



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday October 1st, 2023

TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME A

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

Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel
The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

- (R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.
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. Do not remember the sins of my youth. 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

Philippians 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation

John 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!
My sheep listen to my voice, says the Lord;
I know them, and they follow me.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'



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
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Parish Office	304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm
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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

8th October 2023
Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Isaiah 5:1-7/Philippians 4:6-9/Matthew 21:33-43

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

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

Recent Deaths

Mr John Flynn (Joan Fitzpatrick's Brother)

Anniversaries

Robert Milesi, Bill McKinnon, Alice Parker, Jack Parker, Joyce Henning, Mary Cawthorne 1961, Michael Shanan 1984, Mary Rutter 1953, Ruby Seear 1969, Pascalle Valente 2011, Edmund Gleeson, Margaret Johnson, Bruce Harrison, Nicholas Cosgrave 1952, Alice Tiddy 1952, Robert Prydderch, Alex Shields, Marjorie Stapleton, Robert Prydderch 1957, Michael Walsh 1995, Frances Woolley 2019, Thomas Turvey 1963, B. Seear 1972, William Power 2009, Nancy Gibson 2010, Margaret Ryan, Joe Hayes, Mary Kelly, Kaz Grabowski, Judith Haberecht-Reid, Natasha Eastick, Theresa Healy 1952, Margaret Jess 2005, John Jess 2019, Kevin Joyce, Tom Ryan, Seamus Hennessy, Elywn Lillis, Annie Larkan 1972.

Golden Gate Roster

Sun Oct 1st Harry & Anna/Sun 8th Oct Jim & Jan / Sun 15th Oct Elizabeth/Sun 22nd Oct Teresa
Sun Oct 29th Harry & Anna/Sun 5th Nov Jim & Jan/Sun 12th Nov Elizabeth/Sun Nov 19th Teresa
Sun 26th Nov Harry & Anna/Sun Dec 3rd Jim & Jan

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Oct 14th Reader Helen Smith/ Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldous
Sat Oct 28th Reader Tricia Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful Val Albert

Ararat Roster

Sun Oct 1st Facilitator Rebecca /Reader Elizabeth/ Euch Min Mary C
Sun Oct 8th Facilitator Pat L/Reader Peter B/ Euch Min M Ollie
Sun Oct 15th Facilitator Cathy Mc /Reader Kath L/ Euch Min Sr John
Sun Oct 22nd Facilitator Harry /Reader Charlie /Euch Min Anna
Sun Oct 29th Facilitator Pat M /Reader Jenny M /Euch Min Marg M

Stawell Roster

Sun Oct 1st S/Minister M Rowe/Reader L Morgan/Offertory Heenan Family
Sun Oct 8th S/Minister M R Thomas/Reader M Howard/ Offertory Gooden/Pascall
Sun Oct 15th S/Minister K Ashton /Reader C Barker/Offertory J Croton
Sun Oct 22nd S/Minister M Howard/ Reader J Van Diesen/ Offertory L Habben
Sun Oct 29th S/Minister M Maestros/ Reader D O'Donnell/ Offertory M McGaffin

Ararat CWL note change of meeting:

The next meeting of the Ararat Branch of CWL will be Tuesday 17th October starting at 10am.

St Bernard's, Lake Bolac, will be holding a finger food dinner after 6.30 pm Mass, on Saturday, October 28th. Please bring a plate of finger food to share. A microwave is available to heat food if needed. There will be a giving bowl for donations to support our Indian Mission.

City Heart Church of Christ will be hosting Steven McWilliams of Berry Street in Ballarat to give a talk on Foster Care in our area on Sunday 8th October when he will give a brief 5-minute introductory talk during their morning Church service. This will be followed by an expanded talk after the service during morning tea. There will be a time for questions etc. The service will finish around 11.15 or 11.20 and Steve will give his talk at 11.45. Everyone is invited to morning tea and to hear Steve talk about Foster Carers, either short-term, long-term, or emergency, who are crucial in providing a nurturing & safe homes at a critical time in these children's lives.

The Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage is struggling to keep up with the demand for help and they are seeking grocery donations to help them help those in need. They are particularly looking for donations of tinned items like stew, soup, tuna, vegetables, spaghetti meat sauce. Also soaps, toothbrushes, shampoo, clothes washing powder and dish washing liquid. If you feel able to, could you please buy one extra item when you grocery shop and put it in the donations bin in the church?. There are many in our town and region who are having a hard time making ends meet.

