



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday 16th March 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

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

Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

Taking Abram outside the Lord said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. 'I am the Lord' he said to him 'who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to make you heir to this land.' 'My Lord, the Lord' Abram replied, 'how am I to know that I shall inherit it?' He said to him, 'Get me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these, cut them in half and put half on one side and half facing it on the other; but the birds he did not cut in half. Birds of prey came down on the carcasses but Abram drove them off. Now as the sun was setting Abram fell into a deep sleep, and terror seized him. When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, there appeared a smoking furnace and a firebrand that went between the halves. That day the Lord made a Covenant with Abram in these terms: 'To your descendants I give this land, from the wadi of Egypt to the Great River.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14. R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life before whom shall I shrink? **(R.)**

2. O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer. Of you my heart has spoken: 'Seek his face.' **(R.)**

3. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek, hide not your face. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. **(R.)**

4. I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Hope in him, hold firm and take heart. Hope in the Lord! **(R.)**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:20 – 4:1

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For us, our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ, and he will transfigure these wretched bodies of ours into copies of his glorious body. He will do that by the same power with which he can subdue the whole universe. So then, my brothers and dear friends, do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord. I miss you very much, dear friends; you are my joy and my crown.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

From the shining cloud the father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel

Luke 9:28-36

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up the mountain to pray. As he prayed, the aspect of his face was changed, and his clothing became brilliant as lightning. Suddenly there were two men there talking to him; they were Moses and Elijah appearing in glory, and they were speaking of his passing which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were heavy with sleep, but they kept awake and saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As these were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so, let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' – He did not know what he was saying. As he spoke, a cloud came and covered them with shadow; and when they went into the cloud the disciples were afraid. And a voice came from the cloud saying, 'This is my Son, the Chosen One. Listen to him.' And after the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. The disciples kept silence and, at that time, told no one what they had seen.

Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

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Mass Times

Ararat Sunday 8.30am
Stawell Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac 1st 3rd 5th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Glenthompson (Hamilton Parish) 2nd 4th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

23RD March 2025-
Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15/
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12/Luke 13:1-9

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

Easter Mass Times

Maundy Thursday 17th April Lake Bolac 5pm & Ararat 7pm
Good Friday 18th April Stations of the Cross Alexandra Oval Ararat 11am
Good Friday 18th April Good Friday Ceremony Stawell 3pm & Ararat 3pm
Easter Saturday Vigil 19th April Lake Bolac 5pm & Ararat 7pm
Easter Sunday 20th April **Ararat 9am** & Stawell 10.30am

Recent Death Ian John Reid

Anniversaries

Fr John McDonnell CSsR, Astrid Nyhagen, Henrietta Phillips, Rosanna Weiss 1976, Samuel Evans 1993, Dorothy Annette Williams, Arthur Harrington, Mons James Timmons, John McLean 1972, Darrell Maddern, Joe Rees, Fr John Harrington, Jean Jones, Beverley Ford, Ivan Evans, Clifford Horsman, Eileen Gavin 2001, Bert Stephens, Ann Stephens, Fr Robert Paterson SJ, Dawn Wilson, Bob Mottram, Aminda (Min) Hamilton, Dorothy O'Brien, John Leggett, Ann Mary Healy 1944, John Thomas, Tom Carter, Sr. Joyce White RSJ, Lily Rose McConnell, Amy Wadsworth 1977, Dave Dampsey, Fr John Henehan, James Brown 1957, John Jones 1997, Lawrence Grace 2006, Betty Monaghan

Lake Bolac

Sat Mar 15 Reader Rosemary Liston/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldous
Sat Mar 29 Reader Tricia Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful Deb Glasson

Ararat Roster

Sun Mar 16th Facilitator P Brennan / Reader P Brady / Euch Min Mary C / Genara
Sun Mar 23rd Facilitator H Collins / Reader K Leggett / Euch Min Nora / Marg M

Stawell Roster

Sun Mar 16th S/Minster S DeLeon & M Rowe /Reader K Dallinger / Offertory G Pascall & P Gooden
Sun Mar 23rd S/Minster K Ashton & H Potter/Reader G Madafferi / Offertory J Croton

Stawell CWL will host a cuppa after Mass this Sunday 16th March. Everyone welcome.

Stawell St Vincent de Paul will be meeting on Monday 17th at 2pm in the St Pat's Church hall

Lake Bolac On Saturday 29th March following Mass at St. Bernard's Lake Bolac, a finger food meal will be held to welcome Father Neville and Simon Zakari to our community. Please bring a plate of food to share. All welcome

Bulletin - We apologize to all those who are not receiving the bulletin via email, the Ballarat diocese is working on the problem and have advised that until the issue has been rectified please go to the website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au and view the bulletin from there. Thank you for your patience.

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 at 10am or 7pm each Thursday, and bring along a friend, it is a very good program.

