

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 **Zep 2:3,3:12-13**

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find
shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord.
In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly
people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in
the name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the
perjured tongue will no longer be found in their
mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest with no one
to disturb them.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 145:7-10 R. Mt5:3**

(R.) Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of
heaven is theirs!
It is the Lord who keeps faith forever, who is just to
those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord,
who sets prisoners free. (R.)
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.)
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 **1 Cor 1:26-31**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians.
Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you
were called: how many of you were wise in the
ordinary sense of the word, how many were
influential people, or came from noble families? No,
it was to shame the wise that God chose what is
foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is
strong that he chose what is weak by human
reckoning; those whom the world thinks common
and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen

those who are nothing at all to show up those who
are everything.

The human race has nothing to boast about to God,
but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and
by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our
virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom.

As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him
boast about the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 5:12**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Rejoice and be glad;
Your reward will be great in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 5:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he
sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he
began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How
happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom
of heaven.
Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for
their heritage.
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is
right:
they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown
them.
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons
of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of
right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
'Happy are you when people abuse you and
persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny
against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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

February 5th 2023
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Is 58:7-10, 1 Cor2:1-5, Mt 5:13-16

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

Anniversarie

Fr Paul Keenan SJ, Catherine Doery, Joan Quaiffe, Thelma Liston, Jan Young, Ellen McCray 1953, Jennie Wood 1975, Ron Mason, Ken Waring, John Griffen 1954, Leah Seary 1972, Gordon Douglas 2011, Alan Dovaston, Eric Ericksen, Ray Toner, Irene Hogan, Louisa Trevan 1990, Christopher Lillis, Francis Shevlin, Lilian Burston, Mons. Eugene Galligan, Mollie Flynn, Molly Kenny, Gerald Herald 1972, Mary Flynn 1996, Reginald Olle, Dennis Donovan, Maurice Donovan, Sarah Hogan, Leah Smith, Colleen Hodge, Anna McKenna, William Borella 1962, Mae Hinniberg 1968, Mary Hennessy, Mons. Louis Conway, Wendy Vernon, Mary Riddington, Elizabeth Brennan, Frank Melbourne, Michael Seary 1978, Jeni-Anne Dunn 1997, Valerie Seary 2019.

Golden Gate Roster Sun 29th Jan Harry & Anna/Sun 5th Feb Libby/Sun 12th Feb Teresa/ Sun 19th Feb Jim & Jan / Sun 26th Feb Harry & Anna

Lake Bolac Roster Sat Feb 4th Reader Leanne Breen// Prayers of Faithful Jan Higgins //Cleaning Tricia Higgins
Sat Feb 18th Reader Rosemary Liston//Prayers of Faithful Phillip Meek
Sat Mar 4th Reader Helen Smith// Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldous //Cleaning Jane Higgins
Sat Mar 18th Reader Tricia Higgins// Prayers of Faithful Val Albert

Ararat Roster Sun 29th Jan Facilitator Pat McA// Reader Jenny M// Euch Min M Olle
Sun Feb 5th Welcomer Lorna R //Facilitator Rebecca // Reader Eliabeth Sh// Euch Min Mary C
Sun Feb 12th Welcomer Blessie S //Facilitator Pat L //Reader Peter B // Euch Min

Stawell Roster Sun 29th Jan S/Minister Kath Ashton// Reader M Howard// Offertory J Croton
Sun 5th Feb S/Minister Marg Rowe//Reader C Barker//Offertory M McGaffin
Sun 12th Feb S/Minister Helen Potter// Reader J Van Diesen// Offertory Habben Family
Sun 19th Feb S/Minister J Van Diesen//Reader Michelle Howard//Offertory Pascual Family
Sun 26th Feb S/Minister Mary Rita Thomas// Reader Di O'Donnell// Offertory Heenan Family

Integrity, Humility, Listening and Healing

This week I went to the Australia Day Ceremony in Ararat. I was conflicted because I think we should change the date. January 26 doesn't seem to be working well for us. But I wanted to see Chris Harris receive her award for volunteer work with the Ararat Eisteddfod. I support the eisteddfod because I think the arts are important and I think raising healthy girls is vital. Girls get duded. When they dance they are amazing. And yes, boys dance too. I clapped and cheered madly when Chris' award was announced. The Ararat City Band was great, the Lions' breakfast was nice and the speeches were good. I came home and watched the news about the protests. There's more listening to do and more wounds to heal.

