



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday November 19th, 2023

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME A

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 Proverbs 31:10-13. 19-20. 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

A perfect wife – who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 127:1-5. R. v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord.

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)

2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)

3. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

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

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night

or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Gospel Acclamation John 15:4. 5

Alleluia, alleluia!

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.

Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25:14-15. 19-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir", he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."



Parish Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest Fr. Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@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

26th Nov 2023
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe Year A
Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17/ 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28/ Matthew 25:31-46

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

Enid Dower, Allan Hewitt, Evelyn Moloney, Hugh Monaghan 1957, Grace Schwab, Irene Wilson, Annie Bone 1978, Hughie Lees, Wilham Parker, Fr Nik Serzants, Margaret Streeter 1999, Alan John Howlett, Ray Gellie, Tom O'Neill, Elma Upton, Mervyn Sherring, Lillian Krause 1966, Brian Molan 1974, Irene Prydderch, Jean Cunningham, Arthur Morrison, Janine Shalders, Brian Clothier, Margaret Ralph, Grene Prydderch 1960, Monica McDonald 2002, Margaret Giles 2018, Peter Carter, Margaret Brady, Margaret Darcy, Fr Mick Kehoe, Dorothy Woodford, Lillian Marshall, Bill Gordon, Michael Parker, Tim Joyce, B Harris 1972,, Bryan Coffey, Jack Rathgeber 2010, Ursula Riley,

Recent Deaths

Gwen Breen

Golden Gate Roster

Sun Nov 19th Jim & Jan/Sun 26th Nov Harry & Anna/Sun Dec 3rd Teresa

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Nov 18th Reader Val Albert/ Prayers of Faithful Deb Glasson
Sat Dec 2nd Reader Denise Haslett/Prayers of Faithful Mick Brennan/Cleaning Tricia Higgins

Ararat Roster

Sun Nov 19th Facilitator Peter B/Reader Sr John/Euch Min Charlie R
Sun Nov 26th Facilitator Rebecca R /Reader Elizabeth S/Euch Min Marg Olle

Stawell Roster

Sun Nov 19th S/Minister M Howard/ Reader J Van Diesen/ Offertory P Gooden/ G Pascall
Sun Nov 26th S/Minister Mary Rita Thomas Reader Lesley Morgan/ Offertory J Croton

Stawell St Vincent de Paul will meet in the St Pat's Church Hall this Monday 20th at 2pm.

Stawell CWL will be hosting a Cuppa after Sunday Mass this weekend. Everyone welcome.

Stawell CWL is selling **Christian Christmas cards** 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."

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

Arrangements While Fr Andrew is on Annual Leave

Fr Andrew will be on annual leave from November 6 to December 1. During this time the office will still be staffed and the phone will still be monitored. Fr Peter Hudson will be available to fill in on a limited basis.

Arrangements for Sunday Masses

November 18/19 Mass as usual with Fr Peter Hudson / November 25/26 Sunday Assemblies in the absence of a priest

Arrangements for 10am Tuesday Weekday Prayers in Stawell

Tues 21st Morning Prayers led by Lesley Morgan / Tues 28th Rosary led by Marg Rowe / Tues Dec 5 Fr Andrew will be back - Mass as usual.

Arrangements for Weekday Prayers in Ararat

Friday 11am each week will be prayers and Wednesday Aged Care Masses will be prayers .

Arrangements for Funerals

Fr Peter Hudson will mostly be available on Fridays and Mondays. Funerals on other days will be lead by our funeral ministry volunteers.

December Roster

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



Christmas Eve Roster

Sunday 24 December

8.30am	Ararat	(simple Mass)
10.30am	Stawell	(simple 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)

World Day of the Poor – Sunday, November 19, 2023

The call to serve the poor has been greatly emphasised under the papacy of Pope Francis, who established the World Day of the Poor in 2017. The Holy Father's message for 2023 is "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor" (Tob 4:7). The Church is encouraged to "go forth", beyond its own walls, to encounter poverty "in the multiple meanings in which it manifests itself in today's world."

