



Holy Spirit
Parish
Gariwerd

Sunday November 3rd, 2024

THIRTY- 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

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy
Moses said to the people: 'If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. 'Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R.v.2

(R.) I love you Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge, my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**

2. Long life to the Lord, my rock! Praised be to the God that saves me. He has given great victories to his king and shown love for his anointed. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
There used to be a great number of priests under the former covenant, because death put an end to each one of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the

promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words, and my Father will love them and we will come to them.

Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 12:28-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.



Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest Fr. Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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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

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)

Readings for next Sunday

10th November

1 Kings 17:10-16/ Hebrews 9:24-28/ Mark 12:38-44

Aged Care Roster

1st Wednesday 11.15am Eventide

2nd Wednesday 10am Lowe St

3rd Wednesday 10am Garden View

4th Wednesday 10am ARVillage

Fr Andrew will be on leave 11th Nov until 7th Dec 2024

During this time Tuesday Mass will be cancelled.

Wednesday and Friday Masses will be Prayers

Anniversaries

Lino Fratin, Noel Kent, Noel Birrell, Irene O'Connor, William Byrne 1970, Mary Healy 1973, Elsa White 1991, Patricia O'Loughlin 2017, William Alfred Evans 2018, Norman Hearn, Conception Unabia, Adrian Starkie, Anna Phelan 1985, Jack Naylor 2001, Nora Todd-Culph 2006, Leo Crawford 2017, 32. Mons. Henry Nolan, Laurie Rutter, May Uniacke 1964, Daohne Pollock 1970, John Mullen 1989, Laurence Rutter, Mary Jaensch, Juan Alforique Snr, Florentini Alforique, Aroviani Alforique, Abraham Alforique, Servando Alforique, Joshine Radley, Julian Upton, Vincent Flynn 1969, Ethel Phillips 1980, Val Gaylor 1986, Charles Turner 1999, Benedicta Bartels 2002, Bernard Browne 2007, Edward Lynch, Bridget Lynch, John Stapleton, Peter Dover, Bill Vilkavickos, Maria Hickey, Anna Molan 1947, Ivy Ferguson, James Norbury, Jeff Pendlebury, Anne Whitfield, Catherine Mills 1947, Alice (Dolly) Kelly 1953, Robert Presser 1998

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Nov 2nd Reader D Phillips/ Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins/Cleaning Rosemary Liston

Sat Nov 16th Reader Leanne Breen/ Prayers of Faithful Jane Higgins

Ararat Roster

Sun Nov 3rd Facilitator Peter B / Reader Teresa G / Euch Min Marg M

Sun Nov 10th Facilitator Cathy McA / Reader Kath L / Euch Min Anna C

Sun Nov 17th Facilitator Elizabeth / Reader Sr John / Euch Min Charlie R

Stawell Roster

Sun Nov 3rd S/Minster K Ashton /Reader MR Thomas/ Offertory J Croton

Sun Nov 10th S/Minster G Comitti /Reader L McIntyre/ Offertory L Habben

Sun Nov 17th S/Minster M Maestros /Reader M Howard / Offertory H Reid

Ministers of the Eucharist training - We would like all Ministers of the Eucharist to attend a refresher session please, after Masses on Sunday November 3rd. Please be prepared for 20 - 30 minutes. This will be especially useful now that we will have communion from the chalice at all Masses from November onwards.

Stawell Liturgy

Meeting and cuppa on Tuesday 5th Nov after 10am Mass. Everyone welcome.

Lake Bolac

This weekend in Lake Bolac we have our annual collection for the Indian mission was have supported for many years. We also welcome Sister Mary Drum MSC.

Fr Andrew will be on leave from 11th Nov until 7th Dec 2024 during this time Fr Peter Hudson will celebrate the weekend Masses and Funerals.

Moving On

This week I received a new appointment from Bishop Paul. In mid-January I will take up my new ministry in the parishes of Colac, Apollo Bay and Cororooke. There will be time for more of a chat about this, but for now I am both sad to be leaving our parish and excited to have a new challenge. I did apply for the move. Ten years is plenty. By now you know all you need to know about Babylon! Gariwerd Parish will be advertised in the coming days. And that's exciting too. *Fr Andrew*

Clergy Jubilarians Mass 2024 – Choir

Mass to celebrate the 2024 Clergy Jubilarians will be held on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 5.00pm. The 2024 clergy Jubilarians are: 50 years – Frs Eric Bryant, Paddy Mugavin & Michael O'Toole, 25 years – Fr Ed Moloney. All are welcome to attend. Members of the Diocese of Ballarat are invited to join the choir for this Mass. Choir practice will be held on Sunday, November 10, 2024 at 6.15pm (following 5.00pm Mass) in the Cathedral.



