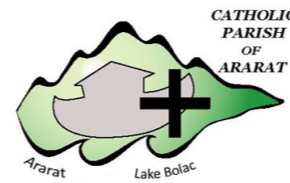


St. Mary's Cafe

We are changing again!! Isn't that the theme of 2020. We will be resuming our take-away Café in Term 4, on Thursdays only at this stage. We will start off with pies and salad or quiche and salad. We will also be able to deliver. More information to come in future bulletins.



We shall continue with a limited number of frozen meals too. Profit will be given to the Ararat Emergency Relief Fund. We have a separate bank account with the fund and our Vinnies team is involved with the decision making about the distribution of these funds. For example, meal vouchers have been purchased from the RSL and the Blue Duck. It's important to keep the funds running through our community.

We are doing a little promotion in our café -

If you buy a meal—you receive 2 Free drinks or a Free soup—GET IN QUICK



MENU

Soups \$5

Tuscan Bean Soup or Pea & Mint (GF),
Mushroom (GF) or Tomato (GF)



Evening Meals (Serves 2)

Cottage Pie	\$12
Vegetarian Lasagne (GF)	\$10
Chicken Fried Rice	\$8
Tuna, Tomato & Cheese Pasta Bake	\$8

Deserts

Apple Crumble (serves 2)	\$8
Biscuit Dough (8 biscuits)	\$5



Rotary Club of Ararat

Masks

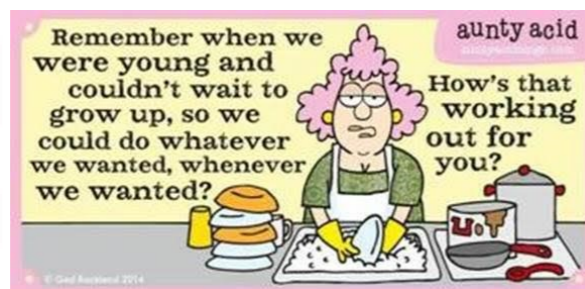
Happen to be passing the Presbytery and Church and have a dollar handy? Then grab yourself a mask and pop the coin in the tin or the brown box on the right. ALL coins donated to the Ararat Emergency Relief Fund. Hand Sanitiser provided too.



Jokes of the Week



"Bad news, its curiosity"



Sunday 13th September 2020– Child Protect Sunday

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

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 Roadmap – Are we there yet?

Heard that question a million times from the back of the car? Maybe it feels like that this week with the new roadmap outlined for us. I was hoping for a more regional or nuanced approach, more opening up for the places like ours that have been going ok. Wiser heads I suppose. Thanks to the people we elected to lead us and keep us safe. Thanks for keeping us healthy, jobless and poor maybe, but healthy. It seems that the churches will be closed until at least November 23, maybe even Christmas. So, are we there yet? No, but we can be saying our prayers, lots and lots of prayers.

I'm encouraged that the oldies in our state are being held in such a high regard. We could all go back to work, and mostly it would be the grandparents who would die. I'm encouraged that the Victorian government who enabled euthanasia to be a thing are keeping the state on such tight restrictions when it's the same oldies' lives that are most in question. To the management and staff of the aged care establishments in our region – bravo to you for being good at what you do!

Yes there have been mistakes. Yes I'm disappointed that the roadmap isn't more nuanced, but I'm not a doctor and I'm not privy to the data. Robust discussion are well in order. But so are masks and handwashing and have you ever been more aware of how long is a 1.5m piece of strong? About 5 feet. Joyce is about 5 feet.

Our mental health is something that people are concerned about more than usual. Be kind. Get help. Talk to each other. If they give you medication, take it. Look for some perspective. We are doing better than most people in the world. Making your bed helps, apparently?!

The Gospel this weekend calls us to be outrageously forgiving, 70x7 worth of forgiving. Can I change that a bit? We are being called to be outrageously loving and kind. The Gospel asks us to reflect the lovingness of God, who is ridiculously so. Can we be that? In all of the frustration of roadmaps and "are we there yet?" and "will we be in the churches for Christmas?" and "for God's sake let me re-open my business!" and all that, can we remember to be kind. This from my favourite Jesuit scholar, Fr Brendan Byrne: "Relationships in the community must therefore be charged with this sense of generosity and self-sacrifice emanating from the risen Lord, who, through the Spirit, continues to pour into the community the love that brought him to his death." (Rom 5:5; 8:3-4).

So there you have it. Lots and lots of prayers. And be kind.

Mr Chris McAloon – Principal

Congratulations and every blessing to Chris McAloon who has been appointed principal of St Patrick's School, Stawell. This appointment follows Michelle Hogan's decision not to seek reappointment at the conclusion of her contract. Chris will begin at the beginning of Term IV. Appreciation, too, to Bill Hill and the St Mary's team for enabling the quick turnaround of this appointment. Let's look forward to a whole term of children turning up to school. Singalong ... and my head I'd be scratching while my thoughts were busy hatching ...

Mass Online

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au has a number of helpful resources Some of the links are listed here:

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat: Mass livestreamed daily from the Cathedral at 10.00am can be viewed [here](#) or on [facebook](#).