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Significant Catholic Person/People from your Parish

In preparation for the Ballarat Diocese's 150 year Anniversary in 2024, the anniversary committee for the Mass of the Oils are searching for 1 or 2 significant Catholics from your parish for a display to be presented in the Hall after the Mass of the Oils on Monday, March 25, 2024. This could be a well-known person who has achieved success in their chosen field or it could be someone who has left a legacy in your parish, as a benefactor, contributor or historian. Please provide names and supporting information and photo to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au before February 5, 2024.

Making a Scene at Christmas

Over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed at the Bridge Mall Ballarat and at the Catholic Diocesan Archives from Tuesday, December 5 – Friday, December 22, 2023. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica); nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Schools can book for an educational experience. For more information on the Ballarat Bridge Mall display, please contact Fiona Tonkin Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Every one welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation.

Appointment of Vicar General – Diocese of Ballarat

Hello Everyone, In a message on October 30, I advised that, because of health concerns, Fr Kevin Maloney would be retiring from the responsibilities of Vicar General. I renew my thanks to Fr Kevin for his service in this role. I am now pleased to announce that I have appointed **Fr Marcello Colasante** to be the new Vicar General of our Diocese. Fr Marcello will continue in his service as Parish Priest of Ballarat North and Wendouree. He will begin in the role of Vicar General on November 20. I am very grateful to Fr Marcello for his generosity in accepting this additional role. God bless you all. Bishop Paul.

Gospel Reflection

This week's gospel is a very familiar parable and one that is often used with students and young people. It is generally used as an encouragement to make the most of the gifts and skills that the listeners possess. It is rarely, however, placed in its context as part of the full Chapter 25 lesson about the time of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord and the Christian life. Again, the story is presented as a parable of the Kingdom – a glimpse into the right order of things in the realised Kingdom. A very wealthy master entrusts his considerable assets to his servants to manage in his absence. The three servants were allocated money, 'each in proportion to his ability'. The emphasis of the parable is on what each servant did with the funds they were allotted. They were charged with managing the money in the place of their master; acting in their master's place to further develop his wealth.

Like all of Jesus' parables, this one has a sting in the tail. Although the third servant has done nothing illegal or corrupt, he is very harshly dealt with. His crime is laziness! He was given a great opportunity to demonstrate his abilities and yet he shied away and returned to his master exactly what had been entrusted to him, unimproved. The author of Matthew's gospel uses this parable to shock the audience out of complacency. They cannot rely solely on the promised return of the Lord; they must continue to act on Jesus' message and work to bring about the Kingdom in their own lives. Those who fail to act, leaving everything to the work of God, are as bad as the lazy servant who failed to grasp an extraordinary opportunity.

Gospel Focus – Such a talent!

In its original usage, a 'talent' was a measure of weight. It came to designate a weight measure of silver. One talent was roughly equivalent to a labourer's wages for 10 years. It was a huge amount of money! Due largely to the reference in this gospel parable the word eventually came to its more common meaning of a special natural ability. Although in its original use in the gospel, 'talent' meant nothing more than a large sum of money, it is a happy development of language that makes this scripture passage such a favourite of teachers and retreat providers!



Living the Gospel – Bring forth the Kingdom.

Like the original audience of Matthew's gospel, we can sometimes rely too much on God to bring about the Kingdom in our world. Like the lazy servant in the gospel, we can fall into the trap of handing the world back to God in the same condition that we received it. We have to make a difference in the world! We are called to change the world and bring it closer to the realisation of the Kingdom. The only way that we can do that it is to live our lives as if the Kingdom is already here.

Different View – 'To everyone who has will be given more.'

The parable of the talents is sometimes misused to validate an overemphasis on material wealth in many Western societies. There can be an attitude that says 'more is better'; that possessions are a sign of success. Such advocates point to the favour bestowed on the servants who doubled their money and the punishment dealt to the lazy servant who simply returned to his master what he was given. Proponents of the increasingly popular 'gospel of prosperity' hold that God wants Christians to be materially and financially rich and that their wealth is proof of God's love. This stands in stark contrast to Jesus' vision of the Kingdom.