

ROSTERS:**LANDSBOROUGH (8.30AM):****This Week** (January 1)**Readers:** J Murphy/J Browne**Procession of Gifts:** J & C Browne**Ext Minister:** B Amarant**Next Week**

(January 8)

Readers: B G Browne/G Douglas**Procession of Gifts:** E Amarant/G Douglas**Ext Minister:** J Murphy**Church Care:** B O'Callaghan**Church Grounds—** January—J Browne**STAWELL:****This Week** (December 31) 7.00PM**Welcomer:** M Cray**Readers:** N Rathgeber/T Brady**Ext. Ministers:** D Jones/M Maestros**Procession of Gifts:** P Price

(January 1) 10.30am

Readers: E Driscoll/H Potter**Ext. Ministers:** G Comitti/M R Thomas/F Harney**Procession of Gifts:** G & G Pickering**Next Week** (January 7) 7.00PM**Welcomer:** D McIntosh**Readers:** N Rathgeber/D Jones**Ext. Ministers:** A Ellis/J Obi**Procession of Gifts:** J Allan**10.30AM** (January 8)**Readers:** E Driscoll/L Morgan**Ext Ministers:** J Van Diesen/K Ashton/V Enriquez**Procession of Gifts:** Cain/Rutter Family**Counters:** Today: E Driscoll/G E Pickering

Next Week: T & A Ellis

Altar Society: January 7—Liz & Kay**MARY'S STATUE:** Jan 1-7 M Kinane; 8-14 D & J O'Donnell; 15-21 M Rowe; 22-28 E T Driscoll; 29—Feb 4 D Duffy**Any queries relating to rosters and volunteers please contact June Raeburn on 53583506.****READERS PLEASE RETURN THE BOOKS TO THE SACRISTY AFTER MASS.***Extraordinary Ministers, please clean Sacred Vessels after Mass and prepare for the next Mass—fill wine and water cruets, etc.***WEEKEND MASSES YEAR B:****Stawell:** Saturday at 7.00pm (Summer time—Daylight Saving), 6.00pm (wintertime—end of Daylight Saving) Sunday at 10.30am.**Landsborough:** Sunday Mass at 8.30am.**WEEKDAY MASSES (YEAR 1):**

Tues; Wed; Thurs; Fri 10.00am. 2nd & 4th Wednesday of Month-Eventide-10.30am.

(Check front of Bulletin for any changes to this routine)**RECONCILIATION:**Stawell: 1st & 3rd Saturday 10.00 am, before or after each weekday Mass (by request) or by appointment at any time. At Landsborough: Before 8.20 am Sundays**MEETINGS & GATHERINGS:**

Prayer Group: every Monday, 1.30pm.

Cuppa tea Stawell—2nd Sunday after Mass;

Landsborough—3rd Sunday after Mass.

St Vincent de Paul: 2nd & 4th Tuesdays 2.00pm in Parish Hall.

CWL: 3rd Wednesday commencing with 10.00am Mass.

Scripture reflection group Thursday 2.00pm in the presbytery.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

Our diocesan website:

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Our parish website can be accessed through the diocesan site.

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PO Box 87, Stawell, 3380.

Phone: 03 5358 1119

Fax 03 5358 3000

E-mail: stawell@ballarat.catholic.org.au or eric.bryant@ballarat.catholic.org.au**ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL**

Principal: Mrs. Kate Harney

PO Box 856

Phone 03 5358 2493



St Patrick's Parish Community

Stawell-Glenorchy-Great Western-Halls Gap-Landsborough

*Mary, The Holy Mother of God - Year A**January 1, 2017***SUNDAY MISSAL** Page 142**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR CARING FOR CHILDREN:**

Documents relating to caring for children are posted in the sacristy and on the noticeboard in the church.

A 27 page document "Code of Conduct For Caring For Children" is posted on the notice board, and if any individual would like a personal copy please see Fr Eric, Helen Potter or Gloria Pickering.

