



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday 12th January 2025

The Baptism of the Lord 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

Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations. He does not cry out or shout aloud, or make his voice heard in the streets. He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame. Faithfully he brings true justice; he will neither waver, nor be crushed until true justice is established on earth, for the islands are awaiting his law. I, the Lord, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand and formed you; I have appointed you as covenant of the people and light of the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to free captives from prison, and those who live in darkness from the dungeon.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 28:1-4. 9-10. R. v.11

(R.) The Lord will bless his people with peace.

1. O give the Lord you sons of God, give the Lord glory and power; give the Lord the glory of his name. Adore the Lord in his holy court. (R.)
2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters, the Lord on the immensity of waters; the voice of the Lord, full of power, the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. (R.)
3. The God of glory thunders. In his temple they all cry: 'Glory!' The Lord sat enthroned over the flood: the Lord sits as king for ever. (R.)

Second Reading

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-38

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him. 'It is true, God sent his word to the people of Israel, and it was to them that the good news of peace was brought by Jesus Christ – but Jesus Christ is Lord of all men. You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism.

God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.'

Gospel Acclamation

See Mark 9:8

Alleluia, alleluia!

The heavens were opened, and the Father's voice was heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'



Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest Fr. Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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Mass Times

Ararat Sunday 8.30am
Stawell Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac 1st 3rd 5th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough 2nd 4th Sundays 12.30pm
Glenthompson (Hamilton Parish) 2nd 4th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

19th January 2025
Isaiah 62:1-5/ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11/
John 2:1-11

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

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

Stawell Tuesday's Mass on the 14th & 21st January Cancelled
Ararat Friday's Mass on the 17th & 24th January will be Prayers.

Anniversaries

Adorative McPhee, Bill Moloney, Bill Coster, David Seeary 1950, Evelyn O'Neill, Brendan Moran, Rita Higgins, Ann Wood 1950, Stanley Matthews 1998, Barry Seeary 1972, Joan Elliot (Maddocks) 2017, Stan Matthews, Fr John Kirby, Ian Pearce, William Walsh 1970, Sergio Fratin, Jan Rees, Mark O'Toole, John Shield, Mary Shield, Kathleen Lees, Percival Bushick, Fr. Frank Sexton CSsR, Francis Jaench, Stasia Matters, Norma Wilson, Percival Bushby 1962, Joseph Looby 1991, Andrew Ritchie 2010, Mons. John Hoyne, Fr John Coughlan, Fr William Cain, Elizabeth Nicolaci, Maria Nicolaci, Pasquale Nicolaci, Maria Francesca Y Nicolaci, Concetta Nicolaci Y, Tolomeo, Maria Franco, Pedro Franco, Romeo Raffaele, Riso Maria Jioseffa Y Romeo, Marcelo Franco, Gerard Brown, Margaret Winnell, John Fontana 1992, Bridget Cashin, John Downes, Lois Gordon, Rex Billingsley, Rosina Coleman 1972

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Jan 18th Reader Denise Haslett / Prayers of Faithful Val Albert

Ararat Roster

Sun Jan 12th Facilitator Cathy Mc / Reader Anna C / Euch Min Nora
Sun Jan 19th Facilitator Maria S / Reader Charlie/ Euch Min Cathy M
Sun Jan 26th Facilitator Rebecca R / Reader Elizabeth S / Euch Min Marg Olle/Sr John
Sun Feb 2nd Facilitator Peter B / Reader Harry C/ Euch Min Marg M/Teresa
Sun Feb 9th Facilitator Pat McA / Reader Jenny McA/ Euch Min Anna C /Mary C
Sun Feb 16th Facilitator Peter B / Reader Pat L/ Euch Min Sr John / Harry

Stawell Roster

Sun Jan 12th S/Minster M R Thomas/M Maestros/M Rowe/Reader L McIntrye / Offertory M McGaffin
Sun Jan 19th S/Minster M Howard/I Sturt/K Ashton/Reader G Madafferi / Offertory Timor E
Sun Jan 26th S/Minster M R Thomas/M Maestros/S DeLeon/Reader D Jones / Offertory Heenan Family
Sun Feb 2nd S/Minster K Ashton/J DeLeon/I Sturt/Reader H Potter / Offertory J Croton
Sun Feb 9th S/Minster G Comitti/L McIntyre/K Ashton/Reader M R Thomas / Offertory L Habben
Sun Feb 16th S/Minster M Maestros/J DeLeon/J Raeburn/Reader K Dallinger / Offertory H Reid

Stawell CWL invites everyone to cuppa after next Sunday 19th Mass.

Arrangements for the changeover of priests.

Sunday January 12 - Fr Andrew will leave after the Masses, ready to start in Colac on Wednesday Jan 15

Sunday January 19 - Fr Lawrence O'Toole will be here for Masses

Saturday January 25 - Fr Neville will arrive ready for the weekend Masses

During the two weeks between parish priests, the phone will still be answered and the office open as usual. Sr Maree and Jill will negotiate for availability of a priest for funerals if the need arises.

