

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 Is 11:1-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

(The fear of the Lord is his breath.)

He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land.

His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked.

Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips.

The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them.

The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together.

The lion eats straw like the ox.

The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand.

They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea.

That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples.

It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 12-13. 17. R. cf. v.7

(R.) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to the earth's bounds. (R.)

3. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

4. May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 15:4-9

A Reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the example's scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camelhair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Parish Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest	Fr. Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Bulletin Online	www.ballarat.catholic.org.au – follow link to parish
Secretary / Child Safe	Jill Croxford ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Email	ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Office	304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm
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Post Box	PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377

Mass Times

Ararat	Sunday 8.30am
Stawell	Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac	1 st 3 rd 5 th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough	2 nd 4 th Sundays 6pm Vigil Sat
Glenthompson	(Hamilton Parish) 2 nd 4 th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

December 11th
Third Sunday of Advent Year A
[Is35:1-6,10](#)// [Jas5:7-10](#)// [Mt11:2-11](#):

Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

Tuesday: 10am Stawell (Check bulletin for occasional changes)
Wednesday: Aged Care
Thursday: 3.30pm Hopkins
Friday: 11am Ararat (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Aged Care Roster

1st Wednesday 11.15am Eventide
2nd Wednesday 11am Lowe St
3rd Wednesday 10.30am Garden View
4th Wednesday 10am ARVillage

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve: Stawell 6pm // Ararat 7.30pm // Lake Bolac 9.15pm
Christmas Day: Landsborough 9am

Reconciliation

Tuesday December 20 5.30pm Stawell and 7pm Ararat
This will be 2nd Rite Reconciliation. Please bring a plate to share.

Lake Bolac Reconciliation: During Mass on Saturday December 17

Change to Landsborough Mass Time

For One Weekend Only Landsborough's Mass next Saturday December 10 has been moved to Sunday December 11 at 12.30pm.

Anniversaries

Kathleen Smith, George Cunningham, Donald Dagleish, Les Hunt, Maureen Pyke 2001, Sr. Genevieve Fitzpatrick James Sertori, Terry Phillips, Ireneo Torrecampo, William Davies, Eddie Walls, John Presser, Sr Elizabeth McGovern CSB, Mary Rix, Richard Alabacos, Lucas O'Callaghan 2009, Michael Healy 1953, Mons. Bill McCunnie, Matt Brennan, Jenny Sharman, Monica Fitzpatrick, Phyllis Brown, Michael Gavin 2004, Evelyn Sladdin 2019, Ellen Mullins, Patrick Mullins, Maura Brown, Nel Wagener, Bernard Joyce, Thomas Pollock 1969, Lawrence Rutter 1970, William Kinsella 2011, Penny Lang, Agnes Joyce, Fr. John Martin, George Seearly 1987.

Golden Gate Roster

Sun 4th Dec Libby Sun 11th Dec Teresa Sun 18th Dec Jim & Jan Sun 25th Dec TBA

Lake Bolac Roster

To be confirmed
Sat Dec 17th Reader Denise Haslett// Prayers of Faithful Deb Glasson
Sat Dec 24th Reader Jane Higgins// Prayers of Faithful Damain Phillips// Cleaning Team Effort
Sat Dec 31st Reader Mick Brennan// Prayers of Faithful Rosemary Liston

Ararat Roster

Sun Dec 4th Facil Teresa Gemmola// Reader Peter Brennan// Emin Margaret Brennan
Sun Dec 11th Facil Pat McAloon// Reader Jenny McAloon// Emin Anna Collins
Sun Dec 18th Facil Cathy McAdie//Reader Pat Lardner//Emin Sister John

Stawell Roster

Sun 4th Dec.S/Minister M Rowe//Reader D O'Donnell //Offertory Heenan Family
Sun 11th Dec S/Minister Kath Ashton//Reader C Barker// Offertory P Gooden
Sun 18th Dec S/Minister Helen Potter//Reader L Morgan//Offertory J Croton
Sun 24th Dec S/Minister MR Thomas// Reader J V Diesen// Offertory M McGaffin

St Mary's Primary School Ararat

The students at St Mary's have participated in a competition to make Christmas Cards. To help raise money for the St Vinnies Christmas Appeal and Art supplies for the school, the cards will be on sale from the school and after Church on Sundays in Ararat. \$10 for 10 cards.