BISHOP'S APPEAL FOR THE NEEDY:**Thank you to all who contributed to this appeal. \$685.30 was given.****FINANCES LAST WEEKEND:**

Presbytery Collection: \$ 1016.60

Parish Collection: \$ 609.00

Loose Collection: \$ 391.70

*(1st Collection is for the clergy stipend, presbytery costs and support of the bishop and sick and retired priests. The 2nd collection is for the upkeep of the parish.)***SICK LIST**

Noah Amarant; Kathryn Young; Glenis Leddin; Val Seary; Lourdes dela Cerna; Kath Hayes (Ballarat); John Delaney; Lynn Wright; Laurie Healey; John Jess; Simon Monas; Wendy Shea; Angela Moore; Jeff O'Donnell; Peter Duffy (Canada); Margaret McIntyre; Nance Rutter; Theresa Ellis (Edinburgh); Kate Sargent; Yvonne & Alf Evans; Margaret Boag; Nigel James (Canberra), Ian Kindred, June McKee (Mother of Anglican Deacon Heather Scott); Terry Bartlett (WA); Sharron Pickering; Andrew Van Diesen; Benjamin Wolfson

NB: A FAMILY MEMBER OF THE SICK PERSON MUST CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO HAVE NAMES ADDED OR REMOVED.



The Holy Father greeting Circus performers at the Vatican. I can't help but think he is more comfortable patting tigers than he is sitting in meetings with Cardinals and Bishops.

HUMOUR:

Three friends decided to go hunting together. One was a lawyer, one a doctor, and the other a priest. As they were walking, along came a big buck. The three of them shot simultaneously. Immediately the buck dropped to the ground and all three rushed up to see how big it actually was. Upon reaching it they found out that it was dead but had only one bullet hole. Thus a debate followed concerning whose buck it was. 5 minutes later a game officer came by and asked what the problem was. The doctor told him their reason for the debate. The officer told them he would take a look and tell them who shot it. 5 seconds later he said he knew who shot the buck. He said with much confidence, "The priest shot the buck!" They all wondered how he knew that so quickly. The officer said, "Easy. The bullet went in one ear and out the other."

NEWS:



There are more Christian martyrs we see today, than in the early centuries... Pope Francis deviated from his prepared remarks to make this point during his address before the recitation of the Angelus prayer to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square Monday afternoon, on the Feast of St. Stephen. Noting that the joy of Christmas fills our hearts also today and the Liturgy has us celebrate the martyrdom of the first martyr Saint Stephen, Francis stressed that faithful are invited "to re-

THIS WEEK:

MASSES THIS WEEK: Mass Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri 10.00am

THURSDAY— Scripture Reflection—No reflection during January.

CONFESSIONS —Before or after 10.00am weekday Masses by request (i.e. – just ask Fr Eric.) ; 10.00am 1st & 3rd Saturdays. Landsborough—before Sunday Mass. Any other time by appointment.

ceive the testimony that he left us with his sacrifice."

It is, Francis noted, the "glorious testimony" of Christian martyrdom that continues to be present in the history of the Church, from Stephen down to our days.

Today, Francis said, in order to render witness to the light and truth, the Church is experiencing harsh persecutions in different places, to the supreme trial of martyrdom.

"How many of our brothers and sisters in the faith are suffering abuses, violence and hatred because of Jesus!" Francis said.

More Than Early Centuries

"I will tell you something," Pope Francis deviated from his prepared text to say, "today's martyrs are greater in number than those of the first centuries. When we read the history of the first centuries, here at Rome, we read about so much cruelty to Christians."

"I tell you," he added, "there is the same cruelty towards Christians today, and in greater number." Francis invited those present to think of those that suffer persecution, and to be close to them with affection, prayer and tears.

Courage in Iraq

"Yesterday, Christmas Day," Francis recalled, "Christians persecuted in Iraq celebrated Christmas in their destroyed Cathedral: it is an example of fidelity to the Gospel."

"Despite the trials and dangers, they witness courageously their belonging to Christ and they live the Gospel by being committed to the least, the neglected, doing good to all with distinctions, thus witnessing charity in truth."

Urging everyone to make room in their hearts for the Son of God who gives Himself to us at Christmas, Francis called on faithful to renew their "joyful and courageous will to follow Him." Pope Francis concluded, inviting everyone to pray to Mary, Mother of God and Queen of Martyrs, that she may guide and support us always in our path.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas (eighth day) commemorates: the Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day

designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our Abba. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter.