



# St Patrick's Parish Stawell and Landsborough St Mary's Parish Ararat and Lake Bolac



We acknowledge the Djab Wurrung people, the traditional custodians of our parish land.

We pay our respects to their elders past and present. We respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

## Sunday May 29, 2022 The Ascension of the Lord, Year C

### First Reading

[Acts 1:1-11](#)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles  
In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is,' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

### Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 46:2-3. 6-7. 8-9. R. v.6](#)

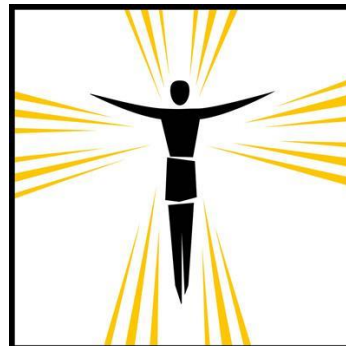
(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:  
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

1. All peoples, clap your hands,  
cry to God with shouts of joy!  
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,  
great king over all the earth.
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;  
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.  
Sing praise for God, sing praise,  
sing praise to our king, sing praise.
3. God is king of all the earth.  
Sing praise with all your skill.  
God is king over the nations;  
God reigns on his holy throne.

### Second Reading

[Eph 1:17-23](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians  
May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.



### Gospel Acclamation

[Mt 28:19. 20](#)

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

### Gospel

[Lk 24:46-53](#)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke  
Jesus said to his disciples: 'You see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this. 'And now I am sending down to you what the Father has promised. Stay in the city then, until you are clothed with the power from on high.' Then he took them out as far as the outskirts of Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. Now as he blessed them he withdrew from them and was carried up to heaven. They worshipped him and then went back to Jerusalem full of joy; and they were continually in the Temple praising God.

# Parish Information – Parishes of Stawell and Ararat

<b>Parish Priest</b>	Fr. Andrew Hayes <a href="mailto:andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au">andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Bulletin Online</b>	<a href="http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au">www.ballarat.catholic.org.au</a> – follow link to parish
<b>Secretary / Child Safe</b>	Jill Croxford <a href="mailto:ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au">ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Emails</b>	<a href="mailto:ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au">ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a> or <a href="mailto:stawell@ballarat.catholic.org.au">stawell@ballarat.catholic.org.au</a>
<b>Parish Office</b>	304a Barkly St Ararat. Open Thursdays and Fridays 9am – 3pm
<b>Phone</b>	03 5352 5460
<b>Post Box</b>	PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377

## Mass Times

<b>Ararat</b>	Sunday 8.30am
<b>Stawell</b>	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Lake Bolac</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
<b>Landsborough</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays 6pm Vigil Sat
<b>Glenthompson</b>	(Hamilton Parish) 2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sundays 8.30am

## Readings for next Sunday

June 5  
Pentecost Sunday Year C  
[Acts 2:1-11](#)//[1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13](#) //[Jn 20:19-23](#)

## 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<sup>st</sup> Wednesday 11.15am Eventide  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 11am Lowe St  
3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 10.30am Garden View  
4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10am ARV

**Recent Deaths:** Bill Cahill, Damien Browne

## Anniversaries Stawell

Julia Aubrey 1952, Hilda Cross 1989, David O'Brien 1946, John McGee 1964, Ezekiel Dineen 2002, Effie Molan 1985, Charles Colvin 1986, Kathleen Freeland 1970, Sadie Krelle 2019

## Anniversaries Ararat

Josip Curak, Bridget Thistlethwaite, Phillip Shields, Thomas Eastick, Jane Howlett, Fr Mick Grady, Frank Sertori, Sr. Anne Dunbar, Jack White, Dora Jones, John Studd, Cecily Thomas, Mary Overington, Greg Shea, John Hennessy, Bernard Guinan, Eileen O'Halloran, Margaret Shalders, Concetta Cannata, Lyell Clark, Daniel Millington

## Golden Gate Roster

May 29 Teresa  
June 5 Margaret // 12 Harry Anna // 19 Libby // 26 Jim Jan

## Lake Bolac Roster

Sat May 28 Reader Helen Smith // Prayers of Faithful Judy Aldous // Cleaning Rosemary Liston  
Sat June 4 Reader Michael Phillips // Prayers of Faithful Tricia Higgins // Cleaning Tricia Higgins

## St Bernard's Catholic Church Ladies Auxiliary AGM

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am at the church. General meeting to follow

## Ministry Rosters in Ararat

We will be reinstating the ministry rosters in Ararat in the coming weeks. Please add your names to the list in the foyer to be added to the rosters for readers, leaders and ministers of the Eucharist and cleaning.

