



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday February 25th, 2024
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT 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 **Genesis 22:1-2. 9-13. 15-18**

A reading from the book of Genesis

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called.' Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 115:10. 15-19. R. 114:9**

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. **(R.)**

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. **(R.)**

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **(R.)**

Second Reading **Romans 8:31-34**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Gospel Acclamation **See Matthew 17:5**

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

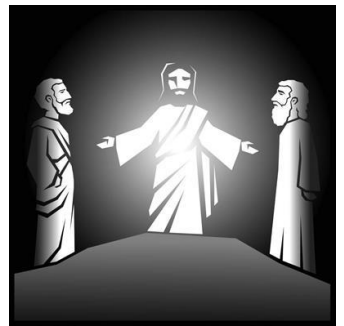
Gospel **Mark 9:2-10**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.



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

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)

Readings for next Sunday

3rd March 2024
Exodus 20:1-3. 7-8. 12-17/1 Corinthians 1:22-25/
John 2:13-25

Aged Care Roster

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

Lenten Discussion February 13th – March 21st

Stawell after 10am Mass on Tuesdays / Ararat 10am on Thursdays

Holy Week in Stawell Sunday 24th – Saturday March 30th

Each day during Holy Week Moira will lead stations of the cross at 10am. Everyone welcome

Mass in Landsborough on Easter Sunday 31st March at 12.30pm

There will be an extra unscheduled Mass in Landsborough to celebrate Easter Sunday.

Anniversaries

Robert Oliver, Janie Johnston, Ann Evans 1945, Betty White, Edward O'Boyle, Antonia Sultana, Bob Mahony, Vera Ruzic, Anthony Nolan, Frank Dempsey, Jackson Hunt, Thelma Day, Noel Hooper, Peter Monaghan 1986, Sr Ursula Hayes, Wal Davis, Margaret Forster 1987, Geoffrey Dalton 2002, Edna Wells 2010, Norman Juegan 2014, Edward Arnold, Harold Bryant, Kaz Sobczak, Mons James Brophy, Julieta Formentera, Lorna Martin, Michael Scherger, Joyce Pola 1953, William Coughlan 1959, Margaret Borella 1974, Michael Stapleton, Mary Lugg, Brian Coffey, Hazel Gleeson, Mabel Connell 1966, Catherine Doery, Mary Dalziel 1963, Therese (Dinny) O'Driscoll

Lake Bolac

Sat Mar 2nd Reader Jane Higgins/ Prayers of Faithful Rosemary Liston/Cleaning Tricia Higgins
Sat Mar 16th Reader Denise Haslett/ Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgings
Sat Mar 30th Reader Phillip Meeks/ Prayers of Faithful Damian Phillips/Cleaning Team Effort

Ararat Roster

Sun Feb 25th Facilitator H Collins /Reader Charlie R /Euch Min Anna C
Sun Mar 3th Facilitator Teresa G/Reader Sr John /Euch Min Marg M
Sun Mar 10th Facilitator P Brennan/Reader Kath L /Euch Min Anna C

Stawell Roster

Sun Feb 25th S/Minister H Potter/Reader L Morgan / Offertory J Croton
Sun Mar 3th S/Minster M Howard /Reader Kevin Dallinger / Offertory L Habben
Sun Mar 10th S/Minster M Rowe /Reader L Morgan / Offertory M McGaffin

Stawell Roster printed copies available at the back of the church

The World Day of Prayer will be celebrated in the Stawell Uniting Church on 1st March at 2pm. Everyone is welcome to both the Prayer Service and the following Cuppa. .

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat – updated notice

Anniversary Songs: Roger Hillman, Fr Andrew Hayes and Gerry Vytilingam have collaborated and composed songs for the marking of the 150th anniversary of the diocese. There are three songs available:

Song 1: Together We Build Our Place. Words: Roger Hillman. Music: Roger Hillman. (C) 2023, Roger Hillman All Rights Reserved. Additional instrumental parts available – please contact the Pastoral Ministry Office if required pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Song 2: Rain in the Mallee. Words: Andrew Hayes. Music: Andrew Hayes. (C) 2023, Andrew Hayes All Rights reserved.

Song 3: Humble Service. Words: Geraldine Vytilingam. Music: Geraldine Vytilingam. (C) 2023, Geraldine Vytilingam All Rights Reserved.

