



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday November 26th, 2023

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of The Universe Year 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 Ezekiel 34:11-12. 15-17

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest – it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22:1-3, 5-6, R. see v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. (R.)

2. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. (R.)

3. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. (R.)

4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-26. 28

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority, and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when

everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

Gospel Acclamation Mark 11:9-10

Alleluia, alleluia!

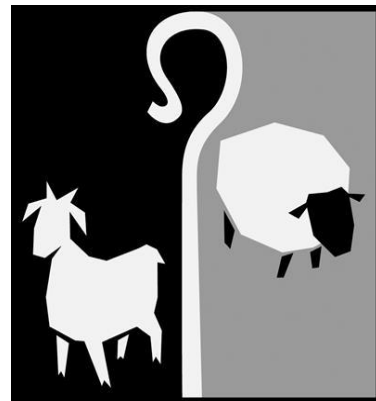
Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him, and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next, he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry, and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

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
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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

3rd Dec 2023
First Sunday of Advent Year B
Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1. 3-8/ 1 Corinthians 1:3-9/ Mark 13:33-37

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

December Roster

Tues Dec 5th, 7pm Mass for the Dead in Ararat (usually held in November)
Sat Dec 16th Reconciliation Lake Bolac Dec 16th during Mass
Tues Dec 19th Reconciliation 5pm Stawell / 6.30pm Ararat
Fri Dec 22nd Carols and Supper in Ararat Parish Centre

Christmas Eve Roster Sunday 24 December

8.30am	Ararat	(simple Mass)	10.30am	Stawell	(simple Mass)
12.30pm	Landsborough	(Christmas Mass)	6pm	Stawell	(Christmas Mass with Carols at 5.30pm)
7.30pm	Ararat	(Christmas Mass)	9.15pm	Lake Bolac	(Christmas Mass)

Anniversaries

Colin Stewart, Hugh McKenzie-McHarg, Wayne Jerram, John Healy 1968, Annette Simpson 2006, Mary Gee, Joseph Zammit, Margaret Harrison, James Rathgeber 1950, Dan Molan 1960, Alfred Murphy 1974, Christopher Ellis 1999, Denis Moylan 2004, Bernard O'Callaghan 2019, Arthur Sinnott, Margaret Stone, James Cochrane, Olive Carter, Helen Vernon, Gerard Mornane 1972, Eileen Murray 1941, Colin Soule, Perc Dadswell, Edwin Overington, Pasquale Lembo, Mary Seary 1972, Stanley (Max) Hull 2009, Lesley Hunt, Michael Mullane 1987, Margaret Mercovich, Bradley Preston, Thoma Creenaune, Edward Huddle 1973, Dorothy Seary 1988, Bridget Kelly, Isaac McPherson, Marie Osler 1947, Margaret Peters 1955

Golden Gate Roster Sun 26th Nov Harry & Anna/Sun Dec 3rd Teresa

Lake Bolac Roster
Sat Dec 2nd Reader Denise Haslett/Prayers of Faithful Mick Brennan/Cleaning Tricia Higgins
Sat Dec 16th Reader Deb Glasson/ Prayers of Faithful Damian Phillips
Sun Dec 24th TBA
Sun Dec 30th Reader Mick Brennan/ Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins

Ararat Roster
Sun Nov 26th Facilitator Rebecca R /Reader Elizabeth S/Euch Min Marg Olle
Sun Dec 3rd Facilitator Teresa /Reader Harry C/Euch Min Marg M
Sun Dec 10th Facilitator Pat McA /Reader Jenny McA/Euch Min Anna C
Sun Dec 17th Facilitator Cathy McA /Reader Pat L/Euch Sr John

Stawell Rosters now available for collection.

Stawell Roster
Sun Nov 26th S/Minister M R Thomas /Reader L Morgan/ Offertory J Croton
Sun Dec 3rd S/Minister M Howard /Reader C Barker/ Offertory L Habben
Sun Dec 10th S/Minister K Ashton /Reader J Van Diesen/ Offertory M McGaffin
Sun Dec 17th S/Minister M R Thomas/Reader K Dallinger/ Offertory Pasqual Family

Do you know anyone who is doing it tough and would like help at Christmas? Please ask them to come to our Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage at 20 Sloane St in November on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 10:30am – 12:30pm and put their name down for our Christmas distribution.

Stawell CWL is selling **Christian Christmas cards** in the St Pat's church hall after Sunday Masses. \$10 for a pack of 10 cards. Profits to Stawell Inter Church Council welfare Cottage Christmas distribution to those in need in our town and region."

Stawell CWL is hosting the **St Pat's Parish Christmas lunch** at The Gift Hotel on Tuesday 5th Dec at Noon. Everyone welcome for a jolly time. RSVP to Mary Rita in person, or ring or text 0438 836 180, or email gmrt@netspace.net.au by Sunday 3rd Dec."

There will be an ecumenical Christmas choir and it will be singing on Friday 15th Dec in the Main Street and again at the Stawell Community Carols that night at 6pm. The choir is looking for voices and everyone is welcome. Practice is in the Uniting Church at 4pm on Thursdays 30 Nov and 7 and 14 Dec.

Stawell Community Carols – Friday 15th December, 2023 6pm – 9.30pm at the Stawell Entertainment Centre.

