



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday August 25th, 2024

TWENTY - FIRST 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 **Joshua 24:1-2. 15-18**

A reading from the book of Joshua
Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people: 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.' The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 33:2-3. 16-23. R. v.9**

(R.) Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

2. The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal. (R.)

3. They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. (R.)

Second Reading **Ephesians 5:21-32**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians
Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ

loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

Gospel Acclamation **See John 6:63. 68**

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words, Lord, are spirit and life: you have the words of everlasting life. Alleluia!

Gospel **John 6:60-69**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

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 1st 3rd 5th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough 2nd 4th Sundays 12.30pm
Glenthompson (Hamilton Parish) 2nd 4th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday

1st Sept 2024
Deuteronomy 4:1-2.6-8/James 1:17-18, 21-22, 27/
Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

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

Change to Masses this Week

Stawell Mass on Tuesday 27th will be cancelled
ARVillage Mass on Wednesday 28th morning will be prayers

Anniversaries

Eileen Carroll, Jean Williams, Barry McArthur, Bernadette Maddocks 1974, Christopher Tilley 1997, Eileen Gavin 2001, John Hozjan 2007, Barry McArthur 2018, Jeanette Ryan, Fr Rodger Shepherd, Barbara Caporn, Gladys Merrett 1983, John Fallon 1991, May Harrington, Kevin Moore, Michele Di Domenico, John Harvey, Berenice Rutter 1997, Mary Colwell, Sergio Tognon, Melrose Naylor 1959, George Thompson 1992, Mary Hickey, Diana Cashin, Frank McAloon, Leila Petersen, Maude Forster 1957, Edward Evans 1960, Charles Lightfoot 1987, Ethel Lannen, Kevin Brady, John Scarsi 1971, Joseph Earle 1987, Margaret Nunweek 1999, Lorna Sargent 2000, Dorothy Woolley 2016, Peter Coughlin, Maria Sobczak, May Pryderrach 1 59, James Phillips 1969, Cicily Wortley 1973, James Seary 1973, John Egan 1989, Michael Phillips,

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Aug 31st Reader Leanne Breen/ Prayer of Faithful Jane Higgins
Sat Sept 7th Reader Rosemary Liston / Prayer of Faithful P Meek/Cleaning Leanne Breen
Sat Sept 21st Reader Helen Smith/ Prayer of Faithful Judy Aldous

Ararat Roster

Sun Aug 25th Facilitator C McAdie/ Reader Peter B / Euch Min Marg O
Sun Sept 1st Facilitator Charlie R / Reader Jim/ Euch Min Jan C
Sun Sept 8th Facilitator Peter B / Reader Harry / Euch Min Anna C

Stawell Roster

Sun Aug 25th S/Minster H Potter /Reader M Howard/ Offertory L Habben
Sun Sept 1st S/Minster M Howard /Reader D ODonnell / Offertory M McGaffin
Sun Sept 8th S/Minster L McIntyre /Reader G Madaffer/ Offertory Timor E

Stawell Roster

Ready for Collection

Stawell CWL

Invites everyone to a cuppa with Bishop Paul after this Sunday's Mass in the St Pat's Church hall."

Lake Bolac Shared Tea

There will be a shared tea in Lake Bolac after Mass on Saturday August 31.

Steatham Masses - There will be Mass in Streatham (Beaufort Parish) at 6pm on the 1st Fridays beginning September 6th. Please bring a plate to share.

Our Diocesan Community -The latest edition of the OCD is now available in the churches.

Ballarat Clergy Support Fund Annual Appeal – next weekend

The BCSF Collection for Retired Priests will be held next weekend. Creating a secure retirement future for the priests of the diocese is a duty and care in which we can all participate. Seventeen retired priests are currently supported by this Fund. Some live privately, some are retired in units in Ballarat or elsewhere, others live in supported accommodation. Contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible. Caring for those who cared for us - the Church community's responsibility



Names in the Memorial Books

A reminder that parishioners are welcome to take a pen / pencil and write names into the memorial books in the churches. From time to time we bring the books back to the office and reprint them with the pencilled names added.

