



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday December 22nd, 2024
Fourth 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

Micah 5:1-4

A reading from the prophet Micah

The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old.

The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16. 18-19. R. v.4 (R.) Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

1. O Shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help. **(R.)**

2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted. **(R.)**

3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is

abolishing the first sort to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



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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Phone 03 5352 5460
Post Box PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377



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

29th December 2024
Sir 3:2-6. 12-14/Col 3:12-21/Lk 2:41-52

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 10am Lowe St
3rd Wednesday 10am Garden View
4th Wednesday 10am ARVillage

Changes to Masses this Week

Tues 24th 10am in Stawell – cancelled - Wed 25th 10am ARV - cancelled

2024 Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve 6 pm Stawell 7.30 pm Ararat 9.15 pm Lake Bolac and
Christmas day -9am Landsborough

Anniversaries

Rita Lardner, Jean McGuan 1992, Bill Foo 1984, Rose Hogan, Fr Michael Glennen, Jack Brennan, Vera Cox, Kevin Richards, Carl Spies, Heather Rose Allan 1981, Mary Rutter 1986, Timothy Shanahan 1991, Maurice Diggie, Sr. Rose Day RSM, Peter Newall 1973, Timothy Weeks, Pat Brennan, Margaret Fudge 1985, Stacey Walsh 2009, Donald Sladdin 2010, Doris Tognon, Fr Paddy Bushell, John Sullivan, Evie Hayes, Matthew Sullivan, Edward Mulcahy, Peter Carthew OAM, Teresa Devery 1954, William Thomas Foo 1983, Michael William Habben, Kath Schwab, Fr Pat Culligan, Peter Sinnott, James Sinnott, Fred Mason, Kathleen McLeod, Mary O'Neill, Shane Walls, Muff Joyce, Anne Handley, Joseph Colwell, Mary Pola, Peter Williams, Andrew Jackson, Bishop Joe Grech, Zsonella McGrath, Edward Phelan 1944, Alby Vendy 2000

Lake Bolac Roster

Tues Dec 24th Reader Phillip Meek / Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett/ Cleaning Team Effort
Sat Dec 28th Reader Tricia Higgins / Prayers of Faithful Rosemary Liston

Ararat Roster

Sun Dec 22nd Facilitator Pat L / Reader Teresa / Euch Min Mary C
Tues Dec 24th Facilitator Kath Leggett/Reader Cathy McAdie/Euch Min Maria Selga/Marg M/ Mary C /

Stawell Roster

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

Christmas Gathering and Farewell to Fr Andrew - Let's all join in a shared meal and carols this Friday 20th December 6pm to help stir our Christmas spirit as well as formally say farewell to Fr Andrew. **It will be in our Parish Centre !!!!**. What to bring: Savoury or Sweet to share. Voices and good cheer. Instruments or items that you can contribute to the evening. All welcome

Stawell combined church Advent service –This 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.

Stawell combined churches will be singing carols outside of Shop 108 in the Main St this Friday 20th at 10am.

Stawell St Vincent de Paul and Stawell Inter Church Council are helping 143 households in Stawell and region this Christmas. If you would like to contribute to this special Christmas help, there is a small donation box under the small Christmas tree near the holy water font at the glass church doors of St Pat’s.

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.

Opening of Islamic Community Centre This 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.

Ararat Islamic Community Centre

Today we celebrate the opening of our new holy place. Congratulations and every blessing to the people who had made it so. Ararat can stand proud among the modern multi-faith and multi-cultural cities of the world.

Catholic Mission thanks the parish of Holy Spirit Gariwerd for your support of this year’s World Mission Day Appeal. Through your contribution, you have empowered Church workers across 1047 mission dioceses to share a message of hope and compassion with communities around the world. Your partnership with Catholic Mission makes an incredible difference. Thanks to you, Cardinal Giorgio Marengo and Brother Andrew in Mongolia can continue delivering life-saving care, essential resources, and educational support. Your gift not only uplifts individuals but also strengthens global mission programs, reaching countless others who need our support. Thank you for being a light of hope to those in need!

