



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 March 13, 2022 2nd Sunday of Lent, Year C

First Reading

[Gen 15:5-12. 17-18](#)

A reading from the book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1](#)

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life
before whom shall I shrink? (R.)

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of your heart has spoken:
'Seek his face.' (R.)

3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek,
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. (R.)

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the Lord! (R.)

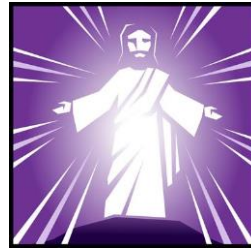
Second Reading

[Phil 3:17 - 4:1](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

My brothers, be united in following my rule of life.
Take as your models everybody who is already doing
this and study them as you used to study us. I have

told you often, and I repeat it today with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ. They are destined to be lost. They make foods into their god and they are proudest of something they ought to think shameful; the things they think important are earthly things. For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.



Gospel Acclamation [Mt 17:5](#)

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

[Lk 9:28-36](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

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

March 20
3rd Sunday of Lent Year C
Ex 3:1-8. 13-15// 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 // Lk 13:1-9

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

Sunday Assemblies Today

This weekend in Landsborough, Ararat and Stawell we will have Lay Lead Assemblies. Fr Andrew will be away.

Arrangements in Stawell for Tuesday March 15

This coming Tuesday we will commend Kay Dalton home to God with a Requiem Mass at 11.30am. There will be no Mass at 10am. We will also cancel our Tuesday Lenten discussion rather than move it to another day. With the CWL also catering for a St Vincent de Paul event this week, we've cancelled Thursday's liturgy and lunch for St Patrick's Day.

Recent Deaths: Kay Dalton

Anniversaries Stawell

Valentine Kerr 1991, Mary Thomas 2003, Francis Bloomer 1964, Robert Gale 1978, Jeffrey O'Donnell 2019, Rosanna Weiss 1976, Samuel Evans 1993, John McLean 1972, Eileen Gavin 2001

Anniversaries Ararat

James Hennessy, John Costello, Betty Stevens, Fr Leo Branagan CSsR, Marino Renzeli, Des Fox, Betty McNamara, Fr Jim Ryan, Maria Deininger, Caleb Gardner, Fr John McDonnell CSsR, Astrid Nyhagen, Henrietta Phillips, Arthur Harrington, Mons James Timmons, Darrell Maddern, Joe Rees, Fr John Harrington, Jean Jones, Beverley Ford, Ivan Evans, Clifford Horsman, Bert Stephens, Ann Stephens, Fr Robert Paterson SJ, Dawn Wilson, Bob Mottram, Aminda (Min) Hamilton

Golden Gate Roster

March 13 Libby // 20 Harry Anna // Jim Jan
April 3 Teresa // 10 Libby // 17 Harry Anna // 24 Jim Jan

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Mar 19 Reader Denise Haslett // Prayers of Faithful Irene Meek // Cleaning Jane Higgins
Sat April 2 Reader Leanne Breen // Prayers of Faithful Val Albert // Cleaning Leanne Breen

Lent in Stawell

Mass Every Tuesday 10am

Lenten discussion group In the St Pat's Church hall each Tuesday at 10.30 after Mass.
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

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 **Cuppa** after 10.30 Lay Lead Sunday Assembly on Sunday 13th March. Everyone welcome.

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

St Patrick's Day in Stawell – Parish liturgy and lunch has been cancelled for this year

With Kay's funeral and catering for a StVdP event, there's enough on this week. We'll celebrate doubly next year.

Harmony Day Celebrations St Patrick's Primary school.

Friday March 25th, 2022. 5pm School Oval

Every year at St Patrick's we have a wonderful celebration recognising the diversity and inclusivity of our school, parish and wider community. We would love everyone to participate in this community event which also celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Students will work with Footsteps Dance Company from Melbourne throughout the day and will present a cultural dance in the evening. There will be lawn games, music and a food van. COVID regulations will apply (proof of vaccination upon entry)
For more information, please contact the school 5358 2493.

Classroom helpers:

We are thrilled to be able to welcome back our classroom helpers. We value and appreciate everyone who supports our classroom learning. If you would like to help in our classrooms, please contact Maryanne or the school office (5358 2493). You will need a current Working with Children's Check, be triple vaxxed and adhere to current COVID regulations to participate as a Classroom Helper.



Aid to the Church in Need has launched a national emergency appeal for Ukraine. ACN is committed to strengthening and supporting the Catholic Church in Ukraine, as we have done for the past 70 years. The immediate emergency help will support the work of the Church in Ukraine by assisting priests, brothers, and religious sisters to continue their pastoral and outreach programs. We will continue to stand by our brothers and sisters in faith as they undergo trying times and seek to bring peace to a country that is surrounded by turmoil and unrest. Can you provide aid to the Catholic people in Ukraine? They need your help! Visit www.aidtochurch.org/ukraine



Invitation to Victorian Mosque Open Day Today

Parishioners are invited to visit the Ararat Mosque, 1 Birdwood Ave between 10am and 4pm today, Sunday March 13.

Project Compassion – Second Sunday of Lent

As a person with a disability living in remote India, Biru faced the prospect of a life of poverty and discrimination. With your support, he participated in entrepreneurship training and gained the skills to become financially independent. Please donate to Project Compassion 2022 to help young people succeed in the future and bring stability to vulnerable youth like Anatercia. 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, by visiting www.lent.caritas.org.au or by calling 1800 024 413.