Christmas Cards by St Mary's Students The students at St Mary's have participated in a competition to make Christmas Cards. To help raise money for the St Vinnies Christmas Appeal and Art supplies for the school, the cards will be on sale from the school and after Church on Sundays in Ararat. \$10 for 10 cards

Caritas Australia Ceasefire Petition - Stop the humanitarian crisis in Gaza

Every day in Gaza, more people are being killed. People are suffering without access to aid, proper healthcare and humanitarian assistance. A path to peace and justice for all must be prioritised. Human dignity must be upheld, and human suffering must stop. Join the call to Foreign Minister Penny Wong for an immediate ceasefire and increase humanitarian assistance in Gaza. Learn more and sign the petition at <https://www.caritas.org.au/act/ceasefire-now/>

Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal



An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health and psychosocial needs. "This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive



and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict." Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia. With your support, there will be aid to help partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal - scan or click the QR code.

Making a Scene at Christmas

Over 500 Christmas Nativities from more than 60 countries will be displayed at the Bridge Mall Ballarat and at the Catholic Diocesan Archives from Tuesday, December 5 – Friday, December 22, 2023. You can see and smell real frankincense and myrrh; see coins minted around the time the census was called that brought Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem; see hand crafted cultural nativities from Australia, Africa, Asia, North & South America and Europe (and one that went to Antarctica); nativities that prize social justice and the environment. Schools can book for an educational experience. For more information on the Ballarat Bridge Mall display, please contact Fiona Tonkin Fiona.tonkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au. Every one welcome. Entry is a gold coin donation.

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Significant Catholic Person/People from your Parish

In preparation for the Ballarat Diocese's 150 year Anniversary in 2024, the anniversary committee for the Mass of the Oils are searching for 1 or 2 significant Catholics from your parish for a display to be presented in the Hall after the Mass of the Oils on Monday, March 25, 2024. This could be a well-known person who has achieved success in their chosen field or it could be someone who has left a legacy in your parish, as a benefactor, contributor or historian. Please provide names and supporting information and photo to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au before February 5, 2024.

OLHC Parish Wendouree Christmas Day Lunch

OLHC Parish Wendouree volunteers are hosting lunch on Christmas Day in the Parish Hall, 482 Gillies Street, Wendouree from 12.00noon – 2.00pm. Bookings are essential as seating is limited, ph. 0419 975914.



Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Reflection by Artist

Humility and charity figure largely as prerequisites for entry into Christ's Kingdom in this week's gospel reading. The chosen few might be surprised, since their humility and charity are habitual – so much part of their everyday living that they seem nothing special. 'Yes', they will say, 'of course I welcomed and fed that stranger – wouldn't anyone?' But the answer is of course no. There are still starving and homeless people in our world reminding us that we have a long way to go before selfless care for others is a matter of course.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

We have now come to the end of the liturgical year, the point that marks the transition from one period to another. Today we see that the kingdom of God is inclusive. Its embrace is as comprehensive as is the embrace of God. Criteria for membership are not based on obedience to the commandments or on conformity to ritual obligation, but on the bonds of love and concern.

What we do for others, we do for Christ, because Christ is identified with those in need. We very seldom see the face of the glorified Christ in the faces of the needy; it is more often the face of the disfigured Christ that is turned to us. We see his fear and his shame, his brokenness and sense of loss. As difficult as it may be to look into such eyes, it is precisely the needy with whom Christ is identified.

Having entered into the frailty of human nature, identified himself with the needy, and handed himself over to death, in the end Christ will have conquered all. It is a curious kingdom that he has won, a kingdom of the weak rather than the strong. He has turned the standards of the

world upside down. He has shown that it does not take strength to ignore or to exploit the needy, but it does take strength to overcome our own selfishness in order to serve them. The kingdom that Christ hands over to God is a kingdom of love and care.

Scriptural context – Matthew 25

This week's gospel passage comes as the third in a sequence of passages that make up Matthew Chapter 25. The chapter addresses the gospel's intended audience who were caught in a time of uncertainty. Many had expected the promised return of the Lord within their lifetime and had seen the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple by the Romans in 70 CE as a sign that the end of days was approaching. The three gospel passages speak of continuing to prepare for the coming of the Kingdom and the need to act in a way that works to bring about the reign of God in the world.

Have you thought? – Christ the King

This week's liturgy marks the end of the liturgical cycle. Next week begins the new year with the season of Advent. The liturgy is celebrated as the Feast of Christ the King – reminding us of a very imperial model of church and theology that reflected the structure of the Roman Empire and later, Feudal Europe. To have this reading on the feast of Christ the King is a powerful reminder of how Jesus envisaged the Kingdom of God. For Jesus, the Kingdom was not a rule of power and status but a rule of justice and peace for even the lowliest. It is an apt conclusion to the liturgical year.

Gospel Focus – The Final Judgment

Often referred to as 'The Final Judgment', this gospel presents an understanding of judgment and punishment that reflects the theology and culture of the first century. It is an image that has continued to dominate Christian art and theology for most of its history: the idea of God sitting in judgment on the final day and weighing up each individual's actions. It is often applied very literally, and it is a dominant image of God represented in the media – TV sit-coms and movies often draw on the image. It is a literalist image of God that needs to be challenged. We must remember that the focus of the gospel passage is on the call to action for justice.