



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 24, 2022 Second Sunday of Easter, Year C

First Reading [Acts 5:12-16](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping-mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 117:2-4. 22-27. R. v.1](#)

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say:
'His love has no end.' (R.)

2. The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord;
we rejoice and are glad. (R.)

3. O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord;
the true God is our light. (R.)

Second Reading [Rv 1:9-13, 17-19](#)

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
My name is John, and through our union in Jesus I am your brother and share your sufferings, your kingdom, and all you endure. I was on the island of Patmos for having preached God's word and witnessed for Jesus; it was the Lord's day and the Spirit possessed me, and I heard a voice behind me, shouting like a trumpet, 'Write down all that you see in a book.' I turned round to see who had spoken to me, and when I turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands and, surrounded by them, a figure like a Son of man, dressed in a long robe tied at the waist with a golden girdle.

When I saw him, I fell in a dead faint at his feet, but he touched me with his right hand and said, 'Do not be afraid; it is I, the First and the Last; I am the Living One. I was dead and now I am to live for ever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of the underworld. Now write down all that you see of present happenings and things that are still to come.'

Gospel Acclamation [Jn 20:29](#)

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel [Jn 20:19-31](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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

May 1
3rd Sunday of Easter Year C
[Acts 5:27-32. 40-41](#)// [Rv 5:11-14](#) // [Jn 21:1-19](#)

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

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries Stawell

Thomas Prydderch 1964, Baby Nicholson 1971, Ewan Cameron 1976, Catherine Kerr 1987, Eileen Looby 1993, Margaret Jess 1994, John McGuan 1945, Walter Hooper 1965, Elizabeth (Bessie) Phelan 2000, Kevin Monaghan 2014, Annie Huddle 1969, Johanna Napier 1949

Anniversaries Ararat

Sr Catherine O'Halloraran, Alex Murray, May Richards, Cosmos Fernando, Tom McGrath, Len Davies, Martin Keogh, Clare Heard, Peter Sheehan, Kevin Shea, James Lannen, Nora Hogan, Mary Lugg, Agnes Joyce, Richard Williams, Shirley Baker, John McRae, Peter White, Baden Edwards, Margaret Clark, Brian Broderick, Michael Hogan, Stan Kelly, Milton Neilson, Shayne Byron

Golden Gate Roster

April 24 Jim Jan
May 1 Teresa // 8 Libby // 15 Harry Anna // 22 Jim Jan // 29 Teresa

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat April 30 Reader Val Albert // Prayers of Faithful Damian Phillips // Cleaning Leanne Breen
Sat May 14 Reader Jane Higgins // Prayers of the Faithful Phillip Meek // Cleaning Irene Meek

Ararat CWL Meeting

Tuesday May 3 Parish Centre - Note different Tuesday of the month to usual

Easter Ceremonies

Thanks to everyone who made our ceremonies such blessed celebrations. Lots of work accompanies the ceremonies (flowers, cleaning, palms, candles, holy water, fire ... lots of things ...) Thanks too to everyone who travelled for ceremonies.

Divine Mercy Sunday – April 24, 2022

The Divine Mercy Picture travels to parishes to bring healing, hope and courage and will be at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat on April 24, 2022 from 1.00pm. Jesus says: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." *Mt 11:28*. Eight first class relics: Pope St John Paul II; St Jadwiga Queen; St Faustina Kowalska, St Maximilian Kolbe; St Stanisław Papczynski; St Maria of Jesus Crucified from Bethlehem; Blessed Michał Sopoćko; and Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko. Prayers for peace, merciful love for Ukraine, Russia, all nations, the Church and the world. All are welcome:

1.00pm – Viewing of Relics, talk

1.00pm – 4.00 pm Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation), three Priests

1.30pm - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary

2.00pm - Hour of Mercy prayers, Benediction

3.00pm - Holy Mass, Blessing with Relics

Caritas Australia - Thank You!

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2022. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion/donate-today/> and donate online or by calling 1800 024 413. Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. We can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow *For All Future Generations*.

Project Compassion in Our Parishes

Thanks to everyone who has brought in your contributions for this year. Our total as of Easter is \$5,039

Parish Question and Answer

Ararat – Sunday May 1, during 8.30am Mass

Parishioners will hear a brief presentation and have the opportunity to ask questions re: the upcoming parish merger

Stawell - Thursday April 28 7pm in St Patrick's Church

In Stawell we will discuss the merger and also discuss the proposed refurbishment of St Patrick's Church

Information that might be helpful for the discussion:

Many of the necessary pastoral arrangements began with the retirement of Fr Eric Bryant and have been in place for some time. The parishes have:

- shared one Sunday bulletin for two years
- had an unchanged Mass roster for two years
- shared one parish office for nearly 12 months
- shared one secretary / finance officer for nearly 12 months
- run one Presbytery Account for six months