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission invite all members of the diocese to a Reflection Day, in celebration of the launch of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Social Justice Statement 2024-2025, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 10.00am - 2.30pm at Ss Michael and Johttps://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1262071hn's Horsham Parish Centre. Facilitator for the day is writer and educator, Michael McGirr. Registrations are essential through trybooking and close on August 29. Scan or click the QR code. Please contact your parish office if you need assistance to register for the day. A flyer is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/>



Social Justice Sunday Today

Today is Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Bishops' have launched the 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World." Every year, the bishops seek to make a substantive comment on a key social issue and this year the focus is on the promotion of peace and the need for truth in public life. Bishop Paul has released a video message in relation to the current Social Justice Statement. To watch Bishop Paul's video and to access the statement and liturgy resources, go to the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/social-justice/social-justice-statement/> You can also download a text copy of Bishop Paul's message from this webpage



Wisdom at the Cathedral

All are welcome to hear Fr Shawn Murphy ibp present From Paris to Chartres to Eternity at the next Wisdom at the Cathedral event on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 7.00pm. Father Murphy, an experienced pilgrim of the famous Paris-Chartres pilgrimage, which attracts tens of thousands of people each year in Holy Week, will share his experiences and reflections on pilgrimage as an enriching journey not only for the body but for the mind and soul. The talk and discussion time will go for an hour and will be followed by a cup of tea. Entry by donation. For all enquiries, please contact Fiona Bradley at fionalouisebradley@gmail.com.

ACU Big Sing for a Big Cause - August 25, 2024

The Australian Catholic University, in partnership with St Patrick's Cathedral (Melbourne) and St Patrick's College (Ballarat) is hosting "Big Sing for a Big Cause", which will see singers, choirs and instrumentalists combine for a special performance, raising funds for those affected by homelessness. The concerts will be in Ballarat and Melbourne, performing Street Requiem, a piece co-composed by Dr Kathleen McGuire, a renowned composer and ACU senior lecturer in Music Education. Donations will be raised for Peplow House (a ministry of CatholicCare Victoria) and ACU's Urgent Financial Hardship Grant. For more information go to <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/acus-big-sing-for-a-big-cause/>

Olympics Opening Ceremony

Did you see the opening ceremony of the Olympics and were you disturbed by the contentious scene that some confused with the Last Supper? Organisers were clear that the Last Supper had nothing to do with it, but still, there was outrage. I found an article by Rebecca Bratten Weiss, digital editor for U.S. Catholic magazine, published by the Priests and Brothers of the Claretian Missionaries. Lots to think about, *Fr Andrew*



Days after the opening of the 2024 Paris Olympics, Christians were still angry, convinced a scene involving drag queens was intended to mock Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper." ... why did people decide to take umbrage in this instance? If it was the presence of drag queens and other queer pop culture icons that got Christians upset, perhaps Christians should ask themselves why they think this was a bridge too far. Do Christians really believe the mere presence of a queer person is blasphemous or demonic? Are Christians incapable of seeing the image of God in LGBTQ+ bodies?

Christianity in western Europe is no longer an imperial power; even with secular France restricting some religious practices, it is hardly an oppressed minority religion. Catholicism in particular wields considerable global power, and has, historically, often taken the side of the oppressor, especially in relation to Indigenous peoples, Jewish people, Muslims and LGBTQ+ people. And whenever it has done so, it has failed in its mission to live the Gospel of Jesus, who taught his followers to seek him in the least among us ... And if we haven't lived out the Gospel — despite the power we wielded in Western civilization for centuries — demanding respect just looks like fragile entitlement ... Sometimes Christians are the victims, sometimes the oppressors. Sometimes we are the helpers, sometimes the bystanders. Unfortunately, when it comes to our treatment of LGBTQ+ people, Christian culture on the whole has failed, even to the point of committing real sacrilege against Christ in the marginalized.

Full article: <https://www.ncronline.org/opinion/guest-voices/olympics-close-did-christians-learn-anything-opening-ceremonies>

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate **The Word of Eternal Life**

I remember seeing a James Bond film in which the Voodoo priest could summon the Living Dead – called Zombies – people hovering between life in the grave and life above ground level, but ultimately trapped as human beings living a grave-dominated existence. There are billions of the Living Dead around the world. People, apparently like you and me, but in fact living with the belief that the grave will mark the extinction of their life. But *our* ears are attuned to pick up words which sound the possibility of a different destiny, a different reality. We have heard a voice which speaks the truth, a voice which speaks of a more beautiful reality. That voice says that you and I, individually, personally, are star dust with a marvellous destiny: a destiny that will see our ensouled bodies transformed, transfigured, translucent with Divine Light and energy. The voice is that of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We hear that voice from within the Church, which has transmitted the tradition of 'The Voice' for twenty centuries. Heeding that Voice, I move from the company of the Living Dead to the companionship of the Conqueror of Death. I am no longer a 'Dead Man Walking' but a man alive with the reality of eternal life already within me. That is why when I hear the challenge: 'Do you also wish to go away?' I enter into that tradition and answer with St Peter, I answer in the company of billions of others over twenty centuries: 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.' We

could pause for a moment and pray that, living in the tradition of the Church, I may hear the Word in the Gospel and take that Word within myself in Holy Communion so that I might be no longer a 'Dead Man Walking', but a human being alive with the reality of eternal life already within me.

