

St Patrick's Stawell, Immaculate Conception Ararat, St Francis of Assisi Landsborough and St Bernard's Lake Bolac form Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd.

We acknowledge recognise and respect the elders and families of the Barengi Gadjin and Eastern Maar people, the traditional owners of the land on which our parish gathers. We commit ourselves to walking in unity with our First Nations people.

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Let the wilderness and the dry lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy.

The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return.

They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. (R.)

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

A reading from the letter of St James

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming.

Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one

another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;

he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.'

As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Parish Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

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| 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 Email | ararat@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

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|---------------------|--|
| 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

December 18th
Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A
[Is7:10-14](#)// [Rom1:1-7](#)// [Mt1:18-24](#):

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 ARVillage

Extra Masses for school children this Week (Parishioners welcome)

Usual Masses will still take place

Stawell: Wed 14th 5.30pm at school

Ararat: Thurs 15th 9.30am in the church

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: Stawell 6pm // Ararat 7.30pm // Lake Bolac 9.15pm
Christmas Day: Landsborough 9am

Reconciliation

Tuesday December 20 5.30pm Stawell and 7pm Ararat
This will be 2nd Rite Reconciliation. Please bring a plate to share.

Lake Bolac Reconciliation: During Mass on Saturday December 17

Anniversaries

Fr. Syd Morey, Maureen Dalgleish, Lionel Delzotto 1990, Robert Radley 2015, James Murray 1912, Athol Howman, Fr. Martin Gleeson, James Moneghetti, Theresa Cashman 1959, Harry Connell 1970, Doreen Presser 1972, Cyril Peters 1997, Rudolf Schwab, Osmond Smith, Eric Hogan, Herman Krawczinski, Graeme Pora, Victims of Pearl Harbour Bombings 1941, Neil George Stapleton, Lawrence Phillips 1943, Fr. John Monaghan, Josephine Neilson, Norma Lannen, Allan Griffen 1963, Mary McSparron 1975, Edmund Moran, Bishop Henry Cleary, Clare Rieniets, Ronald Jerram, Kathleen Rutter 1974, Charles Fitzgerald 1974, Malcolm Brown 1983, Elsie May O'Sullivan 2005, Kathleen Fitzgerald 1950, Rohan Laurie 1998, Florence Heenan, Daniel Ryan, Joan Boyle, Joan Ryan, Rodney Harvey, Margaret Mary Smith, Glenys Balchin, Mary Smith 1954.

Golden Gate Roster

Sun 11th Dec Teresa
Sun 18th Dec Jim & Jan
Sun 25th Dec

Lake Bolac Roster

To be confirmed
Sat Dec 17th Reader Denise Haslett// Prayers of Faithful Deb Glasson
Sat Dec 24th Reader Jane Higgins// Prayers of Faithful Damain Phillips// Cleaning Team Effort
Sat Dec 31st Reader Mick Brennan// Prayers of Faithful Rosemary Liston

Ararat Roster

Sun Dec 11th Facil Pat McAloon// Reader Jenny McAloon// Emin Anna Collins
Sun Dec 18th Facil Cathy McAdie//Reader Pat Lardner//Emin Sister John

Stawell Roster

Sun 11th Dec S/Minister Kath Ashton//Reader C Barker// Offertory P Gooden
Sun 18th Dec S/Minister Helen Potter//Reader L Morgan//Offertory J Croton
Sun 24th Dec S/Minister MR Thomas// Reader J V Diesen// Offertory M McGaffin

St Mary's Primary School Ararat

The students at St Mary's have participated in a competition to make Christmas Cards. To help raise money for the St Vinnies Christmas Appeal and Art supplies for the school, the cards will be on sale from the school and after Church on Sundays in Ararat. \$10 for 10 cards.

Ararat Working Bee - 2pm Sunday December 18th Parishioners are asked to attend a working bee in the church To prepare for Christmas. Please bring vacuum cleaners and rags.

Social Night and Carols in Ararat

All parishioners are invited for shared tea and some singing in the Parish Centre on Friday December 23 from 6.30pm. Please bring a plate to share.

St Bernard's Lake Bolac - St Vincent de Paul Christmas Donation Box

There will be a box at the back of the church for anyone who would like to donate non perishable goods to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal.

The Stawell CWL will be having a Christmas themed Cuppa this Sunday, the 11th of Dec. 10.30am Mass. Everyone is welcome.

Stawell St Vincent de Paul and the Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage help those in need in our community all year round. *Christmas* is an especially stressful time for those living on the margins of our society. Last year we distributed Christmas grocery shopping vouchers to 94 households in need, made up of 142 adults, 36 kids aged 14 -19 years, and 119 children aged 13 years and younger. To do this we raised and spent \$8,500. This year we expect the call on us for Christmas help to be even higher. Please help us help those locals in need celebrate Christmas with less stress. If you can, please put your donation in the colourful Christmas box at the back of the Church.

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Stawell Uniting Church An invitation for all to our annual Service of Readings and Carols. It is to be held on Saturday 17th December starting at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Stawell Holy Trinity Anglican Church Nine Lessons and Carols Sunday 18th December 2022, 7pm followed by a light supper. All Welcome

Caritas Australia - Take action on climate change

As climate change damages our homes and land, the impact on our neighbours in the pacific is extreme. Our voices, together, can get governments and polluters to take action to achieve climate justice and protect our common home. Sign the pledge at <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/climate-change-action/> to support Caritas Australia's climate action campaign.

Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life

Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. The funds raised from these cards go towards supporting vulnerable communities around the globe, including right here in Australia. Whether you purchase your Global Gift for a family member, friend or colleague, each gift reflects real items that will help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. Gifts of Education. Gifts of Health. Gifts of Empowerment. The beauty of these Global Gifts is that they bring joy to their recipient and provide someone in need the chance to build a better future. This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free.

Advent Appeal for Ukraine

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. Collections in dioceses, eparchies and parishes on the Second and/or Third Sunday of Advent will support Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at www.catholic.au

Making a Scene at Christmas

A display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries at the Bridge Mall, Ballarat from December 10-23, 2022. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh and see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. There will be hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica). Entry is by gold coin donation. All welcome.

Christmas Stall at Nazareth House

Nazareth House Auxiliary are having a Christmas stall on Saturday, December 17 and Sunday, December 18 in the reception area of Nazareth House (218 Mill Street, Ballarat) from 10.00am – 2.00pm each day. For further information contact Margaret, ph. 0419003415.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

John asks for confirmation of Jesus' status as Messiah. Jesus shows his credentials by pointing to the messianic aspects of his ministry – healing and strengthening miracles, and the emergence of new meanings signify the coming of the kingdom.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Right Question

John was languishing in prison, held captive by the local agent of the Roman Empire. Perhaps he was looking for evidence that Jesus was the One who would throw off Roman despotism. In answer to his questing, Jesus replied that John should rather look at what was happening on the ground in His healing ministry and orientation to the poor. *Those* are the signs that the reign of God has begun.

I admire John the Baptist because he was prepared to seek and accept the answer to the question which was crucial to him, even though the answer might upset his preconceptions. He was a true seeker after Truth.

All our activities as a parish in building community, forming faith, serving the poor, participating in the liturgy, should be undertaken so that a seeker after Truth might see and hear the evidence of the presence and mission of the risen Lord Jesus Christ amongst us.

We could pause for a moment to simply pray in the spirit of Advent: 'Come, Lord Jesus' to satisfy the restlessness of the questing heart.