Diocesan Social Justice Statement launch

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission have released presentations for the diocesan launch of the Social Justice Statement 2023: **Listen Learn Love: A New Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples**. This event is pre-recorded and in digital format so that Parish and School communities along with individuals can access these resources at their convenience. See this link for more information:

<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/>

Season of Creation: September 1 - October 4, 2023

Every year from September 1 - October 4, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" drawing on the river imagery of in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. Resources for the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic-earthcare-ballarat-diocese/season-of-creation-2023/>

Music for Referendum from Monica Brown

Monica Brown is one of Australia's well respected Catholic/Christian composers who has been ministering for over 40 years through the not-for-profit organisation of Emmaus Productions. Monica has composed two songs for the referendum, "One People One Land" and "Spirit Dream". All copyright restrictions of the songs have been waived by way of setting the songs free to contribute in some way to this critical national discernment. Music, sheet music and lyrics are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/music-for-referendum-from-monica-brown/>

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund: Collection for Sick and Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund relies on your generosity to enable it to continue supporting our sick and retired priests. You are still able to contribute, by using the special envelope provided, or in an envelope marked "Ballarat Clergy Support Fund". A credit card facility is available for your convenience and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. Caring for those who care for us – the Church community's responsibility.



Aid to the Church in Need Pakistan Appeal

Aid to the Church in Need is running an emergency campaign for Pakistan. Recently up to 24 churches, hundreds of Christian homes and a Christian cemetery were targeted in an attack in Pakistan which was sparked by reports of blasphemy allegations against two Christians accused of desecrating the Qur'an. ACN is working with project partners on the ground to aid the current needs of the Christian people. To learn more and to make an offering, scan or click on the QR code.



My 85-year-old grandfather was rushed to the hospital with a possible concussion. The doctor asked him a series of questions: "Do you know where you are?" "I'm at Rex Hospital." "What city are you in?" "Raleigh." "Do you know who I am?" "Dr. Hamilton." My grandfather then turned to the nurse and said, "I hope he doesn't ask me any more questions." "Why?" she asked. "Because all of those answers were on his badge."

SEASON OF CREATION by Nick Brodie

In today's parable where a son said yes but did nothing, Jesus offers a striking indictment of empty lip-service. In our age, one of the Church's most insistent calls has been for people to work for the protection of the vineyard of the earth. Speaking of climate change, deforestation and chemical pollution, Pope Saint John Paul II declared in 1990 'that the ecological crisis is a moral issue' and called on all people to 'recognise their obligation to contribute to the restoration of a healthy environment'. In 2009 Pope Benedict XVI insisted that 'technologically advanced societies can and must lower their domestic energy consumption'. In 2015 Pope Francis called on all of humanity 'to recognise the need for changes of lifestyle, production and consumption, in order to combat this warming' of the world's climate which we are currently facing. Successive Popes have therefore called us all to work for the protection of our planet and its people. But it is up to every Christian to ensure that these words are not just empty rhetoric.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

In every life there is a struggle between obedience and disobedience, and this struggle takes various twists and turns. At times we are willing to conform to regulations set from the outside, and at times we are not. We are invited to choose in favour of the reign of God, or we are free to ignore the invitation. Those who are fundamentally righteous sometimes fall from grace, and people considered evil to the core sometimes reform their lives. What ultimately counts are not the promises made, but the actions taken. We are called to discipleship, and there may well be urgency in this call, but it is an invitation that is to be accepted freely. As is the case with life itself, options are placed before us all the way along the road. We are invited to choose in favour of the reign of God, or we are free to ignore the invitation. However, the invitation always remains open to us, because God's desire for our acceptance is persistent and enduring. The real choice set before us today is the imitation of Christ. The specific characteristic of Christ today is his humility. Since demanding one's rights can undermine the loving quality of community, Jesus' humility is offered for our imitation. It is very clear that whichever aspect of discipleship we examine, some aspect of community is also present. To be a disciple of Jesus is to follow him humbly as a member of a believing community.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate *'No, no, no, no ... Y-yes!'*

Jesus tells a little story about two brothers. One said 'Yes', but never did anything. The other said 'No', but then had a change of heart and did what was required. Jesus loved the brother who came around. He was very hard on the one who said 'Yes' but did not 'walk the talk'. That is why he loved those tax collectors who gathered the revenue for the Roman authorities, and the prostitutes who serviced the Roman occupying army, but who switched allegiance from the Empire of Caesar to the Kingdom of God. This signalled a profound change of heart. We may have said 'No' to God at various times with various intensity in our lives. But God is wonderfully patient and prepared to hear 'No' many times in the hope of hearing 'Yes'. God's patience never runs out. But our time to say 'Yes' does run out. We only have a relatively short life span! At the end of Mass, I will say 'Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.' As St Francis of Assisi put it, 'Preach the Gospel, and occasionally use words.' Walk the talk.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Reflection by Artist

Conversion is depicted as a change of mind in the parable of the two sons. At first one son refused to work, then he 'changed his mind' or 'thought better of it'. This story confirms that repentant sinners are more welcome in the kingdom of God than those who profess their faith with their lips but not with their deeds. Matthew is restating the notion (see last week's gospel) that 'the last will be first, and the first will be last'.