Parish Councils

- An Interim Parish Council has been established in Stawell (operating for two years)
- The two Parish Councils have met together on a number of occasions. They also meet separately
- We envisage continuing this model, that the councils meet separately to discuss local issues and meet perhaps quarterly together

Weekday Masses

Stawell (Tuesday) and Ararat (Friday) have one weekday Mass each

There are four aged care facilities (Eventide, Lowe St, Garden View, ARV) who rotate on Wednesdays for Mass / Prayer

Ararat also has an assisted living facility who have weekly prayer and communion on Sundays

Finance

The parishes now have a combined Finance Committee

The merged parish will be in a strong financial position. With a \$400,000 bequest soon to arrive in Ararat, and with the two presbyteries in Stawell being leased in addition to the Stawell Flats and Stawell Op Shop, the parishes will merge with combined cash savings of 1.2M (roughly 600K each) and an annual income of 250K, only 90K of which is from Planned Giving

Parish Name

The likely parish name will be Martha and Mary Parish, Gariwerd. Re: Gariwerd, we are finding it difficult to consult with local First Nations people, difficult to even get a conversation. But we're persisting.

Legal

There are tax and legal requirements that will be undertaken with the assistance of the Diocesan Finance Office

Pre- Voting in the Ararat Parish Centre

With the federal election now confirmed for Saturday May 21, the parish centre has been set aside for pre-polling in the week prior to the election. The church will still be available as usual but the parish centre will be unavailable for parish use during these days. Expect to see how-to-vote volunteers and the usual signage that accompany elections.



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist

When Jesus appears to the disciples, in the reading from John, he meets them where they are – in material reality. The experience of the divine is mediated through the familiar things of this world: Jesus shows them the marks of crucifixion on his body and he breathes the Holy Spirit into them. This is a sensual experience. Thomas, however, is being too concrete and at first he refuses to move beyond the sensual so Jesus allows him a visual and tactile experience, but a leap of intuitive faith is expected of Thomas in the end.

New Testament Commentary by Mary Coloe PBVM

Receive the Holy Spirit

Revelations 1:9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31

Written that we may believe

The Easter Gospel last Sunday finished with the disciples realising that Jesus was not in the tomb, that he was no longer among the dead. But where was he? The second location of the Johannine Easter story answers this question. Jesus is not in the tomb for he is now to be found in the midst of his disciples. If you wish to locate Jesus this is where you must look. Seek him with you now, risen in the midst of your community. Jesus' Easter gift to his disciples and to disciples of all times is 'Peace'.

Unlike the Synoptic Gospels which have a scene of Jesus missioning disciples within his own ministry in Galilee, in John's Gospel disciples are only now sent on mission. With the gift of the Spirit breathed onto them they are sent to continue the mission of Jesus in the world. 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' (20:21)

There are two aspects of this mission. First, they are sent to forgive sin (20:23), and second, they are to take hold of people, in the sense of keeping people firm in their faith. This phrase (20:23) is often read in the light of the Synoptic expression that speaks of binding and loosing, in relation to Peter's authority (Matt 16:19). While the first part of the phrase clearly states, 'if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven,' the second part does not mention the word sin and is better understood to mean holding firm to one another in the community. The Greek word that is often translated as 'retain' means more accurately to hold firm. Here is a definition from a dictionary: 'krateo': to cause a state to continue, on the basis of some authority or power – 'to hold, to keep, to cause to continue.'

In Jesus' prayer on the eve of his 'hour' he had prayed, 'While I was with them I kept them in your name...; I have guarded them and none of them is lost.' (17:12) Now the task of 'keeping' and 'guarding' is passed onto his disciples.

The problem for Thomas is the problem that all later Christians face. Can we believe the Easter Gospel when we do not see the body of the Risen One? There is a Thomas within all of us, wanting to believe but sometimes finding faith difficult.

Thomas' response is not to reach out to touch Jesus, but rather to recognise now the fullness of Jesus' divinity; 'My Lord and my God.' Only in John's Gospel do we find such an absolute statement of Jesus' divinity.

The final words of Jesus in this Gospel reach past Thomas to us, as Jesus pronounces a blessing for those who do not see and yet believe. The evangelist also reaches across time to us when he writes, 'These things are written that you may believe.'

The presence of Jesus, his words, and the words of this Gospel writer live on in the Christian communities of our time. Whenever Christians gather, Jesus rises in our midst. Not even our fears and doubts are sufficient barriers, for Jesus comes to frightened and disbelieving disciples. The Easter gifts of peace and the Spirit are now available to all and blessed indeed are those who believe.

ANZAC Day

Almighty everlasting God,
who sent your Son
to die that we might live,
grant, we pray, eternal rest
to those who gave
themselves
in service and sacrifice for their
country.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



Grant, O heavenly Father, that the sacrifice of Christ, who laid down his life for his friends,
may raise all those who have died in war to the victory of eternal life.