

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Hayes

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Download Church Bulletin -

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Secretary: Joyce Clery

ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Office: 03 53525460

PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377

Office Hours: Wed/Thurs/Fri 10am-3pm

(Closed Public Holidays)

Safe Guarding Officer: Emma Coburn

ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Council Chairperson:

Charlie Reid

Finance Committee Chairperson:

Peter Gemmola

Funeral Ministry:

Joan Fitzpatrick, Sr. Maree, Harry Collins & Sioux Reid

Catholic Women's League:

Jan Crowe (President) & Anna Collins (Secretary)

St. Vincent de Paul Society:

Vinnies Shop 03 5352 5560

President: Peter Brady

Manager: Kathleen Leggett

PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Roxanne Leed

Download newsletter: www.smararat.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 03 5352 1796

PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE: Mrs Carmel Barker

Download newsletter: www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au

Ph: 03 5352 3861

Parish Centre

Our Parish Centre is used for various activities—from Graduate Teacher Professional Development Days, Family Celebrations, Formal Meetings to a gathering place after a funeral.

It is a space that can accommodate up to 100 people comfortably and has an industrial kitchen. If you would like more information—please contact the office (Joyce) on 03 5352 5460

Ararat QR Code



Location Code A5W FTY

You will need to have downloaded the APP onto your phone. It will not work if you just take a "photo" of the image above. There will be someone to help. But we would urge you to come 10 minutes earlier to Mass if you are unsure of what to do.

Other Important Numbers

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

Vinnies Ararat Welfare Phone: 0459 163 461

Vinnies Stawell Welfare phone 0437 344 323

Salvation Army Australia — 13 SALVOS

Stawell Inter Church Council Welfare Cottage – 0408 038 949

Fred Crouch & Sons (Stawell) 03 5358 1043

John Dunn Funerals 03 5352 1047

jdfs@westnet.com.au

Ballarat Cathedral Office 03 5331 2933

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Finances

If you would like to donate to a parish, please see the details below. Many thanks

Details for Ararat Parish:

Parish Account "Main Church Account"

Westpac Bank BSB 033 201 // Acc 810035

Presbytery Account "Presbytery Account"

Westpac Bank BSB 033 201 //Acc 810043

Details for Stawell Parish

Parish Account BSB 013 815 Acc: 286326347

Presbytery Account BSB 013 815 Acc: 286326355



St. Mary's Catholic Parish of Ararat Sunday 14 March 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent Ordinary Time B

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

First Reading 2 Chr 36:14-16. 19-23 A reading from the second book of Chronicles

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 136. R. v.6

(R.) Let my tongue be silenced, if ever I forget you!

1. By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. (R.)
2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.' (R.)
3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! (R.)
4. O let my tongue, cleave to my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys! (R.)

Second Reading Eph 2:4-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Gospel Acclamation Jn 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son,
that all who believe in him might have eternal life.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 3:14-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.

For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

Gospel Reflection

To fully understand this week's gospel passage, it is important to take the first reading into consideration as well. The account from 2 Chronicles describes the way in which the people began to neglect their relationship with God. Despite prophets and messengers being sent to them, they turned their backs on God. At about this time the Israelites were conquered, the Temple in Jerusalem destroyed and the survivors taken into exile in Babylon. For many, this was seen as a punishment from God because of their neglectful and selfish behaviour. But the reading demonstrates God's infinite patience with humankind. God gives the people another chance and calls on them to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. God is willing to wipe the slate clean and start afresh. It is in this context that we must understand the gospel passage. In yet another attempt to demonstrate love and forgiveness, God's only Son – the Word made Flesh – is sent into the world to lead the people from darkness to light. Despite the many, many attempts by God to demonstrate love and foster a relationship with humankind, the people have repeatedly rejected the relationship with God and preferred to live a life of selfishness and darkness. Yet we see through both of these readings the unquenchable nature of God who keeps giving humankind one more chance.

In our day to day relationships, it is true that we often seek to test the limits of the love that is expressed. Young people in particular often test the boundaries of their parents' love and the boundaries of others who care for them. It is often a test to reassure themselves of this love – will you still love me, even if I do this? Today's readings portray the people of God as adolescents constantly testing out the limits of God's love. In a remarkable act, God's own Son is sent into the world to die as a sign of the lengths to which God will go to assure humanity of the love that is theirs for the taking.

