

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 **Is 60:1-6**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come, the glory of the Lord is rising on you, though night still covers the earth and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises and above you his glory appears.

The nations come to your light and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round: all are assembling and coming towards you, your sons from far away and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant, your heart throbbing and full; since the riches of the sea will flow to you; the wealth of the nations come to you; camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm **Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 10-13, R. see v.11**

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement. (R.)

2. In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)

3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him. (R.)

4. For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor. (R.)

Second Reading **Eph 3:2-3. 5-6**

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery.

This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation **Mt 2:2**

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East; and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel **Mt 2:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'For this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said, 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and returned to their own country by a different way.



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 ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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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

January 15th
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Is 49:3 5-6// 1Cor 1:1-3// [Jn1:29-34](#):

Weekday Masses (usual schedule)

Tuesday:	10am Stawell (Check bulletin for occasional changes)
Wednesday:	Aged Care
Thursday:	3.30pm Hopkins
Friday:	11am Ararat (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Aged Care Roster

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

Landsborough

**A reminder that Landsborough's new Mass timetable begins this Sunday, January 8.
Masses will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 12.30pm.**

Anniversaries

Roger Gleeson, Vincent Daly, Ernest Hooper 1964, Valda McLean 2003 Margaret Cochrane, Eileen Field, Fr Pat McGuire, Jessie Fleming, Sharon McMaster, Alfred Stanley Young, Ellen McDonald 1968, Thomas Seear 1980, Mary Holt 1983, Noel Kuhn 1991 Vincent Thomas, Vera Shea, Anthony Gordon, Backshall 1995, Merchant 1995 Peter Keogh, Michael Pickering 1995 Michael Campion, Don Rickard, Elizabeth Ann Driscoll 2019, Patrick O'Callaghan 2018, Margaret Haslett, Margaret Pauling 1959, James Hurley 1960, John Delahunty 2016 Peg Clark, Fr Jim Green CSsR, Fr Frank Honan CSsR, Anthony Gordon, Geoffrey Lewis, Jack Flynn, Michael Joyce, Fr Brian James, Stephen Barry, William Flett 1958

Recent Deaths

Michael Habben, Muff Joyce and Pope Benedict XV1

Golden Gate Roster

Sun 8th Jan Jim & Jan
Sun 15th Jan Libby

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Jan 14th Reader Deb Glasson// Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins// Cleaning Rosemay Liston
Sat Jan 28th Reader Damian Phillips// Prayers of Faithful Helen Smith

Ararat Roster

Sun 8th Jan Facil C Reid//Reader P Lardner//Euch Min M Mason
Sun 15th Jan Facil P Brennan//Reader P Brady// Euch Min Sr John
Sun 22nd Jan Facil H Collins// Reader K Leggett//Euch Min A Collins
Sun 29th Jan Facil Pat McA// Reader Jenny M// Euch Min M Olle

Stawell Roster

Sun 8th Jan S/Minister MR Thomas// Reader H Potter// Offertory Pascual Family
Sun 15th Jan S/Minister Kath Ashton// Reader D O'Donnell// Offertory Heenan Family
Sun 22nd Jan S/Minister Marg Rowe// Reader L Morgan// Offertory P Gooden
Sun 29th Jan S/Minister Kath Ashton// Reader M Howard// Offertory J Croton

“Thank you” are two words sometimes we don't say enough—today and every day we thank all our hardworking, loyal and faithful volunteers.

The St Vincent de Paul would like to give a big Thank You to the Parishioners of Ararat for their amazing response to the Christmas gifts for the children. Also to the Lake Bolac Parishioners for their contribution of food to give out. We are very grateful for for all the help we get from You all.

Historical Context – The Magi

In some translations, the ‘wise men’ of this passage are referred to as ‘Magi’. Magi was the name given to the Persian priestly caste. Persia (now, Iran) lies to the east of Israel. These wise men are also sometimes portrayed as astrologers, but that is largely because of the reference ‘We saw his star as it rose’. It is interesting that the passage describes ‘some’ wise men; tradition has developed a specific number of three – based on the three gifts presented. These anonymous (and purely literary) figures have been given names and their ‘relics’ lie in honour beneath the Cathedral of Cologne.

Have you thought? – Epiphany

The feast of the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus to humankind. The wise men are the representatives of humanity bearing witness to this revelation. However, the Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Jesus as not only the Messiah of Israel but the Saviour of the whole world. Interestingly, in this gospel that emphasises the ‘Jewish-ness’ of Jesus, the witnesses to the birth are gentiles from a foreign land. Their inclusion is a powerful declaration that the revelation of Jesus is for all people. Regardless of the liturgical year, this reading is always used on the feast of the Epiphany to celebrate this pivotal moment.

Gospel Focus – Going home

The wise men, or Magi, are warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and they go home by a different way. How could they do anything but go home another way – indeed, go home as different people? They are changed by their encounter with the child Jesus and they go home a different way; in a different state; in a whole different frame of mind. When we genuinely encounter Jesus – in scripture, in life, in prayer, in ourselves – then we cannot go home the same way; we must go home by a different way as the Magi did.



Lectionary Art and Reflection - by Jenny Close

Epiphany is the feast of the Star child. The story of the Magi is another detail in the rich embroidery of prophecy, miracles and tradition that binds Matthew's infancy narrative together. Here the newborn Hebrew child has a significance beyond his social and historical frame: Christ came to save the world



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

The astrologers in the Magi story went through quite a journey in search of the baby Jesus. They obviously believed in him and had faith in the star.

Have you ever 'followed a star'? Have you ever gone after a dream or an ideal you believed in? Are you still going after it? What gives you the energy to keep going? How do you know it is worth it?

The gifts brought by the Magi have significance.

Gold is a symbol of wealth and fidelity.

Frankincense is burned to purify the atmosphere by releasing an aromatic and pleasing smell. For centuries, indigenous people in many countries have burned smoke in order to bless and purify themselves, and monks have watched incense rise to the sky as a symbol of their prayers ascending to God.

Myrrh is a kind of resin or oil used for anointing and embalming. It is a symbol of comfort and soothing (who doesn't enjoy a rubdown?) but it is also a foreshadowing of death.

How were these gifts symbolic for Jesus?

What three gifts would be symbolic of you and your life so far? Explain the symbolism.