



**Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd**



**St Patrick's
Stawell**



**Immaculate Conception
Ararat**



**St Francis of Assisi
Landsborough**



**St Bernard's
Lake Bolac**

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember, because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**

3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!

My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



27th September 2026

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest Fr. Neville Stanislaus (Sri Lankan) neville.stanislaus@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Secretary / Safeguarding Officer Jill Croxford gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their elders both past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions and culture of our ancient land, Australia.
We honour the presence of these ancestors who reside in the imagination of this land

Mass Times

Ararat Sunday 9am
Stawell Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac 1st 3rd 5th Sundays 6pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough 2nd 4th Sundays 12 noon
Glenthompson (Hamilton Parish) 2nd 4th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

Isaiah 5:1-7/ Philippians 4:6-9/
Matthew 21:33-43

Weekday Masses (usual schedule) (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Wednesday: Aged Care

Thursday: Stawell 10am

(The rosary is prayed at 10am every 1st Thursday of the month and also whenever there is no weekday Mass)

Thursday: Hopkins 2.30pm

Friday: Ararat 11am Communion Service

Aged Care Roster

1st Wednesday 11.15am Eventide

2nd Wednesday 10am Lowe St

3rd Wednesday 10am Garden View

4th Wednesday 10am ARVillage

NO WEEK-DAY MASSES WHILE Fr NEVILLE AWAY 13/7/26 – 16/10/26

NO SUNDAY MASS IN LANDSBOROUGH WHILE Fr NEVILLE AWAY 13/7/26 – 16/10/26

Pray for the Sick - Wesley Pougher, Jacinta Fitzgerald, Herma Hill, Lillian Iles, Moira Hateley

Anniversaries

Edmund Gleeson, Margaret Johnson, Bruce Harrison, Nicholas Cosgrave, Alice Tiddy, Robert Green, Robert Prydderch, Alex Shields, Marjorie Stapleton, Robbert Prydderch, Michael Walsh, Frances Woolley, Thomas Turvey B. Seeary, William Power, Nancy Gibson, Mark Eastick, Margaret Ryan, Joe Hayes, Mary Kelly, Kaz Grabowski, Judith Haberecht-Reid, Natasha Eastick, Theresa Healy Margaret Jess, John Jess, Kevin Joyce, Joseph Pinzone, Tom Ryan, Seamus Hennessy, Elywn Lillis, Annie Larkan, Frederick Waring, Carmen Claridge, Bill Canty, Glen Lister, Gerry Lillis, Ian Brown, Daniel Resnik, Daniel Francis O'Rourke, Kathleen Monaghan, Bernice Lane, John McLaughlin

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Oct 3 Reader Mick Brennan/Prayer of Faithful Jane Higgins /Cleaning Jane Higgins

Sat Oct 17 Reader Rosemary Liston/Prayer of Faithful Phillip Meek

Ararat Roster

Sun Sept 27 Facilitator P Brady / Reader C McA / Euch Min Teresa G

Sun Oct 4 Facilitator Rose Reader P Brady/ Euch Min Marg O

Sun Oct 11 Facilitator Cathy M / Reader Kath L / Euch Min Mary C

Stawell Roster

Sun Sept 27 S/Min L McIntrye & S DeLeon / Reader M R Thomas / Offertory M McGaffin

Sun Oct 4 S/Min Michelle Howard/J DeLeon/ Reader D O'Donnell/ Offertory Timor East

Sun Oct 11 S/Min K Ashton & D Jones/Reader G Madafferi/ Offertory G Pascall/ P Gooden

Holy Spirit Parish - We are a child-safe, welcoming, and environmentally friendly parish community. We value your feedback, please share your thoughts with the parish office via email. Your input helps us serve you better.

Holy Spirit Parish - We pledge ourselves to the safeguarding and wellbeing of all children, young people, and adults at risk in our care. We encourage everyone to respect and uphold our parish policy.

Stawell CWL will be hosting a cuppa after Sunday's Mass in the St Pat's Church hall. Everyone welcome

To Celebrate the Special Year of St Francis of Assisi, the Catholic Women's League will be holding a day of prayer, reflection, friendship and stories at our very own St Francis of Assisi Church in Landsborough on Monday 5th October from 10am-2.30pm. The day includes Rosary, Mass, a presentation by Fr James Kerr on his visit to Assisi, lunch in the Landsborough Hall sharing local history and stories of Landsborough's St Francis Church and concludes with prayers for peace in that Church. Everyone is welcome to come along to all, or just part of the day. For catering purposes RSVP by 28th Sept to Margaret Rowe -53582421, Jan Crowe -0428916941 or Anna Collins anna.collins@bigpond.com

The Story of the Universe workshop offers an introductory experience of the Universe, as we have come to know it over recent decades. Using a range of media, the workshop explores different aspects of the story including our place in relation to it, here on Earth. It considers the question: How can we know who we are, in light of where we are?