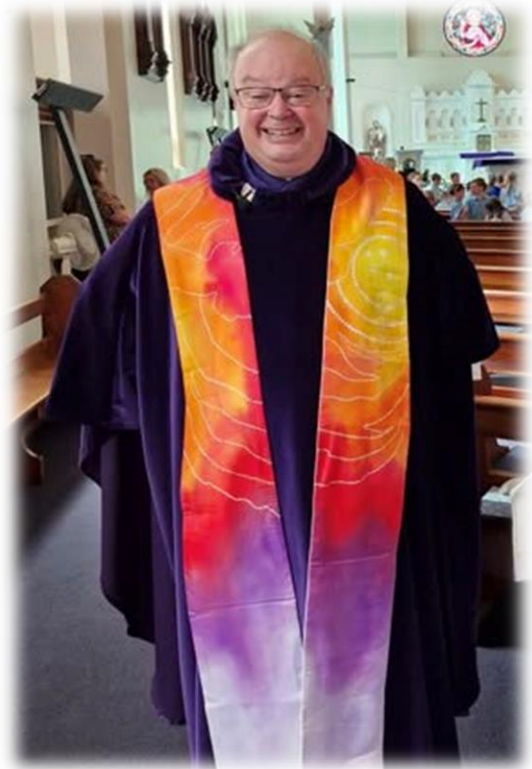
Making a Scene at Christmas Display in the Diocesan Archives

As part of the Making a Scene at Christmas exhibition in the Archives Gallery, around 20 pieces of John Schonfelder's work are displayed. These include meticulously and beautifully crafted fret and scroll-saw work. John Schonfelder lives in Wendouree. He has been a member of the local parish for the past 50 years and was initially part of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish. John has been into woodworking for the past 50 years and specialised in fretwork and scroll saw work for the past 35 years. He has actively participated in exhibitions and events organised by the Scroll Saw Network Australia-wide. He is a life member of the network and achieved awards for his work. John has also been a member of the Ballarat Woodworkers Guild for the past 35 years. In the past decade with Fr Andrew Hayes and Fiona Tonkin, he has contributed annually with his work for the “Making a Scene at Christmas” exhibition organised at the Bridge Mall, Ballarat. John's work shows excellent craftsmanship, meticulous precision and creativity. His passion for woodworking is expressed in his miniature pieces, decoration, and more significant nativity scenes. The exhibition can be viewed at the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Archives & Gallery from December 17, 2024, - January 7, 2025, Tuesdays – Fridays from 8.30am – 5.00pm.

World Day of Peace – January 1, 2025

Hope has been a constant theme in all of Pope Francis’ World Day of Peace messages. This is all the more true in his message for the 58th World Day of Peace, which will be marked on January 1, 2025, as the Church begins the Jubilee of Hope amid an unprecedented combination of challenges facing the world today. Read the Pope’s message for World Day of Peace at <https://shorturl.at/6DZCp>.

This Magnificent Stole was presented to Fr Andrew from St Marys Primary school during their end of year mass on Friday 13th December. The artwork on this stole represents both Christian and First Nations stories. Trinity is represented in the image through the three symbols – circles, stars and spirals. The circles represent God the Father. A circle has no beginning and no end. A circle is infinite, as is God. The circles are radiating outwards, growing eternally as does God’s love. God the son is represented through the stars of the Southern Cross. The five stars of the Southern Cross represent the blood that Jesus shed on the cross: from the crown of thorns, the nails in his hands and feet, and the spear to his side. Each time we view the stars of the Southern Cross we can ponder Christ. The Holy Spirit is represented through the spirals, the breath of God. The eagle represents the creator beings on many First Peoples of Australia. The Eagle is a creator Ancestor in many First Nations Countries across Australia, including Bunjil. The contours lines of Country surround Trinity and Creator Spirit.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - *Life in the Womb*

This little gospel story tells us that ‘the baby in Elizabeth’s womb leaped’ and not merely leaped, but leaped ‘for joy’. Is this just poetic hyperbole? We know that beautiful music can have a wonderful effect on life in the womb. Good vibrations. Here, the presence of Jesus, being carried by Mary in her pregnancy, had a wonderful effect on the life carried by Elizabeth. Very good vibrations. From the moment of the conception of Jesus, good vibrations reverberated out to all human beings. The good news is that you and I and every human life ever conceived is visited by Our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, and we receive that visit as Original Blessing. There is a further and consoling truth. Every mother or father who has lost a baby too early needs to know that the same extraordinary sense of Our Lord’s presence was felt by your baby. That Divine Presence conferred a powerful Original Blessing on that little life within the womb, and that same Presence accompanied your baby into the everlasting embrace of Divine Love in Heaven. We could pause a moment to pray using the very words of Elizabeth, reciting: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. *Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.* Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

We wish you all a Merry and Safe Christmas.