



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday December 3rd, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B

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 **Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god, but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19 R. v.4**

(R.) Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

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

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are

waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 84:8

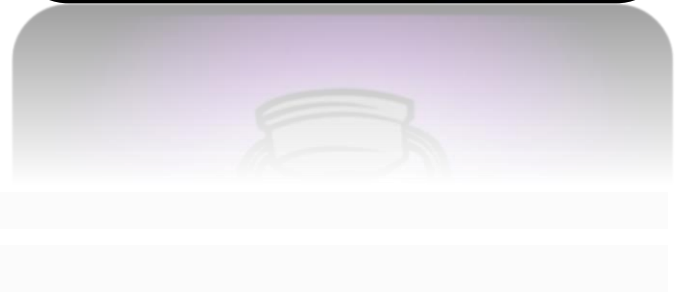
Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'



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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Parish Office 304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm
Phone 03 5352 5460
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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

10th Dec 2023
Second Sunday of Advent Year B
Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11/ 2 Peter 3:8-14/ Mark 1:1-8

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

December Roster

Tues Dec 5th, 7pm Mass for those who have Died this year in Ararat (usually held in November)
Sat Dec 16th Reconciliation Lake Bolac Dec 16th during Mass
Tues Dec 19th Reconciliation 5pm Stawell / 6.30pm Ararat
Fri Dec 22nd Carols and Supper in Ararat Parish Centre

Christmas Eve Roster Sunday 24 December

8.30am	Ararat (Mass)	10.30am	Stawell (Mass)
12.30pm	Landsborough (Christmas Mass)	6pm	Stawell (Christmas Mass with Carols at 5.30pm)
7.30pm	Ararat (Christmas Mass)	9.15pm	Lake Bolac (Christmas Mass)

Anniversaries

Thomas Kennedy, Stanislaus Cronin, William Carter, Klara Pashula, Angus McLean 1981, Mary Tozer 1999, Kathleen Smith, George Cunningham, Donald Dalglish, Les Hunt, Maureen Pyke 2001, Sr. Genevieve Fitzpatrick, James Sertori, Terry Phillips, Ireneo Torrecampo, William Davies, Eddie Walls, John Presser, Sr Elizabeth McGovern CSB, Mary Rix, Richard Alabacos, Lucas O'Callaghan 2009, Michael Healy 1953, Mons. Bill McCunnie, Matt Brennan, Jenny Sharman, Monica Fitzpatrick, Phyllis Brown, Michael Gavin 2004, Evelyn Sladdin 2019, Ellen Mullins, Patrick Mullins, Maura Brown, Nel Wagener, Bernard Joyce, Thomas Pollock 1969, Lawrence Rutter 1970, William Kinsella 2011.

Golden Gate Roster Sun Dec 3rd Teresa/Dec 10th Elizabeth

Lake Bolac Roster
Sat Dec 2nd Reader Denise Haslett/Prayers of Faithful Mick Brennan/Cleaning Tricia Higgins
Sat Dec 16th Reader Deb Glasson/ Prayers of Faithful Damian Phillips
Sun Dec 24th TBA
Sun Dec 30th Reader Mick Brennan/ Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins

Ararat Roster
Sun Dec 3rd Facilitator Teresa /Reader Harry C/Euch Min Marg M
Sun Dec 10th Facilitator Pat McA /Reader Jenny McA/Euch Min Anna C
Sun Dec 17th Facilitator Cathy McA /Reader Pat L/Euch Sr John
Sun Dec 24th 8.30am TBA
Sun Dec 24th 7.30pm TBA

Stawell Roster
Sun Dec 3rd S/Minister M Howard /Reader C Barker/ Offertory L Habben
Sun Dec 10th S/Minister K Ashton /Reader J Van Diesen/ Offertory M McGaffin
Sun Dec 17th S/Minister M R Thomas/Reader K Dallinger/ Offertory Pasqual Family
Sun Dec 24th 10.30am S/Minister K Ashton/Reader M R Thomas/ Offer M McGaffin
Sun Dec 24th 6pm S/Minister M Maestros /Reader K Dallinger/ Offertory G Pascall

St Bernard's Lake Bolac - The congregation has raised \$1100 at their recent finger food supper. This money will be sent to Indian to help with the charitable works of the mission we support. Many thanks to everyone for their generosity.

