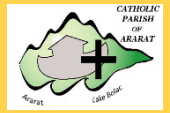




St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



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 May 15, 2022 Fifth Sunday of Easter, Year C

First Reading

[Acts 14:21-27](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
Paul and Barnabas went back through Lystra and Iconium to Antioch. They put fresh heart into the disciples, encouraging them to persevere in the faith. 'We all have to experience many hardships' they said 'before we enter the kingdom of God.' In each of these churches they appointed elders, and with prayer and fasting they commended them to the Lord in whom they had come to believe. They passed through Pisidia and reached Pamphylia. Then after proclaiming the word at Perga they went down to Attalia and from there sailed for Antioch, where they had originally been commended to the grace of God for the work they had now completed. On their arrival they assembled the church and gave an account of all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith to the pagans.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 144:8-13. R. cf. v.1](#)

(R.) I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God, to make known to men your mighty deeds and the glorious splendour of your reign. (R.)
3. Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your rule lasts from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading

[Rv 21:1-5](#)

A reading from the book of the Apocalypse
I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth; the first heaven and the first earth had disappeared now, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the holy city, and the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, as beautiful as a bride all dressed for her husband. Then I heard a loud voice call from the throne, 'You see this city? Here God lives among men. He will make his home among them; they shall be his people, and he will be their God; his name is God-with-them. He will wipe away all tears from their eyes; there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness. The world of the past has gone.' Then the One sitting on the throne spoke: 'Now I am making the whole of creation new.'



Gospel Acclamation

[Jn 13:34](#)

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel

[Jn 13:31-35](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.'

Reflection by Dianne Bergant CSA

Everything is new! There is a new law of love, a new heaven and earth that is established in the church, a new depth of communion there, and a new glory of God that shines forth from its members.

The new commandment that Jesus announces is more than tolerance or mutual respect. It requires self-sacrificing love. Perhaps the greatest obstacle to this love is the diversity discussed last Sunday. It is hard enough to love those who are like us; how can we possibly love those who are different? And how can we love those who do not love us? It is no wonder that the commandment is called new. It calls for something completely different.

The new commandment is the law of the new heaven and the new earth that are established in the new Jerusalem. Standards are entirely different there. The greater ones serve; the meek possess the earth; happy are the poor; woe to those who laugh. This is clearly a city that comes down from heaven, not one made by human hands. It is a city that embraces all who come to it. God dwells in the midst of this city, in the heart of this people. God dwells with them and they dwell with God.

Through this new love, this new heaven and new earth, this new depth of communion, the glory of God is manifested in a new way. The eschatological future is anticipated in the present. The age of fulfilment has dawned.

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 22
6th Sunday of Easter Year C
[Acts 15:1-2, 22-29](#) // [Rv 21:10-14, 22-23](#) // [Jn 14:23-29](#)

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

William Brasier 1943, George Osler 1965, Jack Merrett 1986, Clare Rutter 1989, William Gavan 2007, Andrew Walsh 1951, Robert Tiddy 1979, Mary Wheeler 1994, Carmel Kinsella 2000, Francis Seary 1958, Ken Allan 2001, Myrna Griggs 2002, Mary Monaghan 2010, Patrick Nunan 1956, Ciff Healy 1979, Bernie (John) Gavin 1998, Patrick Healy 1944, Maud Molan 1946

Anniversaries Ararat

Thomas Cronin, Daphne Nailon, Fr John Meade, Norman Start, Annie Schirmer, Gordon Schirmer, Monica Kelly, Celine Fernando, Fr John Leyden, Fr Tom Bourke, Leo O'Rorke, Janet O'Rorke, Gerard Cudmore, Claud Harrison, Elizabeth Harrison, Joan Connellan, Reg Palmer, Bianca Bulger, Bert Setori, Veronica O'Connor, Bernard McIntyre, Tom Rees, Mary Vassalla, Eileen Williams, John (Jack) Cavanagh, Joan Minoque, Robert Murphy, Fr Robert Meade, Albert Spiller, Michael Carroll, Lukas Bryant, Mons. Thomas Hussey, Terrance Hussey, Desmond Joyce, Sr Kathleen Desmond, Alma McAdie, Fr Henry Allen OSA, Malcolm McLeod

Golden Gate Roster

May 15 Harry Anna // 22 Jim Jan // 29 Teresa
June 5 Teresa // 12 Harry Anna // 19 Jim Jan / 26 Teresa

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat May 14 Reader Jane Higgins // Prayers of the Faithful Phillip Meek // Cleaning Irene Meek
Sat May 28 Reader Helen Smith // Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldous // Cleaning Rosemary Liston

Sacrament Meeting for Parents in Stawell

Parents of children of sacrament age (Year 3 and above) are invited to a meeting at St Patrick's School Stawell to begin this year's program for Confirmation and First Eucharist. The meeting will be offered twice on Wednesday May 18, at 3.15pm and again at 5.30pm.

Sacrament Meeting for Parents in Ararat

Parents of children of sacrament age (Year 3 and above) are invited to a meeting at the parish office to begin this year's program for Confirmation and First Eucharist. The meeting will be offered twice on Wednesday June 1, at 3.15pm and again at 5.30pm.

Changes to Office Days - For a couple of weeks only the Parish Office days will Change

Open Wednesday and Thursday May 18/19 - Closed Friday May 20
Open Tuesday and Wednesday June 14/15 – Closed Thursday and Friday June 16/17

Stawell Covid Clinic and Flu Vaccines

Stawell Town Hall 10am-2pm Thursday May 26 – no appointment necessary

Discipleship in a changed world

The **CWL Diocesan Conference** will be held on Tuesday 24th May in the St Mary's Ararat Parish Centre from 10am – 3pm. Mass will be celebrated at 11:30am. Everyone is welcome to attend Mass and all or part of the day. We will be sharing our thoughts on the way forward for the CWL in our parishes in a prayerful and friendly setting. There will be morning and afternoon tea. Cost \$10. For catering purposes RSVP by 18th May. Contact Jan Crowe -0428 916 941, Anna Collins -0427 564 214, or Margaret Rowe -53582421.

Advance Notice: Ordinations to the Priesthood

Deacons Matt Restall and Bill Lowry will be ordained priests for the Diocese of Ballarat on Friday, July 22, 2022 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm.

Our Diocesan Community

The latest edition of ODC is now available in the churches.

The ODC is also available online. Go to www.ballarat.catholic.org.au and follow the link to ODC

Lake Bolac Anniversaries

St Bernard's community is this year celebrating 150 years since the laying of the foundation stone of our first church and 60 years of our new church. We will celebrate with 11am Mass with Bishop Paul on Sunday September 25. Lunch to follow. More information to follow.

All Saints Parish Portland 175th Anniversary

Over the weekend of August 27 & 28, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 175th anniversary of All Saints Parish Portland. All Saints Portland is the oldest parish in the Diocese of Ballarat. If anyone has any old photographs, stories, memorabilia or anything which you believe may be of interest, we invite you to please contact us at the Parish Office by email portland@ballarat.catholic.org.au or by posting copies of items to All Saints Parish, PO Box 210, Portland, 3305.

St Augustine's Church Creswick 150th Anniversary

On the weekend of September 17 & 18, 2022 celebrations will be held for the 150th anniversary of St Augustine's Church, Creswick. If anyone has any old photographs, stories, memorabilia or anything which you believe may be of interest, please contact Leonie in the parish office, ph. 0488220685 or email creswick@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Volunteer Induction and Training

The parishes received notification this week from the diocesan office that all existing and new parish volunteers (all people on committees, Sunday ministries, gardeners, Op Shop, CWL ... just about everybody) will be asked to receive induction training, designed to meet the requirements of Standard 7 of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. The aim is that "personnel are equipped with knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through information, ongoing education and training". More information to come.

National Family Week: May 15-21, 2022

CatholicCare Victoria believes that building strong family relationships is the key to building healthy, resilient communities. Strong families give children the foundation they need to grow and the support they need to face challenges and setbacks not only now, but into the future. So how can parents and families build strong family relationships? Family Relationship Practitioners in Bendigo, Julia Feiss and Lisa Castles, share five important elements for creating strong families at <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/news/247/a-blessing-for-families>. There is also, "A Blessing for Families" on this webpage.