A Christian Mission opportunity for local volunteers. Would you be willing to help support people if there was a local emergency - bushfire or flood are 2 examples. Would you be willing to spend time at an evacuation centre to provide personal support and a listening ear. Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry is running training in Stawell for people willing to volunteer for this ministry. Training will be held **at St Patricks Church Hall on Saturday March 2nd from 9.00am - 4.00pm**. A poster and a brochure have been emailed to your church so please look out for those for more information, or ring VCCEM local representative Jenny Greenberger on 0408571375. Information on how to enrol is provided on the poster which has been placed on the church notice board.

Mercy Connect-Call for volunteers in Ballarat Dioceses.

The Mercy Connect Program (part of Mercy Works) recruits, trains and supports volunteer mentors/tutors to assist students of refugee and asylum seeking backgrounds. Volunteers work under the supervision of teachers during school terms with ongoing training and support. Contact Clare Bennett or Kath Cooney 0415 246, 640 or email katherine.cooney@mercyworks.org.au



In the Paper this Week

This week at my place we will hear two iconic bible stories: Abraham almost killing Isaac and the transfiguration of Jesus. Notwithstanding, I will take the liberty to write about the fires. It is heartening to see the outpouring of love for the people most affected. My thoughts are with the people affected in secondary ways: for example, the people who won't get paid to clean motel rooms in Halls Gap. I think the local government staff and emergency services have been exemplary.

I draw the readers' attention to Exodus 19:17-19. *"Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. The mountain was covered with smoke."* The people in bible times believed that when Mount Sinai was covered in smoke, or covered in cloud, they were the best times to meet with God. Did you think God was hard to find this week? It was a week of abject misery for people we know. Exodus 19 tells us that God is still here. This is a good time to meet with God, to give to God the hardship. And then to attend a fund raiser. Go gently everyone.

Fr Andrew Hayes Holy Spirit Catholic Parish, Gariwerd

Counselling and Mental Health Supports
The following services are available for anyone affected by the recent Grampians bushfires who needs support.

Grampians Community Health Intake
Phone: 5358 7400

Uniting Mental Health Hub
Phone: 5332 1286

Budja Budja Social and Emotional Wellbeing Centre
Phone: 5356 4751 (Halls Gap) or 5352 6700 (Ararat)

The Orange Door Wimmera
Phone: 1800 271 042

Headspace (for people aged 12 to 25 years)
Phone: 1800 650 890
headspace.org.au

13YARN (First Nations Support)
Phone: 13 92 76

Beyond Blue
Phone: 1300 224 636

Rural Financial Counselling
Phone: 1300 735 578

Information also available from the Grampians General Store Pomonal
Phone: 5356 6294

For all Primary Care needs including referrals to mental health support contact your local GP Clinic.

For people needing urgent mental health support
Contact Grampians Health
Phone: 1300 247 647

Logos for Grampians Community Health, Uniting, Grampians Health Stawell, and Rfcs Victoria West are visible at the top of the poster.

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice and Peace - March 24, 2024

The focus this year is on the impact of war where people have been forced to flee to seek places of refuge within their own country (internally displaced) or as refugees and asylum seekers to other countries. The program will commence at 10.30am at the Parliament Gardens (Spring Street/Albert Street, Melbourne) with an interfaith segment and prayers for peace, followed by speeches/presentations from 11.00am and the Palm Sunday 'Walk for Refugees' concluding by 12.00noon.



Ronita is 22. She lives with her husband and two children in a barangay (local district) in Quezon City, which is situated in Metro Manila in the Philippines.

Ronita left school when she became pregnant as a teenager. This could have had a life-long impact on her ability to find work and provide for her family but, thankfully, she heard about the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ), Caritas Australia's local partners in the Philippines.

Through the FCJ, Ronita was able to re-enrol in her studies and continue learning in a safe and flexible environment – even with the arrival of her second child.

After completing her ALS classes, Ronita went on to earn her Grade 12 Senior High School Diploma. With her new diploma, Ronita has now secured a job at a call centre and is looking to a brighter future for her whole family.

