



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday December 15th, 2024
Third 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

Zephaniah 3:14-18

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud!
Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm

Is 12:2-6 R. v.6

(R.) Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

1. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (R.)
2. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the greatness of his name. (R.)
3. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:10-18

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
When all the people asked John, 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.



Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest Fr. Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@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

22nd December 2024
Micah 5:1-4/Hebrews 10:5-10/Luke 1:39-45

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

This Friday's Mass 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

Reconciliation Lake Bolac During Mass this Saturday December 14th
Christmas Eve 6 pm Stawell 7.30 pm Ararat 9.15 pm Lake Bolac
Christmas day -9am Landsborough

Anniversaries

Norman William Rowe, Hughie Lees, Elizabeth Coffey 1957, Robert Soule 2000, Emma Brennan, John Hearn, Pepito Galang, Myra Campbell, Fr Bill Egan, Barry Karlake, John McSparron, Arthur Clark, Kathleen Nicholson 1960, Bridget Hourigan 1976, Laurence Cashin, Fr. John Connellan, Fr. Billie Close, Fr. Pat O'Dowd, Joan Dadswell, Damien Gordon, Joan Fogarty, Phillis Phelan 1946, Catherine Lloyd 1954, Harold Carr 1980, Jennifer Molan, Christina O'Brien, Roslyn Lillis, Jean Rolfe, Leo Stewart 1985, Ellen Byrne, Anne Gregan 1954, Mary Clarkson 1976, Alex Haslett, William Casanova, Fr. Stephen O'Rourke, Lily Jones 1991, Stephen Pyke 1991, Stephan Sugden, Oliver Schwab, Norman Joseph Rowe, Maude Doecke 1961, Michael Young 1965, Patrick Phelan 1965

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Dec 14th Reader Deb Glasson/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldous/Cleaning Jane Higgins
Sat Dec 25th Reader Phillip Meek / Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett/Cleaning Team

Ararat Roster

Sun Dec 15th Facilitator Cathy McA / Reader Pat L / Euch Min Sr John
Sun Dec 22nd Facilitator Pat L / Reader Teresa / Euch Min Mary C

Stawell Roster

Sun Dec 15th S/Minster M Maestros/I Stuart/S DeLeon/Reader H Potter / Offertory Pascall/Gooden
Sun Dec 22nd S/Minster M Howard/K Ashton/M Rowe /Reader M R Thomas/ Offertory J Croton
Tue Dec 24th S/Minster M R Thomas/M Maestros/J DeLeon/Reader K Dallinger / Offertory Pascall/Gooden
Sun Dec 29th S/Minster H Potter/L McIntrye/ S DeLeon/Reader D O'Donnell / Offertory L Habben
Sun Jan 5th S/Minster J DeLeon/K Ashton/M Rowe/Reader M Howard / Offertory H Reid

Stawell CWL invites everyone to a Christmas cuppa and a special time to thank Fr Andrew after this Sunday's Mass. Christian Christmas cards and Colomaban Calendars will be on sale in the hall.

Each year the Stawell St Vincent de Paul and Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage combine to help those in need in Stawell and our region with a special Christmas distribution. There is a small Christmas tree and cash donation box near the baptismal font if you would like to contribute towards making Christmas less stressful for those living on the edges of our society.

Stawell combined church Advent service –Friday 20th Dec 7pm in the Stawell Uniting Church “Blue Christmas” A quiet service acknowledging that Christmas can be both a sad and hopeful time.

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.

Lake Bolac - A finger food tea will be held after Mass, at St Bernard’s, Lake Bolac, on January 4th, 2025. Please bring a plate of food to share.

Annual Parish Memorial Mass -Our annual Mass for all who have died in our Parish this year will be held on Tues. 17th Dec at 7pm in the Church of Immaculate Conception Ararat. There will be a light supper afterwards, please bring a plate to share.

