



Holy Spirit  
Parish  
Gariwerd

# Sunday 23rd February 2025

## Seventh 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 1 Samuel 26:2. 7-9. 12-13. 22-23

A reading from the first book of Samuel  
Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice. David answered Abishai, Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

#### Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10. 12-13. 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 is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. (R.)
4. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him. (R.)

#### Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:45-49

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit.

That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

#### Gospel Acclamation

John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

#### Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

# 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  
**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

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025-  
Sirach 27:4-7/ 1 Corinthians 15:54-58/  
Luke 6:39-45

## 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

## Ararat Friday Mass 27<sup>th</sup> February will be Prayers

### Anniversaries

Edward Arnold, Harold Bryant, Kaz Sobczak, Mons James Brophy, Julieta Formentera, Lorna Martin, Michael Scherger, Joyce Pola 1953, William Coughlan 1959, Margaret Borella 1974, Michael Stapleton, Mary Lugg, Brian Coffey, Hazel Gleeson, Mabel Connell 1966, Catherine Doery, Mary Dalziel 1963, Therese (Dinny) O'Driscoll, Elizabeth Phillips 1943, Patrick Walsh 1944, Hendricus Sijmons 1990, Matthew Leggett, Brian Walshe, Nell Hooper, Flora Coad, Alison Burmeister, Arthur Spiller, Mary Radley, Bill Lavery, Mons Tom O'Brien, Jim Rix, Mavis Stewart, Marcia Shalders, Arthur Spiller, Thomas Smith 1962, Dulcie O'Connor 1963, William (Bill) Holzagal 1972, Dennis McMahon 1998, Peter Wister 2008, Beryl Walsh 2020, Fr Thomas O'Brien, Geoff Dohnt, Bernadette Ferguson, Julie O'Brien, Brian Toner, Bill Campigli, Keith Peters 1980, Dulcie Stewart 1982, Kaye Dalton.

### Lake Bolac Roster

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

### Ararat Roster

Sun Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> Facilitator Teresa / Reader Maria / Euch Min Mary C / Charlie  
Sun Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> Facilitator M Olle / Reader E Shea / Euch Min Daniel / MA McD  
Sun Mar 9<sup>th</sup> Facilitator C Reid / Reader Maria S / Euch Min M Mason/C Reid

### Stawell Roster

Sun Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> S/Minster H Potter/G Comitti/M R Thomas/Reader D O'Donnell / Offertory M McGaffin  
Sun Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> S/Minster K Ashton & J DeLeon/Reader Di O'Donnell / Offertory Timor E  
Sun Mar 9<sup>th</sup> S/Minster L McIntyre & M Howard /Reader D Jones / Offertory Marg McGaffin

**The World Day of Prayer** will be celebrated in St Patrick's Church, hosted by Stawell CWL, on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Parish Council Meeting** –Ararat Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 4.30pm

**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 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Stations of the Cross – St Patrick’s Stawell Friday 10am commencing 7<sup>th</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> April. All Welcome**

### **St Patrick’s Cathedral Choral Scholarships**

St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat provides Choral Scholarships for Years 3–6 students with musical interest and aptitude. The Scholarships provide \$1,000 per annum towards students' education and/or musical tuition. Choral Scholars sing and rehearse regularly at St Patrick’s Cathedral and occasionally at community events. The Choral Scholarships are modelled on the Melbourne, Sydney and Perth Cathedrals, with children being taught an exciting range of repertoire, including traditional styles of sacred music and contemporary church hymns. There are opportunities for musical, vocal and personal development in a safe, fun environment. Children audition for a place in the choir. If they are successful, they join the Cathedral’s Cantate Domino Choir, which is currently made up of 25 adults and children. Auditions are held by arrangement with applicants. For more information and to request an application form, please contact the Choir Director, Mr Vincent Sully, at [cantatedomino@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:cantatedomino@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or on 0407 310 115.

### **CatholicCare Victoria thanks you for your support of the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal**

The CatholicCare Victoria team extends its heartfelt gratitude to your parish community for your contribution to the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal. As the recipient of the \$5,000 donation from the Bishop’s Christmas Appeal proceeds, your generosity and compassion will help us to continue supporting families, individuals, children, young people and the elderly, in our community. We are the Catholic Church’s mission in action and we empower people to live their life to the full. Our services range from supporting people who need help accessing aged care services, and remaining independent at home, those that are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness; and those that are experiencing challenges with their mental health, or with relationships in their family. When families breakdown, we are there to ensure both parents and children have the support they need for their wellbeing and future. We have many services available in the Ballarat region and across Victoria. If you or someone you know needs support, please call 1800 123 228 or visit our website at [www.catholiccarevic.org.au](http://www.catholiccarevic.org.au). Without the support of the parish communities like yours, we would not be able to continue our mission to build thriving communities, where everyone belongs. Together, we are making a positive difference in the lives of people every day!

