



Holy Spirit  
Parish  
Gariwerd

Sunday February 18th, 2024  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT YEAR B**

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

**Genesis 9:8-15**

A reading from the book of Genesis

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: no thing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 24:4-9. R. see v.10**

(R.) Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me: for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)

3. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

### Second Reading

**1 Peter 3:18-22**

A reading from the first letter of St Peter

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these

spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Matthew 4:4**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

### Gospel

**Mark 1:12-15**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark  
The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'



# Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr. Andrew Hayes <a href="mailto:andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au">andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Bulletin Online</b>	<a href="http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au">www.ballarat.catholic.org.au</a> – follow link to parish
<b>Secretary / Child Safe</b>	Jill Croxford <a href="mailto:gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au">gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Email</b>	<a href="mailto:gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au">gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Office</b>	304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm
<b>Phone</b>	03 5352 5460
<b>Post Box</b>	PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377



## The Parish Office will be closing at 2pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024

### Mass Times

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

### Readings for next Sunday

25<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18/Romans 8:31-34/  
Mark 9:2-10

### Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

<b>Tuesday:</b>	10am Stawell (Check bulletin for occasional changes)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Aged Care
<b>Thursday:</b>	2.30pm Hopkins
<b>Friday:</b>	11am Ararat (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

### Aged Care Roster

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

## Lenten Discussion 15<sup>th</sup> February – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Stawell after 10am Mass on Tuesdays / Ararat 10am on Thursdays

## Holy Week in Stawell

Each day during Holy Week Moira will lead stations of the cross at 10am. Everyone welcome

## Mass in Landsborough on Easter Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 12.30pm

There will be an extra unscheduled Mass in Landsborough to celebrate Easter Sunday.

### Anniversaries

William Smith, Fr Timothy Lynch, Jane Renouf, Elsie Fradd, Jean Vernon, Thelma (Jane) Renouf 1999, Lyn Marks, Honora Pola, Bernard Dowler, Matilda Donovan, Molly Pola, Vera Ruzic, Kenneth Rickard 1991, Margaret Rathgeber 2011, Kevin Kelly, Win Boyd, Stephen McColl, Debra Shea, Eileen Menzies, Dorothy Shalders, Tom Hourigan, Maria Deininger, Edna Colwell, Phyllis Scaletti 1955, Marjoris O'Rourks 1996, John David Dalziel 1997, Ron Baxter, Dawn Emerson, William Brasier 1959, Elizabeth Cowell 2008, Ivan Heinrich 2017, Shirley Gerritsen 2020, Teresa Duffy, Sheila Brady, Daisy Sharman, Fr. Jim Kaye, Constance Hevey, Jim Tutton, Myra Lillis, Gerald Gleeson, Carmel Lembo, Joseph McCabe 1961, Dorothy Peters 1972, Peter Balkin 1998, William Duncan 2007, John Comitti 2008, Douglas Driscoll 2013

### Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Feb 17<sup>th</sup> Reader Helen Smith/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldouss  
Sat Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> Reader Jane Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful R Liston/Cleaning T Higgins

### Ararat Roster

Sun Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Cathy McA /Reader Jan C /Euch Min Jim C  
Sun Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Facilitator H Collins /Reader Charlie R /Euch Min Anna C  
Sun Mar 5<sup>th</sup> Facilitator Teresa G/Reader Sr John /Euch Min Marg M

### Stawell Roster

Sun Feb 18<sup>th</sup> S/Minister M Maestros/Reader C Barker/ Offertory Gooden/ Pascall  
Sun Feb 25<sup>th</sup> S/Minister H Potter/Reader L Morgan / Offertory J Croton

**Stawell CWL** - Invites everyone to come and have a cuppa after this Sunday's Mass in the St Pat's Church hall.

**Stawell St Vincent de Paul** - Will be meeting in the St Pat's church on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb at 2pm

**Stawell CWL** - Will be meeting in the St Pat's Church hall on Tues 20<sup>th</sup> Feb at 11.30am (after the Lenten discussion)

**A Christian Mission opportunity for local volunteers.** Would you be willing to help support people if there was a local emergency - bushfire or flood are 2 examples. Would you be willing to spend time at an evacuation centre to provide personal support and a listening ear. Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry is running training in Stawell for people willing to volunteer for this ministry. Training will be held at **St Patricks Church Hall on Saturday March 2nd from 9.00am - 4.00pm.** A poster and a brochure have been emailed to your church so please look out for those for more information, or ring VCCEM local representative Jenny Greenberger on 0408571375. Information on how to enrol is provided on the poster which has been placed on the church notice board.