Laudato Si' Week: May 16-24, 2022

As part of Catholic Earthcare's celebration of Laudato Si' Week, they are hosting an online screening of the newly released 'Regenerating Australia' short film - a fictitious news segment set on New Year's Eve 2029, examining the decade that 'could be'. The film challenges people to consider how to respond to the Cry of the Earth. Participants will be joined by Bishop Ken Howell and a range of guest speakers to share in this celebration. After the film, there will be a panel discussion and question time regarding how we can take the teachings of the film and respond as Catholics here in Australia. You are welcome to join by yourself or register a parish group for the viewing (please note if registering for a group, only 1 person need register via Trybooking). The video will be streamed via zoom so you can watch together on a large screen at a suitable venue like a parish hall. The online event will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 6.00pm – 8.00pm AEST, 4.00pm – 6.00pm AWST. Bookings at: <https://www.trybooking.com/BZADT>.

Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Election Statement 2022

In the ACBC election statement, bishops call for 'a better kind of politics' and a shakeup that focuses the country's politics on the common good of all, including – and especially – those who struggle to participate in the community. Access the election statement at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wz1WhlUdU_UviG5-Vhp4JtI0v9Gs4YVo/view

IDAHOBIT - International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia & Transphobia

On Tuesday May 17 the Ararat Rural City Council and the Northern Grampians Shire Council, supported by health agencies, will be hosting events in support of the LGBTIQ community. I will be attending both of these events in support of LGBTIQ people. Rates of verbal abuse, depression, anxiety and discrimination are alarming, as are rates of self-harm and suicide.

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/> LGBTIQ+ people have the highest rates of both suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts in Australia; fifteen per cent of lesbian, gay and bisexual people report current suicidal thoughts, and same sex attracted Australians have up to fourteen times higher rates of suicide attempts.

But the Catholic Church doesn't approve of homosexuality

The Catholic Church's moral and ethical positions must be and are always open to change as circumstances change. A particular group in our community have disturbingly high rates of self-harm and suicide. Health agencies and government agencies are throwing their considerable weight behind support for these isolated people. The Catholic Church's position is contributing to the isolation of these people, contributing to the problem. If our moral position is contributing to unacceptable rates of self-harm, among young people in particular, then this is a time for deep self-reflection. If people are dying in part because of our isolation-contributing moral position, we need to rethink our position.

I will be attending the IDAHOBIT events in Ararat and Stawell in support of the LGBTIQ community. *Fr Andrew*

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria online event – May 25

Sherry Balcombe, Manager of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria, will be guest speaker via zoom on May 25, 2022 at 7.00pm. Sherry will present a brief overview of Aboriginal culture and spirituality and how it relates to today's world and will lead people to consider several key questions. This event is hosted by the Justice Action Group of St Mary of the Cross, Mordiallic & Aspendale during National Reconciliation Week (May 27 – June 3). To register go to <https://caritas.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocemorz4tG92p9QQV4fQyLFak4guWhFYF>

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' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org. Pope's intention for May: For faith-filled young people: We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest. May they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates and the dedication to service.

Daily Gospel Reflections

During the height of COVID in 2020, the Archdiocese of Brisbane's Adult Formation Team launched a daily gospel reflection resource to help Catholics stay connected with God whilst they couldn't attend Mass. The resource has been so well received that the offer is extended to all who may find it useful. The Daily Gospel Reflections are delivered each weekday morning to your email inbox, and will take just a few moments to read but will centre you in relationship with God for the rest of the day. To find out more or subscribe go to <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

Refurbishment of St Patrick's Church

The first stage of the project will be to remove the most recent platform that no longer meets modern standards of accessibility and safety. Expect this to happen in the coming weeks. We will then use the church for a couple of months or so with the altar and lectern sitting on the floor until we are ready to put in a new (one step high) sanctuary. This photo is interesting. It shows the first platform that was built forward of the marble altar rails. It is prior to the present carpet. It is before the electrical cabling and timber pelmets cluttered the archway above the crucifix and above Our Lady. The marble dome above the tabernacle was covered in dust even then. What was the occasion do you think? Were you there?