Christmas Gathering and Farewell to Fr Andrew - Let's all join in a shared meal and carols on Fri 20th December 6pm to help stir our Christmas spirit as well as formally say farewell to Fr Andrew. It will be at the Uniting Church Hall Barkly Street Ararat, but we have a hunch we might be back in our own Centre. So stand by! What to bring: Savoury or Sweet to share. Voices and good cheer. Instruments or items that you can contribute to the evening.

Opening of Islamic Community Centre Sunday December 22 - Opening of Islamic Community Centre Sunday December 22 You and your families are cordially invited to the AIWA event, which includes a Ararat Islamic Community Centre (AICC) visit at 1:30 PM followed by an opening program at 2:00 PM at Alexandra Oval Community Centre, Waratah Ave, Ararat. A free lunch will be served, around 3 PM after the program. RSVP is required for logistical purposes via email at aiwa.vic@gmail.com or SMS at 0488601158 by 15/12/24.

Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, “Pilgrims of Hope.” A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church’s witness to God’s loving mercy in and for the world. Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of the Basilica of St Peter in the Vatican on December 24, 2024 to begin the year. On the following Sunday, December 29, 2024, the Holy Door of the Pope’s Cathedral, St John Lateran, will be opened. Then on January 1, 2025, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St Mary Major will be opened. Finally, Sunday, January 5, 2025 will mark the opening of the Holy Door of the Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls. Pope Francis has decreed that on Sunday, December 29, 2024, in every cathedral and co-cathedral, diocesan bishops are to celebrate Holy Mass as the solemn opening of the Jubilee Year, using the ritual indications that will be provided for that occasion. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at St Patrick’s Cathedral Ballarat at 10.30am on this day. The Holy Year will conclude in the particular Churches on Sunday, December 28, 2025. The doors of St John Lateran, the Basilica of St Mary Major and the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls will also close on this date. Pope Francis has written a prayer for the Jubilee Year. Prayers cards will be provided to parishes and schools in the new year.

A hymn has also been written for the Jubilee Year and can be accessed at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/jubilee-year-2025-pilgrims-of-hope/> or the Jubilee Year website <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - *I want you to be happy*

Some people have an image of God who must be obeyed out of fear. Rules of behaviour are kept as part of a deal to avoid punishment. But St Paul was imitating God when he told the Philippians that all he wanted was their 'happiness'. God's deepest desire is that we share divine bliss. St Thomas Aquinas tells us that the goal of human life is this beatific happiness.

Of course, there is a way of life which responds to the Divine Lover. John the Baptist insists on rules of social justice, particularly those which forbid taking advantage of the vulnerable. But these are the minimum. He envisages a response of extravagant generosity. It will take Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire to make this possible.

This was effected by the One foretold by John. He doesn't name him, but we know it was Jesus of Nazareth who had the power to unleash such over-the-top generosity. Jesus sent his Holy Spirit at Pentecost as if in wind and fire. This created a new community which, the Acts of Apostles tells us, responded with acts of unrestrained generosity to the vulnerable and needy.

We might pause for a moment to pray for a generous spirit responding in gratitude to the Divine Lover who, as Risen Lord, has the power and will to enable us to be filled with Divine Bliss.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close - Reflection by Artist

In the natural world water usually quenches fire, but in Luke's gospel the two elements are reconciled in the experience of baptism. Both the material and the spiritual aspects of baptism are evoked when John baptises with water and Jesus will baptise with fire and the Holy Spirit. In the same passage, Luke describes Jesus' fire as unquenchable. It is in the context of this rich terrestrial/celestial imagery that the advent of Jesus is prophesied.



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

We are at the midpoint of Advent. Today we celebrate *Gaudete* Sunday. The principal theme of the day is joy. According to Paul, joy is one of the fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22). Such joy is a religious sentiment, not emotional happiness. Along with gratitude, it is the heart's response to God's goodness. Zion is told to shout for joy because it has been saved by God from its enemies and because God is in the midst of the people. The psalm response proclaims the same message; the reading from Philippians announces that the Lord is near. This is cause for joy. Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet.

