



St. Mary's Primary School presents
 'An Evening of Song'
 showcasing our Junior, Middle and
 Senior school
 performances with Mary from Coco
 Sounds.

We also welcome our special guest
 artists, Fr. Andrew
 and the St. Mary's School Choir.

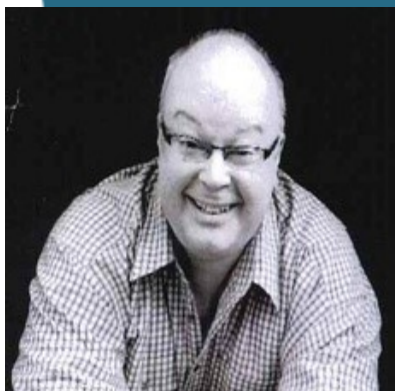
Join us for supper at 6:30pm in the St. Mary's
 School Hub.

Entry is by donation with plates of sandwiches, pastries and
 slice available at \$3 each

All proceeds will go towards supporting the 2018 Caritas
 Project Compassion Appeal.
 Performance to start at 7pm.

PROJECT COMPASSION

FOR A JUST FUTURE



Sunday, 18 Mar 2018
 Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year B

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.

17th/18th March 2018

RECENT DEATHS:

Tom Hennessy (Sr. Elizabeth's brother)

ANNIVERSARIES:

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, Dave Dempsey, Fr John Henschman, Fr Bill O'Driscoll, Bea Kelly, Elizabeth Hustler, Benita Unna Pieter's, John Colwell, Barry Smith, Phillip Brown, Cliff Murray, John Kelly, Helen Kneebone, Betty Beer, Paz Navarro

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Carmel Brennan, Jan Young, Sr. Alexia Riddington, Susan Fitzpatrick

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.

Please pray for the intentions of:

Linden Horsman

Sacraments

Congratulations to Pippa Turner—daughter of Kerri and Scott

LENTEN PRAYER

God of all peoples and nations, you accompany us on our Lenten journey. May we learn to walk your way of justice and compassion with all your people. We keep in mind all the people around the world who are most vulnerable to poverty and injustice.

In this Year of Youth, may we support young people as they recognise that through their efforts, and generosity that they are participating in the building of a better world. Bless our prayers, our fasting and our Lenten gifts to Project Compassion.

May our hearts be open to receive your grace as we work towards a just future for all your creation.

Amen.

First Reading Jer 31:31-34

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)

2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)

3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R.)

Second Reading Hob 5:7-9

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

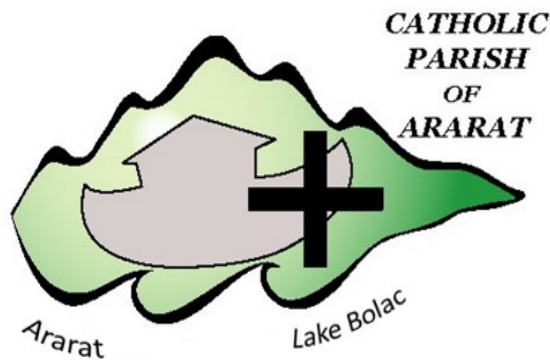
Gospel Acclamation Jn 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

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Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Hayes

andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

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/Centre 03 5352 5560

President: Peter Brady

Manager: Kathleen Leggett

PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Mr Bill Hill

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

Ph: 03 5352 5460

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

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 Glenthompson at 8.30am

Masses This Week in Ararat

Tues 20th 9.30am

Wed 21st 9.30am

Thurs 22nd 9.30am (No Mass) Lenten Discussion

Fri 23rd 6pm Hopkins

Arrangements for Holy Week and Easter

Sun 25th Passion Sunday – At Lake Bolac we will have a number of guests including our Buddhist friends for the Eel Festival.

Mon 26th 6.30pm Mass of the Oils St Patrick's Cathedral

Tues 27th 6pm Easter Prayer Hopkins

Wed 28th 7pm 2nd Rite Reconciliation Ararat

Thurs 29th 6pm Mass Lake Bolac (including 2nd Rite Reconciliation) / 8pm Mass Ararat

Fri 30th 11am Stations

3pm The Passion Ararat

Sat 31st 6pm Easter Vigil Ararat

Sun April 1 Easter Sunday 8.30am Lake Bolac / 10.30am Ararat



Ararat and Lake Bolac CHURCH ROSTER

Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning
Sat Mar 17th	P. Gemmola	Beck Rodger	H&A Collins		Marg Joyce & Kidd	E. Coburn & Jo Jackson	V. Hooper	G. O'Loughan	M. Fe Galoso & A. Galoso
Sun Mar 18th	C. Reid	M. Howard	G. O'Loughlin, N. Billingsley & S. Reid	E. Shea	Pat Lardner & S. Pickering	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)
Sat Mar 24th	P. McAloon	J. McAloon	A. Reynolds, L. Horsman & C. McAdie		Sr Maree & Tom Kidd	P & M Brady & P. Gemmola	G. White & V. Hooper	A. Joyce & Marilyn Brady	P. Weeks
Sun Mar 25th Palm Sunday	N. Potter	J. Brennan	C. Bulger, & K. Chamings	T. Gemmola	L&D Anderson	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)
Lake Bolac Sun 18th March	D. Phillips	T. Higgins	L. Breen	L. Breen	Lake Bolac Sun 25th March	V. Albert	I. Meek	Eucharistic Minister R. Liston	J. Upton & K. Gleeson

