



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

Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters, who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

### 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 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and

to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

### Gospel Acclamation

Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel

John 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

# 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

13<sup>TH</sup> April 2025  
Isaiah 50:4-7/ Philippians 2:6-11/  
Luke 23:1-49

## 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

**No Ararat 11am MASS on Good Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

## 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 Gardens Ararat 11am  
(Combined service by the Ararat Christian Churches)  
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

**Stations of the Cross** – Immaculate Conception Ararat every Friday 10.30am until 18<sup>th</sup> April. All Welcome

**Commencing Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April** Ararat Sunday Mass will commence at 9am and  
Landsborough will commence at 12am

## Anniversaries

Robert Jerram, Enrique Tolentino, Mauva Monroe, Bill Phyland, Malcolm Bates, Thelma McRae, Patricia Carr 1992, Lynette Soule 2010, Inez Krause 2014, Eric Beer, Ron McMaster, Peter Upton, Paul Pavao Japunčić, Agnes Torney 1967, Edward McSparron 2006, Jack Costello, Fr Thomas Moriarty, William McColl 1953, Keith Hurley 1956, Bronwyn Holborow 1990, Carla Bowles 2020, Thomas Naylor 1987, Kiern Devery, Noreen Bonner, James V. Liston, Katica Guljas, Hilary Robinson, Fr Michael Nelan, Seamus Hennessy, Sr Clare Stansby RSM, Jessie Hazel Christian, MaryEllen Lowe 1964, Sarah Seeary 1985, Patricia Hayes 1997, Albert Nicholson 1997, Elizabeth (Betty) Tavener 1998, Kathleen Ryan 2005, Walter Francis 2006,

## Lake Bolac

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 Apr 6<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Rebecca / Reader E Shea / Euch Min Mary C / Marg O

Sun Apr 13<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Pat L / Reader Peter B / Euch Min Marg M / Nora

## Stawell Roster

Sun Apr 6<sup>th</sup> S/Minster H Potter & S DeLeon/Reader Di O'Donnell / Offertory Lesley Habben

Sun Apr 13<sup>th</sup> S/Minster J DeLeon & M Rowe /Reader L McIntyre & Simon Zakari/ Offertory H Reid & Friend

**Ararat CWL** - Next meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 1.30pm in the Parish Centre. All welcome.

**The Australian Electoral Commission** will be using our Ararat Parish Centre from Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Therefore Friday 11am Mass will be held in the Church and Lunch in the Foyer. Affected Fridays are 18<sup>th</sup> April 25<sup>th</sup> April & 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**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.

**Interchurch Council** combined churches of Stawell service in the council carpark (ie Town Hall carpark) on Good Friday, April 18th. It will commence at 11:30 am

**Mass of the Oils April 14** The Mass of the Oils will be celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 1pm on Monday, April 14. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God of the Diocese. This Mass also has special significance for those who will use the blessed oils in 2025, the ordained, the sick, those to be baptised and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to this celebration, which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church.

### **Pilgrimage with St Paul - Missionary of Hope**

In this Jubilee year, dedicated to becoming Pilgrims of Hope, pilgrims are invited to experience the world of the early Christian communities. The Acts of the Apostles will come alive as we go out with St Paul and his companions to rediscover the faith and struggles of the early Christian communities. The proposed itinerary departs Melbourne on Sunday, September 21st 2025 with the pilgrims arriving in Istanbul and proceeding to Adana, Tarsus, Antioch, Ephesus, Troas, Kavala, Philippi, Thessalonica and Athens with the possibility of an extension to Rome. For further information please contact Lifestyle Travel, 11 Armstrong Street North (PO Box 740), Ballarat, 3350, ph. 03 5331 8077, email [info@lifestyletravel.com.au](mailto:info@lifestyletravel.com.au) or Fr Justin Driscoll [justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:justin.driscoll@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



### **Save with CDF Community Fund – it's in everyone's best interest.**

By opening a savings account or Term Investment, not only will you receive a competitive financial return, but your savings will also help build parishes, classrooms, hospital wings, aged care homes and social service facilities. With competitive interest rates available across a range of savings accounts, including **5.10% p.a.\* on a 6-month Term Investment**, it's a way to save while doing good. To find out more, visit [www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer](http://www.catholicdevelopmentfund.org.au/communityfund/offer), scan the QR code, or speak to us on 1800 134 135.



\*Interest rates subject to change. View current rates on the CDF website.

### **Holy Land Collection – Good Friday, April 18, 2025**

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 18. Over the last five years the people of the Holy Land have had so much turmoil in their lives. We pray that the ceasefire in Palestine, Gaza and Israel will be honoured by all the leaders. Already the Christian church leaders are encouraging people to come back on pilgrimage. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows care for the Holy Places (which also gives work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless and more. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will continue to support the works of the Holy Land through the generosity of the Australian Church. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great odds.

### **Palm Sunday Ecumenical Gathering in Ballarat**

An Ecumenical Palm Sunday Gathering will be held on Sunday, April 13, 2025 at the Sturt Street Bandstand between Dawson and Doveton Streets at 9.00am. All are invited to attend this special gathering to mark the beginning of Holy Week.

# UNITE AGAINST POVERTY

this Lent



PROJECT  
COMPASSION

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

5th and 6th of April 2025

The transformative work of Caritas Australia is only possible thanks to supporters like you and the dedication, passion, and resilience of our local partners, who tirelessly work to empower communities and create brighter futures. In Vietnam, Caritas Australia's partner programs, like I-SHINE, helped Lam, a young man with a disability, gain graphic design skills and start a successful freelance business, inspiring others to pursue their dreams. In Samoa, Caritas Australia works with Caritas Samoa to improve access to clean water and sanitation through initiatives like water tank installations, transforming health and well-being for families like Toefuata'iga's. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Caritas Australia partners with Caritas Kongolo on the Youth Capacity Strengthening Program. This initiative equipped Irene, a single mother, with sewing and farming skills, enabling her to support her family and empower others in her community. Through partnerships like these, Caritas Australia creates lasting change in communities across the globe. **Please donate today.** You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes, envelopes **Or online at:** [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) **Or by calling:** 1800 024 413

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



**Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close- Reflection by Artist Scribes and Pharisees** tried many ways to test Jesus, but he had the knack of outwitting them. In this story from John's gospel an unnamed woman is used as a scapegoat. Jesus defuses the violent situation by slowing down the pace, by using common sense and a little compassion. Instead of focusing on the woman, Jesus turns the situation around so that the scribes and Pharisees are forced to examine their own motives and inadequacies. As a consequence, stones are no longer righteous weapons for them. When the crowd has gone Jesus talks directly to the woman and for the first time she is a person, rather than a thing. She still has no name, but now at least she has a voice.



## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate -mThe Gaze of Jesus

The accusers of this woman make her 'stand there in *full view* of everybody.' She is surrounded by the hostile glare of eyes filled with blood lust.

It is only when the accusers have left in embarrassment that Jesus, who has been bent to the ground, looks up at her. He adopts the posture of a slave, seeing her as she could be if she gives up her current pattern of behaviour.

Up till now, *no-one* has spoken to this woman. Now Jesus treats her as a human being worth speaking to. And what does she hear? That he does not condemn her but points her to a new sort of life in the future.

We could pause for a moment to allow Jesus the time to look at us, talk to us, in that way. Do you have the courage to 'lock eyes' with Jesus and live out the consequences? 'The eyes have it.'