

PARISH NOTICE

A Special Thank You to the Parishioners of Ararat

As Provincial of the Redemptorist Congregation, I extend a heartfelt thanks to the parish for all your kindness in welcoming Fr Son Nguyen CSsR among you as an Assistant Priest. He will share with you many things for which he is grateful because in welcoming Son as a newly ordained priest you have played an important part in his introduction to priesthood, and it is often said that the first appointment after ordination is remembered so fondly. Thank you for your support when his father died which I witnessed personally when I visited you.

May God bless each one of you as together we await the Birth of our Redeemer. May the New Year be a blessed one for our world and your parish.

Fr John Hodgson CSsR.

Provincial, Redemptorists of Oceania

St. Mary's Printing Solutions

A4 Black and White—\$0.05 per page

A4 Colour—\$0.10 per page

A3 Black and White—\$0.50 per page

A3 Black and White—\$1.00 per page

Banners (320x1200mm) - \$10.00

A5 Booklets—priced on request

Support Local Business

Want to advertise in this space? Then call Joyce in the office on (03) 5352 5460. Competitive rates available. Introductory offer of \$150 for 12 months advertising rather than \$240.

St. Mary's Parish Board Room

Hire our boardroom for a very attractive fee. Nespresso Coffee on offer and convenient facilities. Ring the parish office to book – 5352 5460.

Hire costs start @ \$80 per day (includes Nespresso Coffee!!)

St. Mary's Parish Christmas Eve Mass

Tuesday 24th December 6pm

Come join us to rehearse for our *Christmas Eve Nativity Scene* in the Church on Barkly St on Wednesday 18th of December at 4pm. We have lots of roles to fill – who would like to be a Wiseman??!!

In attendance will be Joyce Clery and Emma Coburn.

If you have any questions please phone 5352 5460



Thank you to the following families who have made the church look so lovely for the Christmas season: Coburns, Schergers, Tonks, Clery, Rodgers, Cunningham and more.

Joke of the Week

It was the wettest night of the year when Paddy collapsed in the streets of Dublin. "Fetch the rabbi quickly", he said to his friend, "I'm dying."

The friend said: "And what would a good Catholic like you be wanting with a rabbi?" Paddy said, "Well you wouldn't expect poor Father Murphy to come out on a night like this, would you?"

Catholic Social Services 2020 Conference – Early Bird Registration

Early bird registrations have been extended for the CSSV Conference, "Serving Communities with Courage and Compassion" to be held from February 26-28, 2020 in Melbourne. For more information and to register go to <https://www.css.org.au/Serving-Communities>.



Sunday 15th Dec 2019 Third Sunday of Advent 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.

First Reading Is 35:1-6, 10

God himself will come and save us.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:6-10. R. see Is 35:4

(R.) Lord, come and save us.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R.)**
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R.)**
3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R.)**

Second Reading Jas 5:7-10

You also must be patient; do not lose heart, the Lord's coming will be soon.

Gospel Acclamation Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 11:2-11

Are you the one who is to come, or must we wait for someone else?

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Parish Prayer

Loving God, Good Shepherd of us all,
gather us and form us into a welcoming Parish family.
Touch our hearts with your love so that we,
In turn, may reach out in love to one another,
in a neighbourly community.
We ask this through Jesus Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

14th/15th Dec 2019

Recent Deaths:

James Francis Monaghetti

ANNIVERSARIES:

Emma Brennan, John Hearn, Pepito Galang, Myra Campbell, Fr Bill Egan, Barry Karlake, John McSparron, Arthur Clark, Laurence Cashin, Fr. John Connellan, Fr. Billie Close, Fr. Pat O'Dowd, Joan Dadswell, Damien Gordon, Joan Fogarty, Christina O'Brien, Roslyn Lillis, Ellen Byrne, Alex Haslett, William Casanova, Fr. Stephen O'Rourke, Stephan Sugden, Oliver Schwab, Norman Joseph Rowe, Rita Lardner

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Barbara Tobin, Sally-Anne Horsley

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

Ministry to the Sick:

Mary Cunningham—Retirement Home

E. Shea, T. Gemmola, D&M Lister, H&A Collins, J&J Crowe—Golden Gate

Sr. John—Lowe Street & Garden View Court

Other individuals in the parish to the sick at home

Next Week's Readings

Dec 22nd

First Reading

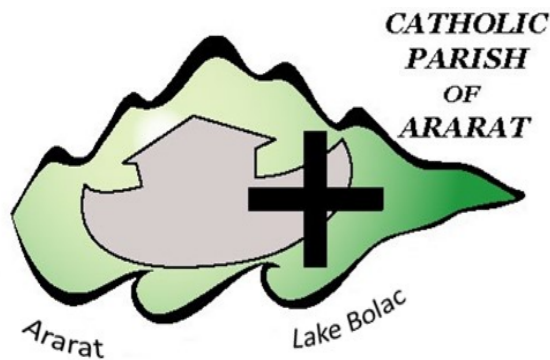
[Is 7:10-14](#)

Second Reading

[Rom 1:1-7](#)

A VOCATION VIEW

Have you ever asked:
"What ought I do?" Simply,
tell the good news to people.
Nothing else matters.



Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Hayes

andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Assistant Priest: Fr So'n Nguyen CSsR

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)

Child Safe Churches

Here at the Church of the Immaculate Conception & St. Bernard's, we follow the Child Safe Standards outlined by the Victorian Government and we also implement procedures and standards as directed by the Ballarat Diocesan Office.

Our Safe Guarding Officer is Emma Coburn and you can download our Code of Conduct and Child Safety Policy from the Parish website or on the foyer notice board. If you have any concerns whatsoever—please contact the Parish Office, Fr. Andrew or the Safe Guarding Officer 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 099 340

Sexual Assault Crisis line: 1800 806 292

Church Toilets

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



MASS TIMES

Ararat (Immaculate Conception)

Saturday 6.00pm

Sunday 10.30am

Lake Bolac (St. Bernard's)

8.30am 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays

2nd Sundays at Glenhompson at 8.30am

Masses This Week in Ararat

Tues 17th 6pm Church - Grade 6 Graduation

Wed 18th 9.30am Church - Final Mass St Mary's School

11am Prayer at Lowe St

Thurs 19th 9.30am Church

3.30pm Hopkins

Fri 20th 9.30am Church

Christmas Masses

Ararat 6pm Christmas Eve and 9am Christmas Day

Lake Bolac Christmas Eve 6pm

Farewells to Fr Son—After all Masses on the weekend of December 21/22

Sunday Lunch BBQ after Mass for Fr Son! Bring a plate, sausages and rolls provided.

Reconciliation for Advent

Ararat: 2nd Rite Wednesday December 18th 7pm.

Lake Bolac: During Mass on Sunday December 22nd 8.15am

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2019

When we learn to live in forgiveness, we grow in our capacity to become men and women of

[#peace](#).

Saint of the Week St. Dominic of Silos

Feastday: December 20 **Patron:** against rabies; against rabid dogs; against insects; captives; pregnant women; prisoners; shepherds Birth: 1000 Death: 1073

Benedictine **abbot** and defender of the faith. Born in Canas, Navarre, Spain, circa 1000, he entered the Benedictines at San Millan de la Cogolla. King Garcia III of Navarre challenged him when he became **abbot** of the monastery, and Dominic refused to surrender part of the Benedictine lands to the crown. called **Read more** www.catholic.org.com

Plenary Council

There are six meetings planned for our discussion and contributions to the 2020 Plenary Council.

Meeting 1 was "Missionary and Evangelising."

Meetings 2 and 3 are as outlined: **Completed**

Meeting 2 Sun 24th November 2-4pm in the Parish Centre: "Humble, Healing and Merciful" **Completed**

Meeting 3 Sun 15th December 2-4pm in the Parish Centre: "A Church that is Prayerful and Eucharistic"

Parishioners will have heard me say recently that these plenary meetings need to be a priority please. At our first meeting in September about half a dozen parishioners attended. These meetings are a generational responsibility to shape the future of our Australian Church. I think not six, but fifty, parishioners ought to be in attendance. Please be there to contribute. It's important. **Fr Andrew**

Ararat Vinnies

Columban Calendars are now available. They are a great Christmas gift at only \$9.00 each. Vinnies also have Christmas Cards from \$2.50 per pack. Please support our Ararat Vinnies.

Christmas Trees

THIS IS THE LAST WEEKEND TO POP A PRESSIE FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE under our large Christmas near the Altar. VINNIES will collect them on Monday Dec 16th. The presents do not have to be wrapped. Marilyn from Vinnies and all the crew there, would like to thank the parishioners for their generosity each year.

Christmas Roster

Please could you pop your name down on the sheet which is on the foyer table—Many thanks!

Early Mass in Lake Bolac – December 22

Lake Bolac's Mass on December 22 will begin at 8.15am. This will allow some extra time for a cuppa to farewell Fr Son before he heads to Ararat for Mass at 10.30 (and then on to Perth after Christmas)

St Bernard's, Lake Bolac. Goods can be left in the box on the sanctuary until Sunday, December the 15th. Items will then be given to St Vincent De Paul in Ararat, to help make up Christmas Hampers for those in need. Non-perishable food items such as tea, coffee, tinned fruit etc. are always needed. Thankyou. Your kindness and generosity is always appreciated.

Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning	Computer
Sat Dec 14th	Harry Collins	Anna Collins	C. McAdie & M. Mason		D&M Lister & Tom Kidd	P. Gemmola & J. Clery	T. Reynolds	M. Stapleton & K. Chamnings	K. Scherger	Sr Maree
Sun Dec 15th Plenary Council 2-4pm	J. Clery	C. Bulger	G. O'Loughlin, N. Billingsley & S. Reid	H&A Collins	S. Pickering	(as above)	V. Hooper	(as above)	(as above)	Sr Maree
Sat Dec 21st	A. Reynolds	Beck Rodger	L. Horsman & C. McAdie		Tom Kidd	Office	Tom Kidd	M. Cunningham	Jo Donnan	Sr. Maree
Sun Dec 22nd	J. Brennan	Peter Brady	C. Bulger, Sr. John & K. Chamnings	D&M Lister	K. Leggett	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)	Sr Maree
Lake Bolac Sun Dec 15th	I. Meek	Jane Higgins	Eucharistic Minister M. Phillips	Cleaner L. Breen H. Smith	Lake Bolac Sun Dec 15th	Reader I. Meek	Prayers Jane Higgins	Eucharistic Minister M. Phillips	Cleaner L. Breen H. Smith	