



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday 2nd March 2025

Eighth 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

Sirach 27:4-7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 91:2-3. 13-16. R. See v.2

(R.) Lord, it is good to give thanks to you.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night. (R.)

2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)

3. Planted in the house of the Lord they will flourish in the courts of our God, still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green, to proclaim that the Lord is just. In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:54-58

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

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

Gospel Acclamation

Philippians 2:15-16

Alleluia, alleluia!

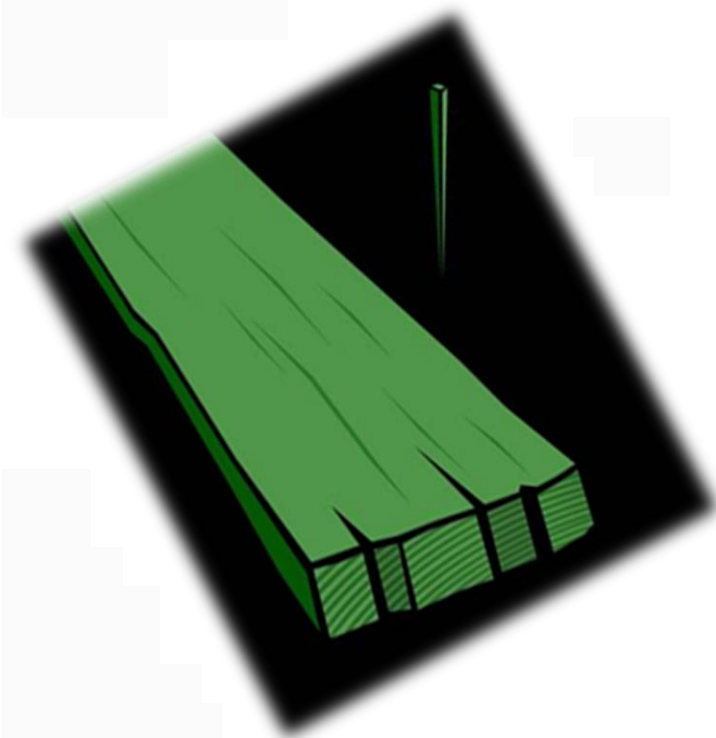
Shine on the world like bright stars; you are offering it the word of life. Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'



Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest Fr. Neville Stanislaus neville.stanislaus@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
Parish Email gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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 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

9th March 2025-
Deuteronomy 26:4-10/ Romans 10:8-13/
Luke 4:1-13

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

Ararat Friday Mass 28th February will be Prayers.

Ash Wednesday -Distribution of Ashes

Stawell Wednesday 5th March 9.30am Mass & Ararat Wednesday 5th March 11.00am Mass

Anniversaries

William Kneebone, Gwen Clark, Teresa Cairns, Robyn Millard, John Duscher 1944, Bertha Naylor 1970, Fr. Matt McGloin, James Healy 1984, John Sullivan 1999, Jason Bond, Stanley Mair 1968, Marjorie Forster 1988, Theresa Lightfoot 2003, John Heyward 2008, Francis Vernon (Frank), Tom Hennessy, Phillip Comitti 1981, Fr. Gerard Gasper CSsR, Patricia Monaghan 2007, Margaret Sinnott, Fr. Wladyslali Ziolkos, Pat Kenny, Dorothy Perry 1992, Zita Thomas, Phyllis Sertori, Leo Heenan, George Edwards, Ross McSparron 1969, Roland Charles Thurston, Malcolm Mckenzie McHarg,

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Mar 1st Reader Val Albert/ Prayers of Faithful Denise Haslett /Cleaning Rosemary Liston
Sat Mar 15th Reader Rosemary Liston/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldous

Ararat Roster

Sun Mar 2nd Facilitator M Olle / Reader E Shea / Euch Min Daniel / MA McD
Sun Mar 9th Facilitator C Reid / Reader Maria S / Euch Min M Mason/Albert
Sun Mar 16th Facilitator P Brennan / Reader P Brady / Euch Min Mary C / Genara

Stawell Roster

Sun Mar 2nd S/Minster K Ashton & J DeLeon/Reader Di O'Donnell / Offertory Timor E
Sun Mar 9th S/Minster L McIntyre & M Howard /Reader D Jones / Offertory Marg McGaffin
Sun Mar 16th S/Minster S DeLeon & M Rowe /Reader K Dallinger / Offertory G Pascall & P Gooden

The World Day of Prayer will be celebrated in St Patrick's Church, hosted by Stawell CWL, on Friday 7th March at 2pm. There will be afternoon tea in the St Pat's Church hall afterwards. Everyone is invited. The focus country this year is the Cook Islands.

Lenten Reflection Meeting Ararat- This is a very good way to help us grow in our understanding of the Lenten Sunday Readings. Please make every effort to attend either at 10am or 7pm each Thursday, commencing 6th March.