St Mary Mackillop Parish, Western Border: Mass celebrated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays can be viewed [here](#). Follow their [facebook](#) page

St Joseph's Parish, Warrambrook: [Sunday](#) Masses at 8.30am can be viewed [here](#) or follow the link on [facebook](#).

St Patrick's Parish, Camperdown: [Sunday](#) Mass at 10.30am livestreamed [here](#).

Phone Lines

Victorian Coronavirus Hotline — 1800 675 398

If you suspect you may have the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) call the dedicated hotline – open 24 hours, seven days.

Older persons COVID-19 Support line — 1800 171 866

Translations for Victorian Government coronavirus website - www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/translations

1800RESPECT

Confidential information, counselling and support service for people affected by or experiencing sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse.

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.

First Reading Sir 27:30 – 28:7

Forgive your neighbour's faults and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin.

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.

If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord?

Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins?

Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments.

Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 9-12. R. v.8

(R.) The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. **(R.)**
2. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. **(R.)**
3. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults **(R.)**
4. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 14:7-9

Whether alive or dead, we belong to the Lord. The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia!

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 18:21-35

I tell you that you forgive not seven times but seventy times seven. Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me", he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said. "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

Gospel Reflection

This gospel passage follows directly from last week's passage. It concludes the whole of Matthew Chapter 18 that deals with sin, forgiveness and reconciliation. Peter's question to Jesus and suggested answer is a reflection of the view that there is a limit to the number of times we should forgive someone. Seven is a significant number in scripture and implies a 'perfect' amount. Even though by his use of seven, Peter is suggesting that he should forgive someone many, many times, Jesus quickly corrects Peter and says not seven, but seventy-seven times (or seventy times seven). Jesus plays on the use of the number seven and multiplies it to indicate that one should forgive as many times as is required – without keeping count; without keeping score.

The story of the unforgiving servant is a familiar one of forgiveness and mercy being shown but not passed on. The sting in the tail of this parable is Jesus' final warning that, 'So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives his brother from his heart.' This is an unsettling statement, as we believe God's forgiveness to be without measure and without end. Jesus warns that unless we seek to imitate God's forgiveness and forgive others 'from our heart' (with compassion) then we are not going to recognise the forgiveness of God and will cut ourselves off from it.

The whole idea of forgiving from the heart is a powerful contradiction of a popular concept: 'I can forgive, but not forget.' Is it really possible to forgive but refuse to forget? Surely holding on to a memory of hurt is holding on to the hurt itself and does not display that any forgiveness has occurred at all. To forgive but not forget is to keep count. How many times should I forgive the one who has hurt me? As many times as it takes!

ANNIVERSARIES: Sept 14th—20th

Molly O'Connor, Keith Young, Teresa Conroy, Geoffrey O'Brien, Ruth Molloy, John Molloy, Martin Creenaune, Maureen Rathgeber, Eileen Arnold, Hugh Waring, Judith Vos, Naomi Phillips, Jan Smith, George Tutton, Thomas O'Connor, Alice Parker, John Parker, Cyril Tour, Alice Harrington, William Sea, Mona Hoane, George Brady, Fr Peter Claridge, Lynnette Carthew, Jim Sanders

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Please contact the office if you would like your name to be on the sick list. Names are kept on this list for one month—and be put on again.

Anyone in hospital wishing to have communion, please contact the office on 53525460.

Margaret Hassall, Sally Rook, Geraldine Mckendrick

We also pray for those affected by Covid 19.

Ministry to the Sick:

Please email Fr. Andrew during these difficult times to discuss Ministry to the sick on

andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Or phone the office on 5352 5460

A VOCATION VIEW:

"Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Make a stand for mercy, empathy, forgiveness and selflessness!

Readings Sept 20th 2020

First Reading [Is 55:6-9](#)

Second Reading [Phil 1:20-24. 27](#)

Pope Francis—Twitter

The common good requires everyone's participation. If everyone contributes his or her part, and if no one is left out, we can regenerate good relationships on the communitarian, national and international level and even in harmony with the environment.

[#LaudatoSi](#)

Arrangements during Stage 3 Restrictions

Masses and Funerals

All public Masses have been cancelled for now. The churches are closed. Funerals in our parishes will be at the cemeteries with a maximum of 10 people

Prayers

Fr Andrew and Srs Maree and John will continue to pray for the intentions of parishioners

The Sunday readings and prayers of the faithful will be on the bulletins

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au has a number of helpful resources

Mass on Television Mass for You at Home

6am Sunday on Channel 10

Bulletins Bulletins will be prepared weekly

Some bulletins will be hand delivered

Bulletins will be emailed to those who have given us your addresses. Bulletins can be found on the parish websites

If you miss out on all of those options, bulletins can be collected from the doors of the parish offices.

HOLY LAND COLLECTION

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land was moved by Pope Francis to this Sunday, Sept 13th. This collection provides welfare assistance to local Christians in area such as health, education, employment and housing. Your generosity is greatly appreciated, especially during these difficult times. The smallest amount is graciously accepted.

Pope Francis' Prayer for Protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.