



Second Sunday of Lent 12th March 2017



2017 - Year for the Eradication of the Shepherd

In bible times the shepherds were considered by many to be of less worthy social standing. They were marginalized by the social and religious elite. In 2017 we still have “shepherds” who are less worthy of sanctuary in our country, less worthy of our company, less worthy of a place in line for holy communion. In 2017, in St Mary’s Parish, we are committed to the eradication of the “Bible time shepherd”, to the eradication of the label “less worthy.”

In Timor-Leste, Martina was driven from her home by domestic violence. The Protection Program connected her with livelihood training opportunities, offering the chance to afford education for her eight children and a safe life in a supportive community. Please donate to Project Compassion 2017 and help empower women in Timor-Leste to recover from domestic violence, develop sustainable livelihoods, and lead a life of dignity. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Lenten Examen

- 1. Give Thanks.** I thank God for this day, for my life, for all I am and have, and for His Word.
- 2. Pray for Light.** I ask the Father to let me see my day as the Holy Spirit sees it, and to show me what I need to see.
- 3. Find God.** I look at my day in the light of the Spirit. I look back over the morning, the afternoon, and the evening. Who talked with me or worked with me? Did I get done what I meant to do or leave things out?
- 4. Anything Wrong?** Do I trust that God is with me when I fail? Where I was ungrateful, I repent and offer thanks.
- 5. What Now?** I look forward in hope. What have I to do now? What have I to avoid?

Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers (no flowers during Lent)	Cleaning
Sat Mar 11th	G. White	Beck Rodger	T. Gemmola		Marg Joyce & N. Billingsley	The Arnold Family, T. Weeks & C. Martin	V. Hooper		Jo Donnan & K. Scherger
Sun Mar 12th	J. Brennan	R. Cooper	M. Cunningham, Sr. John & C. Reid	H&A Collins	Blessie Stoneman	(as above)	John Pola		(as above)
Sat Mar 18th	A. Reynolds	C. Brennan	H&A Collins		D&M Lister	The Reynolds Family & P. McAloon	Geoff. White & T. Reynolds	M. Cunningham	M. Fe Galoso & A. Galoso
Sun Mar 19th	P. Lardner	C. Bulger	G. O'Loughlin, N. Billingsley & S. Reid	J&J Crowe	Pat Lardner & Kathy Leggett	(as above)	V. Hooper	(as above)	(as above)



**Sunday, 12 Mar 2017
Second Sunday of Lent - Year A**

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which The Church of The Immaculate Conception is built, the Tjapwuring people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

11th/12th March 2017

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

James Hennessy, John Costello, Betty Stevens, Fr Leo Branagan CSsR, Marino Renzeli, Des Fox, Betty McNamara, Fr Jim Ryan, Maria Deininger, Caleb Gardner, Fr John McDonnell CSsR, Astrid Nyhagen, Arthur Harrington, Mons James Timmons, Darrell Maddern, Joe Rees, Fr John Harrington, Jean Jones, Beverley Ford, Ivan Evans, Clifford Horsman, Bert Stephens, Ann Stephens, Fr Robert Paterson SJ, Dawn Wilson, Cliff Horsman, Bob Mottram, Aminda (Min) Hamilton

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

If you would like a sick person prayed for, ask for their permission. Names will be included for the duration of ONE MONTH after which family or friends can request more time.

Bernie Sorsogon (Manilla), Barry Wilson, Wendy Shea, Shirley Billet, Natasha Martens.

Please pray for the intentions of:

Linden Horsman

First Reading Gen 12:1-4

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

- 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.)
- 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.)
- Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Tm 1:8-10

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud the Father’s voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Mt 17:1-9

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LENTEN PRAYER

God of all peoples and nations, You accompany us on our Lenten Journey. Through the life and mission of Your Son, You give us the gift of mercy. May we learn to walk Your way of mercy And compassion with all Your people. In a special way, we keep in mind our neighbours, the men, women and children around the world who are most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. Bless our prayers, our fastings and our Lenten gifts to Project Compassion. Through these actions, may our hearts be open to receive Your grace to love our neighbours as ourselves. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Amen

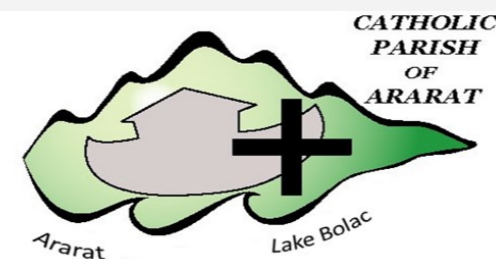
CHURCHES - Immaculate Conception, Ararat & St. Bernard's, Lake Bolac

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PRIEST:
Fr Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au



Office Hours
Wed/Thurs/Fri 10am—3pm

PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Mr Tom Hogan
Download newsletter—www.smararat.catholic.edu.au
PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE: Mrs Carmel Barker
Download newsletter—www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au
PARISH SECRETARY: Ms Joyce Clery

MASS TIMES

	<u>Ararat</u>	<u>Lake Bolac</u>
Saturday	6.00pm	
Sunday	10.30am	8.30am
2nd Sunday of Every Month		8.30am (Lay Assembly)
Masses this Week		
Tues 14th	11am	Low St
Fri 17th	6pm	Hopkins

Lenten Discussion
This week our Lenten discussion will be on Tuesday 14th at 9.30am in the convent before the 11am Mass at Low St.

