



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday September 22nd, 2024

TWENTY - FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 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

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom

The godless say to themselves, 'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us and opposes our way of life, reproaches us for our breaches of the law and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing. Let us see if what he says is true, let us observe what kind of end he himself will have. If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies. Let us test him with cruelty and with torture, and thus explore this gentleness of his and put his endurance to the proof. Let us condemn him to a shameful death since he will be looked after – we have his word for it.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 53:3-6. 8. R. v.6

(R.) The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause. O God, hear my prayers; listen to the words of my mouth. (R.)

2. For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life. They have no regard for God. (R.)

3. But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good. (R.)

Second Reading

James 3:16 – 4:3

A reading from the letter of St James

Wherever you find jealousy and ambition, you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness. Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do

pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.

Gospel Acclamation

See 2 Thessalonians 2:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

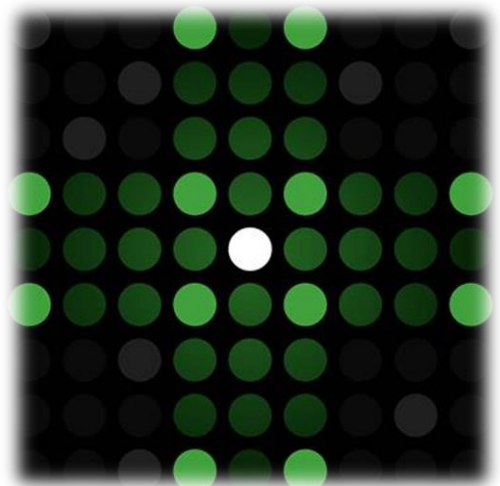
God has called us with the gospel to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia!

Gospel

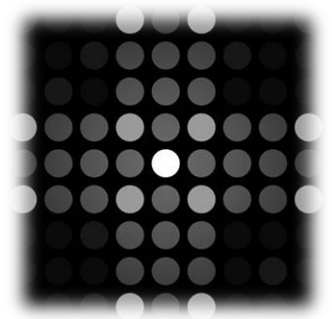
Mark 9:30-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'



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

29th Sept 2024
Numbers 11:25-29/ James 5:1-6/
Mark 9:38-43. 45. 47-48

Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

Tuesday: 10am Stawell (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Wednesday: Aged Care

Thursday: 2.30pm Hopkins

Friday: 11am Ararat **held in the Presbytery**(Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Aged Care Roster

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

Changes to Masses this Week

Fr Andrew will be busy dancing this week.

Tuesday 24th Mass in Stawell will be cancelled / All other Masses for this week will be prayers.

Welcome Fr Francis

Today we welcome and thank Fr Francis Kureeckal who will be celebrating Masses with us.

Anniversaries

Eileen Arnold, Hugh Waring, Judith Vos, Naomi Phillips, James Fleetwood Smith 1961, Anthony Delahunty 1967, Thomas Brown 1967, Mary Fallon 1988, Carmel D'Arcy 2001, Jan Smith, George Tutton, Julia Sweeney 1962, Arthur Connell 1964, Thomas O'Connor, Alice Parker, John Parker, Cyril Tour, John Flynn, Alice Harrington, William Sea, Mona Hoane, George Brady, Fr Peter Claridge, Lynnette Carthew, Thomas McPhee 1945, Eliza Colvin 1985, Jim Sanders, John Monaghan 2004, Joseph Nunan, Enid Froggatt, Angela Vazoura 1992, Francves Looby 1995, David Tas Tasman, Lawrence Logan, James Hogan, David Sweeney, Nell Smith, Fr. Paul Mercovich, Allen Sargent 1992, James Monaghan 2000.

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Sept 28th Reader Helen Smith/ Prayer of Faithful Judy Aldous
Sat Oct 5th Reader Jane Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful Val Albert/ Judy Upton

Ararat Roster

Sun Sept 22nd Facilitator Pat L / Reader Kath L / Euch Min Charlie
Sun Sept 29th Facilitator Pat McA / Reader J McA / Euch Min Genara
Sun Oct 6th Facilitator Rebecca / Reader Elizabeth / Euch Min Mary C
Sun Oct 13th Facilitator Pat L / Reader Peter B / Euch Min M Olle

Stawell Roster

Sun Sept 22nd S/Minster K Ashton /Reader MR Thomas/ Offertory J Croton
Sun Sept 29th S/Minster G Comitti /Reader D ODonnell / Offertory L Habben
Sun Oct 6th S/Minster M Rowe /Reader L McIntyre / Offertory H Reid
Sun Oct 13th S/Minster H Potter /Reader M Howard/ Offertory M McGaffin

Stawell Inter Church Council will be holding the Fifth Sunday Ecumenical Service on Sunday 29th September at 5pm in the City Heart Church of Christ. A cuppa will follow. Everyone is welcome

Stawell St Vincent de Paul will be meeting Monday 23rd Sept at 2pm in the St Pat's Church hall. The shared lunch has been postponed.

Upcoming events at Catholic Theological College

Information Session for Educators - Information Session for Prospective Students & Engaging Your Faith Online Sessions. <https://ctc.edu.au/contact/contact-the-registrar/>

2024 Season of Creation Prayer

Triune God, Creator of all, we praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection. We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us. May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom. Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image. In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Messianic Expectation

The term Messiah means anointed one. In the era of the Kings of Israel, quite literally someone was designated King by being anointed – having oil poured over their head. It's easy to see that when the people of Israel spoke about a 'Messiah' (an 'anointed one') who would restore justice and peace, they had in mind a great King. They even expected that the new king would come from the line of David, the line of the great kings of their history. Jesus was working against centuries of tradition when he tried to get the disciples to see that the Messiah could be something else.

