



St Patrick's,
Stawell

St Patrick's Parish Newsletter Stawell and Landsborough

5th Sunday of Lent —Year A
May 10th, 2020



St Francis of Assisi,
Landsborough

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which our Churches are built, the Tjapwurong people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

Fr. Andrew Hayes Mothers' Day

Congratulations and thank you and rich blessings to all of the mothers! When I pray for mothers on the 2nd Sunday in May I wonder who the mothers are and wonder if Mothers' Day is a lonely day for some. Maybe you are a mother and nobody knows, only you. Then a big blessing to you. I once visited a lady in hospital who gave her baby for adoption as a teenager. The day I visited, many years later, she was discovering that she couldn't conceive a second child, one to keep, if you like. A big blessing to that mum. I've never thought birthing was simple. When I was born my mother was anointed in danger of death. At the same time my siblings all had chicken-pox so Mum went home from hospital still unwell and without me. Her father was dying, and did so the following day. I get great mileage out of telling people that my mother abandoned me and went home without me. But what do you do? A big blessing to my Mum. She's a formidable woman!

We live in a patriarchal world. When did God become a boy? Church theologians and scripture people have been trying for many years to have us shift to a more rounded image of God than "Father." The Gospel today speaks of there being "many rooms in my Father's house," on Mothers' Day! Lastly, congratulations to Kaiti. Kaiti is the adult daughter of my friends. Twenty years ago I was the "ballet dad" for Kaiti and Emmy, waiting patiently to pick them up from dance whenever their parents needed an extra pair of hands. I'd feed them and take them back for a second dance class after tea (with a teacher from school as chaperone.) This week Kaiti became a mum of her own beautiful little girl, on May the 4th!

Mass Times

When we are allowed to return to public liturgy the following will be our new Mass times:

Ararat 8.30am

Stawell 10.30am

Landsborough 6pm Sat Vigil 2nd 4th Sundays

Lake Bolac 6.30pm Sat Vigil 1st 3rd 5th Sundays

(Glenthompson have Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Rest in Peace Sister Gottfrieda MSC

Lake Bolac parishioners will be saddened by the passing of Sr Gottfrieda who died in India on April 27. Sr Gottfrieda lived a remarkable life having been born in Germany, then living and ministering in Australia, and for the last 40 years in India. In a letter to tell of her death, Sr. Soly Mathew, her District Leader in Bangalore, wrote that "Her love for the poor, the weak and the marginalized ones in the society cannot be forgotten." The Lake Bolac parishioners have supported Sr Gottfrieda's work for many years.



May 14 Interreligious Day of Prayer to End the Pandemic

Pope Francis and the Vatican Higher Committee of Human Fraternity (established in 2019 to undertake the complex challenges facing communities of all faiths, with an approach of openness, learning and dialogue) have called the Church to join an international interreligious day of prayer to end the pandemic. People of all religions are invited to join in this day of prayer on May 14. The Vatican committee said, "While recognizing the role of science in fighting the disease, we should not forget to seek refuge in God, the All-Creator, as we face such a severe crisis ... Each one, from wherever they are and according to the teachings of their religion, faith, or sect, should implore God to lift this pandemic off us and the entire world, to rescue us all from this adversity". Their call also emphasizes the importance of asking God "to inspire scientists to find a cure that can turn back this disease, and to save the whole world from the health, economic, and human repercussions of this serious pandemic".

Fr Andrew Parish Priest

Recent Deaths

Terriane Holden

First Reading Acts 6:1-7

They elected seven men filled with the Spirit and wisdom. About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:1-2. 4-5. 18-19. R. v.22

- (R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us,
as we place our trust in you.
1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
 2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
 3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

Second Reading 1 Pt 2:4-9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 14:1-12

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Jesus said to his disciples:

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.'

Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me?

'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

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Pope Francis—Twitter

"It is not easy to live in the light. The light makes us see many ugly things within us: vices, pride, the worldly spirit. But Jesus tells us: "Take courage; let yourself be enlightened, because I save you". Let us not be afraid of Jesus's light!"

Next Week's Readings **May 17th 2020**

First Reading [Acts 8:5-8. 14-17](#)

Second Reading [1 Pt 3:15-18](#)

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The gospel readings for the Sundays just before the feast of Pentecost are all taken from Jesus' last discourse in the Gospel of John. In them, Jesus prepares his followers for his death and resurrection and his ultimate exaltation.

