



Holy Spirit  
Parish  
Gariwerd

Sunday 23rd March 2025  
THIRD 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

Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said, 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am' he answered. 'Come no nearer' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all generations to come.'

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. (R.)

2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. (R.)

3. The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons. (R.)

4. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. (R)

### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

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

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

### Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



# Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

**Parish Priest** Fr. Neville Stanislaus [neville.stanislaus@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:neville.stanislaus@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
**Parish Bulletin Online** [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) – follow link to parish.  
**Secretary / Child Safe** Jill Croxford [gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
**Parish Email** [gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto: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** 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat  
**Glenthompson** (Hamilton Parish) 2<sup>nd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays 8.30am

## Readings for next Sunday

30<sup>th</sup> March 2025-  
Joshua 5:9-12/ 2 Corinthians 5:17-21  
Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

## 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

## Easter Mass Times

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

**Stations of the Cross – St Patrick’s Stawell every Friday 10am until 18<sup>th</sup> April. All Welcome**

## Anniversaries

Fr Bill O'Driscoll, Bea Kelly, Elizabeth Hustler, Benita Una Pieters, Thomas Kerrin 1985, Natalina Rathgeber, John Colwell, Barry Smith, Phillip Brown, Cliff Murray, Thomas Molan 1981, John Kelly, Helen Kneebone, Betty Beer, Paz Navarro, James Monaghan 1989, Elizabeth Overington, Gwen Murray, Rebecca Saudys 1953, Kathleen Jose 2015 Alma Brennan, Evelyn Gleeson, Dr. Pat Claridge, Anna Drewniak, Damien Rees, Ena Brady, Annie Rowe, Maureen Davey, Ella Jeffries, Noel Stevens, John Rutter 1973, Bill Laffan, Margaret Walsh, Michael Akers 2001, Valerie Phelan 2006

## Lake Bolac

Sat Mar 29 Reader Tricia Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful Deb Glasson  
Sat Apr 5 Reader Mick Brennan/ Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins  
Sat Apr 19 Reader Rebecca Rodger/ Prayers of Faithful Phillip Meek /Cleaning Team Effort

## Ararat Roster

Sun Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> Facilitator H Collins / Reader K Leggett / Euch Min Nora / Marg M  
Sun Mar 30<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Pat McA / Reader Jenny M / Euch Min Cath McA / Harry  
Sun Apr 6<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Rebecca / Reader E Shea / Euch Min Mary C / Marg O

## Stawell Roster

Sun Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> S/Minster K Ashton & H Potter/Reader G Madafferi / Offertory J Croton  
Sun Mar 30<sup>th</sup> S/Minster L McIntyre & M Howard/Reader H Potter / Offertory Heenan Family  
Sun Apr 6<sup>th</sup> S/Minster H Potter & S DeLeon/Reader Di O'Donnell / Offertory Lesley Habben

**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 extremely 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

**World Day of Prayer** held at St Patrick's Catholic Church Stawell on Friday 7th March 2025. 46 people attended from Stawell Churches.



### **Damascus College Ballarat 2025 Reunions**

Damascus College warmly welcomes the Classes of 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015 to celebrate the 2025 Reunion Day! Join us as we reconnect, reminisce, and honour these milestone anniversaries on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at Damascus College, 1412 Geelong Road, Mt Clear. The day will begin with a free welcome reception from 2.00pm–4:00pm (doors open at 1.30pm for registration). Enjoy light refreshments, drinks, a campus tour, and some simple formalities during this shared gathering, followed by a group photo. The after party for each cohort will continue at their own private individual locations from 7.00pm onwards. Full event details and tickets at <https://www.damascus.vic.edu.au/community/alumni/alumni-reunions-events>

### **Save the date – Liturgical Music Symposium with Tony Alonso**

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission invites you to attend a day on liturgical music, presented by international composer, Tony Alonso on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, 3 Lyons Street South, Ballarat. There will be three workshops during the day from 9.00am - 3.30pm and one evening Workshop from 7.00pm - 8.30pm. Cost will be \$75.00 per person for full day (includes morning tea, lunch day and evening workshops) or \$25.00 for evening workshop only. More information and booking details to come.

### **Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope**

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope." A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world.



### **The Jubilee Prayer**

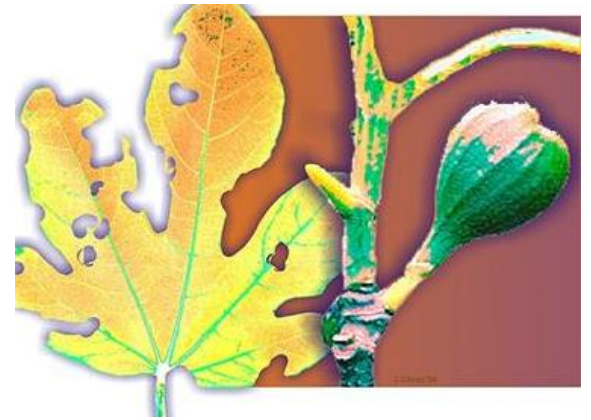
Father in heaven, may the faith you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel. May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory and praise for ever. Amen. Pope Francis

**Lam** is 27 years old from a small village in rural Vietnam who faced significant challenges due to his short stature. Through the I-SHINE program Lam completed a six-month course developing his graphic design skills. He now runs a successful freelance graphic design business from home, serving clients worldwide and earning a steady income. 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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413 413. Please donate today.



### Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

There is a tough but fair Lenten message in the parable of the fig tree: before it is chopped down and reduced to dead wood, the tree is given one more chance to be fruitful. There is a 'be warned' side to this story and a 'take heart' aspect as well. Yes, be warned because every one of us has to be fruitful in our own way, and yes, take heart because God is on our side. What is the dead wood in your life and what needs nourishment?



### REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate -Politics, Economics, and the Gardener

There was a terrible disaster when a building fell down killing eighteen people. Some said, 'Oh, those killed must have been sinners, they or their parents.' Jesus repudiates that notion: 'No, it wasn't for anything *they* did.' It was clear to Jesus that they were the victims of poor construction and conditions at Siloam. Look at the builder. Responsibility needs to be brought home to those who would otherwise hide behind a religious ideology, or the sheer self-interest of evading blame for a situation. To identify those really responsible may well require major changes to the way society is organised. Does it all seem too difficult? Jesus helps us with a metaphor: You are like a fig tree which may not be bearing much fruit just now, but, I am a terrific gardener: I will water you, dig around you, make sure you are well nourished so that you will bear the fruits I desire. Our Lord does that by: watering us with the waters of baptism; pruning us, especially during Lent; nourishing us with the bread of life in Holy Communion. We might pause at various times during Lent to allow Our Lord to garden us so that he may create a heavenly botanical garden, a new Eden, of the whole of humanity.

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

The bush is on fire, but it is not burning anything. Moses is fascinated with that. Have you ever watched a campfire, a fireplace or a candle with fascination? Do you know anyone who has? What is so fascinating about flames? What is so fascinating about our God?

Moses is getting a second chance at greatness. He would actually rather stay where he is, with the flocks at Midian, but Yahweh has greater plans for him. Have you ever been given a second chance? Did you feel relieved? Did you feel burdened? What happened? Did you need a third chance?