



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 55:10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Thus says the Lord: 'As the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 64:10-14. R. Lk 8:8

(R.) The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

1. You care for the earth, give it water, you fill it with riches. Your river in heaven brims over to provide its grain. (R.)
2. And thus you provide for the earth; you drench its furrows, you level it, soften it with showers, you bless its growth. (R.)
3. You crown the year with your goodness. Abundance flows in your steps, in the pastures of the wilderness it flows. (R.)
4. The hills are girded with joy, the meadows covered with flocks, the valleys are decked with wheat. They shout for joy, yes, they sing. (R.)

Second Reading

Rom 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
I think that what we suffer in this life can never be compared to the glory, as yet unrevealed, which is waiting for us. The whole creation is eagerly waiting for God to reveal his sons. It was not for any fault on the part of creation that it was made unable to attain its purpose, it was made so by God; but creation still retains the hope of being freed, like us, from its slavery to decadence, to enjoy the same freedom and glory as the children of God. From the beginning till now the entire creation, as we know, has been groaning in one great act of giving birth; and not only creation, but all of us who possess the first-fruits of the Spirit, we too groan inwardly as we wait for our bodies to be set free.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower; all who come to him will live for ever.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus left the house and sat by the lakeside, but such crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat there. The people all stood on the beach, and he told them many things in parables.

He said, 'Imagine a sower going out to sow. As he sowed, some seeds fell on the edge of the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Others fell on patches of rock where they found little soil and sprang up straight away, because there was no depth of earth; but as soon as the sun came up they were scorched and, not having any roots, they withered away. Others fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Others fell on rich soil and produced their crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Listen, anyone who has ears!'



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 gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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Mass Times

Ararat Sunday 8.30am
Stawell Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac 1st 3rd 5th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough 2nd 4th Sundays 12.30pm
Glenthompson (Hamilton Parish) 2nd 4th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

July 23rd, 2023
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Wis12:13.16-19/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-30

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

Recent Deaths Ian McIntosh

Anniversaries

Barbara McCubbin, Fr Coley McKenzie, Leonard Krohn 2001, Thomas Jess 2005, Kevin Cross 2013, Jack Ryan, Maurizio Cannata, Michael McRae, Vera McAloon, Maureen McMaster, Jean Thomas, Michael Rowe, Liston Garrett 1948, Andrew Gambetta 1960, Alice Nicholson 1975, Peter Moran 1976, Douglas Tozer 1987, James Morris 1992, Joseph Noonan, David O'Connor, Margaret Morris, Bernice Austin 1980, Guesepina Musumeci 1998, Eileen Cooper 2009. Anne Bates, Ellen Devery 2002, Vince Gemmola, Robert Oliver, Laurie Walsh, Brian Molony, Norma Schwab, Rem Pezzutti, Heinz Helmich, Frances Miller, Arthur Oates 1943, Charles Hooper 1956, Joan Ryan 2001. Fr Bill O'Connell, Helen Grano, Helen Stevens, George Driscoll, Russell McLean, Patricia Gilliand 2005, Faith Murphy nee Murray 1987.

Pray for the Sick Please Pray for Sally Rook

Golden Gate Roster Sun 16th July Jim & Jan/Sun 23rd July Harry & Anna/ Sun 30th July Margaret/Sun 6th Aug Elizabeth/
Sun 13th Aug Jim & Jan/Sun 20th Aug Harry & Anna

Lake Bolac Roster Sat July 15th Reader Rosemary Liston// Prayers of Faithful Phillip Meek
Sat July 29th Reader Helen Smith// Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldous

Ararat Roster Sun July 16th Welcomer Genaro //Facilitator Cathy McA//Reader Jan C //Euch Min Jim C
Sun July 23rd Welcomer Rosalie N //Facilitator Harry//Reader Charlie R//Euch Min Anna C
Sun July 30th Welcomer Rosie//Facilitator Peter Bren// Reader Kath L//Euch Min Marg M

Stawell Roster Sun July 16th S/Minister Kath Ashton // Reader Lesley Morgan / Offertory P Gooden & G Pascall
Sun July 23rd S/Minister Mary Rita Thomas // Reader D O'Donnell / Offertory J Croton
Sun July 30th S/Minister Marg Rowe // Reader Kevin Dallinger / Offertory L Habben

Stawell CWL Stawell CWL will be hosting a cuppa after Sunday Mass, everyone welcome.

Stawell CWL Stawell CWL will be meeting in the St Pats hall on Tuesday 18th at 11.30am

Stawell St Vincent de Paul Stawell St Vincent de Paul will be meeting in the St Pats Hall on Monday 17th at 2pm

Planned Giving A reminder, to please use the new envelopes.

Bring your coat this Sunday - St. Patrick's in Stawell is likely to be without power on Sunday 16th July. Suggestion: bring your hat and coat and wooly undies. Not sure what to wear when it's cold at Mass? Ask the Ararat people.

Mass in the Parish Centre

It is anticipated that we will have Mass in the Parish Centre in Ararat until the end of Winter. Happy to hear your comments.

Filipino Choir

Thanks to everyone who sang and played at Mass in Ararat last Sunday. Good job!