Presenter: Margaret Hill - When: Tues Oct 13th 11am - 12.15pm - Where: St Mary's Parish Centre

Bookings: Sr Maree 0427 333 604 or the Parish Office: 53525460



112th World Day of Migrants and Refugees – TODAY

The theme for this year's World Day of Migrants and Refugees is "Even Just One of These Children." To help celebrate this special day, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO), an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, has developed online resources including liturgies for primary and secondary schools, homily notes, prayers of intercession, stories, and interviews. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/world-day-of-migrants-and-refugees-sunday-september-27-2026/>

Admission to Candidacy for Ordination as Deacons and Priests

Diocesan Seminarians Simon Zakari and Channa Tilikarathna, will be admitted as candidates for ordination to the diaconate and later to the priesthood. Bishop Mark Freeman will celebrate Mass on Sunday, September 27, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 5.00pm and during this Mass, Channa and Simon will publicly express their intention to receive ordination as a deacon and priest. All welcome to attend.

Beyond the Wedding Threshold: A survey for Catholics in the first decade of marriage

The Australian Catholic Bishops are funding a study into the experience of married Catholics. The results will help inform the development of pastoral responses and resources. If you married in the last 10 years and at least one spouse is Catholic, they'd love to hear from you. Can you provide valuable insights to their work by completing this short survey about your marriage? <https://thepmrc.org/survey>. All your answers are anonymous and confidential, and you can contact the researchers directly if you have any questions.

Upcoming Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL) Webinars

"Shaping Children and Young People's Vulnerability" webinar on October 22. More information at: <https://www.acsltd.org.au/services/support-materials/training-calendar/>

Season of Creation 2026

The Season of Creation is held from September 1 - October 4 and is a time for Christians to come together in prayer and action for Creation. The theme for Season of Creation this year is "Living Water". Resources to celebrate the Season of Creation are available at <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - 'No, no, no ... Y-yes!'

Jesus tells a little story about two brothers. One said 'Yes', but never did anything. The other said 'No', but then had a change of heart and did what was required. Jesus loved the brother who came around. He was very hard on the one who said 'Yes' but did not 'walk the talk'.

That is why he loved those tax collectors who gathered the revenue for the Roman authorities, and the prostitutes who serviced the Roman occupying army, but who switched allegiance from the Empire of Caesar to the Kingdom of God. This signalled a profound change of heart.

We may have said 'No' to God at various times with various intensity in our lives. But God is wonderfully patient and prepared to hear 'No' many times in the hope of hearing 'Yes'. God's patience never runs out. But our time to say 'Yes' does run out. We only have a relatively short life span!

At the end of Mass, I will say 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.' As St Francis of Assisi put it, 'Preach the Gospel, and occasionally use words.' Walk the talk.

SEASON OF CREATION REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

In today's parable where a son said yes but did nothing, Jesus offers a striking indictment of empty lip-service. In our age, one of the Church's most insistent calls has been for people to work for the protection of the vineyard of the earth. Speaking of climate change, deforestation and chemical pollution, Pope Saint John Paul II declared in 1990 'that the ecological crisis is a moral issue' and called on all people to 'recognise their obligation to contribute to the restoration of a healthy environment'. In 2009 Pope Benedict XVI insisted that 'technologically advanced societies can and must lower their domestic energy consumption'. In 2015 Pope Francis called on all of humanity 'to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming' of the world's climate which we are currently facing.

Successive Popes have therefore called us all to work for the protection of our planet and its people. But it is up to every Christian to ensure that these words are not just empty rhetoric.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Conversion is depicted as a change of mind in the parable of the two sons. At first one son refused to work, then he 'changed his mind' or 'thought better of it'. This story confirms that repentant sinners are more welcome in the kingdom of God than those who profess their faith with their lips but not with their deeds. Matthew is restating the notion (see last week's gospel) that 'the last will be first, and the first will be last'.



Living the Gospel – Saying 'Yes!'

In many ways, it is easy to say 'Yes' and not really mean it. Some people do it all the time in their lives. They say 'Yes' when they have no intention at all of following through on their commitment. It's easy to say 'Yes' and not mean it when it comes to faith as well. It's pretty easy to turn up at Church on a Sunday and be seen to be doing the 'right' thing. But if our faith doesn't change the way we live, then maybe we're really saying 'No' to God.