



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

**Acts 1:1-11**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6**

(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. (R.)

2. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)

3. God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations, God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

### Second Reading

**Eph 1:17-23**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians  
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Mt 28:19. 20**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go and teach all people my gospel.

I am with you always, until the end of the world.

Alleluia!

### Gospel

**Mt 28:16-20**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'



# Parish 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

## 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

May 28th, 2023  
Pentecost Sunday Year A  
Acts 2:1-11/1 Cor 12:3-7.12-13/Jn 20:19-23

## 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<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

## Anniversaries

Monica Weddison, Tony Brady, Len Miller, Sr. Mary Antonia Thomas, Mary Ellen Atkinson 1953, Thomas Cronin, Daphne Nailon, Fr John Meade, Norman Start, Annie Schirmer, Gordon Schirmer, Monica Kelly, Celine Fernando, William Brasier 1943, Fr John Leyden, Fr Tom Bourke, Leo O'Rorke, Janet O'Rorke, Gerard Cudmore, Claud Harrison, Elizabeth Harrison, Joan Connellan, Reg Palmer, Bianca Bulger, George Osler 1965, Jack Merrett 1986, Clare Rutter 1989, Bert Setori, Veronica O'Connor, Bernard McIntyre, Tom Rees, Mary Vassalla, William Gavan 2007, Eileen Williams, John (Jack) Cavanagh, Joan Minoque, Andrew Walsh 1951, Robert Tiddy 1979, Mary Wheeler 1994, Carmel Kinsella 2000, Robert Murphy, Fr Robert Meade, Albert Spiller, Michael Carroll, Lukas Bryant, Francis Seeary 1958, Ken Allan 2001, Myrna Griggs 2002, Mary Monaghan 2010, Mons. Thomas Hussey, Terrance Hussey, Desmond Joyce, Patrick Nunan 1956, Cliff Healy 1979, Bernie (John) Gavin 1998, Lukas Bryant.

## Recent Death

Julie Arnold, Jill Bryant & Paul Jellie

## Please Pray for

Kate Wilson, who is unwell

## Golden Gate Roster

Sun May 21<sup>st</sup> Teresa/Sun May 28<sup>th</sup> Harry & Anna

## Lake Bolac Roster

Sat May 20<sup>th</sup> Reader Mick Brennan// Prayers of Faithful Rosemary Liston  
Sat June 3<sup>rd</sup> Reader Deb Glasson// Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins/Cleaning Rosemary Liston  
Sat June 17<sup>th</sup> Reader Damian Phillips// Prayers of Faithful Helen Smith

## Ararat Roster

Sun May 21<sup>st</sup> Welcomer Nora B//Facilitator Harry C//Reader Elizabeth S//Euch Min Anna C  
Sun May 28<sup>th</sup> Welcomer Charlie R//Facilitator P Brady//Reader Rebecca R//Euch Min Sr John

## Stawell Roster

Sun May 21<sup>st</sup> S/Minister M R Thomas// Reader M Howard // Offertory M McGaffin  
Sun May 28<sup>th</sup> S/Minister Marg Rowe// Reader Di O'Donnell // Offertory Heenan Family

## Stawell CWL

Cuppa after Mass in Stawell this Sunday. Everyone welcome.

## St Patrick's Stawell Peace Prayer

3 Sessions of Peace Prayer are being offered at St. Patricks. These will be held at 5 pm on Saturday 27th May, Saturday 24th June and 22nd July. All welcome.

**Ararat Social Gathering** -Friday June 2, 6pm All parishioners are invited to bring supper to share for a fun social evening in the Parish Centre.

## **CWL Day of Reflection - Feast Day of Mary Help of Christians – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

St Mary's Church-52 Anderson Street Warracknabeal 10.30am – 3pm. All Welcome to attend the whole or part of the day. 10.30am Celebration of Mass, 11.15am Morning Cuppa (Church Foyer), 11.30am Guest Speaker Marie Shaddock, 12.30 Lunch (The Anglican Parish Centre cost \$17), 1.45pm Prayer, 3pm Final Prayer and Afternoon tea  
Could one person from each church please confirm their number of attendees for lunch and RSVP BY 17<sup>TH</sup> May to Frances Casey 0458317815 or [lcasey@people.net.au](mailto:lcasey@people.net.au)

## **Voice to Parliament - Catholic Social Services**

Catholic Social Services Victoria (CSSV), in conjunction with Catholic Social Services Australia (CSSA), is pleased to invite you to join us for a series of webinars to learn more about the upcoming referendum on Constitutional Recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and the Voice to Parliament. We will be exploring questions like:

- What is the history of the referendum?
- Should First Nations Peoples have a Voice? And why now?
- How has the Catholic Church engaged with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples over time?
- How might Catholic Social Teaching be applied to the questions that lie before us in 2023?