Historical Context – Sacrifice

We know from the Old Testament that sacrifice was an important religious practice dating back to the foundations of Jewish faith. After the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem, sacrifice of birds and animals was practised there as the highest form of worship. With the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE – about the time Mark's gospel was written – temple worship and sacrifice came to an abrupt end. The entire nature of Judaism changed from a Temple-centred faith to a much more decentralised faith. In this week's gospel, the gospel writer is projecting the reality of his time back into the scribe's encounter with Jesus.

Living the Gospel – Love

Jesus reminds us 'You must love your neighbour as yourself.' There's an unspoken, underlying idea here that is absolutely crucial. Before you can love your neighbour, you must first love yourself. To say that you love yourself today can imply a level of boastfulness or ego. However, what is required is a genuine love of self – an acceptance; a respect; a true valuing of self. Only then can we know how to treat others. When we ask ourselves how we would want to be treated it points us towards how we should treat others. What is summed up so simply by Jesus is a very tough ask!

Gospel Focus – First of all

Jesus is asked which commandment is first and he provides two commandments as his answer. However, he doesn't bundle them together as one overarching commandment – he very distinctly identifies them as first and second. Sometimes we can feel the way to express love for God is through demonstrating our love for other people in charitable or justice-focused actions. However, Jesus makes clear that the first commandment of all is the love of God with all our being – that God is worthy of love in God's own right. Our love of God may inspire us to action for others but the first step is loving God for who God is.

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Israel was called by God. To what was Israel called? To what were the crowds who followed Jesus called? To what are we called? To a covenant relationship with the Lord who is God, the one who is Lord alone. We have been invited into an intimate personal relationship with the creator of the universe, the one who plays with black holes and white dwarfs and at the same time with infinite interest has numbered the very hairs on our head (cf. Matt 10:30). We have heard this so often that it may have become commonplace. The marvel of it may escape our attention, because it has become just a part of our religious language. It is well that once in a while we are shaken to our senses, 'Hear, O Israel! The Lord is your God, the Lord alone!'

It is not marvel enough that this mysterious God has created us; we have also been redeemed. As victim-priest Jesus has offered himself on our behalf. He is the sacrifice that sealed the covenant; his blood was the expiation for our sins; he is our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our shield, our stronghold. Only one thing is asked of us in return: that we open ourselves to him and cling to the covenant, that we proclaim with all our hearts 'The Lord is our God, the Lord alone!' We are to love with all our heart and all our soul and all our strength; we are to love God and to love others.

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - The Dual Command

Jesus does not command us to love 'God' in the abstract. Teaching Jew to Jew he says: 'You shall love the Lord your God' – the Lord who had rescued the Jewish people from slavery. So, commanding a love which responds to an initiative of Divine Love. Why wouldn't one respond 'heart, mind, strength, soul' in gratitude for the gift of life itself, for some particular person or incident, for the beauty and grandeur of nature, for rescue from some situation which seemed to engulf us? And if the Lord God loved you in such a way, why wouldn't you love yourself? Then you can properly 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. There is nothing sentimental in his teaching from Leviticus 19:18 and the preceding verses. Jesus was pointing to the system of social justice which looked after the poor and which did not exploit workers. It is up to us as global citizens of the 21st century to recognise as 'neighbours' those beyond our borders and to love them in the practical 'Levitical' way. Fulfilling the Dual Command, we guard against the extremes of religious piety or social activism and become Christian humanists loving God and neighbour. We might pause a moment to pray in responsive gratitude to the Lord God, and to commit ourselves to loving our neighbour, hoping to hear the words of Jesus Christ: 'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'



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

Jesus tells us that loving God completely, loving our neighbors, and loving ourselves are our highest commandments. How are all the other commandments based on these? Is it ever all right (not sinful) to do something wrong, if no one will ever know about it and no one will ever be hurt by it? How does committing a sin—even a secret sin that is never caught—hurt you? Every time you make a selfish decision, you teach yourself to be selfish. Every time you lie, you teach yourself to be dishonest. Every time you make a considerate decision, you teach yourself to be caring. Every time you make a moral choice, you teach yourself to have integrity. Every time you do the right thing, you feel more confident, you like yourself more, and you respect yourself more. If everyone understood these concepts, how would it change the world?