museum that tells Mary and the SOSJ's story. Entry is free. Do a walking tour of the Mary MacKillop Heritage trail and Mary's place of birth. Consider organising a parish group and have a 'Cuppa with Mary'. Group bookings which includes a presentation, tour and prayer reflection in the Chapel where Mary prayed cost \$20.00 per person. Contact Kate, ph. 9926 9300 for a group booking.
- Learn about Mary MacKillop's story and ministry through participation in a two-day program at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre. Titled Mary MacKillop "Daughter of Melbourne", you have opportunity to explore the life and spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, as well as have a guided tour of places in Melbourne that were connected with Mary and the Sisters of St Joseph. While this is an opportunity to learn about and be touched by the life and spirit of Mary MacKillop, it is also an opportunity for you to explore and share the challenges and stirrings in your own heart as you respond with others to action today. You can access more information, obtain a brochure and register for this two day event at <https://www.mmhc.org.au/education-2/school-education-programs/colloquium/>
- Mary MacKillop Gift shop: With Easter coming up, please consider supporting the work of the Sisters of St Joseph by purchasing a present from the Museum Gift Shop (communion & 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, book a stay at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Accommodation in the heart of Melbourne. Contact Kate, ph. 9926 9300.

Recruitment for Residential Care for two new CatholicCare homes in Horsham and Ballarat

Due to the expansion of our program, CatholicCare we are currently recruiting for a variety of roles at our new Residential Care homes in Ballarat and Horsham. House Workers work as part of a core care team providing full-time quality care for the young people, using trauma informed, child centred, family focused therapeutic interventions. In collaboration with the Senior House Workers, Team Leader - Residential Care, Therapeutic Practitioner and Education/Vocation Specialist, House Workers establish a homelike, therapeutic, caring and nurturing environment to assist young people to develop a sense of safety, stability, security and trust. House Workers work closely with the Senior House Worker and Therapeutic Practitioner to develop respectful and responsive levels of communication with other House Workers and professionals in a Care Team approach, and participate in relevant case conferencing as indicated to assess and develop goals in the young person's best interests. For further information regarding these positions and how to apply, go to <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/181/current-job-vacancies>

Sunday Gospel Reflection: Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

"Everyone who is fully qualified will be like the teacher," says the Lukan Jesus. What might it mean to become "fully qualified" for discipleship? For Jesus, being fully qualified in the ways of discipleship is not so much a matter of acquiring book knowledge as it is a question of being like the teacher. This is not to discount the importance of acquiring a deep knowledge of the tradition. Jesus certainly knew his own tradition well. Luke presents him as literate, as capable of reading from the sacred scriptures in the Nazareth synagogue and of interpreting the prophetic texts for the assembled congregation. In today's gospel selection, Luke also presents Jesus as familiar with the secular wisdom of his age. The sayings about the blind leading the blind and the log and speck have clear parallels in ancient literature. Jesus' closest followers were educated business people with an appreciation of and commitment to their traditions. They were fully qualified in the sense that they had the personal resources to make a difference in the lives of those on the edge. The primary qualification for the disciple is, however, to be "like the teacher". Jesus wants his followers to live out in their lives the pattern of his life of attentiveness to the pain of the world, his life of compassion and justice and mercy. Seeing with clarity (without a log in one's eye) is at the heart of the gospel way of life he proclaims. This theme of seeing permeates Luke's writings. Seeing and understanding one's own self is part of that, as is the capacity to see and to understand the rhythm of the forms of life that constitute one's habitat. The recurrence of agricultural images in Jesus' sayings is quite remarkable. Jesus grew up in Nazareth, a Jewish village in Lower Galilee, home to vines and olive trees, to goats and sheep and some four hundred human inhabitants. From early childhood, Jesus saw the processes involved in ensuring that the vines produced grapes. He knew the importance of the water from the spring for nurturing the grain crops in the valley close to his home. He knew that brambles and thorns did not yield any edible fruit. It would seem that being "like the teacher" includes closeness to and appreciation of the natural world. Finally, to be a disciple is to be a "good person" and good persons are those who produce "good treasure" out of the abundance of their hearts. In the Jewish tradition, the heart was the seat of wisdom and knowledge as well as the seat of emotions. In 1 Kings 12:3, for instance, God is said to give Solomon a wise and discerning heart/mind. The Hebrew word for heart (lev) is often translated into English as "mind". Heart and mind are as one-so it must be for us as disciples.



Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. In the gospel reading Jesus tells us to do these things with humility and dignity: 'go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret'. Ash Wednesday is the start of our long and contemplative journey to Easter.

Note from Fr Andrew: This year, due to Covid regulations, on Ash Wednesday the ashes will again be sprinkled on the heads of parishioners rather than on your foreheads.

Ash Wednesday Reflection Dianne Bergant CSA

Lent opens with readings that call us to penance. However, this penance must be understood within its proper context. Penance is really an attempt to correct what is upset, to repair what is broken, to atone for the wrong done. Penance must spring from a contrite heart or acts of penance can be merely external feats of endurance. Nothing that we do can reconcile us with God. No penance, regardless of its severity, can repair a ruptured covenant bond. Only the mercy and graciousness of God can accomplish this. And God has accomplished it in the death and resurrection of Jesus. It was God's love for sinners that prompted such a magnanimous display of divine love. Through Jesus, the entire world has been reconciled to God. Now, each individual has the opportunity to be reconciled. Penance and acts of devotion are ways of benefiting from the treasury of divine mercy and love. They do not buy reconciliation; it has already been purchased.

Almsgiving and fasting and prayer are honoured ways of changing whatever prevents us from drinking from the streams of divine grace. Almsgiving reminds us of the covenant bond that joins us with each other and of the social responsibilities that accompany it. Fasting sensitises us to the dependence we have on the natural world. It also curbs our insatiable desire for more and more. Prayer unites us with God, the source of our being and our merciful covenant partner.