MASS TIMES

	<u>Ararat</u> (Immaculate Conception)	<u>Stawell</u> (St. Patrick's)	<u>Lake Bolac</u> (St. Bernard's)	<u>Landsborough</u> (St. Francis)	<u>Glenthompson</u>
Saturday			6.30pm—Sat Vigil	6pm—Sat Vigil	
Sunday	8.30am	10.30am	of the 1st, 3rd, 5th Sun	of the 2nd & 4th Sun	8.30am (2nd & 4th Sun)

Masses This Week

Stawell	Tues to Fri	10am
Hopkins	Thurs 18th	3.30pm
Ararat	Fri 19th	11am and LUNCH

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2021

All of us have spiritual infirmities that we cannot heal on our own. We need Jesus' healing, we need to present our wounds to him and say: "Jesus, I am in your presence, with my sin, with my sorrows. You can set me free. Heal my heart". [#Lent](#)

Readings Mar 21st 2021

First Reading	Jer 31:31-34
Second Reading	Heb 5:7-9

Recent Deaths: Krystyna Stigger & Beatrice Trotter

Anniversaries: Mar 15th—21st

Fr Jim Ryan, Maria Deininger, Caleb Gardner, Fr John McDonnell CSsR, Astrid Nyhagen, Henrietta Phillips, 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, Bob Mottram, Aminda (Min) Hamilton, Dorothy O'Brien, John Leggett, John Thomas, Tom Carter, Sr. Joyce White RSJ

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Fr. Hugh Thomas CSsR, Eloise Foo and Benjamin Wolfson, Julie Neale and Margaret Hassall

A VOCATION VIEW

When we are 'born again' in baptism, we really become a new creation, fired with a new love, and aimed in a new direction - heaven. Let Jesus talk with you. Let Jesus challenge you.

Saint of the Week St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland, Born 387, Died 461

St. Patrick of Ireland is one of the world's most popular saints. He was born in Roman Britain and when he was fourteen or so, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave to herd and tend sheep. At the time, Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans but Patrick turned to God and wrote his memoir, *The Confession*. In *The Confession*, he wrote: "The love of God and his fear grew in me more ..."

Read more www.catholic.org



Interesting Facts

Gold is the only metal that doesn't rust, even if it's buried in the ground for thousands of years.

Your tongue is the only muscle in your body that is attached at only one end.

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water. When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.

Kites were used in the American Civil War to deliver letters and newspapers.

The song Auld Lang Syne is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year.

Drinking water after eating reduces the acid in your mouth by 61 percent. Drinking a glass of water before you eat may help digestion and curb appetite.

Peanut oil is used for cooking in submarines because it doesn't smoke unless it's heated above 450F.

Fr Andrew

On Saturday, the 20th of March, the congregation of St Bernard's Lake Bolac, will remember the people of Vanuatu during 6.30 pm Mass. This is due to the fact that a World Day of Prayer service was unable to be held at Lake Bolac this year. A giving Bowl for donations will be available and any donations will be forwarded to the World Day of Prayer Organisation for the people of Vanuatu.

PARISH NOTICES

Cuppa after Mass today. The CWL will host a cuppa after Mass today. The piety stall will be open. Everyone welcome.

Stations of the Cross during Lent. The CWL will be praying the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 10.30am after the 10am Mass. Everyone welcome.

Parish St Patrick's Day Lunch. The CWL is hosting a parish St Patrick's Day lunch on Wednesday 17th March in Lillies and Lattes, Main St, at 12.30. Everyone welcome to lunch or just a cuppa and cake and a chat. If you have something green, wear it. RSVP by Sunday 14th March to Mary Rita -0438 836 180 or gmr@netspace.net.au

CWL meeting in the Church hall on Thursday 25th March at 1.30. Everyone welcome.

Schedule for Holy Week and Easter

Stawell

Tues 30th 7pm Reconciliation (bring a plate)

Holy Thursday 7pm (Fr John)

Good Friday 3pm (Fr John)

Easter Sunday 8.30am (Fr John) & 10.30am

Ararat

Tues 30th 5.30pm Reconciliation (bring a plate)

Holy Thursday 7pm

Good Friday 3pm

Easter Sunday 8.30am

Lake Bolac

Holy Saturday 6.30pm Easter Vigil

OPEN GARDEN—EASTER WEEKEND (EXCEPT Good Friday)

Address: 39-47 Forest St., Glenorchy, VIC. Phone Linda to book (Covid rules apply) 0438581068 or 0432242753. NO EFTPOS available.

Art work, Metal Garden Art and Plants for sale

See flyer on church notice board

 **Caritas**
AUSTRALIA

PROJECT COMPASSION
BE MORE

Fourth Sunday of Lent
14th March 2021



Arsad, an Indonesian farmer, had no toilet, so he and his family always had to walk into the forest to an open defecation area.

His family was often sick and open defecation caused many neighbourhood disputes. With the support of Caritas Australia and its partner, Laz Harfa, Arsad took part in hygiene, sanitation and financial management training. He then funded the building of a toilet in his house and helped other community members to save for toilets. Now Arsad's family is healthier. Their community no longer practices open defecation and is more harmonious. Arsad inspired his community to 'Be More.'

Please donate to Project Compassion 2021 and help improve health and wellbeing of communities in Indonesia so they can work towards eradicating poverty, providing a better future for all.

You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Caritas Prayer

God of all peoples and nations as you accompany us on our Lenten journey,

May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity,

Our almsgiving be an act of justice, and our prayers anchor us in love and compassion.

Through living simply and loving generously, may we care for our global family and our common home, As we aspire not to have more but to be more. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen



Church Toilets

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