



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 Act 2:42-47

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 117:2-4. 13-15.22-24. R. v.1

(R.) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
his love is everlasting.

Second Reading 1Pt 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter
Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which has been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold – only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire – and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation Jn20:29

Alleluia, alleluia!

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe!

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'
After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me.
Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked, and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

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 gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Parish Email	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 st 3 rd 5 th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough	2 nd 4 th Sundays 12.30pm
Glenthompson	(Hamilton Parish) 2 nd 4 th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

April 23rd, 2023
Third Sunday of Easter Year A
Acts2:14,22-33/1Pt 1:17-21/Lk24:13-35

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 11am Lowe St
3rd Wednesday 10.30am Garden View
4th Wednesday 10am ARVillage

Tuesday mass in Stawell 18TH April Changed to 9.30am due to Funeral at 11am

Recent Deaths Kieran Devery

Anniversaries

Thomas Naylor 1987, Noreen Bonner, James V. Liston, Hilary Robinson, Fr Michael Nelan, Seamus Hennessy, Sr Clare Stansby RSM, Jessie Hazel Christian, MaryEllen Lowe 1964, Sarah Seary 1985, Patricia Hayes 1997, Albert Nicholson 1997, Elizabeth Betty) Tavener 1998, Kathleen Ryan 2005, Walter Francis 2006, Noel Fiscalini, Leo, John Murray 1913, Des Phillips, Nell Phillips, Ailsa Gilders, Joyce Kelly, Bernard Harrington, Peter Bulger, Donald McLennen 1967, Kenneth Krause 1968, Domenico Scarsi 1977, William Lannen, Joseph Bolcek, John Molloy, Veronica Case 1964, Athol Pollock 1990, Darcy McSparron 1994.

Golden Gate Roster 16th Apr Margaret/ 23rd Apr Teresa/Sun 30th Apr Harry & Anna/ Sun May 7th Jim & Jan/14th May Elizabeth

Lake Bolac Roster Sat Apr 15th Reader Val Albert// Prayers of Faithful Damian Phillips
Sat Apr 29th Reader Denise Haslett// Prayers of Faithful Mick Brennan

Ararat Roster Sun Apr 16th Welcomer Rosalie N//Facilitator Cathy McA//Reader Kath L/Euch Min Sr John
Sun Apr 23rd Welcomer Mateo//Facilitator Pat L//Reader Teresa G//Euch Min Mary C
Sun Apr 30th Welcomer Lorna R//Facilitator Harry C//Reader Peter Bren//Euch Min Charlie R

Stawell Roster Sun 16th April S/Minister Marg Rowe// Reader Di O'Donnell // Offertory Heenan Family
Sun 23rd April S/Minister Helen Potter// Reader Lesley Morgan // Offertory P Gooden/G Pascall
Sun 30th April S/Minister Joan Van Diesen// Reader Michelle Howard // Offertory J Croton

Friendly Reminder **Could all Caritas/Project Compassion envelopes and boxes please be returned ASAP.**

Stawell CWL Will be hosting a CUPPA after Sunday Mass today. Everyone is welcome.

St Patricks Stawell There are a few vases, candle sticks, materials and banners that are no longer needed, please come to the sacristy after Mass to see if there is anything that you might like to take home. There will be a donation box on the trestle table in the sacristy, all donations are voluntary.



*Bishop's Office
5 Lyons Street South
Ballarat VIC 3350*

*P.O. Box 576
Ballarat VIC 3353*

Phone: (03) 5337 7121

Fax: (03) 5332 1122

E-mail: bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Easter Message 2023

I write these words on March 30, 2023, exactly a year before we celebrate a special jubilee, the 150th anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat. It was on March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius IX issued a decree establishing the western part of Victoria as a distinct diocese, with the Murray River as the northern boundary and the sea as the southern boundary. We continue to echo the Pope's decree in our diocesan vision statement, beginning with the words "We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea."

Our 150th anniversary next year will be an opportunity for each community throughout our diocese to remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and the social services and health care in our diocese today. The anniversary will also be an opportunity to review our history, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. It will be a chance to take stock of where we are now and look ahead to how we can live as a truly Christian community, sharing the good news of Christ, in the years to come.

Since my last Easter message, the Australian Plenary Council has met to consider a wide range of issues of concern to our Catholic community throughout Australia. The Council encouraged us to find ways in which all the members of the Church might be engaged in the life of the community and share in the mission to spread the gospel. In a similar vein, Pope Francis has called us to develop a "synodal" way of living in which the whole community walks together. He has highlighted the value of listening to one another as we all seek to discern what the Holy Spirit wishes us to do in response to the many challenges facing the world in our time.

In line with the calls of the Plenary Council and Pope Francis, I propose some steps for us as a diocese in the next few years.

First of all, I ask each parish to make 2023 a year when you focus on the leadership in the local community, through forming or developing further a parish pastoral council or leadership team according to your local circumstances.

In 2024, as well as celebrating the 150th anniversary of our diocese, we will hold a Diocesan Assembly, bringing together representatives of the leadership teams in our parishes and schools, to consider how we might develop the leadership in our communities in the future.

Following the 2024 Assembly, we could form a Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council to help us fulfil our mission to share the gospel with the wider community, as well as helping us develop the pastoral services we provide throughout the diocese.

Then, in 2025, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council would lead the preparations for a Diocesan Synod to be held in 2026-2027. That Diocesan Synod would consider how we are to implement the various decrees of the Australian Plenary Council in our diocese.

I hope that all our parishes and schools and all the organisations in our diocese will walk together in these steps over the next few years.

As we approach the great feast of Easter, I take confidence in the promise of the Risen Christ, that he will be with us as we gather in his name and as we seek to fulfil the mission he has entrusted to us. As we look to the 150th anniversary of our diocese, I give thanks that Jesus has guided our communities through the years so far and I pray that he will continue to guide us in the years ahead.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.



Paul Bird CSsR

Bishop of Ballarat