This Sunday Jesus says that it is through his death that he goes to God. However, it is as he is raised up in crucifixion that he is exalted. The author of the epistle declares him 'chosen and precious in the sight of God' but it is as the stone that was rejected that he is so honoured. If we ever wonder how the exaltation of Jesus will effect us, we have Jesus' own words of explanation. He promises to go ahead of us and make arrangements for us to share in his exaltation in the house of the one he calls Father. All we need do is follow him.

Today's readings suggest that the exaltation of Jesus is most dramatically manifested in the character of the community of those called by his name. It is revealed in the way Christians settle their differences so that all parties are treated fairly. Jesus is the cornerstone upon which this community is built, and the community mirrors his influence in its life. Christians also participate in the exaltation of Jesus by spreading the good news to others. In Acts we see how the witness of life and the preaching of the word of God increased the number of believers.

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OFFICE INFORMATION

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ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

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Prayers of the Faithful

5th Sunday of Easter

Priest: Gathered as God's own people let us now pray for the needs of the world and for the work of the Church.

Reader: That the Body of Christ in every culture will witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In faith we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who are lonely and sad will experience God's friendship through others. In faith we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That exhausted healthcare workers will be given patience and determination to mirror Christ's compassion in their ministry of healing. We pray especially for those at the forefront of the coronavirus outbreak. In faith we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For people who are isolated, that they will be filled with the comfort of Christ the risen saviour. We pray especially for those experiencing isolation during the coronavirus restrictions. In faith we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those living with the fear of disease will find a sense of calm and shelter in Christ. We especially pray for people who are sick from the coronavirus. In faith we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For countries where health infrastructure is limited, that they will be granted equipment and resources. We pray especially for generous sharing between nations during the coronavirus pandemic. In faith we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That the dead may be received into the living arms of our God; that their relatives and friends receive consolation and healing. In faith we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Wise and loving God, during these Easter days you bring new life into the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Accept our prayers and sustain our deeds and words by your Spirit. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

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Finances

Thank you for your continued support at this incredibly hard time. Please phone the office 03 5358 1119 to discuss contributions for the Planned Giving Program and the Presbytery. During office hours—Thurs 11am-5pm, there will be a box to place your envelopes in. Otherwise you can make a direct debit into the following account:

St Patricks Parish BSB 013 815 Account No 2863 26347

Please reference your Family name

Deus te Benedicat—God Bless You

SICK LIST

Noah Amarant; Kathryn Young; Glenis Leddin; Lourdes de la Cerna; Kath Hayes (Ballarat); John Delaney; Lynn Wright; Simon Monas; Angela Moore; Kate Sargent; Yvonne Evans; Margaret Boag; Nigel James (Canberra); Ian Kindred; Sharron Pickering; Andrew Van Diesen; Benjamin Wolfson; Robbie Loxton; Nicole Lee (Horsham); Brian O’Loughlin; Steven Oates; Maree Parkin; Rosemary Chisholm (Bendigo); Harry Comitti, John Dalziel; Mollie Barton; Patty Fenwick; Bailey Young, Graeme Blake, Pat Rathgeber; Kate Whelan; Sam Sharrock.

NB: A Family member of the sick person must contact the Parish Office to have names added. They must also have the permission of the sick person if they are able to give it.

Anniversaries

Paul Raeburn

Dear Stawell and Landsborough community—we are working on an Anniversaries List. Please email Joyce at ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au if you would like a loved one to go on the list and please add a date. Many Thanks

WHO CAN I CALL FOR HELP?

- LIFELINE**
13 11 14
24 HOURS/7 DAYS
CRISIS SUPPORT
SUICIDE PREVENTION
- BEYOND BLUE**
1300 22 4636
24 HOURS/7 DAYS
ONLINE FORUMS & CHAT
FUNCTION
- HEADSPACE**
1800 650 890
AGES 12-25
PHONE & ONLINE
SUPPORT (eheadspace)
- KIDS HELPLINE**
1800 551 800
AGES 5-25
24 HOURS/7 DAYS
COUNSELLING
- HEADSPACE BALLARAT**
5304 4777
AGES 12-25
REFERRALS
DROP IN SERVICE:
MON-FRI 9AM-4PM
VIA TELEHEALTH
- NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE**
1800 020 080
24 HOURS/7 DAYS
INFO ON COVID-19

Humour



What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other? - George Elliott