Three Predictions

This gospel event is the second of three occasions in the gospel of Mark when Jesus clearly makes a prediction about his death and subsequent resurrection. They occur in chapters 8, 9 and 10 of the gospel and all three are associated with the disciples' lack of understanding about the mission and fate of Jesus. In each case, Jesus could not speak more plainly about what will happen to him and yet the disciples fail to understand. These three chapters have an overarching image of the disciples' 'blindness' to the truth of Jesus' message.

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

You often see them at football or cricket or basketball games – the giant hands with the index finger pointing up, and the rest of the fingers curled together. They usually say 'number one'.

Jesus says if we focus on being number one, then we certainly are not number one. If we try to say we are the best, or the most important, or the greatest, then we truly are not. If we do our best to not brag but to serve everyone else's needs and to build up everyone else's confidence, that is the way to true stardom. How hard is it to be that way when the culture urges us to be number one? How would Jesus handle it if he were a teenager at your school this year? Can you follow his example? How? Why or why not?

Many teenagers report that they have more fun being members of social sporting teams than they do on a school or college team. They play more often, receive less criticism, and are under less pressure that way.

How is that preference related to the message of this Gospel?

If the goal is to always win and be the number one team, then most players fail, because there can only be one number one team in whatever sport, league or district you participate in; only one team can win. Everyone else loses. But if your goal is to learn, to put in the best possible effort, to improve and to have fun, then everyone can succeed; everyone wins. The score doesn't matter. No one loses.

How is this philosophy of sports related to the Gospel message?

Could this philosophy of sports ever work in the professional area? Why or why not? In the high school area? Why or why not? In the college area? Why or why not?

Where does money enter into the picture? How is money connected to the current philosophy of sports? What would Jesus say about this connection?

SEASON OF CREATION REFLECTION by Nick Brodie

Today's Gospel reveals a fearfulness in the disciples' response to Jesus. Afraid of asking too many questions, they almost seem to prefer being ignorant rather than admit the limits of their own understanding. Strangely, this self-imposed ignorance does not prevent them from posturing for position. What a warning for the Church this episode seems to offer! While this excerpt of Mark's Gospel is often interpreted in terms of the virtue of humility, the other aspect of Jesus' point is easily overlooked. Every Christian is called to be 'last of all and servant of all'. Ours is a faith of humble service. The scriptures repeatedly make the point that faith is always embedded in creation. A mountain, a road, a town, and a house all frame the action in this episode. Because the Church exists wherever its members go our beliefs and prayers are not restricted to church buildings. We take our faith on roads, into our homes and towns, and even up mountains. Given this, our faith compels us to have a special care for all of creation. As Jesus clearly intimates, by humbly serving created things we express our love of the Creator who made them all.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - Marginal people

Jesus was well aware of the constant temptation for the leaders amongst his followers to be conditioned by the surrounding social and political structures. So, when he became aware that his disciples were disputing 'who is the greatest', he decided to teach them a lesson by engaging in some counter-cultural street theatre. Jesus saw a young boy on the edge of the crowd and beckoned him into the middle of his group of disciples. This was not because of some sentimental idea that all kids are little innocents, but because in his society, children were absolutely at the bottom of the social scale. Jesus moved an utter nobody from the margins of society to the centre, challenging his disciples to change their perspective. This challenge is made to all of us. We must identify those on the margins, some of whom we have quite literally dis-located like indigenous communities or asylum seekers, and bring them into the centre of our concern. There may be pain, personal and social, in changing perspective. We might pause for a moment to pray for a new way of seeing, for perseverance in re-locating someone in the centre of our concerns, for the graceful insight that in welcoming that person we have welcomed Christ.



REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Who are the righteous? This is a question that holds little interest today. We are more concerned with the successful and the famous. We want people to be honest, at least in their dealings with us, but we are more apt to applaud those who are clever. We commend people for making a good deal, for knowing how to get ahead or striking it rich. We extol the beautiful, the strong, the self-assured, those who have made a name for themselves, those who entertain us. We encourage people to be ambitious. Seldom is popularity based on righteousness. Yet righteousness is a pillar of the reign of God. Those who would enter that reign must be gentle and merciful, faithful and sincere, lovers of peace. They must be willing to take the last place, to be the servant of all. The righteous are not often held in high regard. They are often ridiculed and even persecuted. When they are considered a reproach to the standards of society, they may even be put to death. There are times when we might be inclined to envy and resentment, not wanting to feel morally inferior, and we might relish the opportunity of putting the virtue of others to the test. We may say that we want to draw forth their strengths, when we really hope their weaknesses will be revealed and they will prove to be no better than we are. Sometimes the righteous have nowhere else to turn but to Jesus, whose life they are following and into whose death they have been plunged.

Have you thought? Last of all?

Jesus tells his disciples that if anyone wants to be first, they must make themselves last of all and servant of all. This is as challenging to us today as it was to the disciples and early Christians. Our world seems to revolve around position, status and power – whoever has the most toys wins! But what Jesus advocated was a leadership based on being of service to others. Being powerful simply means you are in a position to help even more people. Putting yourself last, instead of first, gives respect, dignity and power to others rather than to yourself.