



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday September 8th, 2024
**TWENTY - THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME 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

Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid.
'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears
of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a
deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for
water gushes in the desert, streams in the
wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the
parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:7-10. R. v.1

(R.) Praise the Lord, my soul!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bound down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

Second Reading

James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James
My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Gospel Acclamation

cf Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!
Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'



Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest Fr. Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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Secretary / Child Safe Jill Croxford gariwerd@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

15th Sept 2024
Isaiah 50:5-9/James 2:14-18/Mark 8:27-35

Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

Tuesday: 10am Stawell (Check bulletin for occasional changes)
Wednesday: Aged Care
Thursday: 2.30pm Hopkins
Friday: 11am Ararat held in the Presbytery (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Aged Care Roster

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

Changes to Masses this Week

Tues 10th 10am Mass in Stawell will be cancelled.

Fri 13th 11am Mass in Ararat will be prayers.

Anniversaries

Patrick Harrington, Lisa Van Der Spank, Anthony McMaster, Patricia Anyon 1992, Edna Joyce, Amy Dempsey, Arthur Clark, Frank Fitzpatrick, Kathleen Mulcahy, Brian Yanner 1988, Norman Leggett, Neil Byrne, Kath Walker, Annie McNamara, John McMillan, Patrick O'Donnell 2002, Kathleen Healy 2007, Rose Kennedy, Kevin Cronin, Eileen Brown, John Goulter, Freda Ferguson, Rita Fernando, Ada McDonald 1949, Maxwell Perry 2003, David Lardner, Jess O'Neill, Ken Robson, Barry Mulvihill, Herbert Mannix, James Andrew Haslett, Antonio Balsarine 1970, Frances Naylor 1999, Martin Hayes 1999, Dominic DiDomenico, Jean Hennessy, Patricia Cronin, Irene Byrne, Alice Newman 1967, Alan Cullus 1971, Mary Potter 1975, Peter Power 1989, Carolyn Sertori, Hugh Nailon Snr, Graeme Pitcher, Margaret Smith, William Smith, Kath Ryan, Leslie McNiece, Laurence McNiece, Maurice McNiece, John McNiece, Sarah Williamson, Margaret Waring, Graham Carmichael, John Duggan 1974, Grace Irwin 1994, Johannah Molan 2001, Sarah Williamson 2009, Kathleen O'Kane 2019, Trent Howlett,

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Sept 14th Reader Rosemary Liston / Prayer of Faithful P Meek/Cleaning Leanne Breen
Sat Sept 28th Reader Helen Smith/ Prayer of Faithful Judy Aldous

Ararat Roster

Sun Sept 8th Facilitator Peter B / Reader Harry / Euch Min Anna C
Sun Sept 15th Facilitator Marg O / Reader Rebecca / Euch Min Sr John

Stawell Roster

Sun Sept 8th S/Minster L McIntyre /Reader G Madafferi/ Offertory Timor E
Sun Sept 15th S/Minster M Maestros /Reader K Dallinger / Offertory Pascall/Gooden

Ararat CWL

Meeting Tuesday 10th September 1.30pm in the presbytery meeting room, all welcome.

Stawell CWL

Will be holding a cuppa after Mass on Sunday 15th September. Everyone welcome.

Stawell Inter Church Council will be holding the Fifth Sunday Ecumenical Service on Sunday 29th September at 5pm in the City Heart Church of Christ. A cuppa will follow. Everyone is welcome.

Peg MacLean would like to say **Thank You** to everyone who sent cards, gifts and good wishes to her for her recent 90th birthday. Special thanks too, to all who were able to join her at the "Party" meal. It was a wonderful occasion.

Columban Calendar's now available from Vinnies Op shop Ararat \$11.00 each

This Weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks Safeguarding Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that respects the dignity of all children and adults at risk, and empowers and listens to all people, especially those who are vulnerable. More information and resources are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/safeguarding-sunday-september-8-2024/>

Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday 2024

Gracious God, you love and care for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable. We entrust to you the lives of children and adults at risk who have been sexually abused, neglected or exploited and whose trust and innocence has been destroyed. Help us to recognise the hurt felt by those wounded by abuse, and the failure to be heard. We pray that with the help of your grace communities and families will find understanding and support, so that now and in the future, their wounds may be healed and they may find lasting peace. Let your grace and love fall gently now upon our children and adults at risk, giving them the inner strength, peace and resilience to seek out assistance when required. Help us all to listen with open hearts, so that when children and adults at risk speak, they are truly heard. We ask this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen.

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund - Collection for Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund". Caring for those who cared for us - the Church community's responsibility.

Wisdom at the Cathedral

All are welcome to hear Fr Shawn Murphy ibp present From Paris to Chartres to Eternity at the next Wisdom at the Cathedral event on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7.00pm. Father Murphy, an experienced pilgrim of the famous Paris-Chartres pilgrimage, which attracts tens of thousands of people each year in Holy Week, will share his experiences and reflections on pilgrimage as an enriching journey not only for the body but for the mind and soul. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea.

