

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 **Lv 19:1-2. 17-18**

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.

"You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord."

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10, 12-13. R v8**

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)

4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

Second Reading **1 Cor 3:16-23**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple.

Make no mistake about it: if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he

really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are, or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So, there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Gospel Acclamation **1 Jn2:5**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 5:38-48**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance.

On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

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 26th, 2023
First Sunday of Lent Year A
Gen 2:7-9,3:1-7//Rom 5:12, 17-19//Mt4:1-11

Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

Tuesday: 10am Stawell (Check bulletin for occasional changes)
Wednesday: Aged Care
Thursday: 2.30pm 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

Anniversaries

Honora Pola, Bernard Dowler, Matilda Donovan, Molly Pola, Vera Ruzic, Kenneth Rickard 1 991, Margaret Rathgeber 2011, Win Boyd, Stephen McColl, Debra Shea, Eileen Menzies, Dorothy Shalders, Tom Hourigan, Maria Deininger, Edna Colwell, Phyllis Scaletti 1955, Marjoris O'Rourks 1996, John David Dalziel 1997, Ron Baxter, Dawn Emerson, William Brasier 1959, Elizabeth Cowell 2008, Ivan Heinrich 2017, Shirley Gerritsen 2020 Teresa Duffy, Sheila Brady, Daisy Sharman, Fr. Jim Kaye, Constance Hevey, Jim Tutton, Myra Lillis, Gerald Gleeson, Carmel Lembo, Joseph McCabe 1961, Dorothy Peters 1972, Peter Balkin 1998, William Duncan 2007, John Comitti 2008, Douglas Driscoll 2013, Robert Oliver, Janie Johnston, Ann Evans 1945

Recent Deaths

Pauline Hulsen

Golden Gate Roster

Sun 19th Feb Jim & Jan /Sun 26th Feb Harry & Anna

Lake Bolac Roster

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 Apr 1st Reader Phillip Meek//Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett//Cleaning Judy Upton

Ararat Roster

Sun Feb 19th Welcomer Genaro //Facilitator Cathy McA// Reader Jan c // Euch Min Jim C
Sun Feb 26th Welcomer Rosalie N // Facilitator Harry // Reader Charlie R // Euch Min Anna C
Sun Mar 12th Welcomer Mateo//Facilitator P Brennan//Reader Kath L//Euch Min Anna C

Stawell Roster

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

Stawell CWL Cuppa after St Pat's Mass this Sunday 19th. Hosted by Stawell CWL. Everyone welcome.

Stawell St Vincent de Paul will meet this Monday 20th in the Church hall at 2pm

Uniting Church Ararat - Pancake Day

The Rev Nathaniel Atem would like to invite you to enjoy Pancake Day at Ararat Uniting Church Barkly Street, on Tuesday 21 February from 10 to 12noon. Enjoy as many pancakes and cups of tea and coffee as you like. Entry \$10. All money raised will be donated to Uniting which provides for people in need.

Ararat Anglican Church - Pancake Day

Holy Trinity Anglican Church are having a 6p.m. pancake dinner in their Hall on February 21st. Love to see you and yours. No charge but donations welcomed.

Ash Wednesday

Ashes will be distributed in Stawell at Mass on Tuesday at 10am

Ashes will be distributed during a Liturgy of the Word at Marian College on Wednesday at 2.15pm. All welcome.

Lenten Discussion Group

Lenten discussions will take place in Stawell on Tuesdays after 10am Mass and in Ararat on Thursdays at 10am.

For those who work - would you be interested in an evening group? Let us know.

Caritas Australia Turkey-Syria Earthquake Disaster Appeal

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Turkey and Syria, leaving thousands of people dead with this number expected to rise dramatically. After 12 years of war, Syria is at breaking point and desperately needs assistance. We must act NOW and help those affected by this catastrophe. Your generous donation means our partners in Turkey and Syria can respond swiftly to support the survivors of this unimaginable tragedy. Visit www.caritas.org.au/syria-turkey or call 1800 024 413 toll free to donate now.

A special prayer initiative for the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' pontificate

Pope Francis will celebrate the 10th year of his pontificate on March 13, 2023. To highlight this milestone anniversary in a "viral" manner, the Digital Synod has launched a special online map featuring virtual lighted candles representing the prayers of the faithful worldwide for him. Anyone who wishes to join the initiative will find an invitation on the website to pray one or more Hail Marys <https://www.decimus-annus.org/site/index>. The map with the 'little candles' which represent the Hail Marys that are prayed for him will be sent to Pope Francis.

Walk two miles

Roman soldiers were allowed by their own military laws to require any person to carry the soldier's pack along the road from one milestone marker to another. That is, they could order a man to walk one mile with their pack. If they made someone carry their pack for more than one mile, the soldier himself was subject to discipline and punishment. Jesus says, 'If anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him.' Like turning the other cheek, it is turning the tables on the one who would oppress you and bringing shame upon them.

Let him have your cloak as well

This one is a little stranger to our modern cultural norms. In Jesus' time, it was not shameful or embarrassing for a person to be naked but it was shameful for the person who caused them to be naked. By law, if you were unable to repay a debt, the person to whom you owed money could literally take your clothes as payment of the debt. What Jesus says is, if someone demands your tunic as payment of a debt, give them everything you're wearing to shame them for making you naked to collect their debt.

Love your enemy

Jesus tells us that it's easy to love those who love us – anyone can do that. The test of Christian love is to love those who seem unlovable or even seek to make themselves appear unlovable. It's easy to stop saying hello to the person who never returns your greeting. It's easy to avoid the person whose disability makes you uncomfortable. It's easy to hate the person who's nasty to you. But Jesus says that it's these people who we must love. If we are only polite, pleasant and hospitable to our friends then we are failing to follow the footsteps of Jesus.



Project Compassion Sunday 18 & 19 February



Please take home a Project Compassion box or set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and ***For All Future Generations***.

With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction. Project Compassion 2023 reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come.



As St Pope John Paul II said, **“The future starts today, not tomorrow.”** Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow ***For All Future Generations***.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

Project Compassion Prayer

God of all generations,

We thank you for those who have gone before us,
Especially those who have cared for your earth and
Who inspire us to help respect your creation
And contribute to its healing.

We thank you for those with whom we share our lives today,
Especially those who work for justice and peace.
May we welcome the opportunity that Lent brings
to walk more closely with you,
especially through fasting, almsgiving and prayer.

We thank you for the challenge of the future.
May the cross of Jesus remind us that only love finds the way forward.
As we work with big hearts, may we join with Mary in her hope
that from now on all generations will experience
the great things you will do through us.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Pope Francis Quote:

"Let us pray for peace: peace in the world and in each of our hearts."

"God's love calls us to move beyond fear.

We ask God for the courage to put on faith,
hope and love as we go out into the world and become
the word in body as well as spirit."