



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday May 12th, 2024

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD 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 1:1-11

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with
shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we
must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)

God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes
up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing
praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all
your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns
on his holy throne. (R.)

Second Reading Ephesians 1:17-23

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of
what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of
him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that
you can see what hope his call holds for you, what
rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit
and how infinitely great is the power that he has
exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the
strength of his power at work in Christ, when he
used it to raise him from the dead and to make him
sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every
Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or
any other name that can be named, not only in this
age, but also in the age to come. He has put all
things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of
everything, the head of the Church; which is his
body, the fullness of him who fills the whole
creation.

Gospel Acclamation Matthew 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you
always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

Gospel Mark 16:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Jesus showed himself to the Eleven and said to
them, 'Go out to the whole world; proclaim the
Good News to all creation. He who believes and is
baptised is saved; he who does not believe will be
condemned. These are the signs that will be
associated with believers: in my name they will cast
out devils; they will have the gift of tongues; they
will pick up snakes in their hands and be unharmed
should they drink deadly poison; they will lay their
hands on the sick, who will recover.' And so the
Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken
up into heaven: there at the right hand of God he
took his place, while they, going out, preached
everywhere, the Lord working with them and
confirming the word by the signs that accompanied
it.

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

Readings for next Sunday

19TH May 2024
Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11/
1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13/ John 20:19-23

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

Changes to Masses this Week

Tues 14th Stawell Mass will be cancelled/ Wed 15th Garden View will be prayers/ Fri 17th 11am Ararat will be prayers

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity May 13 - 17, 6-6.30pm

There will be prayers each day for Christian Unity in several Ararat churches. All welcome.

Mon Ararat Community Church/ Tues Ararat Uniting Church/ Wed Holy Trinity Anglican Church
Thurs Life Links Church Fri Salvation Army Church

Anniversaries

Gerald Harrington, Fr Mick Philbin, Kerry Shea, Robert Cummins, Tony Shea, Paul Raeburn 1990, Archbishop Patrick Delaney, Fr Basil Thomas, Wendy Shea, Donald McDonald 1961, Daniel Oates 1971, Ernest Smith 1994, Steven Healy 1997, Ivy Boag 2000, Laci Vamos 2006, John Herdman 2012, Brian Edmund Joyce, Harriett Jackson, Des Woods, Steven Pauling 1948, Mary Blake 1994, Patrick Gillespie 2017, Peg Ronald, Jack Ronald, Anthony Cain, Aileen Grinter, Terrance Coleman, Anna Homzova, Dolores Thomas, Daisy Healy 1963, Cathleen Sertori, William Barry 1952, Ted Holt, Bill Overington, Linda Weinert, Patricia Mahoney, Marie Scanlon, Michael Joseph Moran, Sr Adrian Murphy 1999, Frank Sanderson, Leslie Moore 1961

Lake Bolac Roster

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 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 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

Ararat CWL: The next meeting of the CWL will be coffee at the Ararat Cafe and Bistro at 2pm on May 14.

Week of Inclusion - This week there are a few things happening about the place and I see a common bit of a theme, that of inclusion of people who often find themselves on the margins.

Do you ever read the church ministers' weekly comments in The Advocate? I have long wondered why the Muslims don't get a turn and wonder if it's because no one thought of them. So I have begun a discussion with the paper about inviting the Muslims to take their place in the public discourse about faith.

Another group on the margins are prisoners at Hopkins. On Wednesday this week we will be in Melbourne for our annual training for our work as prison chaplains. If we come back better prepared to minister to these people then that will be good.

Friday 17th is IDAHOBIT Day (International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexism and Transphobia.) People who often find themselves at the margins. At 2pm in Ararat there will be a flag raising followed by refreshments. Everyone is welcome. Details on the rural city social media. Worried about my attendance at this event? Pope Francis on January 26, 2022: "Parents who see that their children have different sexual orientations, how they manage that and accompany their children and not hide behind a condemning attitude . . . don't be scared. Never condemn a child."

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat – Formation this is an updated notice

In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. In 2023, Bishop Paul asked parishes to focus on leadership in their local communities, either by forming or developing further a parish council or leadership team according to local circumstances. The Diocesan Assembly will bring together diocesan clergy, representatives of the leadership teams in parishes, schools and Catholic organisations to consider how we might develop leadership and governance in our communities in the future. The formation opportunity is for Diocesan Clergy, Parish Leadership Team/Parish Councils, School Leadership Teams/School Advisory Councils, Catholic Organisations Leaders. An invitation is also extended to people who have leadership potential and who would like to participate. Leadership teams are invited to nominate others who might benefit from this experience. Fr Justin Driscoll will facilitate the formation sessions. Dates are: Swan Hill - June 12; Robinvale - June 13; Horsham - July 28; Colac – July 30; Buninyong - August 4; Warrnambool - August 25. Further details on the format will follow.

Prayer for Mother's Day – Sunday, May 12, 2024

Loving God, we pray for our mothers, who have given us life and love, that we may show them reverence and love, and others who show us a mother's love. We pray for adoptive mothers and for the women who wish to give birth but experience challenges, that they know your care. We pray for mothers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them. We pray for those who wish to serve as mothers, but are not able to do so, that they know your comfort. We pray for mothers who have died, that God may bring them into the joy of his kingdom. Amen.

National Family Week Australia: May 13-19, 2024

National Families Week is Australia's annual celebration of families. The aim of National Families Week is to celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society. The week is celebrated to coincide with the United Nations International Day of Families on May 15. CatholicCare's theme this year is "Building Compassionate Families and Communities". The week is a perfect time to come together to celebrate the power of family relationships in all their diversities and the importance they play in our lives and community. Resources are available from CatholicCare Victoria website <https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/page/103/familyweek> The Australia wide theme for 2024 is "Celebrating Family Diversity & Connections". This week is a time to appreciate and celebrate our families, friends and the communities we live in. Resources are available from the National Families Week website <https://nfw.org.au/>.



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist

Before his Ascension, Jesus advises his closest disciples to proclaim the good news to 'the whole creation'. He places great significance on baptism. It is a brave new world that he is describing, an aura of wonder surrounds the work of those who speak in the name of Jesus.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The Feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times; a moment when we have left one place in our journey, but have not yet arrived at a second. While the narratives that describe the Ascension fit well into the unfolding story of redemption, the feast itself celebrates one aspect of the resurrection itself, namely, the exaltation of Jesus. The readings help us through this paradox. They allow us to focus on this theological point while we commemorate a turning point in the life of the church. We do this by considering both the enthronement of Christ in the heavens and the new body of Christ on earth.

Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at God's right hand. Today we are overwhelmed by the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Amidst shouts of joy and exaltation, Christ is enthroned in heaven in both his divinity and his glorified humanity. Now he is present with us in a new way, in a new body, in the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists; he ministers through its prophets and pastors. Through us he continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have each other; together we make up the new body of Christ.

Different View – Snake handlers and Faith healers

There are certainly Christians who interpret literally Jesus' description of the signs that will be associated with believers. We have all seen images of old Revivalist meetings where people were called forth to be healed by touch and have evil spirits driven from them. Much of this practice can be traced to this week's gospel. The many evangelical churches and the tele-evangelists who dominate our early morning television screens operate out of this tradition and generally have a very literal interpretation of scripture. It is based in a belief that God acts in the world through miraculous intervention rather than through the slow and steady presence of individuals like you and me.