St Mary's Parish School Ararat invites you to join us as we celebrate the Christmas Story through Music. Our students have been working hard to learn some traditional Christmas carols and some contemporary ones too! Please join us in the Multi Purpose Room at School on Wednesday 7th December at 1.30pm. All Welcome.

St Bernard's Lake Bolac - St Vincent de Paul Christmas Donation Box

There will be a box at the back of the church for anyone who would like to donate non perishable goods to the St Vincent de Paul Christmas appeal.

Ararat Working Bee - 2pm Sunday December 18 Parishioners are asked to attend a working bee in the church To prepare for Christmas. Please bring vacuum cleaners and rags.

Social Night and Carols in Ararat

All parishioners are invited for shared tea and some singing in the Parish Centre on Friday December 23 from 6.30pm. Please bring a plate to share.

The Stawell CWL will be selling packets of Christian Christmas cards after Masses – a packet of 10 cards for \$8.00.

The Stawell CWL will be having a Christmas themed Cuppa after next Sunday, the 11th Dec., 10.30am Mass. Everyone is welcome.

Seating in St Patrick's Church for Big Occasions

Parishioners are saying you are concerned about the number of pews in (not in) the church as we near the end of the renovation. People have specifically said "we'll need lots more seats for Christmas." Here's the thinking: Now that we will only have one Mass at Christmas and one on Easter Sunday, we need to fit as many people into the church as we can. People sitting on pews take up a lot more room than people standing. If we fill the space with pews, we will fit fewer people. Last Easter we had people standing outside. Next Easter those people will still be standing but standing inside the church. Won't that be better?

Seating for Regular Sundays

So far, even with a bumper crowd for a baptism, we haven't gone close to filling the pews on a regular Sunday. The front rows are fairly empty. We haven't needed more seats so far. I think it would be kind if we left the back couple of rows for the late comers, so they don't need to be embarrassed by having to walk up the front once Mass has started. Now that the carpet is laid we can put the pews where they will go, and maybe we do need a few more. If more pews simply means that people sit further back and there are more empty pews at the front, that won't be better. Will it?

Stawell Community Carols will be held in Cato Park from 6pm on Friday 9th Dec. Students from St Pat's primary school will be part of the combined school's choir. As part of this event there will also be an ecumenical choir. They are looking for members. Choir practice will be on Thursdays 1st and 8th Dec at 4pm in the Uniting Church. Why not come along and help keep Christ in our local Christmas celebration

Stawell St Vincent de Paul and the Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage help those in need in our community all year round. Christmas is an especially stressful time for those living on the margins of our society. Last year we distributed Christmas grocery shopping vouchers to 94 households in need, made up of 142 adults, 36 kids aged 14 -19 years and 119 children aged 13 years and younger. To do this we raised and spent \$8,500. This year we expect the call on us for Christmas help to be even higher. Please help us help those locals in need celebrate Christmas with less stress. If you can, please put your donation in the colourful Christmas box at the back of the Church.

Caritas Australia - Take action on climate change

As climate change damages our homes and land, the impact on our neighbours in the pacific is extreme. Our voices, together, can get governments and polluters to take action to achieve climate justice and protect our common home. Sign the pledge at <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/climate-change-action/> to support Caritas Australia's climate action campaign.

We have walls

After years of praying and fund-raising and working through the myriad regulatory requirements, the walls of the Ararat Mosque have been cast and are days away from being installed.

This is a blessing for us in our parish and a blessing especially for those who will worship there.



Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal

Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal

The St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal. Contributions can be made by:

- Calling 13 18 12;
- Visiting <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>

You can also:

- make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase;
- via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.

Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life

Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. The funds raised from these cards go towards supporting vulnerable communities around the globe, including right here in Australia. Whether you purchase your Global Gift for a family member, friend or colleague, each gift reflects real items that will help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. Gifts of Education. Gifts of Health. Gifts of Empowerment. The beauty of these Global Gifts is that they bring joy to their recipient and provide someone in need the chance to build a better future. This Christmas, please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse our range of Global Gifts cards today.

Advent Appeal for Ukraine

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is supporting a special Advent appeal for the people of Ukraine, following a request from Bishop Mykola Bychok CSsR, Eparch of Sts Peter and Paul for the Ukrainian Catholic Church in Australia. Collections in dioceses, eparchies and parishes on the Second and/or Third Sunday of Advent will support Mudra Sprava (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine. The organisation has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; shelters for internally displaced persons. Find out more at www.catholic.au

