



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday December 31st, 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH 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

Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
The Lord honours the father in his children and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127:1-5. R. see v.1

(R.) Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

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.)**

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

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life! **(R.)**

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians
You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With

gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 3:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 2:22. 39-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.



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
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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
Glenhompson	(Hamilton Parish) 2 nd 4 th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

7th January 2024 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
Isaiah 60:1-6/Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6/Matthew 2:1-12

**New Year's Day Mass for January 1,
The Holy Mother of God, will be celebrated on
Tuesday in Stawell and on Friday in Ararat.**

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

1 st Wednesday	11.15am Eventide
2 nd Wednesday	11am Lowe St
3 rd Wednesday	10.30am Garden View
4 th Wednesday	10am ARVillage

Anniversaries

Timothy Weeks, Pat Brennan, Margaret Fudge 1985, Stacey Walsh 2009, Donald Sladdin 2010, Doris Tognon, Fr Paddy Bushell, John Sullivan, Evie Hayes, Matthew Sullivan, Edward Mulcahy, Peter Carthew OAM, Teresa Devery 1954, William Thomas Foo 1983, Michael William Habben, Kath Schwab, Fr Pat Culligan, Peter Sinnott, James Sinnott, Fred Mason, Kathleen McLeod, Mary O'Neill, Shane Walls, Muff Joyce, Anne Handley, Joseph Colwell, Mary Pola, Peter Williams, Andrew Jackson, Bishop Joe Grech, Zsonella McGrath, Edward Phelan 1944, Alby Vendy James O'Connor, Fr. Ted Glowrey, Johanna Lannen, Winifred Hynes, Annette Mair, Bernice Clinton, Bernardino Torrecampo, Ivan Lee, Des Brennan, Dorothy Phyland, James McMahan 2000, Sr Veronica O'Brien, Bernie Moloney, Stéphanie Mitchell, Jenny Sharman, Blanche Wadsworth 1949, Mary Monaghan 1961, Glen Byron 1985.

Lake Bolac Roster

Sun Dec 30 th	Reader Mick Brennan/ Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins
Sat Jan 6 th	Reader Damien Phillips/Prayers of Faithful Helen Smith/Cleaning Judy Upton
Sat Jan 20 th	Reader Leanne Breen/ Prayers of Faithful Jane Higgins
Sat Feb 3 rd	Reader Rosemary Liston/Praters of Faithful Phillip Meek/Cleaning Jane Higgins
Sat Feb 17 th	Reader Helen Smith/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldouss

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Ararat Roster

Sun Dec 31 st	Facilitator Pat Lardner /Reader Teresa Gemmola/Euch Min Mary C
Sun Jan 7 th	Facilitator M Olle /Reader Sr John/Euch Min Mary C
Sun Jan 14 th	Facilitator C Reid /Reader P Lardner /Euch Min M Mason
Sun Jan 21 st	Facilitator Peter B/ Reader P Brady /Euch Min Sr John
Sun Jan 28 th	Facilitator H Collins /Reader K Leggett /Euch Min Anna C
Sun Feb 4 th	Facilitator Rebecca /Reader Elizabeth S /Euch Min Mary C
Sun Feb 11 th	Facilitator Pat L /Reader Peter B /Euch Min Margaret O
Sun Feb 18 th	Facilitator Cathy McA /Reader Jan C /Euch Min Jim C

Stawell Roster

Sun Dec 31 st	S/Minister M Rowe /Reader D O'Donnell/ Offertory Heenan Family
Sun Jan 7 th	S/Minister K Ashton /Reader M Howard/ Offertory P Gooden/G Pascall
Sun Jan 14 th	S/Minister M Howard /Reader M R Thomas/ Offertory J Croton
Sun Jan 21 st	S/Minister M Maestros/Reader L Morgan/ Offertory L Habben
Sun Jan 28 th	S/Minister M Rowe /Reader k Dallinger/ Offertory M McGaffin
Sun Feb 4 th	S/Minister M R Thomas /Reader J Van Diesen/ Offertory Pasqual Family
Sun Feb 11 th	S/Minister K Ashton/Reader D O'Donnell / Offertory Heenan Family
Sun Feb 18 th	S/Minister M Maestros/Reader C Barker/ Offertory Gooden/ Pascall

Pope's intention for December – For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. Lord, hear us.