Learn from legal, historical and theological experts, and hear from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders about their experiences, hopes and concerns for the Voice referendum in 2023. This Webinar Series is for anyone who is interested in better understanding the Uluru Statement from the Heart, the Voice to Parliament and the upcoming referendum.

25 May: What is The Voice to Parliament all about? Hear from Professor Melissa Castan, Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Monash University

29 June: The Church, Catholic Social Teaching and engagement with First Nations Peoples - Hear from Fr Frank Brennan SJ, Australian Jesuit priest, human rights lawyer and academic

27 July: First Nations Voices - Hear from a panel of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples about their views and experiences: Uncle Ron Briggs (Good Shepherd Australia New Zealand), Aunty Violet Sheriden (Ngunnawal Elder) and Esmail Manahan (MacKillop Family Services)

Costs: CSSA and CSSV Members: Free Non-members: \$12 per session or \$30 for the full series

Tickets: [www.trybooking.com/CHXKH](http://www.trybooking.com/CHXKH)

## **Voice to Parliament – Anglican Board of Mission**

The Anglican Board of Mission has produced an excellent booklet to help people make informed decision on The Voice. Info: [A Voice in the Wilderness - Anglican Board of Mission \(abmission.org\)](http://abmission.org)

## **National Volunteer Week: May 15-21, 2023**

National Volunteer Week (NVW) is Australia's largest annual celebration of volunteers. This week is a chance for all of us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of volunteers and to say thank you and this includes people in our diocese, parishes and agencies. The theme for NVW 2023 is "We are the Change Makers." This campaign celebrates the powerful impact volunteers make supporting individuals, communities and the nation. The Volunteering Australia website has National Volunteer Week resources, certificates of appreciation, volunteer thank you gifts and merchandise available at <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/national-volunteer-week-2023-resources-now-available/#/>

## **Prayer for Volunteers**

We pray for all those who volunteer in our parishes. May we value the many talents and gifts that God has given to these people. We thank them for generously offering their time to parish ministries. For all these gifts, given out of your love, we thank you, God of all goodness. Amen.

## **Vinnies Winter Appeal**

The St Vincent de Paul Society's annual Winter Appeal will focus on the number of older women experiencing and at risk of homelessness. Vinnies are also experiencing an increase in the number of people seeking assistance for the first time. Donations can be made at <https://www.vinnies.org.au/nswwinterwarmthappeal> on 13 18 12 and at all Vinnies Shops. Donations over \$2.00 are tax deductible.

## National Families Week Australia: May 15-21, 2023

Family Week is a perfect time to come together to celebrate the power of family relationships in all their diversities, and the importance they play in our lives and community. CatholicCare Victoria's theme for Family Week this year is "Circle of Inclusion." Resources from CatholicCare are available at, The National Families Week website is <https://nfw.org.au/>

### A Blessing for Families

Heavenly Father, please bless our families with Your everlasting love.  
Give our families strength to overcome hardship and difficulties.  
Give our families courage to admit our faults and forgive others.  
Give our families joy to live life to the full and spread our joy to others.  
May all families find comfort, support and guidance under Your loving care. Amen.

<https://www.catholiccarevic.org.au/news/247/a-blessing-for-families>



### Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Reflection by Artist

Before his Ascension, Jesus advises his closest disciples to proclaim the good news to 'all nations'. He places great significance on baptism. It is a brave new world that he is describing, an aura of wonder surrounds the work of those who speak in the name of Jesus.

#### Historical Context – To the ends of the earth

In both the gospel passage from Matthew and the passage from the Book of Acts, Jesus commissioned his disciples to go out to the whole world. In Matthew, it is to 'all the nations' and in Acts it is 'to the ends of the earth'. Both writers make it abundantly clear that the message of Jesus is not exclusively for the people of Israel but for all people everywhere. Within only a very few years, early Christian communities had sprung up all around the Mediterranean. Once Christianity became the religion of Rome it spread to all the corners of the Roman Empire.



#### Scriptural context – Not the only Ascension

The description of Jesus being taken up into heaven is a close parallel to the description of the great prophet Elijah also being taken up to heaven. Chapter 2 of 2 Kings describes Elijah speaking to his disciple Elisha in similar words to those used by Jesus to his disciples. The Jewish tradition had no belief in an individual resurrection and so the idea of Ascension was to recognise the greatness of the prophet. He was to be united with God in Heaven rather than having to wait for the great resurrection of all people at the end of time.

#### Living the Gospel – You will be my witnesses

A witness in a court of law is called to give evidence about a matter; to 'testify' to the truth of what they have seen or what they know to be true. Some people are very good at being a 'witness' to their faith by testifying to others about what they believe. Many others provide witness to their faith by simply living what they believe. Living a life based on Christian principles, including regular prayer and worship in your life, working for justice in the world and taking time to celebrate the beauty of everyday life is a powerful witness to others.