### **Parish Symbol**

To mark the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, all parishes have been asked to submit a symbol of our parish to add to a display at the Mass of the Oils in Holy Week. Probably something in a picture frame. What will we send? After this week I actually wonder if we send in a bucket of ash? I wonder if we send in a photo of Gariwerd, with the quotation: Exodus 19:17 "Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke." In Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd, we meet with God at the foot of the mountain.

### **Mass of the Oils 2024 & 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat**

The Mass of the Oils this year will incorporate acknowledgement of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat and will be held on Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am (please note change of time). Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall. At the Mass we are inviting 1 – 2 volunteers from each parish to present a symbol or photo that best represents their parish. Many parishes have multiple communities, so the symbol or photo can represent the whole parish or it can be something from the different communities. The symbol/photo framed should be 5in x 7in (12cm x 17.5cm) or for the larger parishes who may need more room, up to 8in x 10in (20cm x 25cm) size framed.

### **Holy Water in fonts**

Bishop Paul issued the following update last week regarding Holy Water in fonts: Following some recent discussions about COVID provisions, I was asked about restoring Holy Water to fonts in our churches. While we did empty fonts at the height of the COVID pandemic, this restriction seems unnecessary now. Some parishes restored Holy Water to fonts quite some time ago and I fully support this. This makes Holy Water readily available for those who wish to use it. Of course, any parishioner who has concerns need not use the Holy Water from a font. God bless you all. Bishop Paul

### **Notes about Holy Communion**

Bishop Paul issued the following information for people of the diocese last year and this is still relevant: Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice. Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that Covid infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion. I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ. In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue. May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another. God bless you all. Bishop Paul

### **Ararat Mosque**

All parishioners are invited to the Mosque Open Day on Sunday February 25, from 11am to 2pm. For catering it will be helpful for numbers. [aiwa.vic@gmail.com](mailto:aiwa.vic@gmail.com) The Islamic community will also invite us to an IFTAR dinner in the evening of Saturday March 23. Claim the date. More info to come.

## Wild Goose

I didn't know this. In Celtic Christian culture the Holy Spirit was symbolized by the wild goose. Doves were docile and delicate, but the wild goose was untamable, free, and unpredictable. Instead of a soft coo, the wild goose was noisy and raucous. How do you encounter the Holy Spirit? Quiet, inoffensive and ignorable like a dove or like a wild goose: honking loud, sometimes obnoxious and usually getting its way?

## Fires in the Parish

This week has been difficult for people in our parish and our region. I am thankful for the CFA volunteers, for the year-round training that comes to something when the chips are down. Thank you to every one of you.

## Catastrophic Fire Rating

After Black Saturday my then parish implemented a Catastrophic Fire Rating Policy. Churches were closed on days of Catastrophic Fire Rating. (thankfully very rarely) If schools are closed and the CFA are instructing us to leave early, should the churches be closed as well? Should the priest and parishioners be ignoring the warnings and driving through the bush to get to Mass? Maybe there's a Sunday Assembly for town people who don't need to travel. Imagine if the fires this week had been on a Sunday. Discussion for the Parish Pastoral Council.



## First Sunday of Lent 17 & 18 February



This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women from three different corners of the world. They are facing vastly different challenges but are all united by one dream: to create a better tomorrow *for all future generations*.

Meet **Ronita** from the Philippines. Ronita is a mother of two young boys living in a slum in Quezo City. She went back to school to finish her education so that she could earn income to support her children.

Meet **Leaia** from Samoa. Not having access to a reliable source of clean water was very difficult for Leaia and her family. But, with the support of Caritas Australia, a water tank was installed at their home, improving their health and living conditions.

Meet **Memory** from Malawi. Memory, the eldest daughter from a rural Malawian family, trained to become a carpenter and is now a trailblazer for future generations of women in her village.

Throughout Project Compassion, you will get to know the stories of Ronita, Leaia and Memory. Journey with them as they forge a path to a brighter future for all generations.

### Please donate to Project Compassion.

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: RWainwright/Caritas Australia



I was sitting at a bar with a friend the other night when he casually pointed across the bar from us and said, "see those two old drunks sitting there...that's going to be us in ten years." I looked at him and said, "that's a mirror stupid!"