<u>LAKE BOLAC—Lay Assembly</u>		<u>LAKE BOLAC-MASS (Next Week)</u>	
READER:	T. Higgins	READER:	T. Higgins
PRAYERS:	H. Smith	PRAYERS:	H. Smith
EUCCHARISTIC		EUCCHARISTIC	
MINISTER:	L. Breen	MINISTER:	L. Breen
Lay Assembly:	John & Jane	CLEANING:	John & Jane

Open your heart to giving this Lenten season
"It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving"
Read more at more at — **Mother Teresa**

A VOCATION VIEW

The Lord called Abram to go forth to a new land and begin a new nation. There's no telling what we can become by responding to the Lord's invitation to us.

Church Toilets
All children—Primary school age and under— must be accompanied by an adult.
Thank you for your understanding.



Fair Trade Chocolate and Other Products

St Mary's Parish abhors the practice of underpaying workers in plantations producing chocolate and other products. We bring to your awareness the Fair Trade logo. Look for the logo when purchasing.

Saint of the week: St. Matilda, Patron Saint of Parents of Large Families! Feast Day March 14th, Died 968.

Lesser known Saint of the Week! St. Fina or Seraphina, 1253 The old town of San Geminiano in [Tuscany](#) treasures with special veneration the [memory](#) of Santa Fina, a young girl whose claim to be recognized as a saint lay in the perfect resignation with which she accepted bodily suffering. She was born of [parents](#) who had seen better days but had fallen into poverty. The child was pretty and attractive. Poor as she was she always kept half her food to give to those who were worse off than herself.

From Fr. Andrew Hayes:

No, the other Shepherds

I've had a couple of queries (complaints?) about our "Year of Eradication of the Shepherd." Thanks for the robust discussion. Both people understood that we're talking about shepherds as a symbol of all people who are judged by society to be "less worthy" but the idea of shepherds being eradicated still rankled a couple of our actual keepers of sheep. So, to clarify, we're eradicating 1st century Palestine shepherds, the bible time shepherds, as a symbol of all who get duded by a culture that doesn't value them (migrants, Muslims, asylum seekers, gay people, many women, all who apparently are less worthy.) So, if you're a descendant of the 1st century shepherds then come back and tell me you're still offended. If you're a modern day "top of the heap" shepherd, then we're not talking about you. Mind you, that our sheep keepers are offended at the very suggestion of being undervalued, ("how dare you slight us, even by using us as a symbol of the downtrodden? Use somebody else. Use the tax collectors.") does point to how uncomfortable it must be to actually be on the less worthy list.

Palm Sunday Walk for Refugees

Walk for Justice for Refugees. 2pm Sunday April 9. State Library Melbourne. This event is supported by a couple of hundred organisations including: Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project with Presentation Sisters, ASRC, Jesuit Social Services, Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office, Rural Australians for Refugees. Info: contact the Grampians RAR rosbyas@gmail.com

Holy Thursday Passover Meal

Our schedule for Holy Thursday evening is as follows: Lake Bolac 5.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper. Ararat 7.30pm Traditional Jewish Seder Meal followed by Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8.30pm. The Seder (Passover) meal is a 3000 year old tradition of praying the prayers of the Jewish people along with lamb, bitter herbs and wine. This is the Passover meal that Jesus was celebrating with the disciples on the night of the Last Supper. All are welcome. In the coming weeks we will ask for names so we know how big a sheep to slaughter, now that we've made peace with the shepherds.

Pentecost Sunday

The early Christians dug catacombs around Rome to bury their dead far underground to prevent desecration. Those tunnels also became an important hiding place for the same early Christians. Remember the Gospel story for Pentecost Sunday, "In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews." The Parish Pastoral Council have been discussing that Seppelt Winery Great Western have kilometres of underground tunnels, very similar to the catacombs of the early Church. So, we're striking a deal with Seppelt to have Mass on Pentecost Sunday in the catacombs to imagine the life and experience of the early Christians living in fear. At Pentecost they were transformed! We're thinking it will be an extra Mass about lunchtime on June 4 and will include lunch, a tour of the drives and Mass. There will be a cost of about \$30. The usual Sunday Masses in the church will still be offered. Contact Joyce at the office if you would like to be on the list—03 5352 5460 or email on ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Sacrament Meetings—Tuesday March 21st

There are two Sacrament meetings on Tuesday March 21st, 3.30pm and 5.30pm in the Presbytery. For all those wishing to register their children for the "Live Your Christian Life" program—please contact the office on 03 5352 5460 or email Joyce on Ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

Lifeline: 131114 **Ararat Police:** 5355 1500 **Counselling service: Relationships Australia** – 1800 052 674
Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Towards Healing – 1800 099 **Sexual Assault Crisis line:** 1800 806 292