



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday April 28th, 2024

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 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 Acts of the Apostles 9:26-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus. The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 21:26-28. 30-32. R. v.26

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.

1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, those who seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. (R.)
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: 'These things the Lord has done.' (R.)

Second Reading 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of St John

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us,

because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

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

John 15:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it.

It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'



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
Parish Email gariwerd@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 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

5TH May 2024
Acts of the Apostles 10:25-26. 34-35. 44-48/
1 John 4:7-10 /John 15:9-17

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

George Shea, Eric Carter, John Walters 1959, Thomas Healy 1994, Joan Byrne 1995, Jim Brennan, Colin Gleeson, Albert Stainsby, Jim Lavery, Ian Kirkham, Val Gemmola, Audrey Mary Brennan, Kathleen Purbrick, Sr Catherine O'Halloraran, Alex Murray, May Richards, Cosmos Fernando, Thomas Prydderch 1964, Baby Nicholson 1971, Ewan Cameron 1976, Catherine Kerr 1987, Tom McGrath, Len Davies, Martin Keogh, Clare Heard, Peter Sheehan, Kevin Shea, Eileen Looby 1993, Margaret Jess 1994, James Lannen, Nora Hogan, Mary Lugg, John McGuan 1945, Walter Hooper 1965, Elizabeth (Bessie) Phelan 2000, Agnes Joyce, Richard Williams, Shirley Baker, Kevin Monaghan 2014,

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat May 4th Reader Helen Smith/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldouss/ Cleaning Judy Upton
Sat May 18th Reader Tricia Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful Val Albert
Sat Jun 1st Reader Phillip Meek/ Prayers of Faithful Jane Higgins/Cleaning Jane Higgins
Sat Jun 15th Reader Leanne Breen / Prayers of Faithful Damian Phillips

Ararat Roster

Sun Apr 28th Facilitator Pat L /Reader Teresa G /Euch Min Genara O
Sun May 5th Facilitator Charlie R /Reader Peter B /Euch Min Marg M
Sun May 12th Facilitator Cathy McA /Reader Kath L /Euch Min Genaro
Sun May 19th Facilitator Elizabeth S /Reader Teresa G /Euch Min Marg O
Sun May 26th Facilitator Harry C/Reader P Brennan /Euch Min Anna C

Stawell Roster

Sun Apr 28th S/Minster H Potter /Reader J Van Diesen / Offertory Pasqual Family
Sun May 5th S/Minster M Maestros /Reader K Dallinger / Offertory Gooden/Pascall
Sun May 12th S/Minster M Howard /Reader D O'Donnell / Offertory Heenan Family
Sun May 19th S/Minster M Rowe /Reader C Barker / Offertory J Croton
Sun May 26th S/Minster K Ashton /Reader J Raeburn/ Offertory L Habben

Caritas 2024 donations from the Holy Spirit Parish Amended total an amazing \$ 5774.55
Thank you to all who made this possible.

The Stawell CWL has commissioned Kim Dallinger to make bereavement cards for our piety stall. \$4.50 each and available at our cuppas after Sunday Masses.

Do you think that you could commit to closing St Pat's Church at 5pm every Saturday? Please contact Mary Rita - 0438 836 180.

Stawell CWL will also be hosting a special cuppa after this Sunday's Mass, 28th April. Bishop Paul has invited all parishes to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Ballarat Diocese on the weekend of the 27th and 28th April with special prayers and reflections on "those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parishes and schools and the social services and health care of our diocese today." Everyone is welcome to bring along and display any physical remembrance that they have of earlier times in our parish and share a cuppa and chat about our St Pat's parish history.

The Catholic Women's League of the Ballarat Diocese will be holding a conference in the Mary McKillop/Mary Glowery Room at the Ballarat Cathedral on Thursday 23rd May between 10am and 3pm. Mass will be in the Cathedral at 12:05pm. There will be speakers from the Diocesan Archive, Catholiccare and Anna Krohn OAM. Registration by 13th May. Cost \$20 to cover morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Contact Marg Rowe – 0419 114 435 or margrowe@bigpond.com

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat celebrated in Masses THIS WEEKEND

Bishop Paul invites parishes to acknowledge the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat at Masses **THIS WEEKEND**. He has invited schools to mark the anniversary during the week of April 29 to May 3, coinciding with Catholic Education Week which was brought forward for the occasion.