Saint of the Week Sr. Darerca of Ireland **Feastday:** March 22 **Patron** of Valentia Island **Death:** 5th century, The sister of St. Patrick. She was reported to have borne fifteen sons, ten of whom became **bishops** throughout Ireland. (Pronounced Der-u-ka)



"Louis....phonecaw"
Gary Larson

"Louis ... phonecaw."

Paul David Ryan

I note that this Thursday March 22 Paul David Ryan will be before the Magistrates' Court in Melbourne. No doubt his appearance will bring some horrible memories flooding back for people. When children's lives are destroyed we are all diminished. This week won't be pleasant for me, a week in which the spotlight will be on abuse that happened in what is now my home. This week, though, isn't about me, but about every child and every family who have had to live (and die) with the stain of such disgusting behaviour.

This is a terrible week for our parish. This is also a week for which we have longed for many years. Perhaps it is a week in which we will take another small step forward.

A committal hearing is one in which the magistrate will decide if there is enough evidence to send the accused person to trial. This week, then, is a beginning. Let us trust our Australian court system. Let us hope that justice is done.

- St Mary's Church continues to have a bowl of ribbons available to tie on the front fence.
- At our weekday Masses this week (Tuesday 9.30am and Wednesday 9.30am) we will pray for all in our parish who have been hurt by Paul David Ryan.
- This week the front room of the presbytery will glow red, the colour of Good Friday. In this difficult week, a week in which we can count the myriad ways that the Church has let us down, might we be comforted by Jesus Christ who died for us.

Fr. Andrew

Prayer for Use at Home

Gracious and loving Father, Since your mercy has been revealed in the tenderness of your Son Jesus Christ, who said to his disciples: "Let the little children come to me", we pray that your Church may be a secure home where all children and vulnerable adults are brought closer to your Beloved Son. May all those who have been abused physically, emotionally and sexually by your ministers be respected and accompanied by tangible gestures of justice and reparation so that they may feel healed with the balm of your compassion. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Child Safe Church

Here at the Church of the Immaculate Conception 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. 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.



NOTICES

Lots of Flyers on the Notice Board too

St. PATRICK'S DAY MEAL

Hope you all enjoy tonight—Saturday after Mass in the Parish Centre. Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Priests and School Governance

Parishioners might recall that some weeks ago I spoke briefly about the possibility of removing our priests from the responsibility of administration in our schools, to free us for the pastoral care of our school communities. There was a wonderful article in the Latrobe Valley Express on March 5. Here are a couple of excerpts:

Diocese of Sale Catholic education director Maria Kirkwood said governance changes were an "exciting and welcome change" to Catholic school governance in the Sale diocese. "The Catholic schools in the diocese need our priests to be freed from the administrative and management role to be able to focus on the pastoral, spiritual and faith formation of the school community," she said... "The priests of the Sale diocese were totally supportive of the model of governance suggested." "It is important to note that the priests themselves were requesting a change for some time due to the level of responsibility they felt in a very complex and changing educational environment with growing legal liability and compliance and regulatory responsibilities. Many of the priests also had responsibility for multiple schools." Ms Kirkwood said the change of governance would not mean "appreciable change to the way schools are managed on a day-to-day basis", but rather, the accountability framework and reporting responsibility would now go to a board through the Director of Catholic Education."

In the Ballarat Diocese we have been considering our options for some years. We are watching the developments in Sale very closely.

Sacrament Meeting

Parents of children Yr. 3 and above wishing to begin their Confirmation and First Eucharist preparation this year are invited to a meeting of parents in the Parish Centre on Wednesday, March 21st. There are two times available. 3.30pm and 6pm. 45 minutes at most.

Maintenance in Ararat

Parishioners may have seen some work happening around the church and presbytery in recent days. A new toilet and kitchenette is being installed in the store room adjacent to the parish office. Painters are coming to complete the external painting of the presbytery. Marian College students are coming to paint the fence at the rear of the presbytery. More external lighting is being installed outside the Parish Centre. Some tripping hazards are to be removed. New LED lighting in the church (AND HEATERS) are coming. We're looking into replacing the projector and screen in the church.

Parish Mission

We have two Redemptorists coming in late April to pray with us, both in Ararat and Lake Bolac.

