



Holy Spirit  
Parish  
Gariwerd

# Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## SECOND 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 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common. The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect. None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4. 15-18. 22-24. R. v.1

- R.)** Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.
1. Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'  
Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'  
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' **(R.)**
  2. The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds. I was punished, I was punished by the Lord, but not doomed to die. **(R.)**
  3. The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad. **(R.)**

### Second Reading 1 John 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of St John  
Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments. and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God; Jesus Christ who came by water and blood,

not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

### Gospel Acclamation John 20:29

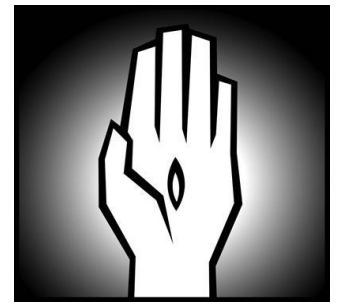
Alleluia, alleluia!  
You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy are those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

### Gospel John 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.' 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked, and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

# Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

**Parish Priest** Fr. Andrew Hayes [andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
**Parish Bulletin Online** [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) – follow link to parish  
**Secretary / Child Safe** Jill Croxford [gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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** 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat  
**Landsborough** 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 12.30pm  
**Glenthompson** (Hamilton Parish) 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 8.30am

## Readings for next Sunday

14<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15. 17-19/  
1 John 2:1-5/ Luke 24:35-48

## 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<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 11.15am Eventide  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 11am Lowe St  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 10.30am Garden View  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10am ARVillage

## Anniversaries

John Oliver, Frank Pola, Bowie Shevlin, Margaret Leigh, Tom Smith, Ben Patterson, Fr Meredith Delahenty, Brian Young, Michael Szweczuk 1982, Kevin Stewart 1986, Malcolm McKinnon 1987, Dorothy Peters 2006, Erin Hooper, Roland Wadsworth 1970, Shane Lamb 1979, Albert Gay 1999, Alida Sijmons 1986, Des Phillips, Henry Borella 1944, Alice Garrard 1985, Jean Crebbin, Frank Kenny, Elaine Fuga-Hooper, Gilbert Remy, Martha Madden 1981, Hector Bone 1981, Elsie Evans 1983, Margaret Moore 1988, Colleen Soule 1999, James Brown, Fr Tom Linane, Mary Monaghan 1981, Carmel Heinrich 2013, Robert Jerram, Enrique Tolentino, Mauva Monroe, Bill Phyland, Malcolm Bates, Thelma McRae, Patricia Carr 1992, Lynette Soule 2010, Inez Krause 2014,

## Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Apr 6<sup>th</sup> Reader Val Albert/ Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett/ Cleaning Leanne Breen  
Sat May 4<sup>th</sup> Reader Helen Smith/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldouss/ Cleaning Judy Upton  
Sat May 18<sup>th</sup> Reader Tricia Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful Val Albert  
Sat Apr 20<sup>th</sup> Reader Rosemary Liston/ Prayers of Faithful Helen Smith  
Sat May 4<sup>th</sup> Reader Helen Smith/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldouss/ Cleaning Judy Upton

## Ararat Roster

Sun Apr 7<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Teresa G /Reader Harry C/Euch Min Mary C  
Sun Apr 14<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Pat McA /Reader Jenny McA /Euch Min Marg M  
Sun Apr 21<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Cathy McA/Reader Kath L /Euch Min Nora  
Sun Apr 28<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Pat L /Reader Teresa G /Euch Min Genara O  
Sun May 5<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Charlie R /Reader Peter B /Euch Min Marg M

## Stawell Roster

Sun Apr 7<sup>th</sup> S/Minster M Howard /Reader J Raeburn/ Offertory J Croton  
Sun Apr 14<sup>th</sup> S/Minster M Rowe /Reader G Mafadieri / Offertory L Habben  
Sun Apr 21<sup>th</sup> S/Minster K Ashton Reader M Howard / Offertory M McGaffin  
Sun Apr 28<sup>th</sup> S/Minster H Potter /Reader J Van Diesen / Offertory Pasqual Family  
Sun May 5<sup>th</sup> S/Minster M Maestros /Reader K Dallinger / Offertory Gooden/Pascall

**Ararat CWL** next meeting on Tuesday 9th April' 24 at 1.30pm in the Parish Centre

**DIVINE MERCY SATURDAY & SUNDAY 6-7 APRIL AT ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL.** - Prayers for Peace and God's Merciful Love for the World, the Holy Land, and the Church. 1 pm. Viewing of Relics, Presentation on Divine Mercy Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confessions. 1.15 pm Rosary // 1.45 pm Mass // 2.45 pm Hour of Mercy- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 3.30 pm Benediction // 3.45 pm Blessing with Relics and Conclusion.