Synod of Bishops

Don't miss out on this opportunity to take part in a global conversation about the Catholic Church. How are we called to walk together as Christians? How can we listen to one another in making important decisions about our faith and our mission? The deadline for online submissions in the local consultation for the international Synod on Synodality is Sunday, March 13. Find out more and share your contribution at: <https://catholic.org.au/synodalchurch>

Prayer of Thanksgiving for Lent

Leader: We have heard the Word of God and responded in faith. Let us now stand and raise our hearts in praise to the God who is with us always. **All: Rejoice, O people of God: The true light is present among us. Let us live in the Light.**

Leader: We praise you and thank you, O merciful God, for you heard the pleas of your holy people and you led them on a pilgrimage through the desert to a land of freedom.

All: Rejoice, O people of God: The true light is present among us. Let us live in the Light.

Leader: In these forty days you lead us on a pilgrimage of repentance, that through our surrender to penance and prayer, we might learn once more to be your faithful people.

All: Rejoice, O people of God: The true light is present among us. Let us live in the Light.

Leader: Light our hearts with the fire of your love; open our eyes to the tenderness of your care; free our hands to lead others to the sureness of your forgiveness.

All: Rejoice, O people of God: The true light is present among us. Let us live in the Light.

Leader: Be with us in these days that we may overcome whatever binds us. Set us free to live in the glorious light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **All: Amen.**

New Testament Commentary by Mary Coloe PBVM

Listen to him.

Today we are made conscious of the polarities within which all of us live, and which Jesus also experienced. There are moments of transcendence in our lives; moments when we are conscious of being drawn into God's mystery, even though these moments may be fleeting. In such moments, we can be taken out of ourselves and our senses can be finely tuned into the awesome silence and beauty of nature. Like the disciples, we want to hold on to these moments, to prolong the experience, to 'build tents' and stay. The reality of our humanity demands that we move from such moments of transcendence back into the dailiness of life. We cannot stay on the mountain of light forever.

Jesus too knew such moments of transcendence and moments when the starkness of his life was very present. On the mountain, like Moses and Elijah, he has an encounter with God, symbolised in the light, the cloud, and the voice from heaven. But the reality of his death in Jerusalem is present even in this moment of glory, for the great prophets of Israel speak to Jesus of his exodus, which he was to complete in Jerusalem. Jesus' passing over to the Father cannot happen on this mountain in Galilee but must happen on the hill of Golgotha. Living out the truth of his identity as Son demands that Jesus go down the mountain, leave behind the consoling presence of God, and take the road to Jerusalem. May the journey of Lent lead us into a deeper knowing of the polarities in our lives and may we find the courage to live them in truth.

Background:

There may be several reasons why Moses and Elijah are present in this highly theological scene. Moses was the giver of Israel's Law, and Elijah was one of the earliest prophets in Israel and was also a miracle worker. These two figures may therefore represent the Scriptures of Israel – the Law and the Prophets. More significant is that both Moses and Elijah were 'mountain' men, who had a personal encounter with God on Mount Sinai. Following the Exodus, when it is time for the people to leave Mount Sinai, Moses asks God, 'Show me your glory.' But, while Moses was considered a friend of God, God replied, 'You cannot see my face, for not one shall see me and live. But see, here is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, and when my glory passes by, I will put you in the cleft of the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed, then I shall take away my hand, and you shall see my back.' (Exodus 33:17-23)

Similarly, Elijah, while fleeing from the anger of King Ahab arrives at Sinai, deeply afraid and discouraged. God tells Elijah, 'Go and stand on the mountain, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Elijah then hears a mighty wind, then an earthquake and then a fire – but God was not there. Finally there was 'the sound of sheer silence,' and Elijah went out to meet God. (1 Kings 19:11-13) At times of struggle and change in the lives of Moses and Elijah, they encountered God on Mount Sinai and were encouraged to resume their leadership task. Here there is a similarity with Jesus' ministry.

In Luke 9, there is an important sequence of events. In the northern part of Galilee, at Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about him, who they think he might be. This leads to Peter's declaration that Jesus is the Messiah. Following Peter's declaration, Jesus begins to teach his disciples what being the Messiah will mean – namely his rejection and death. Then follows today's episode of the Transfiguration. Caesarea Philippi lies at the base of Mt Hermon, Israel's tallest mountain and was considered to be the equivalent of Mount Sinai of the north. Caesarea Philippi was also a major Greco-Roman cult centre where there were a series of Temples built to the Roman Gods.

It is as if here, Jesus sees the splendour and power of Rome and considers his own mission in the light of this. Who is he? What is God calling him to be? Who do people think he is? Jesus, like Moses and Elijah faces a daunting task and in this sequence we see him coming to terms with the implications of his ministry and what it will cost. In the transfiguration, Moses and Elijah confirm this by speaking of his 'exodus' in Jerusalem. Then, Jesus hears again the voice of the Father confirming once again, that Jesus is 'my Son' and 'my Chosen One'.

I see in this Gospel my own struggle and sense of cost of discipleship. Only through taking time in prayerful solitude can I hear the Father's voice speaking words of assurance. Lent offers such a time to us, to deliberately look at how we are living as disciples.