WHO AM I? - I am Zakari Fedoje Simon, (*A Seminarian for the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat*)

born on July 15, 1989, in Bauchi State, Nigeria, into the family of Mr. and Mrs. Boniface Zakari. I’m the fifth of nine children, five girls and four boys. I hold a bachelor's degree in Philosophy from both Urbanian University, Rome, and the University of Calabar, Nigeria. Currently, I am a fifth-year seminarian training for the priesthood in Carlton, Melbourne, for the Diocese of Ballarat. My desire to become a priest began when I was about 14 years old. After completing my secondary education, I gained admission to study Microbiology at the University of Abuja, Nigeria. However, after a year, I felt a deeper calling and applied for seminary formation. In 2011, I was admitted into the Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians), where I spent eight years in formation before stepping away to further discern my vocation outside the seminary walls. During this period, I worked as a classroom teacher, volunteered in humanitarian services with UNICEF and the Community of Sant’Egidio, and actively assisted in my local parish. My first encounter with the Diocese of Ballarat happened in December 2018 when I came across the diocesan website. A particular bulletin notice about a *Vocations Retreat Day* and the need to foster vocations within the Diocese caught my attention. That article resonated deeply with me, and after months of prayerful reflection and spiritual direction, I felt a strong conviction to return to seminary formation. After several years of discernment, Bishop Paul Bird accepted my application in April 2022, allowing me to recommence my seminary journey under the Diocese of Ballarat. As I look ahead, I remain grateful to God for the privilege of being here and to Bishop Paul and the faithful of the Diocese for their warm welcome. It is my prayer that my time here will be both fruitful and fulfilling as I dedicate myself to the service of God and His people in the Ballarat Diocese for the rest of my life.



Marian College News

On Tuesday 18th February Marian College held the Annual Swimming Carnival. We were blessed with weather perfect for the day and the students entered into some friendly competition and participated with energy. It was a complete joy to see our Yr 12s dressed up as a range of characters and doing the lap of the pool at the start of the carnival. Barron House was named Champion of the Pool, taking home the shield for the day. We were joined by many special guests for our Opening Mass on Thursday 20th. Fr Neville celebrated his first Mass with the college community and it was a prayerful, reverent occasion. It included the Principal Commissioning as well as the commissioning of our Yr 12 Student Leaders for 2025. We are pleased to announce the following:

- College Captains - Dane Cardinaels & Penny Bulger
- Vice Captains - Jenel Conteh & Luci Grayling
- STEM Captain - Ayden Linsley /PEAT Captain - Laura Kondis /CAL Captain - Will Delaney
- VCE VM Captain - Asher Dunks/ Barron House Captains - Molly Walker-Sutton & Natalie Marshall
- Clancy House Captains - Bella Belcher & Shari Atchison
- Kelly House Captains - Reuben Sladdin & Imy Pinniger
- Synnott House Captains - Lily Sloper & Regan Price

This week we have held School Photographs and moving into next week we have our Athletics sign-ups along with some students participating in the Black Ranges Swimming. We will mark Ash Wednesday with a Ritual for students and staff. There are also some senior students heading to Luna Park for a Physics excursion!

You can stay up to date with all the exciting day to day experiences of Marian College through our Facebook page <https://shorturl.at/lkdp1> and our Instagram account @mariancollegeararat. We would love a follow!

Please keep the students of Marian College in your prayers. Catherine Howison, Principal

Prayer for Pope Francis

Please pray for health and healing for Pope Francis, entrusting him to the healing care of our Lord. O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favourably on your servant Francis, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd. Grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Pope Francis message for Lent “Let Us Journey Together in Hope” is Pope Francis’ message for Lent 2025. He reminds us that we cannot stay where it is comfortable, that we must always accompany others, and that we must always do everything with the hope that never disappoints. To read the message scan or click the QR code.



Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Prayer - God of our journey we are all pilgrims of hope brought together by your love and your wish that we may all be one. We pray that in this Year of Jubilee when we are called to greater justice and care for our common home that we may *Unite Against Poverty*. May we work in unity for the freedom of the oppressed and the renewal of creation. May our compassionate minds and generous hearts help bring about a world where all can live in peace. May our Lenten pilgrimage of fasting, almsgiving and prayer bring us closer to your loving heart. We ask this in the name of Jesus.



Compassion Sunday 1st and 2nd of March 2025

This Lent, we are called to *Unite Against Poverty* through Caritas Australia's Project Compassion.

Your generous support this Lenten Season will enable Caritas Australia to provide life-changing support to vulnerable communities in need.

Please donate today.

You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes
or by scanning the QR code .

Or online at: caritas.org.au/project-compassion **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

Thank you for standing with us, as we *Unite Against Poverty this Lent*.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - Disciples or Mask-Wearers?

In ancient Greece actors wore masks which concealed the face. One may say they were 'two-faced'. They were called 'Hypocrites', and we derive our word and the idea of 'hypocrite' from that. As did Jesus. He could always see through the veneer which people (such as you and I) present to the outside world, and his gaze would (and still can) penetrate through to the heart – the core of the personality. For us, judging the heart of someone is fraught with risk. As Jesus humorously put it, how readily we see the smallest splinter of sawdust in someone else's eye, and in super-critical mode fail to see the plank of wood which impairs and distorts *our* vision. We should not rush to judgment. The fact is that only the gaze of God can really penetrate to the heart of someone. We know that the gaze of Jesus, Who is God, is always a loving gaze visualising a heart open to salvation. (Mk 10:17-22) This is one of the reasons why recent Popes have opposed capital punishment. Time must be given for the heart of the convicted criminal to respond to that loving gaze. And it leaves the Final Judgment, even of the murderer, to God. Listen to the dying moments of Our Lord. His loving gaze penetrated beyond the masks and actions of his tormentors and focused on their hearts. Then he cried out this plea: 'Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.' We are all conscious of the times we have fallen short of the practice and teaching of our Master despite our praying: 'Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.' We could pause for a moment to pray that The Teacher's loving gaze fall upon us to make us whole-hearted disciples willing 'to be formed by divine teaching'.