St Bernard's Lake Bolac - A box will be placed at the back of the church for donations of non-perishable food items, to assist with the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal.

Christmas Cards by St Mary's Students The students at St Mary's have participated in a competition to make Christmas Cards. To help raise money for the St Vinnies Christmas Appeal and Art supplies for the school, the cards will be on sale from the school and after Church on Sundays in Ararat. \$10 for 10 cards

Stawell CWL are selling **Christian Christmas Cards** and **Columban Calendars** in the St Pat's church hall after Sunday Masses. \$10 for a pack of 10 cards. Profits to Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage Christmas distribution to those in need in our town and region."

Stawell CWL is hosting the **St Pat's Parish Christmas lunch** at The Gift Hotel on Tuesday 5th Dec at Noon. Everyone welcome for a jolly time. RSVP to Mary Rita in person, or ring or text 0438 836 180, or email gmrt@netspace.net.au by Sunday 3rd Dec."

Do you know anyone who is doing it tough and would like help at Christmas? Please ask them to come to our Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage at 20 Sloane St in November on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 10:30am – 12:30pm and put their name down for our Christmas distribution. "Christmas is an especially stressful time for those in need in our local community. Last Christmas Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage and St Vincent de Paul helped 138 households, made up of 198 adults, 51 kids aged 14-18 and 147 children aged 13 years and younger have a happier Christmas. If you are able, could you please support us in this year's Christmas distribution by putting a cash donation into our donation box in the Church? Help us help those in need this Christmas."

There will be an Ecumenical Christmas choir and it will be singing on Friday 15th Dec in the Main Street and again at the Stawell Community Carols that night at 6pm. The choir is looking for voices and everyone is welcome. Practice is in the Uniting Church at 4pm on Thursdays 7 and 14 Dec.

Stawell Community Carols – Friday 15th December, 2023 6pm – 9.30pm at the Stawell Entertainment Centre.

CatholicCare Giving Tree Appeal

This Christmas, we want to give young people and their families the support they need, so that they can enjoy their Christmas together rather than face the tough times alone. CatholicCare Victoria believes families should never have to choose between seeking help for their kids or putting food on the table. To donate go to <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/campaign/donate/19/giving-tree-appeal>

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal

Aussie families are struggling with the escalating cost of living crisis this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

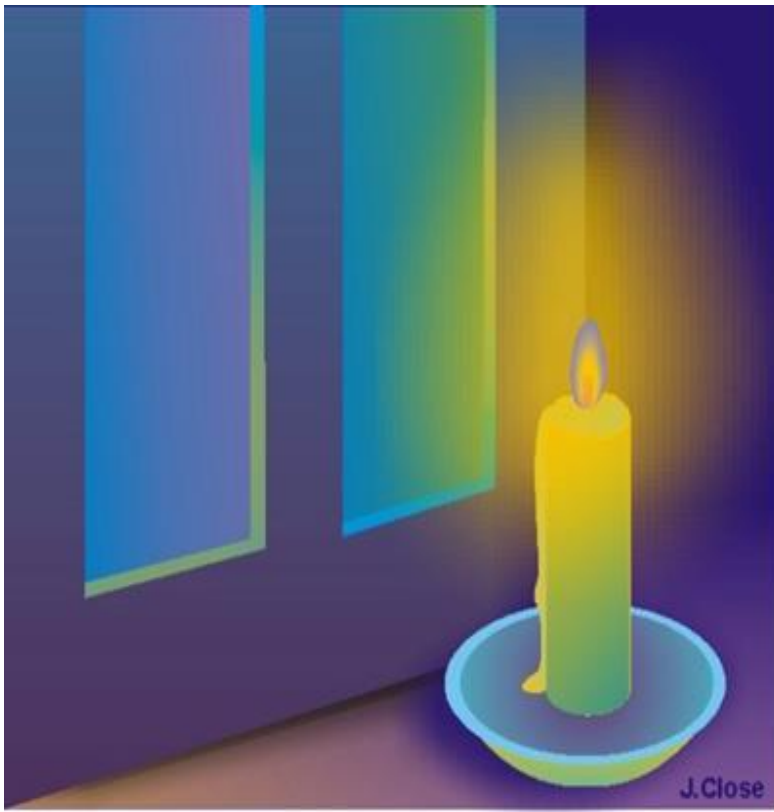
Caritas Australia Ceasefire Petition - Stop the humanitarian crisis in Gaza