Historical Context – Ritual

The ritual of purification referred to in today's passage would take place 40 days after childbirth. It was a ritual for the mother, not the child. Mary and Joseph took the opportunity of attending the Temple to bring Jesus into the presence of God who, according to tradition, dwelt in the Temple. The tradition associated with this purification of women after childbirth dictated that a lamb and a turtledove or pigeon be sacrificed. However, for the poor, an extra turtledove or pigeon could be substituted for the lamb. This fact gives us an indication of the status of Mary and Joseph.

Scriptural context – Fulfilling prophecy

The writer of the gospel of Luke uses this presentation event to announce or forecast the ministry of Jesus. The explicit identification of the poverty of Mary and Joseph is an indicator of the emphasis that Jesus will give to the poor throughout his ministry. The gospel writer also makes plain the link between the Temple (the Jewish tradition) and the ministry of Jesus. Tying these events into the prophecies of both Simeon and Anna reinforce the prophetic nature of this whole episode. Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as the fulfilment of the prophecies of scripture.

Living the Gospel – Faithful

A strong image that emerges from this passage is the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph. Their whole purpose in visiting the Temple is to fulfil the requirements of their faith. They are faithful to the Jewish tradition and it is into this tradition that they initiate Jesus. The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph is a hallmark of their life as a family. Their faithfulness is a significant element of what we celebrate in the feast of the Holy Family and their faithfulness to God and to one another is a model for all families and for all people.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In an era when so much talk is devoted to the discussion of family values, the readings for this feast offer significant challenge. Those who believe in Christ, while still adhering to certain cultural codes of conduct, are asked to consider new and ever more balanced ways of relating. In view of their lives as Christians, parents and children, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters must all be embraced as equal members of the household of God.

While it is important that children of all ages honour their parents, the caring relationship of adult children for aging parents is vital in a time of mobility, nursing homes, and the lack of extended families. From God's perspective, loving care of aged members is non-negotiable. It is a family virtue that is to be kept sacred.

Wisdom comes with time and experience. Such wisdom is a source of blessing, for it provides insight and a perspective that allows the community to know the mystery and the presence of God. When the wisdom of the elderly is respected, the young are enriched by the stories of the past. Wisdom figures can point the community to places where God is working and where the divine can be found. It is their respect for tradition that allows the elderly to speak the prophetic words that can change the course of the future and inspire noble deeds of courage in the face of great pain. In reverencing the elderly and their wisdom, the community of believers receive Christ.

Happy New Year

A priest buys a lawn mower at a yard sale. Back home, he pulls on the starter rope a few times with no results. He storms back to the yard sale and tells the previous owner, "I can't get the mower to start!" "That's because you have to curse to get it started," says the man. "I'm a man of the cloth. I don't even remember how to curse." "You keep pulling on that rope, and it'll come back to you."

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist

In his account of the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Luke has painstakingly woven evocative colours and images from the Old Testament around the more mundane elements of the story. The child Jesus is set like a jewel in a lush embroidery of prophecy, miracles and tradition. Even so, there is still a human child here: Jesus has a mum and a dad and an unremarkable early life journey in which he grows in wisdom and grace.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

The Liberation of Women

In today's Gospel, Mary, having given birth, is regarded as ritually unclean. She could not take part in public worship until she was 'purified'. This involved offering up a couple of pigeons which she and Joseph had to buy. No wonder that, at the Cleansing of the Temple, Jesus shatters the cages in which the pigeons were kept! He was angry with a Temple system which saw Mary that way, which thought of all women giving birth that way. Indeed, his whole ministry is full of instances when women breach religious and cultural taboos in his presence, because of his presence. This Feast of the Holy Family gives us the opportunity to thank God for our mothers who, like Mary, helped fulfil God's plan for humankind by birthing us into the world. We could pause for a moment to pray that the Church changes rules and structures which confine women in cages built from ideologies foreign to the Gospel, lest those rules become swords which pierce Mary's soul.



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

No doubt Mary and Joseph were surprised and pleased, and perhaps even a bit spooked, when these complete strangers approached them at the Temple to praise their baby. Have your parents (step-parent, grandparent, guardian) ever been surprised and pleased, or even spooked, when someone else came and told them some wonderful thing about you? What was it? What do you do that your parents are proud of? Just as parents love to hear good things about their sons and daughters, they also love to hear good things *from* their sons and daughters. In what way can you affirm your parents (step-parent, grandparent, guardian) about their role in your life? Besides Mother's Day or Father's Day or a birthday, when do you take time to really express your love and appreciation for your parents as people, and for their sacrifices and their parenting?

Wishing you all a happy and safe 2024