Living the Gospel – Bearing fruit

The vinedresser of this passage cuts away the dead branches and prunes back those that are not bearing fruit. In what way do we bear fruit? When we strive to reach our fullest potential in whatever we do, we bear fruit. When we act out of motivation for the other person rather than ourselves, we bear fruit. When we strive to bring about the reign of God in our small part of the world, we bear fruit. Sometimes we too need to have some of our thoughts and actions pruned so that we might better bear the fruit that we are truly capable of producing.

Scriptural context – In context

The imagery that Jesus used in his parables and in extended metaphors such as the one used in this week's gospel sometimes seems a little foreign to a 21st century audience. However, the world in which Jesus lived and taught was dominated by small scale farmers and producers in an agrarian economy. His use of images such as 'shepherd', 'vine', 'tenants', 'farmers' and 'wineskins' would all have been immediately recognisable to his audience. They would also have appreciated much more than we do the subtlety of Jesus' use of such images when he twists them in an unexpected way.

Historical Context – The 'True' vine

The image of the vine has its origins in Psalm 80 where the nation of Israel is likened to a vine: 'You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.' (Ps 80:8-9) However, the people of Israel have forgotten who they are and who it was that planted them in their country – it is like the rootstock of a grafted plant has taken over and gone wild. Jesus' presence as the 'true vine' reminds them of what they are called to be.

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

The vine is the lifeline for the branches. If branches are cut off from the vine, they die. Jesus is our lifeline and he often works through the people in our life.

Who do you know that acts as an emotional lifeline for you? Who gives you life and support and strength?

The Scriptures tell us that those who live in Jesus do good work and bear much fruit—apart from Jesus, we cannot do anything worth doing. Do you know people who clearly live in Jesus and are doing good work? What are they like? How do you know they are living in Jesus? What good work do they do? How can you be more like them?

Jesus says that if his words are living within us, whatever we ask for in prayer shall be granted. What does it mean to have Jesus' words living within us? If his words are truly living within us, then what would our prayer be like?



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Today we reflect on the way salvation brings an ecclesial community into being. This community is joined to Jesus as branches are part of the vine. It is a multi-faceted community, devoted to good works and to prayer. The image of the vine and the branches is an intimate characterisation of the community of believers who share the same divine life. This community thrives on Christ's resurrected life that surges through all of its members. The early church was a multi-ethnic community. It included inhabitants from Jerusalem, Judea, Galilee, Samaria and even Damascus. Some of these people were firmly rooted in Jewish customs, others were more Greek in their culture. It was the fulfilment of the promises made so often in the past, that the saving power of God would reach the whole world. Our own ecclesial community of believers is also multi-ethnic. Where formerly parishes or liturgical assemblies might be made up of people of only one ethnic identity or economic status, today there is much greater diversity and rapid change of character. Like the early Christians, we too are often suspicious of newcomers. In the face of all of this variety, we are called to open our hearts to the various manifestations of God's power and to fashion a community that gives glory to God. Today's readings remind us that we demonstrate our love for God and for each other in the way we live. Joined to Christ as branches are part of the vine, we too are enlivened and thereby bear fruit in abundance.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist

The metaphor of the vine and branches has a hard message, but also a promise: if you are faithful to Jesus you will flourish, if not you will be rejected. This is one of the tough sayings of Jesus and one that openly declares the consequences of accepting or rejecting the message of Jesus. Fruit and fire are the images of promise and of threat in this message.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate Spiritual Drink

We are too familiar with today's gospel. Christ is the vine and we are the branches, sometimes in need of a good pruning. But God's purpose is not to produce a perfect vineyard. It is to produce a full-bodied wine at the end of history. There is a foretaste of this at every Mass. The wine we offer – 'fruit of the earth and work of human hands' – becomes the spiritual drink which best serves the purpose of our Heavenly Father. How does this happen? For the Jewish people observing an animal whose throat is cut, it is obvious that the life drains out with the blood. 'Life' and 'blood' became synonyms. So, when the Jewish Jesus says of the wine in the chalice at the Last Supper: 'This is my blood', amongst other things he is saying: 'This is my life force, this is my very life given unreservedly for you.' So, when we drink from the chalice at Holy Communion, the life of the Risen Lord courses through our bodies just as the sap of the vine courses through its branches. We share the same ultimate vitality so that our bodily existence builds into the Body of Christ. He becomes truly 'full-bodied' as the Divine Vignerone desires. We could take a moment to pray that we respond to the pruning and the tending and the pressing by our Heavenly Father so as to contribute our distinctive character to the vintage at the end of history, the spiritual drink of the Kingdom of Heaven.