Every day in Gaza, more people are being killed. People are suffering without access to aid, proper healthcare and humanitarian assistance. A path to peace and justice for all must be prioritised. Human dignity must be upheld, and human suffering must stop. Join the call to Foreign Minister Penny Wong for an immediate ceasefire and increase humanitarian assistance in Gaza. Learn more and sign the petition at <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/ceasefire-now/>

International Volunteer Day - December 5: Prayer of the Faithful

For all volunteers in our parish, that they may be acknowledged and appreciated for their commitment to serve God and their neighbour, we pray to the Lord.

Reverend Clive Morgan was completing his homily in St John's Church about the dangers of alcohol and the need for moderation and temperance. He announced at the end of the sermon in a loud, clear voice, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." With even greater emphasis he added, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." Finally, he intoned in an extremely serious manner, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." The Reverend Morgan then sat down. Jerry, St John's leading chorister stood up and announced with a smile, "For our closing hymn this Sunday, let us sing together hymn number 109: Shall We Gather at the River."



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Reflection by Artist

Advent is a waiting time and a time of change in our world. In Southern lands trees are budding and fruiting, the air is fresh and warm and the sky is blue. In the North the leaves are showing autumn colour, the nights are getting colder and winter is edging in. Things are changing, but the changes can take us by surprise if we are not alert and looking for them. The natural cycle echoes the Advent mystery: we wait in hope for the coming of the Kingdom, for the end time, for the completion of creation. That is the grand plan and the long view, but there is something a little more pedestrian here. After all, the Kingdom is among us now and it can be observed at work in our world. It shows in the ebb and flow of our lives and we need to pay attention to these changes, just as we watch and respond to the changes in nature. Jesus urges us to 'stay awake' so that when the changes come we will be prepared. So keep a candle burning, the door ajar, and be on the alert 'because you never know when the time will come'.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate **Timely Living and the End of History**

Our Lord portrays himself as the Master who goes away on a journey. It is certain that he will return, even if no-one in his household knows exactly when. That is *our* situation. What do we do in anticipation? Our Lord, the Master, indicates we have a choice. We can close our eyes and enter into the world of dreams where we create our own fantasy futures, or we can stay awake and alert to do what Our Lord wants us to do: 'He left his *servants* in charge, giving to each his work.' You and me – his servants – have a particular role or work in and for this phase of human history. A deep down intuition, prompted by the Holy Spirit, indicates what this is. We must be true to this assignment. We could take a moment to pray that, when the Lord returns, we may hear: 'Come, good and *faithful* servant, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world.'

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today's readings contain several images: the faithfulness of those who suffer, even as they lament their predicament; the admonition to watch and wait; the expectation of the coming of the Day of the Lord. As trustees of the one who is coming, we live in the 'in between' time of ambiguity and hope. The placement of these readings at the beginning of Advent shapes the context for understanding the entire season. They fix our gaze on the world of human pain and then moves beyond it to the hope of a brighter future. Lamentation and expectation find fulfilment in the Day of the Lord. Waiting is a prominent image this Sunday. Some people wait to be released from suffering, others await the second coming of Christ. Waiting saps our energies and stifles our enthusiasm. Yet wait we must, and as we wait, we wonder: 'What should I be doing?' The readings suggest that we should wait with patient expectation for the day of reconciliation and peace; we should wait in joyful hope that what is to come will come soon. While we wait, we should faithfully fulfil our responsibilities. We believe that we have a future worth waiting for, that there are promises that God will keep. And so we look expectantly to the Day of the Lord, that future day of ultimate fulfilment.



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

It is hard to be the clay and to let God be the potter. That's like praying, 'Whatever you ask of me, God, I'm willing to do it. I'm all yours. Point the way, and I'm walking it.' It is easier to be the potter and want God to be the clay. That's like praying, 'God, please do this and do that; please give me this and give me that.' When did you pray as if you were the potter? What happened? How did you feel? Did you ever pray as if you were the clay? If so, what happened? How did you feel? If not, why not? What might happen? And how could you feel? What is the hardest challenge God might ask you to accept? What is so hard about it?