Feast for Freedom - Celebrating what unites us and raising funds for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Stawell Uniting Church Hall Sunday 30 March 6pm. Entry donation \$10 Please bring a main course or sweet to share. Program: video of the work of the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and guest speaker Bonnie Carter. RSVP Jenny Greenberger 0408571375

Marian College News

Our school community marked the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday liturgy in House groups, which was prayerful and reflective.

Our Student Leaders have started an initiative where they do Friday lunch visits to St Mary's Primary School. This has been a wonderful experience for both the Marian students and the St Mary's students. Both schools are keen to strengthen relationship between the two Catholic schools in Ararat and it is lovely to have this student interaction occurring.

Our senior Physics students visited Luna Park, combining education and enjoyment.

The Marian College Open Night is Tuesday 25th of March, 6.30pm – 8pm. All parishioners are welcome to come along, see the school in action and enjoy a sausage while you are there!

NAPLAN is underway this week and will continue next week – a great way to collect data to inform our learning and teaching. We also have our School Captains attending the Kildare Ministries Justice and Democracy camp as well as

Next week our Yr 12 students will be dancing the night away at the Yr 12 Formal and then on Friday the 21st we will celebrate Harmony Day and a belated St Brigid's Day – so much happening at Marian College!

Catherine Howison, Principal

Harmony Week: March 17-23, 2025

Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It's about inclusiveness, respect and coming together to celebrate the cultural diversity in your area and spread the message of "everyone belongs". The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is during this week on Friday, March 21. While Harmony Week celebrates Australia's rich cultural diversity, it is also important to focus on the urgency of combatting racism wherever and whenever it arises <https://www.harmony.gov.au/>

Prayer for Harmony Week: Lord, give us courage to follow your ways. Help us to make thoughtful decisions and kind actions, so that we may live in loving harmony with others. We ask this prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Interfaith Friendship Walk

The Ballarat Interfaith Network invites you to join in a friendship walk on Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 2.00pm – 4.30 pm, to learn about the history of origin, similarities and differences in doctrine, of three distinctly different Christian faiths: Catholic, Anglican, and Uniting Church. The walk begins at the Intercultural Garden, cnr Sturt and Pleasant Streets, followed by a walk to St Patrick's Cathedral, 3 Lyons Street South, then to the Cathedral Church of Christ the King, 49 Lydiard Street South and concluding at Ballarat Central Uniting Church, cnr Lydiard Street South and Dana Street. Refreshments will be provided. All are welcome. More information available from the Ballarat Interfaith Network facebook page.

Project Compassion 2025 Week 2: Unite against poverty this Lent

This week through Project Compassion, we learn about Toefuata'iga from Samoa. Toefuata'iga, a 13-year-old student in Samoa, faced severe challenges and disruptions to her learning due to water scarcity. After Caritas Australia's partner Caritas Samoa installed a 10,000 litre water tank at her school, Toefuata'iga and her classmates saw improved health and more consistent class attendance. "I would like to become a good teacher. To teach the children so they will have a brighter future," Toefuata'iga said.



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Reflection by Artist

Luke's version of the Transfiguration story is rich with images of light and darkness. While bright light seems to emanate from Jesus and his two companions, the disciples are in the dark in more ways than one. It is from within their darkness, however, that they hear the voice of God.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate – Transfigured Bodysouls

One often hears the conventional wisdom: 'All religions are the same, with somewhat different packaging.' But, do they believe the same thing about the human person?

What if one believed that the most vital part of a person was 'the soul' which alone was destined for Heaven? This is not the Christian belief. Today's Gospel recounts that Jesus' *body* was transfigured. This was no out-of-the-body experience of religious ecstasy. Jesus' *body* was totally translucent, totally radiant with Divine Light. Every molecule of his materiality was reverberating in the halo of divine glory. That is the destiny which God desires for us also. When we are really in harmony with God, when we really participate in the life of God, then that Divine Life envelops and permeates our whole person, *bodysoul*. That is our *ultimate* destiny, but can it be anticipated in the lives of those close to God? You might care to read the story of St Seraphim of Sarov from the Russian Orthodox tradition. A follower recounts the dazzling bodily transformation of the saint with the blaze of light spilling over onto the snow-covered meadow.

We might pause for a moment to affirm our Christian hope that, with God's grace, we will be radiant with Divine Light, our bodies immersed in translucent glory, filled with infinite joy in our hearts.



Second Sunday of Lent 15th and 16th of March 2025

Toefuata'iga - (*Toy-foo-ah-tah-ing-ah*) a primary school student from Samoa faced severe water shortages at her school. Thanks to Caritas Australia and the generosity of supporters like you, her primary school now has a 10,000 L water tank. Teachers and students now have access to clean drinking water at their school and are able to focus on education.



Please donate today. You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes or by scanning the QR code above. **Or online at:** caritas.org.au/project-compassion **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413