Sunday Assemblies

Fr Andrew will be missing from Ararat for up to ten Sundays this year. The Parish Council think this, then, is a good year for us in Ararat to have two or three Sunday Assemblies. We'll ask some retired priests to fill in for most of the Sundays, but as they are not always available, Sunday Assemblies are on our horizon. This year we think we'll give it a go. More information to come.

Is Your Easter Egg Slavery Free?

Remember Lent last year with our "Slavery Chocolate" campaign? This year ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) are again inviting us to buy only Easter chocolate that has no slavery in its supply chain. In 2015, Pope Francis said that "every person ought to have the awareness that purchasing is always a moral – and not simply an economic – act." More info: www.acrath.org.au
Among the helps to purchasing slavery free chocolate are the following schemes:



Counters

This notice concerns all parishioners who volunteer for the Counting Ministry. We recently had a visit from the Diocesan Finance Office. We have been asked to make sure that there be two counters on duty who are not spouses and everyone be given a "Cash Handling Fact Sheet" so you understand the risks of handling cash. A number of errors have been noticed recently which has brought about our need to clarify the procedures. Many thanks for your continued support of the parish. Fr. Andrew

Emergency Lights in the Church

We have recently had all the emergency lights replaced in the Church. This was a recommendation by head office as part of the OH&S Policy. LED lights have been installed too so that they won't have to be changed for many years.

You will also notice that we have work going on around the Presbytery. We are about half way through on the work for the toilet in the room behind the office.

Social Justice Notice *Ten steps to developing a sustainable, inclusive economy*

Inclusive economies, global citizens: You, me, us

When it comes to building an inclusive economy, we all have a vested interest and we all have a responsibility to be involved. This is not a task that can be left just to governments or the market ...

(Social Justice Statement 2017-2018, p.15)

Popes Benedict XVI and Francis have made strong calls for a more inclusive economic order. Study their Encyclicals, *Caritas in Veritate* and *Laudato Si'*. Access at the [Australian Catholic Social Justice Council](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/dfat/special/acrath/australian_catholic_social_justice_council/).

The United Nations is working with governments, businesses and civil society to mobilise efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. Find out about the [17 Sustainable Development Goals](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/) and how individuals, organisations and communities can take action

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2017

"Water is needed to live, but wine expresses the abundance of the banquet and joy of the celebration."

A VOCATION VIEW

Unless a seed first dries out and dies, it cannot be planted in the earth to grow. Unless we first dry out and die to our selfish ways, we can never expect to be people who will 'lay down their lives for their friends.'



Evangeline is strengthening Aboriginal culture while making a living and creating opportunities for her community. Featured in Project Compassion 2016, Evangeline went from seeking employment to being a Senior Artswoker and an inspirational leader for youth. Her work at the non-profit Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation has supported the organisation's growth and it is now a major employer for young people in the remote Northern Territory community.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive, essential for a just future.

A Just Future starts with your support! You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.



CARITAS NETWORK RESPONDS TO POWERFUL EARTHQUAKE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Caritas Australia, the Catholic Church's international aid and development agency, with its partners on the ground, has started supporting affected communities in Papua New Guinea's central highlands, following the 7.5 magnitude earthquake which struck last week. Strong aftershocks shook the mountainous region again on Monday, a week after the first quake.

Caritas is preparing to deliver emergency assistance including basic supplies like food, water and first aid, as well as supporting long-term needs like shelter.

It's estimated around 150,000 people remain in need of aid. The quake damaged major infrastructure in the country's remote highlands, including; hospitals, an airport, houses, schools, churches and roads. More than 30 deaths have been confirmed so far.

Four provinces have been affected, including the Southern highlands, Hela Province, Northern Province and the Northern half of Western Province. The Government of Papua New Guinea has declared a national state of emergency.

PNG locals displaced by the earthquake in central highlands. Photo: Milton Kwaipo/Caritas

The extent of the devastation has reportedly taken days to emerge because of the area's remoteness – about 500km from the capital Port Moresby.

Caritas Australia's Disaster Response and Management Officer, based in PNG, Milton Kwaipo has been on the ground assessing the extent of damage in Hela Province.

"Water sources have been contaminated and this also includes clean and safe drinking water. These communities depend on water tanks but now have little if any drinkable water," Mr Kwaipo said.

"There is a great need of help at this moment. There is a need for assistance in terms of food, water and medicine.

"Many families have also been badly affected by the landslides. Some are also scared to go to their gardens and collect food because of the continued tremors."

If you would like to assist the people of Papua New Guinea, you can donate to the Caritas Australia Pacific Emergency Appeal by calling 1800 024 413 or by visiting www.caritas.org.au/pacific-appeal

Caritas media contact: Nicole Clements on 0408 869 833/0407 536 130 or caritasmedia@caritas.org.au.