Baptist Funeral

Irene Gould has expressed her thanks to the parish for making St Patrick's Church available for the funeral of Anne Howlett this week. Thanks everyone for this sharing of God's kingdom.

Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR decreed the establishment of a new parish in the diocese on July 1, 2023 – the Parish of Saints Anne and Joachim, Sunraysia. The newly established parish will comprise the territory that belonged to the parishes of Merbein (est. 1965), Mildura (est. 1906) and Red Cliffs (est. 1953). More information available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pnews/parish-of-saints-anne-and-joachim-sunraysia/>

Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre (MMHC) Open Day

MMHC are holding an open day on Saturday July 29, 2023 from 10am-4pm. Hourly tours from 10am. More information and bookings at: <https://www.mmhc.org.au/open-house-melbourne-at-mmhc/>

CatholicCare Victoria Winter Appeal

At CatholicCare Victoria we help individuals, families and communities access the care and support they need, when they need it most. We believe everyone deserves the safety and comfort a home can provide. This winter, you can support people in need of a place to call home. Donate now!

<https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/16/winter-appeal>

Indigenous Voice to Parliament

NATSICC, with the help of Jesuit Social Services, have developed a kitchen table conversation (KTC) guide to assist people - in parishes, families, groups of friends, teams/workplaces or volunteer groups - to reflectively consider the question the referendum will put to us. The 'KTC' Guide can be found at <https://indigenousvoice.church/>, which CSSV and Caritas Australia supported NATSICC to put together. The website also features a range of other resources, prayers and videos for consideration as part of our "One Journey, Together" project.

Catholic Social Services Webinar Series - Indigenous Voice to Parliament: Moments for healing this country

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV) and Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA) are pleased to invite you to a series of webinars to discuss the upcoming referendum on Constitutional Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Voice to Parliament on Thursday, July 27 from 4.00pm - 5.00pm (AEST) via zoom. Cost is \$12.00. CSSV and CSSA members free of charge. Register at <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1052799?eid=1052799&>. Enquiries to Kate Stilwell. Email office@css.org.au

Scriptural context – A Parable Chapter

The gospel of Matthew is nothing if not a well-crafted and highly structured piece of writing. Throughout the gospel there are five major 'discourses' or teachings. Chapter 13, which consists entirely of a collection of parables, is the central discourse of the five. It is the pivotal point of the entire gospel. The nature of the parables indicates that the message of Jesus has not been universally accepted and the parables present metaphors about the consequences for those who do and do not accept the message of Jesus about the reign of God.

Living the Gospel – Scatter that seed!

The teaching of the parable of the sower is as true for us today as it was in its original context. The word of the kingdom continues to fall on people who are at various stages of readiness to receive it. What Jesus suggests to his disciples – and to us – is that the 'good soil' can't always be predicted. Jesus doesn't tell his disciples to only sow the word in people who are receptive. Rather, he wants them – and us – to scatter the word everywhere and to rejoice when it does find good soil and yields a rich harvest.

Reflection by Artist

Jesus tells the parable of the sower whose grain fell on a path, on rocky ground, among thorns and finally on good soil where it thrived. It was only the last lot of seeds that survived, but they were all part of the one sowing. Jesus was alluding to the success (or not) of his message; but we can read it as a metaphor for our faith journey, which goes through all the experiences mentioned above – bad times and good. Sometimes our spiritual experience gets swallowed up by our consuming worldly interests, sometimes it can feel shallow and dry, at other times it gets choked by all the negativity in life and then there are the times when it thrives. All these experiences are a real part of our faith life and the fertile moments help us to weather the rest.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Creation Set Free

Here is Jesus telling another story about nature, in this case about soil good enough to bear a crop. Is he just a keen observer of the farmers of his time? No. Throughout the Gospels there is a harmony between Jesus and the natural creation of a profound kind. But St Paul intuited that link at a profound level in the case of the Risen Lord. This led him to make the most amazing claim that: 'The creation itself would be set free from its slavery to decay in order to share the freedom associated with the glory of the children of God.' We, and the whole cosmos, share the legacy of a common destiny brought about by the powerful victory of Christ over the final instance of decay, destruction and every type of death. We could pause a moment to pray with the angels as we do at every Mass: 'Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.'



REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

This farmer who is sowing doesn't seem to have much of a plan. There isn't an organised effort to prepare all the soil so that none of the seed is wasted. It's just thrown all over the place, with the hope that some of it will fall on good soil and grow. Do you think that is a good strategy for a farmer whose life depends upon successfully growing things? Why or why not?

Why do you think God throws out seed to bad soil as well as to good soil?

If our job is to spread the message of God, should we have a plan that is more dependable than this farmer's plan? Why or why not? What might such a plan look like?

Even if we are very deliberate about where we 'sow the seeds' of God's message, we can't always control how people will receive it.

Do you think it is better to aim for just the good soil, so that we mainly bring the message to people who are ready to listen to it? Why or why not?

Do you think it is better to spend some time working the soil, so that dry, rocky or thorny areas might become more fertile and ready to accept the seed? Why or why not?

Not only are we asked to bring the seed of God's word to others, we are also asked to receive the seed of God's word from others.

When do you feel like the good soil, fertile and waiting for God's word to come to you and bring you new life?

When do you feel like dry, rocky or thorny soil, not ready for God's word to grow within you?