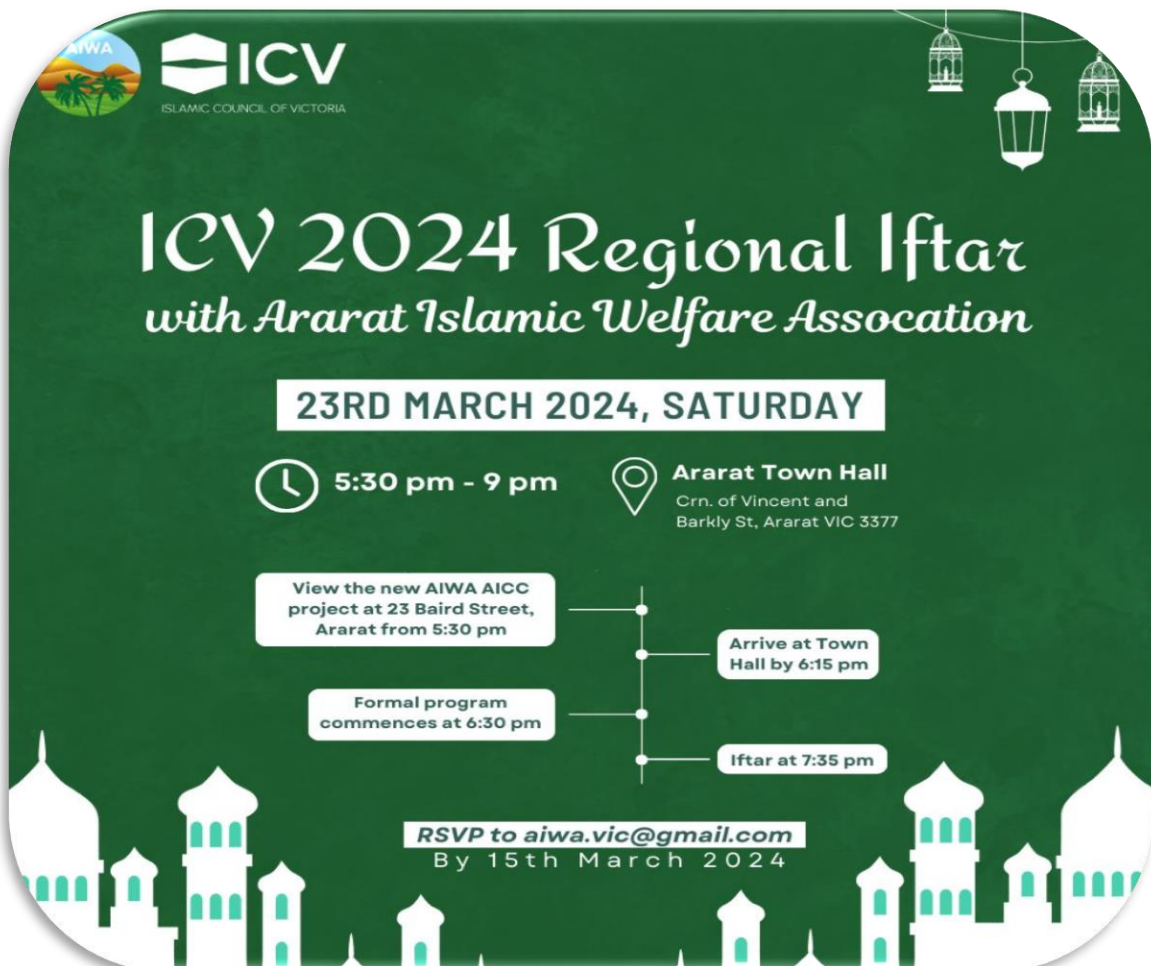
"I have now graduated senior school and I am so proud of myself," she said. "I feel hopeful for the future... Now it's not impossible for me to achieve my dream... Thank you."

Please donate to Project Compassion.

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Photo: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



AIWA **ICV**
ISLAMIC COUNCIL OF VICTORIA

ICV 2024 Regional Iftar

with Ararat Islamic Welfare Association

23RD MARCH 2024, SATURDAY

5:30 pm - 9 pm **Ararat Town Hall**
Crn. of Vincent and Barkly St, Ararat VIC 3377

View the new AIWA AICC project at 23 Baird Street, Ararat from 5:30 pm

Formal program commences at 6:30 pm

Arrive at Town Hall by 6:15 pm

Iftar at 7:35 pm

RSVP to aiwa.vic@gmail.com
By 15th March 2024