



Holy Spirit  
Parish  
Gariwerd

# Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 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

**Nehemiah 8:2-6. 8-10**

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people – since he stood higher than all the people – Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered Amen! Amen!; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah – His Excellency – and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep'. For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 18:8-10. 15. R. See Jn 6:63**  
(R.) Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. (R.)
2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. (R.)
3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. (R.)
4. May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! (R.)

**Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27**

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts. Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

#### Gospel Acclamation

**See Luke 4:18**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor and freedom to prisoners. Alleluia!

#### Gospel

**Luke 1:1-4. 4:14-21**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received. Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour. He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'



# Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

**Parish Priest** Fr. Neville Stanislaus [neville.stanislaus@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:neville.stanislaus@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
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**Parish Office** 304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm  
**Phone** 03 5352 5460  
**Post Box** PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377



**Mass Times**  
**Ararat** Sunday 8.30am  
**Stawell** Sunday 10.30am  
**Lake Bolac** 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat  
**Landsborough** 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 12.30pm  
**Glenthompson** (Hamilton Parish) 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 8.30am

**Readings for next Sunday**  
2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025  
Malachi 3:1-4/Hebrews 2:14-18/  
Luke 2:22-32

**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**  
1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 11.15am Eventide  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 10am Lowe St  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 10am Garden View  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10am ARVillage

**Ararat Friday Mass on the 24<sup>th</sup> January will be Prayers in the Presbytery.**

## Anniversaries

Alan Dovaston, Eric Ericksen, Ray Toner, Irene Hogan, Louisa Trevan 1990, Christopher Lillis, Francis Shevlin, Lilian Burston, Mons. Eugene Galligan, Mollie Flynn, Molly Kenny, Gerald Herald 1972, Mary Flynn 1996, Reginald Olle, Dennis Donovan, Maurice Donovan, Sarah Hogan, Leah Smith, Colleen Hodge, Anna McKenna, William Borella 1962, Mae Hinniberg 1968, Mary Hennessy, Mons. Louis Conway, Wendy Vernon, Mary Riddington, Elizabeth Brennan, Frank Melbourne, Michael Seary 1978, Jeni-Anne Dunn 1997, Valerie Seary 2019, Dell Delaney, Ken Walker, Lindsay Lee, Charles Evans 1951, Christopher Brown 1971, Catherine Monaghan 1973, James Aubrey 1993, Margaret Ryan, Fr Frank Harney, Mary-Ann Molan 1969, Lance Forster 1982, Leonie Wright 1985, Beverly Woods, Joan Abbott, Roy McInerney 1984, Margaret Devery 200

## Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Mar 1 Reader Val Albert/ Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett /Cleaning Rosemary Liston  
Sat Mar 15 Reader Rosemary Liston/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldous  
Sat Mar 29 Reader Tricia Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful Deb Glasson  
Sat Apr 5 Reader Mick Brennan/ Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins

## Ararat Roster

Sun Jan 26<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Rebecca R / Reader Elizabeth S / Euch Min Marg Olle/Sr John  
Sun Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Facilitator Peter B / Reader Harry C/ Euch Min Marg M/Teresa  
Sun Feb 9<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Pat McA / Reader Jenny McA/ Euch Min Anna C /Mary C  
Sun Feb 16<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Peter B / Reader Pat L/ Euch Min Sr John / Harry

## Stawell Roster

Sun Jan 26<sup>th</sup> S/Minster M R Thomas/M Maestros/S DeLeon/Reader D Jones / Offertory Heenan Family  
Sun Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> S/Minster K Ashton/J DeLeon/I Sturt/Reader H Potter / Offertory J Croton  
Sun Feb 9<sup>th</sup> S/Minster G Comitti/L McIntyre/K Ashton/Reader M R Thomas / Offertory L Habben  
Sun Feb 16<sup>th</sup> S/Minster M Maestros/J DeLeon/J Raeburn/Reader K Dallinger / Offertory H Reid

# Welcome Fr Neville

**Bulletin** - If you have an gmail email address you will be aware that you have not been receiving your weekly bulletin, after an investigation we have discovered that Google have updated their inbound email policies and protections (late December 2024) which will in turn reject any emails to @gmail.com accounts that are included in bulk emails or group emails when sending more than 10 emails. Thank you for your patience in this matter

### **Prayer for Australia Day**

Blessed be God, for this ancient and beautiful land - a land of despair and hope, a land of wealth and abundant harvests, a land of fire, drought and flood. We pray that your Spirit may continue to move in this land and bring forgiveness, reconciliation, and an end to all injustice. Amen.

### **World Interfaith Harmony Week 2025 – Flag Raising Event**

The Ballarat Interfaith Network invites you to join their Flag Raising Event in celebration of United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week on Monday, February 3, 2025 from 11.00am – 12.30pm at St Peter's Anglican Church, 1307 Sturt Street, Ballarat. The Welcome will be provided by Mayor Cr Tracey Hargreaves. After the raising of the unique Ballarat Interfaith Network flag, we will adjourn into the church for a keynote address from Dean Berger, Deer Park Stake President, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, short student speeches from senior leaders of Damascus, Loreto, Phoenix P-12, and St Patrick's Colleges, prayer for peace offered by representatives of many faiths, and a children's choir from Emmaus PS. Refreshments will be provided.

