



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday September 24th, 2023

TWENTY FIFTH 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

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

- (R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.
1. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. the Lord is great, highly to be raised, his greatness cannot be measured. (R.)
2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 1:20-24. 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians
Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Gospel Acclamation

See Acts of the Apostles 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

Alleluia

Gospel

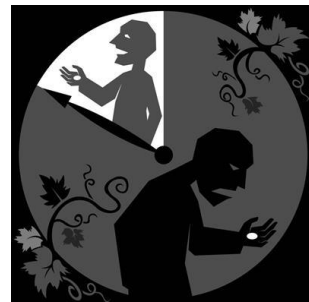
Matthew 20:1-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus, the last will be first, and the first, last.'



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
Parish Email	gariwerd@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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

1st October 2023
Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Ezekiel 18:25-28/Philippians 2:1-5/Matthew 21:28-32

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

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

Changes to Weekday Masses - Stawell Tues Sept 26th moved to Thurs 28th.

Anniversaries

Thomas O'Connor, Alice Parker, John Parker, Cyril Tour, 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, Frances Looby 1995, David Tas Tasman, Lawrence Logan, James Hogan, David Sweeney, Nell Smith, Fr. Paul Mercovich, Allen Sargent 1992, James Monaghan 2000, Nicholas Dempsey, Marc Watson, Mary Brick.

Golden Gate Roster Sun Sept 24th Jim & Jan

Lake Bolac Roster
Sat Sept 30th Reader Rosemary Liston//Prayers of Faithful Phillip Meek
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 Sept 24th Welcomer Rosie//Facilitator Pat L//Reader Kath L//Euch Min Charlie

Stawell Roster
Sun Sept 24th S/Minister M Maestros/Reader D O'Donnell/Offertory Pascual Family
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

Mass in Memory of Eileen McManus

Eileen McManus died peacefully at Nazareth House on September 13, 2023. Her funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Michael & John's Church, Horsham on Monday, September 25, 2023 at 11.00am. In memory of Eileen a Mass will be celebrated in the Main Chapel at Nazareth House on Monday, October 2, 2023 at 10.00am.

Faithful invited to pray for Synod of Bishops

The Vatican is asking all baptised people, regardless of whether they will be in Rome, to participate in October's assembly of the Synod of Bishops with their prayers.

Migrant & Refugee Sunday – September 24, 2023

This Sunday is Migrant & Refugee Sunday. Pope Francis' message for this year is, "Freedom to choose whether to migrate or stay." The Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) has created online resources which are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/109th-world-day-of-migrants-refugees-sunday-september-24-2023/>.

I discovered a shortcut today. If you put your Fitbit in the dryer, you can get a head start on your steps. I had 3,800 steps in before I put on my pants!

Loving and Gracious Creator

We gather before you today, seeking guidance and strength as we strive to embrace the Aboriginal voice in our nation's journey. Help us see that the Aboriginal story and Aboriginal Spirituality are an integral part of the wider Australian story and spirituality. Open our hearts to the richness and depth of their wisdom, so that we may walk together on a path of reconciliation and unity.

Grant us the courage to give recognition to Aboriginal people in our Australian constitution. May we acknowledge their deep connection to this land, their resilience, and their contributions throughout history. Let us honor their unique identity and empower them to shape our shared future.

Enable us to create spaces for local communities to have an Aboriginal voice committee. Help us establish platforms where their voices are heard, respected, and valued. May these committees across the country serve as beacons of empowerment, allowing Aboriginal people to participate fully in decision-making processes that impact their lives and communities.

Teach us to listen attentively to Aboriginal people, to hear their stories, and to understand their struggles. Help us to stand alongside them, addressing the issues that they face with empathy and compassion. Grant us the humility to learn from their experiences, recognizing the importance of Aboriginal perspectives in shaping a just and inclusive society.

Instill within us a deep commitment to give Aboriginal people self-determination. May we empower them to make choices that reflect their unique needs and aspirations, free from external control. Let us dismantle the barriers that hinder their self-governance and support their right to chart their own destinies.