Linda Dessau, the Governor of Victoria, said this: "we need to talk to each other in a way that heals rather than a way that wounds." She was quoting Barack Obama. I concur. We need to find ways that heal. Julia Gillard said, "If we accept the truth of our shared history, we can walk together in a spirit of healing." There's the healing again. Julia Gillard is the chair of Beyond Blue. Beyond Blue Support Service 1300 22 46 36. Anthony Albanese said we live in "the greatest country on earth." This piqued my interest because it's not great for lots of first nations people. I hoped he would acknowledge that. And he did. He followed up by plugging his Voice to Parliament proposal, an acknowledgement that there's room for improvement.

Then Taryn Brumfitt, Australian of the Year, was on telly. "We're facing a paediatric health emergency with rates of suicide, depression, eating disorders, anxiety and steroid use related to body dissatisfaction soaring ... This is not about encouraging obesity; this is not what I do. And this issue is not simply about weight or size, it's about the way that we feel about all of ourselves — our skin colour, our height, our age, our gender, our unique selves — and it's learning to move, nourish, respect and enjoy our bodies because you can't look after something you don't love." Jelena Dokic was shamed for her body while commentating at the tennis. Almost on cue this explained why we need the body image lady as Australian of the Year.

After all that, the bible gave us this Sunday's readings. Perfect. Zephaniah: "Seek integrity, seek humility." Matthew: "How happy are the poor in spirit." The poor in spirit are not those who are sad or poor, but those who make a priority of the needs of others." Maybe those who are good at listening and healing. They could have just read today's readings for Australia Day: Integrity, humility, listening to the other, healing. Fr Andrew

Safetrac Online Learning Reminder

The due date for the online training module for Safeguarding Children in the Diocese of Ballarat is fast approaching. Please ensure all members of staff and volunteers that were listed for this training module complete the course by the due date of 4 February. For anyone who has not completed the training and misplaced their login details, the website is: <https://clients.safetrac.com/cdob/> and all user names are the same format: ie: Firstname.Surname [Mary.Smith]

Project Compassion Sunday: February 19, 2023

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will launch Project Compassion on Sunday, February 19, 2023 during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.

Round Table Ecological Theology Sessions

The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation. For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. A new series of six sessions begins on Wednesday, February 22 (1-3pm or 7-9pm) at Mercy Centre, 16 Gent St. Ballarat East. Then (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). For more info please send your mobile number and email to Sr. Veronica on veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au

World Interfaith Harmony Week 2023 - Flag Raising Event

Ballarat Interfaith Network invites you to join their Flag Raising Event in celebration of United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week on Wednesday, February 1, 2023 from 11.00am to 12.00noon at St Peter's Anglican Church, 1307 Sturt Street, Ballarat. After the raising of our own unique Ballarat Interfaith Network flag, we will adjourn into the church for a keynote address from a member of the local Muslim community, prayers for peace offered by representatives of other faiths, and one or two musical performances. Welcome - Mayor of Ballarat, Cr Hudson. Muslim Keynote Speaker - Obaid Noor. Refreshments provided. Contact 0400 650234.

Mission: One Heart Many Voices Conference 2023

The Mission: One Heart Many Voices conference, "Lead, Act, Now" will be held from May 3-5, 2023 in Sydney – face-to-face and online. Registration and more information available at <https://2023.mohmv.com.au/>. Early bird full registration before February 28 is \$550.00. Full registration from March 1 is \$649.00. Concession rate \$539.00. Single day rate \$209.00.

Prayers for Ukraine

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Prayer for Peace and Justice in Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
who change the hardened heart and break the power of violence,
we entrust the people of Ukraine to you.

Protect them in this time of peril;
let them know not death but life, not slavery but freedom.

You are Father of all;
we are brothers and sisters.

Give us the strength to live that truth in love,
choosing peace not war.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

To follow Jesus does not mean merely that one travels with him from place to place. It means that one learns from him, that one follows his manner of life and his way of thinking. To follow Jesus means to follow his example in the way he respects himself and other people, in his use of the things of the natural world. It means that one listens to what he says, and asks for an explanation when what he says is not understood. All of this requires that the disciple be a learner, one who can learn from the life of Jesus as well as from his teaching.

The first lessons that the disciples must learn are found in the beatitudes. The same lessons are placed before us, the modern-day disciples. The setting of Jesus' teaching is so serene; a mountain apart, a teacher with his disciples gathered around him, simple statements that are coupled with glorious rewards. However, the reality of the lessons is in stark contrast with this tranquil scene. These beatitudes, these blessings call for profound inner transformation.

The gospel outlines the kind of person the disciple is to become; the psalm sketches the program to which the learner is called. The disciples of Jesus are not merely his followers; they also continue the work that he began. In whatever circumstance of life we find ourselves, as disciples of Jesus we work to sustain the good that is in the world and to transform whatever needs transformation.

