



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday December 1st, 2024 First Sunday of Advent Year C

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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: 'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-5. 8-9. 10. 14. R. v.1 (R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**
3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant. **(R.)**

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

A reading from first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 21:25-28. 34-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand. 'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'



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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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

8th December 2024
Baruch 5:1-9/Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11/Luke 3:1-6

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

Friday Mass on the 13th of December will be in the Church at 9.30am as we will be combining with St Marys Primary School end of year Mass.

2024 Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve 6 pm Stawell 7.30 pm Ararat 9.15 pm Lake Bolac and Christmas day -9am Landsborough
2nd Rite Reconciliation -Wednesday December 11th 5.30pm Stawell and 7pm Ararat Please bring a plate to share
Reconciliation Lake Bolac During Mass Saturday December 14th.

Recent Deaths Lesley Krenz, Maurice Rutter, Graeme Napier

Anniversaries

Mons. Bill McCunnie, Matt Brennan, Jenny Sharman, Monica Fitzpatrick, Phyllis Brown, Michael Gavin 2004, Evelyn Sladdin 2019, Ellen Mullins, Patrick Mullins, Maura Brown, Nel Wagener, Bernard Joyce, Thomas Pollock 1969, Lawrence Rutter 1970, William Kinsella 2011, Penny Lang, Agnes Joyce, Fr. John Martin, George Seary 1987, Fr. Syd Morey, Maureen Dagleish, Lionel Delzotto 1990, Robert Radley 2015, James Murray 1912, Athol Howman, Fr. Martin Gleeson, James Moneghetti, Theresa Cashman 1959, Harry Connell 1970, Doreen Presser 1972, Cyril Peters 1997, Rudolf Schwab, Osmond Smith, Eric Hogan, Herman Krawczynski, Graeme Pora, Victims of Pearl Harbour Bombings 1941, Neil George Stapleton, Lawrence Phillips 1943.

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Nov 30th Reader Rosemary Liston/ Prayers of Faithful Phillip Meek

Ararat Roster

Sun Dec 1st Facilitator Teresa / Reader Harry C / Euch Min Marg M
Sun Dec 8th Facilitator Pat McA / Reader Jenny McA / Euch Anna C

Stawell Roster

Sun Dec 1st S/Minster K Ashton/J De Leon/H Potter/Reader G Madafferi/ Offertory Timor E
Sun Dec 8th S/Minster L McIntyre /J Raeburn/M Howard/ Reader D Jones/ Offertory M McGaffin

Christmas Get Together and Farewell to Fr Andrew

Please join fellow parishioners for Carols and Shared Meal. When: Friday 13th December 6pm. Venue to be advised.
What to bring: Savoury or Sweet to share. Voices and good cheer. Instruments or items that you can contribute to the evening.

Stawell CWL will be selling Christian Christmas cards and Columban calendars in the Church hall after Sunday Masses.

Lake Bolac St Vinnies Christmas Appeal

A box will be placed in the church for anyone wishing to donate to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. All donations of non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted.

The combined churches of Stawell will present a service of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday 8th Dec at 7pm in the Holy Trinity Anglican Church. It will be followed by a light supper. Everyone is welcome.

Defibrillator Training Tuesday 10th December 2024 9am at St Patricks Hall all welcome.

Do you know someone who is doing it tough? Please ask them to come to Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage 20 Sloane St Stawell. We are open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10:30am and 12:30pm. For out of hours emergencies ring 0408038949. If anyone needs help at Christmas, please come to the Cottage in November to put their name down. Christmas distribution will be on Tuesday 17th December.”

Adult Faith Formation: The Eucharist (Communion)

St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish Ballarat is offering a day of Adult Faith Formation on the importance of the Eucharist (Communion) on Sunday, December 8, 2024 from 2.00pm – 4.30pm at the MacKillop - Glowrey Rooms Cathedral precinct. This day is aimed at all members of the Church lay community: Congregation; Ministers; Sacristans. The day will Focus on the Eucharist, enhancing understanding of the Eucharist and highlighting our need for reverence for the Eucharist. There will also be time to review the role of the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass and when taking Communion to the sick and housebound. Current Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion please note that this formation day will fulfil your requirement to undertake formation tri-annually.