Guide us to recognize and honor the wisdom of Aboriginal culture and spirituality. Help us to appreciate the interconnectedness of all life, the sacredness of the land, and the importance of maintaining harmony with nature. Let this wisdom inspire us to be responsible custodians of this land and foster respect for all cultures.

Break down the fears that hinder good decision-making. Grant us the strength to overcome prejudice, stereotypes, and misunderstandings. Help us embrace diversity, celebrate differences, and work towards a future built on inclusivity and justice.

Inspire us to assemble a model of leadership based on collaboration and community involvement. May our leaders recognize that the strength of a nation lies in the unity of its people. Guide them to lead with humility, empathy, and a commitment to the common good. Let their decisions be informed by the collective wisdom of the diverse voices they represent.

Empower all Australians to make decisions shaped by mutual understanding. Grant us the grace to engage in meaningful dialogue, to listen deeply, and to seek common ground. May we nurture an environment where every person's voice is heard, respected, and valued.

Dear Creator, bless our endeavors to support the Aboriginal voice to parliament. May we walk hand in hand, embracing a future where all Australians, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, stand together in harmony, justice, and love.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

SEASON OF CREATION by Nick Brodie

The complaining workers in today's Gospel assumed they were near the top of some unspoken hierarchy. They thought they deserved more than some of their co-workers. If we think of the earth as God's great vineyard, we can see obvious parallels today. Nations can think they deserve more than their less developed neighbours; perhaps because their economies have been industrialised longer. People can assume they are right to own multiple properties while others remain homeless; perhaps because they inherited or worked hard for them. But we Christians are called to work in the vineyard for its good, and for the good of all, not merely ourselves. 'The way humanity treats the environment influences the way it treats itself, and vice versa', declared Pope Benedict XVI in the encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, reminding us that justice for others and good stewardship of our world are intimately connected. During this Season of Creation, we might ask ourselves: How can we tend the vineyard into which God has sent us? Do we attend to the needs of our fellow workers, especially refugees and immigrants who have only recently arrived?

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close -Reflection by Artist

The Kingdom of heaven is like . . .' a topsy-turvy environment in which 'the last will be first and the first will be last'. The Kingdom, the way Jesus describes it here, is similar to an optical illusion, where earthly logic is confounded. Some of the values we take for granted are turned upside down and our priorities are rearranged, for example generosity has precedence over equity. This parable would be seriously problematic for labour and capital alike in today's world.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Our attention shifts slightly in these last Sundays of Ordinary Time. We turn from concentration on the character and responsibilities of discipleship to reflection on the import of the end of time. As we move toward the close of the liturgical year, we are invited to consider the final coming of Christ and the last judgment. The thought of judgment is enough to strike fear in the hearts of many. We sometimes experience tension between the idea of divine justice, which requires that the good be adequately rewarded and the evil be appropriately punished, and that of the mercy of God, which we hope will be generously extended to us. As seen in the readings for this Sunday, the justice of God does not conform to the standards of human justice. It is incomprehensible, because its foundation is mercy. While we might find consolation in this view of divine judgment when it is directed toward us, our hearts do not always seem to be generous enough to rejoice in the mercy extended to others. It is almost as if we feel that we have been cheated in some way, if God is merciful to others. However, divine mercy can work in us to abolish our pettiness and indignation and replace it with generosity of heart. We are called to conduct ourselves with this kind of generosity, this kind of love, this kind of mercy.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate No Salvation outside the Church?

This is a story of the day labourers of Jesus' time. The 'early birds' contracted for the just wage of one denarius and did the hard work over the course of a long day. They were outraged when latecomers also received a denarius. This little parable circulated in the Christian community of the first century because there was great antagonism between the Jews who became followers of Jesus and the non-Jews, the 'Gentiles'. Jewish Christians looked at their long history of hardship preparing for the coming of the Messiah. And, now, here were these Gentiles who had done nothing by comparison, and God appeared to be granting them whatever it took to enjoy the 'daily bread' of the Kingdom of God. Jewish Christians had to be shocked out of their idea that God's grace could not be lavished on those outside the boundaries of the Chosen People. We could pause to pray to be taken by happy surprise by those billions of people outside the Church who, by the grace of God, will share with us 'the Bread of Life', given for the salvation of all the world.

