

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 Nm 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."
This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:2-3.5.6.8

(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples. you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading Gal 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

Gospel Acclamation Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his on. Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 2:16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.



Parish Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

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

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 12.30pm
Glenthompson	(Hamilton Parish) 2 nd 4 th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

January 8th
The Epiphany of the Lord
Is 60:1-6// Eph3:2-3.5-6// Mt:2:1-12:

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

1 st Wednesday	11.15am Eventide
2 nd Wednesday	11am Lowe St
3 rd Wednesday	10.30am Garden View
4 th Wednesday	10am ARVillage

No Mass in Stawell on Tuesday 3rd Jan 2023

Anniversaries

Doris Tognon, Fr Paddy Bushell, John Sullivan, Evie Hayes, Matthew Sullivan, Edward Mulcahy, Peter Carthew OAM, Teresa Devery 1954, William Thomas Foo 1983, Kath Schwab, Fr Pat Culligan, Peter Sinnott, James Sinnott, Fred Mason, Kathleen McLeod, Mary O'Neill, Shane Walls, Anne Handley, Joseph Colwell, Mary Pola, Peter Williams, Andrew Jackson, Bishop Joe Grech, Zsonella McGrath, Edward Phelan 1944, Alby Vendy 2000, James O'Connor, Fr. Ted Glowrey, Johanna Lannen, Winifred Hynes, Annette Mair, Bernice Clinton, Bernardino Torrecampo, Ivan Lee, Des Brennan, Dorothy Phyland, James McMahom 2000, Sr Veronica O'Brien, Bernie Moloney, Stephanie Mitchell, Jenny Sharman, Blanche Wadsworth 1949, Mary Monaghan 1961, Glen Byron 1985, Jacob Pitcher, Theresa McColl, Judi-Anne Parry 1967, Stewart Perry 1970, Lindsay Vendy 1980, James Tonkin 1984, Madge Phillips 1985, Graeme Delahunty 2008

Golden Gate Roster

Sun 1st Jan Jim & Jan
Sun 8th Jan Jim & Jan
Sun 15th Jan Libby

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Dec 31st Reader Mick Brennan// Prayers of Faithful Rosemary Liston
Sat Jan 14th Reader Deb Glasson// Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins// Cleaning Rosemay Liston
Sat Jan 28th Reader Damian Phillips// Prayers of Faithful Helen Smith

Ararat Roster

Sun 1st Jan S/Minister M Howard// Reader I Stewart// Offertory Habben Family
Sun 8th Jan S/Minister MR Thomas// Reader H Potter// Offertory Pascual Family
Sun 15th Jan S/Minister Kath Ashton// Reader D O'Donnell// Offertory Heenan Family
Sun 22nd Jan S/Minister Marg Rowe// Reader L Morgan// Offertory P Gooden
Sun 29th Jan S/Minister Kath Ashton// Reader M Howard// Offertory J Croton

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“Thank you” are two words sometimes we don't say enough—today we thank all our hardworking, loyal and faithful volunteers.

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.

Caritas Australia: A child's smile. A mother's joy. Yours to give this Christmas.

Throughout rural Vietnam, children and families living with disabilities, like Mrs Lan and her children Quan and Loah, are less likely to be employed, and children are less likely to go to school. Mrs Lan's dreams for her children are simple. She wants them to "live like every other child, going to school, playing, having a happy life, and growing and learning like other children." Through the generosity of Caritas supporters, Quan and Loah joined a community-based classroom and learned to socialise with other children and found confidence in themselves. They found more joy from having fun with others, learned to tell jokes and found themselves smiling more. This Christmas, you can help create opportunities for children and adults with disabilities and to enable more families like Mrs Lan's to access resources to improve their income and living status. Please join Caritas Australia's wonderful community of generous supporters in giving loving parents of children with disabilities the incredible gift of seeing their children smile.

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 December - For volunteer not-for-profit organisations: We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development, find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

Pope's intention for January - For educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace: Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

From the perspective of ... The Shepherds

What must the shepherds have made of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus? Shepherds occupied a very lowly status in Jewish society – they were generally regarded as thieves and cut-throats. Suddenly, these very lowly characters were thrust into great events: visions of angels; prophecies; the birth of the Messiah; and powerful experiences of the greatness of God. The gospel says they went back to their sheep glorifying and praising God. They must have been changed by this experience. Perhaps they never really made sense of what happened to them but more likely it was the beginning of a whole new life experience.

Have you thought? What a woman!

Luke's image of Mary is a very strong one. We must remember that Mary was no more than a girl – probably 14 or 15 years old. This was the usual age for young women to marry at that time. However, there wasn't much that was normal about the previous nine months of her life. In the midst of all the chaos involved in giving birth away from home and in less than ideal circumstances, she remains completely calm and 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. What an extraordinary young woman!

Living the Gospel – A Peaceful New Year?

It is traditional around New Year's Day to make resolutions for the upcoming year: changes that affect the way you live; the way you treat others; setting goals to aim for and work towards. In this context, it is interesting that the Church marks this day as a World Day of Peace. Perhaps, in amongst the self-promises to give up smoking, get a bit more fit, work and study harder and treat little sisters better, we might find time to consider ways in which we can bring about a more peaceful world – even just my little bit of it.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist

Mary must have been a rich source of information about Jesus for the early Christian community: as Luke wrote, Mary 'treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart'. She lived an eventful and relatively long life (having outlived her son and presumably her husband), so those who were privileged to share her memories would have heard stories that were shaped by the wisdom of hindsight.