## Sacrament Meeting for Parents in Ararat

Parents of children of sacrament age (Year 3 and above) are invited to a meeting at the parish office to begin this year's program for Confirmation and First Eucharist. The meeting will be offered twice on Wednesday June 1, at 3.15pm and again at 5.30pm.

## Stawell Ecumenical Service

There will be an ecumenical church service on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May at 5pm in the Stawell Baptist Church hall. The service will be led by visiting Pastors Rob and Lyn Bailey who will preach, minister and prophecy.

## Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Checking-in is no longer required. Face masks are no longer required in most indoor settings but they are still recommended. Carry a mask when leaving home. They are strongly recommended if you have any COVID-19 symptoms and are with people who may be vulnerable to COVID-19.

**Change to Office Days** - Open Tuesday and Wednesday June 14/15 – Closed Thursday and Friday June 16/17

### **Project Compassion**

Thankyou everyone for your generosity towards this annual Caritas appeal. Our combined parish total for 2022 is \$5941.

### **National Reconciliation Week: May 27 – June 3**

National Reconciliation Week (NRW) is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia <https://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/national-reconciliation-week/>

### **A Christian Prayer for Unity**

One only Holy Spirit of Father and Son in whom all are baptised, one giver of many gifts, one tree of many fruits one speaker of every tongue, renew in our day the wonders of Pentecost, grant that people of every race and nation may understand one another, and as one, proclaim the praises of God. Grant that all may be one as you, Spirit, with the Father and the Son are one God, one Lord. Grant unity to the Body of Christ; grant unity to the human family. Sole breath of every living thing, may all be one who, in you, live and move and have their being. - Carl K. Moeddel, From Jesuit Resources

### **Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Open Day**

Acknowledging the Feast of the Sacred Heart: Sat, June 18, 2022 at 362 Albert St, East Melbourne from 10.00am – 4.00pm

- Mary MacKillop Walking Tour available at 11.00am // Mass in the Chapel at 1.00pm // Take a tour of the Museum;
- Visit the Gift Shop // Refreshment options available for purchase.

Info and to register for the walk and Mass go to <https://www.mmhc.org.au/open-days-2022/>, ph. 9926 9300 or email [admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au](mailto:admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au)

### **Dates**

<b>Priesthood Ordinations:</b>	Deacons Matt Restall and Bill Lowry. July 22 St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 7.00pm.
<b>Lake Bolac St Bernard's</b>	150 years foundation stone / 60 years new church Sun Sept 25 11am Mass and lunch
<b>Portland All Saints Parish</b>	175th Anniversary: Weekend of August 27 & 28
<b>Creswick St Augustine's Church</b>	150 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Weekend of September 17 & 18

### **Volunteer Induction and Training**

At the Ararat Parish Pastoral Council this week we studied the current requirements for child safety and other parish requirements. What is apparent is that we'll need lots of people to undertake some training. We'll do some of this during Sunday Masses. There are a number of parishioners who will be required to have children's checks and some who will need police checks. Most who need them will already have them. It's all part of keeping children and the parish safe, but also of protecting the parish volunteers. More to come.

### **CTC Conference: 'How do we know Christ now?' Celebrating 50 years of CTC**

This conference will focus on the critical question: 'How do we know Christ now?' and explores how we know the same Christ more authentically and powerfully today. It will be led by the staff of CTC from across the disciplines and use a dialogical approach with opportunities for discussion and experiential engagement. This free online (via zoom) conference will be held on Friday, June 17, 2022 from 9.30am - 12.30pm. Keynote presentation will be held from 9.30am - 11.15am and workshops from 11.30am - 12.30pm. Registration is required for the keynote presentation and workshop choices. For more information go to <https://ctc.edu.au/news-and-events/how-do-we-know-christ-now/>

### **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity for 2022: May 29 – June 5**

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2022 was chosen by the Middle East Council of Churches "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship" (cf Matthew 2:2).