### **An invitation to Artists**

The National Liturgical Architecture and Art Council has released a statement, in relation to the Jubilee of Artists (acknowledged February 15-18, 2025), to encourage parishes and other Catholic entities to collaborate with artists in projects large and small. Click or scan the QR code for more information.



**Holy Trinity Ararat** Would like to join us for Lent Bible Study on Sundays after church for 30 minutes, 11am – 11.30am? 2025 marks the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, and the Nicene Creed which we recite at Mass each Sunday as a proclamation of our faith.

A Lenten Quiet Day - You are invited to attend a Lenten quiet day at Holy Trinity Anglican church Ararat commencing at 11am, concluding 2pm, on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, before Ash Wednesday. For those who are interested we invite you to join with us in the 9.30 service and share in the Eucharist, followed by morning tea. For those who are unfamiliar with quiet days be not discouraged, all will be gently explained when we come together as a group before we enter the 1st quiet time, in silence with God. You will be given a pamphlet outlining the day, with scripture readings as a guide. You are invited to come with a gentle open heart and a small precious item to freely gift to another as a symbol of Lenten sacrifice, such as a sprig of gum leaves, a small round stone, a cucumber, perhaps a precious object from your collection of small figurines. The day will follow a simple pathway, 11am opening with prayer, introducing the quiet day and the focus, *glistening sadness, rising joy*, followed by 1<sup>st</sup> period of silence, before gathering back together to share blessings and insights, lunch leading into a 2<sup>nd</sup> period of silence, finally coming together, bringing insights and blessings of the day to the group before concluding with prayer. Please bring a notebook, pen and bible and a sandwich or equivalent for lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided. Lastly, some of our Lenten activities :

**Annual Ecumenical Pan Cake Day** on 4<sup>th</sup> March at 6pm for 6.30pm start.

**Ash Wednesday** Service with imposition of ashes on 5<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm.

**Lent Bible Study** led by some of our lay leaders & clergy after Sunday service at Holy Trinity, Ararat.

**Holy Hour** on Wednesdays from 12<sup>th</sup> March onwards between 5.00-6.00pm at Holy Trinity, Ararat.

## REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - Learning the Language of Heaven

Jesus challenges us to unlearn the language of the world and to learn a language which is counter-cultural, paradoxical, perplexing, such as: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you' etc, etc. Are such attitudes and actions possible? Our Lord is the best model. Jesus *is* the Word of God in human history. Jesus *is* the language of Heaven spoken in a human life. We have to read the Gospels and then imitate His dialect. Otherwise we might merely mutter to ourselves which would end up being eternally Hellish. When we become aware of our language malpractice, i.e., sinning, and if we become *really* tongue-tied, i.e., seriously sinning, we can come to the Sacrament of Confession and emerge articulate and conversant with Christ again. We can talk with Our Lord again. We are singing the same tune. Then at the moment of death we can gracefully pass over to our intended destiny which is not incommunicado, but comunicado, holy comunicado, holy conversation with God and with every creature. We might pause for a moment and resolve to practise the language of Heaven and to 'walk the talk' every day.



**REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA** Perhaps one of the most difficult lessons to learn is forgiveness of those whom we consider our enemies, those who have wronged us. As challenging as this may be, the Gospel calls us to a very high standard: we must be merciful as God is merciful. If such perfection can become a reality in our lives, we will be able to forgive. Paul assures us that we can indeed attain such perfection, not by ourselves, but through the power of the risen Lord whose image we bear. Paul plays with the theology of creation. In the beginning, we were made like the first Adam, earthly, limited, weak, concerned about the things of this world, and committed to our own well being. Through baptism we have been fashioned after the image of the second Adam, Christ the risen Lord. Being like Christ, we become godlike, empowered with his saving power, transformed with him into new beings. It is now in our power, which is really the power of the resurrection, to be merciful as God is merciful. In the risen Lord we experience a mystical transformation. From now on, all of our actions can flow from this new reality. Transformed by the power of the resurrection, we are capable of unprecedented good works. We can live without retaliation; we can render good for evil. We can be prodigal in our generosity toward others; we can relinquish any rights of proprietorship that we might enjoy. We can live with others without unfairly judging them. We can be like God, boundless in our forgiveness.



## Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

### Reflection by Artist

'Love your enemies' is one of the most challenging teachings of Jesus. It seems an impossible ideal, but Jesus gave us a practical example in the way he faced the terror of the cross. The problem is that living this way is inherently risky – especially when violence and terrorism occur and revenge seems a more efficient solution than reconciliation. Reaching out in love is clearly the radical Christian way, however.