



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 April 3, 2022 5th Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading

[Is 43:16-21](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 125. R. v.3](#)

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading

[Phil 3:8-14](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far

from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

[Jl 2:12-13](#)

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel

[Jn 8:1-11](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'



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 / Child Safe	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

April 10
Passion Sunday Year C
[Is 50:4-7](#) // [Phil 2:6-11](#) // [Lk 22:14 – 23:56](#)

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 for this week: this week is very different – please read

Tuesday 5th No Mass in Stawell – but Lenten discussion at 10.30am as usual
Wednesday 6th Mass at Eventide as usual
Wednesday 6th 2nd Rite Reconciliation at 5.30 in Stawell and 7pm in Ararat (please bring a plate to share)
Thursday 7th In Ararat – 10am Lenten Discussion // 11am Mass (moved from Friday)
Friday 7th No Mass in Ararat – Marian College are using all facilities for their Stations of the Cross – students only
Friday 7th 10am Stations of the Cross at St Patrick’s Church as usual

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries Stawell

Henry Borella 1944, Alice Garrard 1985, Martha Madden 1981, Hector Bone 1981, Elsie Evans 1983, Margaret Moore 1988, Colleen Soule 1999, Mary Monaghan 1981, Carmel Heinrich 2013, Patricia Carr 1992, Lynette Soule 2010, Inez Krause 2014, Agnes Torney 1967, Edward McSparron 2006, William McColl 1953, Keith Hurley 1956, Bronwyn Holborow 1990, Carla Bowles 2020

Anniversaries Ararat

Des Phillips, Jean Crebbin, Frank Kenny, Elaine Fuga-Hooper, James Brown, Fr Tom Linane, Robert Jerram, Enrique Tolentino, Mauva Monroe, Bill Phyland, Malcolm Bates, Thelma McRae, Eric Beer, Ron McMaster, Peter Upton, Paul Pavao Japunčić, Jack Costello, Fr Thomas Moriarty

Golden Gate Roster April 3 Teresa // 10 Libby // 17 Harry Anna // 24 Jim Jan

Lake Bolac Roster Sat April 2 Reader Leanne Breen // Prayers of Faithful Val Albert // Cleaning Leanne Breen
Sat Apr 16 Reader team effort // Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett // Cleaning team effort

Holy Week and Easter Roster

Reconciliation 2nd 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 Easter raffle - tickets on sale after Mass

2 Prizes – Wine and chocolates/a beautiful hand-made doll with carrier and a spare set of clothes.

Tickets - \$2 for 1 or 3 for \$5. Raffle drawn after Easter Sunday Mass

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice, who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence, we entrust the people of Ukraine to you. Protect them in this time of peril; let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom. You are Father of all; we are brothers and sisters. Give us the strength to live that truth in love, choosing peace not war. Amen.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this Day. Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome. We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933]. They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace. May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests. Please, no more war.

Caritas Australia Ukraine Crisis Appeal

In a matter of weeks, millions of people have fled the conflict in Ukraine. Our long-standing partner, Caritas Ukraine, is on the ground, supporting people in need during this unfolding humanitarian crisis. Help provide urgent humanitarian assistance including shelter, food, clean water, medicine and psychological support to people affected by this crisis. Donate today at www.caritas.org.au/ukraine or call 1800 024 413 toll free. Keep up to date on the latest activities by Caritas agencies on the ground www.caritas.org.au/ukraine-news

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' available at the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network www.thepopevideo.org.

Alive in the Spirit 2022 – Virtual Conference

"Alive in the Spirit" is for lay and clergy, staff, leadership teams, finance teams, pastoral councils, pastoral ministers and volunteers, those in education, counselling, pastoral care, youth ministry, family ministry, aged care and chaplaincies and anyone who wants to be "Alive in the Spirit". For more information and to register go to <https://aliveinthepirit.com.au/>

Project Compassion – Fifth Sunday of Lent

Shaniella 23, from the Solomon Islands was determined to forge a path out of poverty, moving away to vocational school. With your support, Shaniella was able to overcome further challenges of natural disasters, and gain the skills she needs to create a brighter future for herself and For All Future Generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your Parish, by visiting www.lent.caritas.org.au, or by calling 1800 024 413.

What's Happening with Fr John's House

The new tenants have, this week, taken possession of Fr John's house. In time we will have eleven residents across the two houses. Thankyou everyone for respecting the reserved carparks.

What's Happening with the refurbishment of St Patrick's Church?

Very little will happen before parishioners have had an opportunity to ask questions and have a say. But for now, we see safety as a priority. Expect to see the sanctuary (the two steps added in Fr Brendan Davey's time) to be removed in the coming weeks. Taking the steps out removes a fall hazard. We will sit the altar and lectern on the floor for a while until we get sorted. When we do that, we're likely to move the altar and lectern back under the arch. Then we'll be able to move all the pews forward 3 or 4 metres. This will leave some open space at the back of the church.