Catholic Earthcare to host Season of Creation workshop in September

Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare team is inviting the Catholic community – including schools, parishes, diocese, organisations and religious orders – to join its 2024 Season of Creation convocation. Taking place from Thursday, September 12 - Saturday, September 14, the convocation will call participants to 'Wonder', 'Weave' and 'Heal' together. Attendees will enjoy keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences, before gathering to transform learnings into action. Keynote speakers include Sr Anne-Maree O'Beirne RSM, Pedro Walpole and Sally Neaves.

2024 Season of Creation Prayer

Triune God, Creator of all, we praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection. We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us. May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom. Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image. In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist

Jesus shows that he is intimately involved in, and has command over, the stuff of life in this story of healing. The healing is not done from a safe, sanitary distance, but up close and personal. Jesus makes body contact with a man whose tongue and ears are touched and cured.

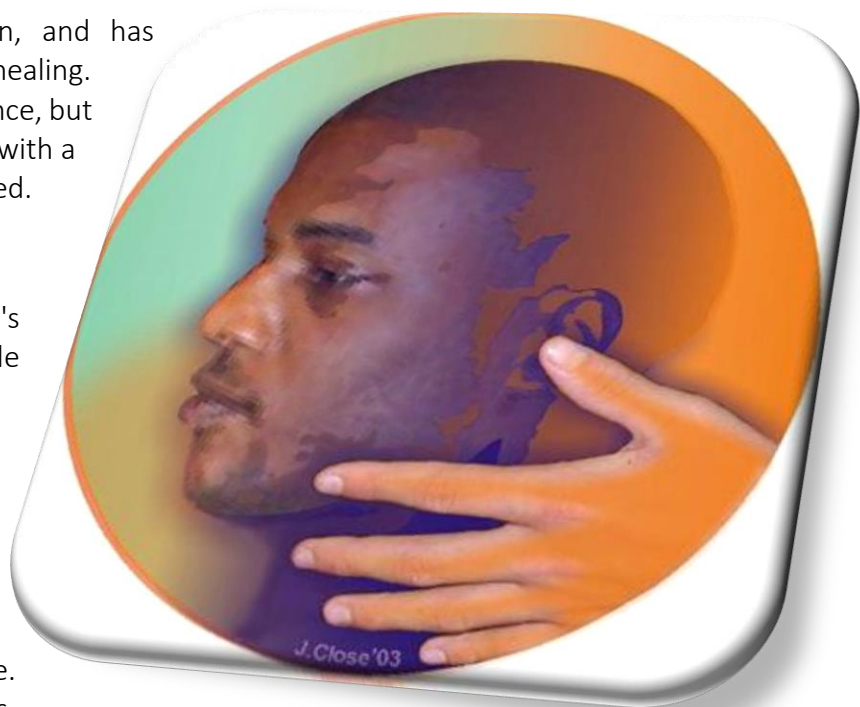
REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Jesus opens our eyes to the reality of God's presence in our midst, in the goodness of people and in the tenderness of life, even in its vulnerability. He opens our ears to hear the word of God spoken to us by others, revealed to us through the created world. There is an eschatological dimension to being open to the word of God, because we are opened to hear something from the future. The prophets always speak about this future in the present tense. They see it happening already. Isaiah proclaims,

'Here is your God!' and the world is transformed. Jesus says 'Be open.'

The good news always opens us to future possibilities, to personal and communal transformation, to a new creation. With the word of God, the future invades our present.

Although the eschatological future is already present to us, it is only unfolding, it has not yet opened completely. We still judge each other by appearances. We still miss the presence of God in the poor and the dispossessed, in those who suffer from disease or war or loneliness. We still shun those of another race, or those who have been shaped by another culture, or those who worship God in a different way. Although the eschatological future is already present, we have not yet put aside all of the biases of the past, we have not yet been fully transformed. But God has spoken, God has come to save us. God is trustworthy; God keeps faith forever.



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

People are amazed that Jesus can cure deafness. They are probably also amazed that Jesus would even be interested in giving any attention to a person who cannot hear. In his culture it was a popular belief that if you were deaf or blind or disabled in any way, it was because of a sin – your own sin or the sin of your parents. Anyone with such a condition was considered a social outcast, but Jesus is modelling a new type of behaviour. He reaches out to anyone and everyone – even the ones most people are afraid to touch or talk to.

What makes someone a social outcast in your school? (Please do not name any names, but discuss the traits or criteria that might be used to decide why a person might be given such a status.)

Who decides who the social outcasts are? Is there complete agreement, or do different people have different ideas of who is acceptable and who is not acceptable? Does everyone know their own status? Is everyone aware that they are cast as acceptable or not acceptable? If so, how do they know?

What would Jesus say about the social games that are played out by young people in their schools and in their circles of friends? What advice would Jesus give you? Are you willing to follow it? Why or why not?

Do you have any friends or relatives who are deaf? Do you know any sign language? If you yourself are deaf, what is it like not hearing in a world built for those who can hear?