**SOLEMN NOVENA TO DIVINE MERCY** - Saturday 6th April at 6.30pm after Saturday 5.30pm Vigil Mass. The Novena includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, Readings from St Faustina's Diary and Sacred Music.

**Friends of Gum San** - This is an invitation to everyone who is interested to celebrate Qing Ming - ancestors day at the cemetery on Saturday April 6th at 1PM. This commemoration consists of cleaning the graves in the Chinese section as well as the monument and then performing some rituals of making offerings, burning incense and joss paper to recognize the ancestors who are buried in the cemetery. This is not limited to the Chinese but it is a Chinese celebration but is similar to All Souls. If you have loved ones interred there you will no doubt send your prayers to those souls when you light your incense. This will be the first time our burning tower will be used. Everyone is welcome and if you know others who may be interested, please ask them to join us. Volunteers from Gum San have been recognizing this ceremony for about 20 years. Sometimes there have been just one or two, while at other times there have been a hundred or more when some of our Chinese friends have travelled from Melbourne to join us. Joss paper and incense will be provided as well as a couple of buckets and some cloths to used in cleaning the headstones. Looking forward to seeing a lot of people this year. Regards, Heather Ahpee.

### **St Vincent de Paul Society Victoria – Autumn 2024 Newsletter**

The latest newsletter from the Victorian St Vincent de Paul Society highlights the importance of the support of Vinnies and how donations impact the work they are doing. Please go to <https://www.vinnies.org.au/vic/publications/newsletters>

**The Pope's intention for April** – for the role of women: Let us pray that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world. Lord, hear us.

### **Diocesan History Timeline**

As part of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, a timeline of significant dates and events over the past 150 years has been published on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/history-2/>

### **Have you thought? Those who have not seen**

Jesus says to Thomas, 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That's us! Jesus' words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognises that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we – blessed are we – who have not seen and yet still believe!

### **Scriptural context – Not an ending?**

The final two verses of today's gospel passage (Jn 20:30-31) read like the conclusion to the whole gospel. They are a statement of finality about the purpose for writing the gospel and something of a blessing for those who read it. Yet, surprisingly, there is another whole chapter that follows this passage that deals with still more post-resurrection appearances. Most scripture scholars believe that the end of Chapter 20 was the original ending of the gospel and that Chapter 21 is a later addition – possibly added by the community for whom the gospel was originally written.

### **Historical Context – My Lord and my God**

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written – at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their developing belief that Jesus was God.

Caritas Australia would like to **THANK YOU** for supporting Project Compassion in 2024 . If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please bring them back next week or visit [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) and donate online. Your generosity will empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and lift themselves out of poverty. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow, for all future generations. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](http://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.



## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Reflection by Artist

When Jesus appears to the disciples, in the reading from John, he meets them where they are – in material reality. The experience of the divine is mediated through the familiar things of this world: Jesus shows them the marks of crucifixion on his body and he breathes the Holy Spirit into them. This is a sensual experience. Thomas, however, is being too concrete and at first he refuses to move beyond the sensual so Jesus allows him a visual and tactile experience, but a leap of intuitive faith is expected of Thomas in the end.

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

### Thomas the Doubter seeing the wounds

The true believers in the Risen Christ kept Thomas the Doubter within their circle, rather than expelling him. This gave him a further opportunity to experience the very Real Presence of the Risen Lord

and his gift of peace. Companionable patience is our best response to those struggling with belief in even fundamental tenets of the faith. Thomas saw that the wounds of Christ were still present, not obliterated. Does this suggest that our redeemed bodies will bear the marks of the wounds unjustly inflicted on us? However, they will not be disabling to our personality because they will be incorporated into the resurrection life of Christ. Incredibly, our self-inflicted wounds, i.e. our sins, will be obliterated in the mercy of God. Pope Francis emphasises that it was in responding to the invitation to touch the wounds of Christ that Thomas understood Christ's true identity, exclaiming: 'My Lord and my God'. It is only by touching the wounds of Christ in many different people in many different situations that we can authentically make the same act of faith. We could take a moment to pray for the strength to touch the wounds of Christ in others, 'the least'. And we could pray that, wounded as we may be by the vagaries and injustices of life, we may be liberated from their evil effects as the Risen Lord adopts our wounds as his own.

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

When was the last time you played with a group of small children, such as cousins, neighbourhood children, or someone you were babysitting for? Did you enjoy it? What was it like? Is it easy to think of them as true children of God? Why or why not? Is it easy to think of yourself and your friends as true children of God? Why or why not? 'God's commandments are not burdensome.' Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Give examples of when God's commandments seem burdensome or when they do not seem burdensome.