Making a Scene at Christmas

Over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed at the Bridge Mall Ballarat from Wednesday, December 4 - Friday, December 20, 2024. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica); nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Entry is a gold coin donation. Everyone is welcome.

International Volunteer Day 2024: Thursday, December 5

Within our parish communities are many volunteers who provide their talents and time to contribute to the mission of our churches. We thank God for these people who continue to strive to make our parishes a place of welcome and prayer. Prayer of the Faithful: For all volunteers in our parish, that they may be acknowledged and appreciated for their commitment to serve God and their neighbour, we pray to the Lord.

International Day of People with Disability (IDPwD) - December 3, 2024

The day is held annually on December 3 all over the world. It celebrates and raises awareness of people with disability. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference Disability Projects Office has prepared a range of helpful media resources for the celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disability <https://www.catholic.au/s/article/International-Day-of-People-with-Disability> The goal is to achieve inclusion of people with disability in all aspects of community life. What Does Catholic Social Teaching say about Disability?

1. It is not so much the impairment but the ignorance, intolerance, injustice, and exclusion that undermines the dignity and humanity of disabled people.
2. People with a disability are not just the object of care but the agents of their own life. They need to be heard.
3. We must recognise the vast diversity of the disabled experience.
4. Inclusion requires that people with disability have an equal opportunity to be recognised, accepted and make their own contribution to the common good.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - The Coming of our Saviour

Sometimes our own lives, the life of the Church, the life of societies and nations cry out for Our Lord Jesus Christ to come again right now and rescue us right now. In some instances we can become conscious of Jesus' saving, transforming power in a particular situation. But, for the whole of humanity across the millennia, we do not know the day or the hour when death and all its warriors such as disease and violence, will be absolutely vanquished by Christ in glory. This can lead to a type of pain which finds solace in all those things which dull the spirit. Our Lord gives examples: debauchery, drunkenness. Today he might have added 'living in the virtual world'. Rather, Our Lord wants us to live in the real world on high alert. In the meantime each one of us can be a signal of what is to come. Each time we exhaust ourselves heroically loving someone whom others might abandon, each time we take a risk because we cry out against injustice, and in a myriad other ways, we signal that the Kingdom is already being established on earth. We could pause for a moment to pray for the strength to be on high alert for the opportunities to translate the legacy of Jesus into our own time and place, thus giving reasons to each other for our faith and hope that Christ *has* come, Christ *is* risen, Christ *will* come again.



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

This Advent, our season of waiting begins with a dramatic foretelling of Christ's second coming. The signs that herald this event are on a cosmic scale and in line with the multi-layered imagery of Luke's infancy narrative. The signs are frightening and many will panic when the celestial bodies and the waters of the earth behave erratically – when the natural laws no longer apply. We must 'stay awake' and renew our lives through prayer and moral living in readiness for the end times.



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The readings of the First Sunday of Advent set the stages for our reflections on the entire season. They contain a number of promises, all pointing to peace and fulfilment. Each reading depicts a dimension of suffering that was often brought on by the people themselves. The promises are assurances that the end of their suffering was in sight. The promises reveal a loving and provident, a merciful and forgiving God. These are promises full of hope. The coming of the Lord is clearly a time of expectation, not of fear and trembling. Although the earlier tradition about the Day of the Lord included punishment of the wicked, the focus here is on redemption. The time of expectation may be preceded by apocalyptic signs in the heavens and dismay on earth, but this cosmic shift will bring fulfilment, not destruction. The love and providence, the mercy and forgiveness of God will be made manifest. What is expected of those who receive the promise? An Advent way of life exhorts us to 'wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ'. This way of life is both simple and profound. It does not necessarily require unusual behaviour on our part, but it calls us to live the usual unusually well. It affects the everyday events of life; it directs the way we interact with people; it informs the attitudes that colour our judgments and motivations.