

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 **1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13**

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 22 R. v.1**

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. (R.)
2. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. (R.)
3. You have prepared a banquet for me In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading **Eph 5:8-14**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians .

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light.

That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation **Jn 8:12**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel **Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied, and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him, he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.



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

March 26^h, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A
Ez37:12-14/Rom8:8-11/Jn11:3-7.17.20-27.33-45

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

Tuesday 21st - No Mass in Stawell. Lenten Discussion as usual at 10am.

Lenten Stations of the Cross

There will be Stations of The Cross prayed each Friday at 10am in St Pat's Church Stawell. Everyone invited.

Lenten Discussion Groups

Stawell - Tuesdays after 10am Mass in the hall
Ararat - Thursdays 10am in the Office Meeting Room

St Patrick's Stawell Cuppa today after Mass hosted by CWL everyone welcome to celebrate Friday's St Patrick's Day and Monday's Feast of St Joseph.

Anniversaries

James Hennessy, John Costello, Betty Stevens, Valentine Kerr 1991, Mary Thomas 2003, Fr Leo Branigan CSsR, Marino Renzeli, Des Fox, Betty McNamara, Francis Bloomer 1964, Fr Jim Ryan, Maria Deininger, Caleb Gardner, Robert Gale 1978, Jeffrey O'Donnell 2019, Fr John McDonnell CSsR, Astrid Nyhagen, Henrietta Phillips, Rosanna Weiss 1976, Samuel Evans 1993, Arthur Harrington, Mons James Timmons, John McLean 1972, Darrell Maddern, Joe Rees, Fr John Harrington, Jean Jones, Beverley Ford, Ivan Evans, Clifford Horsman, Eileen Gavin 2001, Bert Stephens, Ann Stephens, Fr Robert Paterson SJ, Dawn Wilson, Bob Mottram, Aminda (Min) Hamilton.

Golden Gate Roster

19th Mar Elizabeth/26th Mar Teresa /Sun 2nd Apr Harry & Anna/ 9th Apr Jim & Jan/ 16th Apr Margaret/ 23rd Apr Teresa/Sun 30th Apr Harry & Anna/ Sun May 7th Jim & Jan/14th May Elizabeth

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Mar 18th Reader Tricia Higgins// Prayers of Faithful Val Albert
Sat Apr 1st Reader Phillip Meek//Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett//Cleaning Judy Upton

Ararat Roster

Sun Mar 19th Welcomer Teresa G//Facilitator Cathy McA//Reader Peter B//Euch Min Charlie R
Sun Mar 26th Welcomer Sr Maree//Facilitator Charlie R//Reader Teresa G/Euch Min Mary C

Stawell Roster

Sun 19th Mar S/Minister M Howard// Reader J Van Diesen// Offertory L Habben
Sun 26th Mar S/Minister H Potter// Reader D O'Donnell// Offertory Heenan Family
Sun 2nd Apr S/Minister J Van Diesen// Reader C Barker// Offertory Pascual Family

Stella Young Statue Unveiling - Community Invitation

The community is invited to the Remembering Stella Young Statue Unveiling on 30 March 2023 at 2.15pm at Cato Park. This event will also be livestreamed. Please keep an eye out on the Northern Grampians Shire Council socials for the link.

Easter Schedule

Holy Thursday Ararat 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Good Friday Stawell 3pm Passion
Holy Saturday Lake Bolac Easter Vigil 6.30pm
Easter Sunday Ararat 8.30am // Stawell 10.30am // Landsborough 12.30pm

Other Prayers on Good Friday

Stawell 11.30am "A walk through the Easter Story" in the Stawell Town hall carpark garden. BYO chair optional.
Ararat 11am - Anglican Stations of the Cross Alexander Gardens, Ararat.
Ararat 3pm Anglican Church Passion.

Easter Sunday - 9th April. Dawn Service on Stawell's Big Hill. Beginning at 6.30am, followed by a breakfast in the Uniting Church hall.

Concert & Community Sing-Along

To raise funds for the victims of the earthquake in Turkey & Syria Sunday 26th March 3pm at the Anglican Church 47 Main Street Stawell. Refreshments will follow. Everyone welcome.

Mass of the Oils 2023

All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils to be held on Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall.

Türkiye-Syria Earthquake Disaster

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake has unleashed devastation on Türkiye and Syria. Over 50,000 people have been killed, with many more injured and left homeless. 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 Türkiye 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.

Vinnies (Victoria) Back to School Appeal

More than 1 million Victorian students headed back to – or started – school this year. For a rising number of their families, it's getting harder to find the funds to ensure that their children have everything they need in order to learn and grow. The Vinnies Education (Back-to-School) Appeal – which launched on February 1 – is needed now more than ever. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/back-to-school-appeal-vic-2023>

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice

This year's walk will call for Justice for Refugees: Permanent visas for all, fair processes and income support for people who are seeking recognition as refugees. While the change of government at the federal election last year has brought hope for more compassionate policies, thousands of refugees and people seeking asylum are still in limbo waiting for certainty about their future. Walk with us this Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 1.00pm for a group reflection and prayer led by Fr Andy Hamilton SJ, with the official Walk for Justice music and speeches starting around 1.30pm. Meet at the far right side of the State Library of Victoria (near the Joan of Arc statue and next to Little Lonsdale Street – you'll see a large 'CAPSA', 'Jesuit Social Services' or 'Xavier Social Justice Network' or 'CSSV' banner). If you have any questions, please get in touch with Maeve at CAPSA, email info@capsa.org.au.

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.

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.**

Project Compassion Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 18 & 19, 2023

Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation's Young Mums and Bubs Group, supported by Caritas Australia, supports young women in the community with practical support like housing and helps mentor the next generation of young people. The work of Baabayn involves initiatives such as a Homework Club, a Young Mums and Bubs program and a youth group. They also provide advocacy, counselling services and links to government departments. With your support, the work of Baabayn can continue to work with young mothers at Baabayn Aboriginal Corporation and help them keep their culture strong for future generations. Please donate to Project Compassion 2023. 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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close



Being born blind and then suddenly being able to see must be an incredible experience. But it proved to be a mixed blessing for the man in this story. He was accused of being an impostor by his neighbours, a sinner and an upstart by the authorities who disowned him. Being 'enlightened' by Jesus has its risks. Given the opportunity, would the man return to his unenlightened condition for the sake of a quiet life? Surely not: once he had experienced the touch of heaven there was no going back.