

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 7:10-14](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm [Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10](#)

R.) Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.

It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)

2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?

The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)

3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.

Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading [Rom 1:1-7](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through

him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Gospel Acclamation [Mt 1:23](#)

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel [Mt 1:18-24](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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
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

December 25th
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Day
[Is 52:7-10](#)// [Heb 1:1-6](#)// [Jn 1:1-18](#):

NOTE: Landsborough - Change to Mass Time.

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

Anniversaries

Noel McOwan, John Thomas Fr. Gery Payne, Grace Harrison, Florentina Uda de Torrecarpo, Janice Porter, Norman Rowe, Mary Gellie, Mick Streeter 1996 Hayley Pugh, Maureen Dalton, Linda Thomas 1976, Edna Noone 1985, Roderick (Rick) Healy 1998, Helen Healy 1998 Norman William Rowe, Hughie Lees, Elizabeth Coffey 1957, Robert Soule 2000 Emma Brennan, John Hearn, Pepito Galang, Myra Campbell, Fr Bill Egan, Barry Karlake, John McSparron, Arthur Clark, Kathleen Nicholson 1960, Bridget Hourigan 1976 Laurence Cashin, Fr. John Connellan, Fr. Billie Close, Fr. Pat O'Dowd, Joan Dadswell, Damien Gordon, Joan Fogarty, Phillis Phelan 1946, Catherine Lloyd 1954, Harold Carr 1980 Christina O'Brien, Roslyn Lillis, Jean Rolfe, Leo Stewart 1985

Golden Gate Roster

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 18th Facil Cathy McAdie//Reader Pat Lardner//Emin Sister John

Stawell Roster

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
Sun 1st Jan S/Minister M Howard// Reader I Stewart//Offertory Habben Family

Carols

Stawell Uniting - Annual Service of Readings and Carols. Saturday 17th December starting at 7.30pm.

Stawell Anglican - Stawell Holy Trinity Anglican Church Nine Lessons and Carols Sunday 18th December 2022, 7pm followed by a light supper.

Ararat Anglican - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, 18th December 2022 at 7.30pm.

St Mary's Ararat - Shared tea and some singing in the Parish Centre on Friday December 23 from 6.30pm. Please bring a plate to share.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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

Making a Scene at Christmas

A display of over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries at the Bridge Mall, Ballarat from December 10-23, 2022. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh and see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem. There will be hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica). Entry is by gold coin donation. All welcome.

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>

Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania 2023

The Assembly of the Federation of Catholic Bishops Conferences of Oceania will be held in Fiji from February 5-10, 2023. People of the diocese are invited to pray for blessings on this assembly

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/federation-of-catholic-bishops-conferences-of-oceania/>

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

John's gospel focuses on the cosmic and awesome aspects of the Incarnation: Jesus is the Word made flesh and also 'the light that shines in the dark' and which 'the darkness could not overpower'. In this poetic imaging, Jesus is the quintessential example of God's self-expression in the stuff of creation.



REFLECTION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – by Lisa-Marie Calderone-Stewart

For people surrounded by department store decorations, commercials, Christmas carols, special foods, and the like, believing that today's Christmas celebration actually evolved from the humble story of a young woman giving birth in the straw is a stretch. It might help to focus on the characters involved.

What do you think went through Joseph's mind as he witnessed Mary giving birth to a baby? What do you think went through Mary's mind as she struggled with the birth experience?

The Christmas story is full of symbols. Jesus, who becomes our bread and wine – our nourishment – is laid in a manger, the feeding trough for the animals. Jesus, who is the champion of poor people, is born into a homeless family. Poor shepherds were the first to welcome the Messiah that the Jewish people had been awaiting for generations. The symbol of angels singing, praising God, and flying madly all over the sky was a good clue that something out of the ordinary was happening. Modern Christmas stories use different symbols to make the same points: Rudolph, the 'poorest' reindeer, becomes the champion; and Frosty, a snowman, transforms children's lives.

What story from your own personal Christmas experiences has special meaning or symbolism?