From Fr Andrew

Firstly, I wish to say that I am humbled by your farewell gift. I have been able to buy a new computer (my old one was "had it") with some to spare. The new one is very clever compared to the old. I'm very lucky to have it. Next, I'm sad to be leaving. There's been public sobbing only once so that's good. The St Mary's staff caused that... mmm. I'm packed. I have taken just about everything into storage in Ballarat. I'll take it to Colac a few things at a time. My piano will stay in Ararat for now. Neville can learn to play. Thankyou everyone for your welcome to me during my ten years. It's been a time of change for everyone. I'm happy to be leaving the parish in good stead and ready to be God's people in the years ahead. I think I've said enough about me lately. Thankyou everyone. God's every blessing to you!!! Be nice to Neville.

Gospel Reflection

Today's gospel begins with a level of expectancy among the people that John the Baptist may be the Christ; the Messiah. This seemingly throw away introductory comment confirms the fact that the Jewish expectation of the Messiah was particularly heightened at the time of John and Jesus. At the time of the ministries of John and Jesus, the Romans had been the occupying force in Judaea for about 80 or 90 years. Throughout most of their lives the infamous Galilee area had been relatively peaceful and free of revolutionary activity but that changed from about 26 CE. With the anti-Roman sentiment on the rise, the ancient yearning for a Messiah resurfaced.

This Messianic expectation stretched back hundreds of years and was richly associated with the sovereign line of King David. The Davidic line ruled for more than 400 years until it was ended in the early 6th Century BCE by the Jewish people being exiled in Babylon for about 50 years.

The term, Messiah, literally means anointed one. In ancient Israel, the king was designated by being anointed with oil on his head. Following the exile in Babylon, the people longed for another great king, in the style and from the line of David. Over time, this expectation grew into an ideal that one day a perfect king would rise up again and be the anointed one; the Messiah. As the years grew into decades and centuries, this expectation took on more and more significance. When the Messiah came, the whole world would be put to right; a period of justice and peace would prevail; the oppressed would be liberated.

Whilst the people longed for the Messiah to appear, the gospels reveal that they had difficulty believing Jesus was the one for whom they hoped.

Historical context – Baptism

John makes clear to the people that the baptism he performs is with water but the baptism by Jesus is with the Holy Spirit. John preached a baptism of repentance. In keeping with his Jewish tradition, John called upon the people to make a public declaration of their wrong-doing and commitment to be washed clean of this sinfulness and desire to live in right relationship with God and others. The baptism to which he refers is the complete change of heart and mind that comes through the Holy Spirit and results from a person accepting the message of Jesus.

*Goodbye Father Andrew
You will be
missed.*



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

Reflection by Artist



The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his ministry. The story describes a very tangible and textured encounter with God in terms accessible to human imagination. At the same time, the events draw human thinking, feeling and sensing to unfamiliar and mysterious levels of experience. A captivating theophany is depicted: the heavens are torn apart, the Spirit appears and descends like a dove on Jesus and the voice of God affirms that Jesus is the chosen one, the 'Beloved'. There is unmistakable tenderness here.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate / Jesus' Baptism is Ours

What did it mean for Jesus to come up out of the waters of the Jordan to experience the special presence of the Holy Spirit as though it were a dove, gently hovering over him? As a Jew, he would have been reminded both of the Divine Wind hovering over the void-become-creation, and of the dove bearing an olive twig as God restored humanity's life on earth after the Flood. The Holy Spirit was empowering Him for a re-creative role on behalf of humanity. His second experience was to sense God's delight and joy sounding, reverberating through every fibre of his body, every reach of his soul: 'You are my beloved Son, my favour rests on you.' Any baby, any adolescent, any adult who is baptised shares in these wonderful experiences. The dynamic power of the Holy Spirit hovers over the person as a gentle presence, preparing the one baptised for a mission on behalf of humanity. And every baptised person senses, below the range of hearing, the echo of the same marvellous words: "You are my beloved son or daughter, my favour rests on you." Is it any wonder that Our Lord adopted this water rite to incorporate his followers into such wonderful experiences as a power-full impetus to fulfil their mission to cooperate in God's saving plan for humanity? We could take a moment to pray in gratitude for the parent/s or other person/s who brought us into this tradition stretching over almost two millennia. May they be filled with all that flows from their being beloved sons and daughters of God.

REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Pope Francis draws our attention to a couple of interesting aspects of Jesus' baptism, which offer useful lessons for Christians today. One of these is his humility. The Pope wants us to reflect on how remarkable it was that sinless Jesus was there among the crowds, 'joining the queue of the penitents, mingling among them.' The Son of God did not separate himself or seek special treatment! The crowd which Jesus joined therefore shows us something profound about the Incarnation. Being baptised among the common people, Jesus shows us what the Pope termed his 'willingness to immerse himself in the river of humanity.' Even the Lord of All does not lord it over ordinary folk! Nor then should we. On another occasion, the Pope focuses our attention on Jesus' prayer life. In telling us how the Holy Spirit descended from heaven like a dove, Luke makes it clear that this happened while Jesus was praying. This, the Pope indicates, is an important point worthy of our contemplation: 'Jesus prays.' 'Prayer opens the heaven,' the Pope says, borrowing the image from today's Gospel. He then adds that prayer also 'enables us to have the same experience of Jesus by the Jordan: it makes us feel like beloved children of the Father.'