### **Reflections on Governance from the Synod on Synodality**

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd presents a webinar on, "Reflections on Governance from the Synod on Synodality" by Susan Pascoe, who was a member of the working group responsible for organising the recent global synod in Rome (October 2024). During this webinar, Susan will reflect upon governance themes within the synod and link them to broader governance themes within the Church. The webinar will be 60-minutes, comprising a presentation followed by the opportunity for Q&A. Cost is: ACSL Subscribers: \$32.50, non-subscribers: \$65.00. Register at [https://acsltd.acornlms.com/user\\_login](https://acsltd.acornlms.com/user_login)

### **Mass for You at Home**

Australia's longest-running religious television program Mass for You at Home will continue its beloved ministry in 2025. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and the Diocese of Wollongong have signed an agreement to continue producing and broadcasting the program, which first aired on Australian television in 1971. Mass for You at Home will be broadcast every Sunday at 6.00am on the Ten Network and multiple times during the week on Foxtel's Aurora (Channel 173).

### **Advance Notice of dates 2025**

Rite of Election – Saturday, March 1, 2025 at 12.30pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.  
Mass of the Oils – Monday, April 14, 2025 at 1.00pm, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat.

### **Saint Mary MacKillop's 30th Anniversary of Beatification**

Celebrate the 30th Anniversary of St Mary MacKillop's beatification with a free commemorative prayer book, "Flourish with Mary's Heart", written by the Sisters of St Joseph. The book is available at <https://www.marymackilloptoday.org.au/for-churches/prayer-book>

### **Jubilee of the World of Communications – January 24-26, 2025**

To be "pilgrims of hope" we need to communicate the Gospel of Christ through our words and actions. Communication is about bringing people together on a shared journey through stories and images that connect us. Communication is also about giving voice to the voiceless on the outskirts of humankind. Through truth-filled messages, we can build a more just and peaceful world and uphold the dignity of all people.

### **Prayer for the Jubilee of the World of Communications**

Heavenly Father, through the gentle spirit of St Francis de Sales, inspire us to communicate with love and hope. Help us to speak truthfully, listen attentively, and respond with compassion. May our words reflect Your grace and bring peace to our hearts and those around us. Strengthen our resolve to build bridges of understanding and to spread Your love through our words and deeds.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - *Relax: You are Accepted*

The prophet Isaiah had drafted a manifesto for divine action in the world. Jesus of Nazareth *is* divine action in the world, and no doubt his fellow villagers in Nazara would have been thrilled that one of theirs would 'set the downtrodden free'. But, in proclaiming 'the Lord's Year of *Acceptance*', Jesus inaugurated a revolutionary phase within the Jewish tradition. He invited people to *relax*!! Holiness is not a matter of our *striving*, but of *accepting* that we are *accepted* by the All Merciful God. Good works should follow in response, but good works don't gain our acceptance by God. How does one best show acceptance of someone, forgiveness of someone, friendship with someone? One relaxes over a meal together. This was Jesus' characteristic way of embodying Divine Acceptance in our world. It still is. We might pause for a moment to relax into the saving fact that we exist in 'the Lord's Year of Acceptance', that this acceptance is signified and effected by our sharing in the Bread of Life and the Spiritual Drink of Holy Communion which gives us the energy to help make Divine Acceptance a reality for others.

## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Sometimes when we read Scripture the words remain on the page distant from our lives, but when Jesus taught in the synagogue in Nazareth the words from Isaiah came alive in his person and in his actions. The Gospel passage describes his mission as the liberation of the poor, the oppressed and the broken.



## Gospel Reflection

This week marks the beginning of the liturgical use of the gospel of Luke that will feature throughout this year. The choice of passage to begin our journey with Luke is most appropriate. We have the first four verses of the gospel in which the writer makes his purpose clear. We then skip over all the infancy narrative and pick up again in chapter 4 of the gospel where Jesus makes his first public appearance. Jesus returns to the synagogue in which he has worshipped all his life. He is given the scroll of Isaiah to read and reads the first two verses of Isaiah, chapter 61. But in the middle of this passage he flips back to chapter 58 of Isaiah and reads an additional line, 'to set the downtrodden (oppressed) free'. This event in Nazareth is sometimes referred to as Jesus' inauguration or declaration of mission. The inclusion of the additional verse from Isaiah signals very clearly the way in which Jesus will be portrayed throughout this particular gospel. The gospel of Luke is characterised by the focus of Jesus' mission on the outcast; the oppressed; the downtrodden.

The gospel of Luke is often described as a gospel of compassion. Throughout the gospel we see Jesus enact the verses from Isaiah – bringing good news to the lowliest of society; inviting the least to share in the reign of God. In fact, having read from the scripture, Jesus' very simple homily on the text is 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen'. Jesus declares himself to be acting out and fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah. This short extract from Isaiah that Jesus adopted as his own 'mission statement' is indeed a mission statement for all Christian people. This is what we too are called to do.