### **Daily Gospel Reflections**

During the height of COVID in 2020, the Archdiocese of Brisbane's Adult Formation Team launched a daily gospel reflection resource to help Catholics stay connected with God whilst they couldn't attend Mass. The resource has been so well received that the offer is extended to all who may find it useful. The Daily Gospel Reflections are delivered each weekday morning to your email inbox, and will take just a few moments to read but will centre you in relationship with God for the rest of the day. To find out more or subscribe go to <https://evangelisationbrisbane.org.au/daily-reflections/>

### **NCLS Research to present free Webinar on 'What Australians really think about Jesus and the Church today'**

NCLS Research will be presenting a free webinar on "What Australians really think about Jesus and the Church today". The webinar will offer the latest research insights into Australian spirituality plus reflection about the impact on communities of faith. Speakers are Dr Ruth Powell, NCLS Research Director and Karl Faase, Olive Tree Media CEO. Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 11.00am (AEST) or 7.00pm (AEST). Get free tickets at: [https://whataustraliansthink\\_ncls.eventbrite.com.au](https://whataustraliansthink_ncls.eventbrite.com.au)

## Parish Merger

While Bishop Paul still has some consulting to do in accordance with Canon Law, we are planning for the parish merger to take place on July 1 of this year. The new parish name will be Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd. As parish priest I am very grateful both for Jill Croxford in the Parish Office and Mark Bromley in the Diocesan Finance Office for their expertise. They are making complicated things look easy. Some things, like merging the planned giving programs, can wait until the dust settles. Other things will be more time specific. Finance, tax, banking and company requirements are being sorted in readiness. The new parish will be required to begin a new combined set of sacrament records. There will be information to come regarding the changes to parish bank accounts and the like. More information to come.



### Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close Reflection by Artist

The story of the Ascension reminds me of that part of Einstein's work on relativity which has evolved into theories of black holes. The most fascinating thing about a black hole is that within it the laws of physics cease to apply. As a planet, for example, crosses over into a black hole it passes through a *photon sphere* which is like a cloud of light surrounding the hole. Then it goes into the dark part of the hole beyond the *event horizon* and disappears *forever* entering a realm of *infinite gravity*. It eventually crashes into the dense body at the core of the hole which is called the *singularity*. Understand – no? Neither do I! The images that the words evoke are so tantalising that I find myself wanting to draw them. The language that Astronomers use when describing black holes is akin to poetry. What else can they do when the laws of their discipline no longer apply? Luke had the same problem describing the Ascension: he writes that Jesus was 'lifted up ... and a cloud took him from their sight' and the disciples were left gawking at the sky. Did Jesus really 'go' anywhere? Where is heaven – is it really in the sky, or even 'up'? Surely Luke is bending language in order to express the inexpressible about the shift in the disciples' perception of Jesus in that strange (fourth dimensional) time between the passion and Pentecost.

### New Testament Commentary by Mary Coloe PBVM

You might notice that Luke in fact gives us two different times for Jesus' Ascension. In Luke 24, Jesus gathers his disciples on the same day as the Resurrection. All the events in Luke 24 are situated on the first day of the week. Then, in the Acts of the Apostles, also written by Luke, he provides a longer time-frame that separates Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost. This fifty day time frame, found in the Acts, may well be governed by the Jewish liturgical calendar where the Feast of Pentecost or 'First Fruits' occurs fifty days after Passover (Easter). Within the Jewish Liturgy, Pentecost/First Fruits celebrates the arrival of the Israelites at Mt Sinai, following their escape from Egypt and crossing the Sea, which was celebrated at Passover. The Ascension celebrates Jesus returning to God and his glorification at God's right hand. It is a further dimension of the Easter experience that Jesus has triumphed over evil and death, and his humanity is now within the Godhead. The Ascension also celebrates an experience of the early Christian communities. There was a time when they knew Jesus of Nazareth. He lived among them and they were attracted by his vision of God's reign. Then, following his death, there were brief moments of his presence. But there came a time when even these Risen appearances finished. The time of the Jesus bound by human history had come to an end. And yet, when they gathered to share their memories and to celebrate the Lord's Supper, they knew that he was still a presence in their midst. In fact, in the absence of Jesus of Nazareth, they had a new certainty of faith and an enthusiasm for spreading the Gospel message. This empowering and enlivening presence they called the Spirit, drawing on the words of their Jewish Scriptures that described the power of God's Spirit in people's lives. The Greek word for the power of the Spirit is *dunamis*, from where we get words such as 'dynamic' and 'dynamite'. With the new experience of the Spirit as a power and presence in their lives, Jesus' return to his Father is not a cause of grief but one of joy, for now people of all times can share the experience of those first disciples. The Risen Jesus lives on with us. Alleluia.