Things we're talking about:

- Making the sanctuary one step high – the same height as the marble at the back of the sanctuary
- Handrails up the one step to the new sanctuary / and up to the tabernacle
- A ramp up the one step to the new sanctuary
- Carpet and paint
- A modern TV screen to replace the projector
- Fixing the heavy front doors to make them easier to open
- Making an aisle down the centre of the church – when we move the altar back under the arch we'll have a huge amount of extra space in the church. We'll discuss more what to do with the space – maybe a middle aisle
- Cleaning up the clutter including electrical cabling and gas pipes. eg. there's a fan at the back of the church near the offertory table that actually plugs in at the computer table up the front – an extension lead runs the entire length of the church. More to come.

Walk for Justice & Freedom for Refugees*

Date: Palm Sunday, 10th April 2022

Time: 2:00pm (music from 1:30pm, with speeches starting at 2:00pm)

Location: State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston Street, Carlton 3053

*organised by the Refugee Advocacy Network (info: 0409 252 673).



Reflection Dianne Bergant CSA

Lent ends on a note of wonder. In the face of all the mighty works that God has already performed for the people, God promises something even more magnificent. Throughout this season we have reflected on the marvels that God accomplished in the lives of the people, cutting a covenant with Abraham, leading the people out of bondage, revealing God's own personal name, bring them into a land that is bursting with life. Now God says: You haven't seen anything yet. The first reading proclaims that something new is about to appear. In the gospel, this new thing unfolds before our eyes. Here we see Jesus neither rejecting the law nor changing it. Instead, he shows that the law, as good as it might be, serves something higher. He shows that the mercy and compassion of God exceed the authority of the law. Once again we see that the readings of Lent are less concerned with mortification and penance than they are with divine graciousness and our response of joy and thanksgiving. Paul is not satisfied with the blessings of the past. In fact, he considers them rubbish when compared with knowing and being united with Christ. Life with Christ transforms us from people who are caught in sin to women and men who have been forgiven. Life in Christ is the new thing that God has fashioned for us. God is the one who creates something new; we are the ones who are re-created.



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist

Scribes and Pharisees tried many ways to test Jesus, but he had the knack of outwitting them. In this story from John's gospel an unnamed woman is used as a scapegoat. Jesus defuses the violent situation by slowing down the pace, by using common sense and a little compassion. Instead of focusing on the woman, Jesus turns the situation around so that the scribes and Pharisees are forced to examine their own motives and inadequacies. As a consequence, stones are no longer righteous weapons for them. When the crowd has gone Jesus talks directly to the woman and for the first time she is a person, rather than a thing. She still has no name, but now at least she has a voice.

New Testament Commentary by Mary Coloe PBVM

Philippians 3:8-14; John 8:1-11

The reading from Paul to the community at Philippi comes straight from the depths of his heart and is one of the richest expressions of Christian spirituality: 'All I want is to know Christ'; everything else is so much rubbish. Sometimes our efforts to be a disciple of Jesus can lead us astray. We can put our focus on pious practices, or the efforts we make, when all that is required is to keep our focus on Jesus and what God has already done for us. Paul has grasped this insight, as have the great spiritual leaders within our tradition. For Paul, knowing Jesus means living a life that conforms to the pattern of Jesus' life – it will involve times of suffering as well as peace. For Paul, such times provide a means of identifying with Jesus, knowing that this will also mean identifying with Jesus in his resurrection. This reading invites us into prayerful surrender of our lives with and in Jesus. This might be a good week to review how Lent has been for you, and a chance to recommit yourself to more deliberately continue in these final weeks. The episode of the woman taken in adultery is clearly an important story in the life of the early Christian communities. Scholars are not sure exactly where this episode belongs since some very early manuscripts place this episode in Luke's Gospel, and others place it at some point in John's Gospel. The variations testify to an uncertainty about where the episode belongs, but they also testify that the story is so significant that it must appear within the Gospel tradition. There is hypocrisy in the actions of the scribes and Pharisees. These were the scholars of the Jewish Law, perhaps the equivalent of today's lawyers. Firstly, they only bring along one of the guilty parties, the woman, while the male partner is free from public condemnation. Secondly, their concern is not really with this woman. She is a pawn in their real purpose, which is to find something against Jesus. In this, they have no real respect for the Law they claim to uphold. And finally, as Jesus points out, they too are sinners. Why might this story be so important for the early Christian communities, so that even though there is uncertainty about its location there can be no doubt about its inclusion within the good news Jesus offers? Perhaps John's or Luke's community needed to be reminded that for all our Christian ideals and desires, we are all frail followers of Jesus, but sin is no barrier to discipleship. The only barrier is the despair that comes from self-condemnation and a failure to trust in God who refuses to condemn. Jesus does not condemn the woman even as he encourages going and striving to live without sin. As the journey of Lent moves to its end, let us place our confidence in the loving mercy of God.