



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday December 8th, 2024
Second 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

Baruch 5:1-9

A reading from the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs. (R.)

2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad. (R.)

3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap. (R.)

4. They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

Gospel Acclamation

Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every

mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be
straightened and rough roads made smooth.

And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

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

15th December 2024
Zephaniah 3:14-18/Philippians 4:4-7/Luke 3:10-18

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 Death Gavan Harrington

Anniversaries

Fr. John Monaghan, Josephine Neilson, Norma Lannen, Allan Griffen 1963, Mary McSparron 1975, Edmund Moran, Bishop Henry Cleary, Clare Rieniets, Ronald Jerram, Kathleen Rutter 1974, Charles Fitzgerald 1974, Malcolm Brown 1983, Elsie May O'Sullivan 2005, Kathleen Fitzgerald 1950, Rohan Laurie 1998, Florence Heenan, Daniel Ryan, Joan Boyle, Joan Ryan, Rodney Harvey, Margaret Mary Smith, Glenys Balchin, Mary Smith 1954, Noel McOwan, John Thomas, Fr. Gery Payne, Grace Harrison, Florentina Uda de Torrecarpo, Janice Porter, Norman Rowe, Mary Gellie, Mick Streeter 1996, Hayley Pugh, Maureen Dalton, Linda Thomas 1976, Edna Noone 1985, Roderick (Rick) Healy 1998, Helen Healy 1998

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 8th Facilitator Pat McA / Reader Jenny McA / Euch Anna C
Sun Dec 15th Facilitator Cathy McA / Reader Pat L / Euch Min Sr John

Stawell Roster

Sun Dec 8th S/Minster L McIntyre /J Raeburn/M Howard/ Reader D Jones/ Offertory M McGaffin

Welcome Fr Neville Stanislaus, currently Parish Priest of Camperdown and Timboon and Administrator of the Parish of Hampden, will become Parish Priest of Gariwerd from 15th January 2025.

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 CWL Christmas cuppa after Sunday Mass on 15th will also be our chance to say thanks to Fr Andrew for his generous service to our parish.

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

Christmas Get Together and Farewell to Fr Andrew

Please join fellow parishioners for Carols and Shared Meal at the Ararat Uniting Church Hall Barkly Street on Friday 13th December 6pm. What to bring: Savoury or Sweet to share. Voices and good cheer. Instruments or items that you can contribute to the evening.

Stawell combined church Advent services – This Sunday 8th 7pm in the Stawell Anglian Church “Nine Lessons and Carols”. A light supper will follow. Everyone welcome.

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.

Dear People of the Diocese You may have seen media coverage following a recent judgement of the High Court of Australia that involved the Diocese of Ballarat. This judgement has prompted renewed discussion about liability. I appreciate people’s concern for those who have suffered abuse and people’s questions about organisations accepting responsibility. I offer the following notes in response to people’s concern and questions. In cases where there is evidence that the Diocese of Ballarat has been negligent in the duty of safeguarding children, the Diocese accepts liability and provides compensation to victims. In the case considered by the High Court, Victorian courts had found that the Diocese of Ballarat was not negligent but still held that the Diocese was liable – vicariously. The High Court set aside this decision of the Victorian courts. I would like to make it clear that the Diocese of Ballarat will continue to accept liability and provide compensation in cases where there is evidence that the Diocese has been negligent in safeguarding. In addition, the Diocese will continue to provide compensation through the Federal Government’s Redress Scheme and through the state-wide Church process called Pathways Victoria. As well as providing compensation in these ways, the Diocese will continue to provide assistance to those who have suffered abuse by funding counselling and other pastoral help. God bless you all. **Bishop Paul**

Vinnies Christmas Appeal 2024

Aussie families are struggling with the escalating cost of living crisis this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



Villa Maria Catholic Homes Christmas Hamper Appeal 2024

Each year VMCH relies on donations to ensure hundreds of vulnerable people receive a little joy at Christmas through our hamper appeal. Scan or click the QR code to donate to the Christmas Hamper Appeal. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



CatholicCare Victoria Christmas Appeal 2024

This Christmas, we want to give young people and their families the support they need, so that they can enjoy their Christmas together rather than face the tough times alone. CatholicCare Victoria believes families should never have to choose between seeking help for their kids or putting food on the table. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



MacKillop's Christmas Gift Appeal

This Christmas, make a real difference by supporting MacKillop's Christmas Gift Appeal and bring the spirit of Christmas to young people in care across Australia. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - We are John the Baptists

Do we have to be like John the Baptist, eccentrically dressed and scavenging for food, to prepare the way of the Lord? No. You and I are called to be a John or Joan the Baptist, preparing people's hearts in our own time and place.

But we have to allow God to prepare our hearts for this role. John the Baptist challenges us to 'Repent', i.e. to turn around our own lives seeking God's forgiveness. John then challenges us to see the big picture which is that 'All who live shall see the salvation of God'.

Pope Francis is the exemplary universal pastor inspiring us to become 'les mercifuls sans frontieres'. And young people through social media are already saying 'We are one community of human beings on this fragile planet'.

The challenge for most of us is more immediate and apparently of smaller scope. The challenge this Advent is to identify the one person whose heart you can help prepare to celebrate the coming of the Lord Jesus in three weeks' time. The best method is to let that person see your faith and joy centred on that little Jewish baby lying in a manger.

Do that, and who knows what may happen because that little baby is in fact the Sovereign Lord of history and of the whole cosmos. With God's grace, you don't have to be as eccentric or bizarre as John the Baptist to play your part in changing the course of history!

We could take a moment to pray that, repenting of our own sins where necessary, we may prepare the heart of at least one person so that the Lord Jesus may enter in this Christmas, helping him fulfil his mission that all who live shall see the salvation of God.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Reflection by Artist

Advent is a time of waiting, but it is not an uneventful time. 'Prepare the way of the Lord' says John the Baptist: the hills will be levelled, the valleys filled in and the roads straightened and smoothed. John speaks as if this smoothing process could happen in an instant; but time is relative when we are talking about

the actions of the creator God. While the world has been waiting for its fulfilment in the end times, the processes of smoothing have been happening for millennia in places like the Australian desert. The landscape pictured here – near Coober Pedy – is worn down by millennia of weathering. It is difficult for humans to imagine the vast time spans that God uses to shape this environment, but the season of Advent acknowledges all time – past present and future – as the time of Redemption. *Photo by Tim Freeman*



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

Saint Paul is so thankful for his friends who are his 'partners' in spreading the Gospel. Who are your partners in life? Do you have a best friend or a group of friends that partner you and one another through life's ups and downs? Describe such a friend. Are you thankful for this special

friendship? How do you show your thankfulness? Are you a thankful person in general? Do you write a lot of thank you notes? Do you always remember to say thank you when you are given something? Do you often consider all the things you have to be thankful for? How can you improve in this area? What do you think it means to be a partner in spreading the Gospel? What would Gospel-spreading partners do?