

Explore Yoga Co.

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Classes held in Parish Centre every 2nd Thursday .
Next Class 30th Jan 2020 6pm-7pm

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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

From the Ararat Community—thank you Fr So'n for your kindness, patience and wonderful sense of humour. We will miss you very much!



to everyone for their volunteering over this past year —our Ararat community wouldn't be the same without you!

Calling all volunteers!! We continually need to renew our list—we are down to a skeleton ministry! PLEASE POP YOUR NAME DOWN IF YOU CAN or email the office on ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone Joyce on 03 5352 5460

Sunday 22nd Dec 2019

Fourth 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 7:10-14

The virgin will conceive.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

**(R.) Let the Lord enter;
he is king of glory.**

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. **(R.)**
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. **(R.)**
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. **(R.)**

Second Reading Rom 1:1-7

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
Alleluia!

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

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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.

21st/22nd Dec 2019

Recent Deaths:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Rose Hogan, Fr Michael Glennen, Jack Brennan, Vera Cox
Kevin Richards, Carl Spies, Maurice Diggie, Sr. Rose Day RSM, Timothy Weeks, Pat Brennan, Doris Tognon, Fr Paddy Bushell, John Sullivan, Evie Hayes, Matthew Sullivan, Edward Mulcahy, Kath Schwab, Fr Pat Culligan, Peter Sinnott, James Sinnott, Fred Mason, Kathleen McLeod, Mary O'Neill, Shane Walls, Anne Handley, Joseph Colwell, Mary Pola, Peter Williams, Andrew Jackson, Bishop Joe Grech, Zsonella McGrath, James O'Connor, Fr. Ted Glowrey, Johanna Lannen, Winifred Hynes, Annette Mair

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 24th/25th 2019

First Reading

[Is 9:1-7](#)

Second Reading

[Ti 2:11-14](#)

A VOCATION VIEW

Vocations from God are not always clear. Not all of us are like Joseph who had an angel appear to him saying: "Take Mary as your wife, and fear not."

Gospel Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel,

a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

Gospel Reflection

We will see throughout the coming liturgical year that the gospel of Matthew places a great deal of emphasis on the importance of the Law and upon its proper application. Indeed, the gospel writer casts Jesus in the role of the 'new Moses' – Moses was the great Law-giver of the Old Testament and Jesus is portrayed in this gospel as bringing a new Law to the people of Israel. In this gospel, the proper application of the Law is as important as the Law itself. In today's passage, Joseph provides an example of the proper application of the Law. His betrothed wife was pregnant; she would have been subject to the Law against adultery and probably would have been stoned to death. Under the Law, Joseph was obliged to divorce her, and yet he determines that he will do so quietly and protect Mary from too much shame and possibly save her life. Joseph did not intend to ignore the Law, but he sought to carry it out in such a way as to bring the least shame and the least hurt to all involved.

The role of Joseph is often overlooked. There is no mention of him during the public ministry of Jesus. In fact the latest mention in any of the gospels is the account of Jesus in the Temple at the age of 12. After that, Joseph disappears and we can only assume that he has passed away by the time Jesus takes up his ministry. Yet Joseph is truly a man of great faith. By rights he should have divorced Mary and walked away. But he trusts in the word of the God that is addressed to him in a dream and from that point on he goes to great lengths to protect and care for his family.

@gregsunter

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2019

Our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration can be summed up in four verbs: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. If we put them into practice, we will help build the city of God and man.

[#InternationalMigrantsDay](#)



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

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

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

Weekday Masses until January 10th

Tues Dec 31st 9.30am

Wed Jan 1st 9.30am (New Year's Day)

Thurs Jan 2nd Hopkins 3.30pm

Fri Jan 3rd 9.30am

Ararat Office Hours over the Christmas

The office is shut until the 8th January 2020.

Normal office hours will resume then.

The Pastoral Ministry Office in BALLARAT will be closed from Tuesday, December 24, 2019 - Thursday, January 16, 2020.

Saint of the Week St. Stephen, [Feastday](#): December 26 [Patron](#): of Deacons, altar Servers, bricklayers, casket makers, & Stonemasons Death: 34. Saint Stephen was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church. He was also the first Christian martyr. The Greek word from which we derive the English word martyr literally means witness. In that sense, every Christian is called to bear witness to Jesus Christ, in both their words and their actions. Not all are asked to shed their blood.

Read more www.catholic.org.com

A Blessed Christmas

At this blessed time of the year I wish every parishioner and all of our visitors a very merry and holy Christmas. Might this be a Christmas that is safe on the roads. Might this be a Summer in which the fires don't destroy our spirit. We stand in solidarity with our neighbours. Thank you to our parish team for all of your hard work during the year, to Joyce, Maree, Joan and Emma. Thank you to Mary for the washing, and the love! Thank you to Son for the spring rolls and for your presence in the house and for becoming a companion on the road of priesthood. Something to look forward to in 2020? A new holy place will open its doors in Ararat. Glory to God! **Fr. Andrew Hayes**

Plenary Council

Thank you to those who participated in the most recent discernment gathering. We are collating everyone's discernments over January and will submit them to the Council. There is no meeting in January. Please watch the notice board for the February date. We will also be facilitating a Plenary Discernment Group at St. Mary's Parish Primary School with the staff. One of the recent suggestions that came from the council, was to have the Gospel and a reflection inserted. This perhaps will enable us to read and reflect before Mass begins and hopefully more parishioners will take the bulletin home too.

Plenary Council Delegates from the Diocese of Ballarat

Bishop Paul is inviting us to nominate delegates from our diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Copies of Bishop Paul's letter are available through parishes, through the diocesan website at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au and are also attached. Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by Friday, February 7, 2020.

Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Please see an inserted letter in your bulletin in regards to Bishop' Bird's Christmas Appeal

Christmas Roster

	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Facilitators</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Welcomer</u>	<u>Collector</u>	<u>Computer</u>
Dec 21st	A. Reynolds	B. Rodger	I. Horsman & C. McAdie	S. Pickering	G. White	Sr. Maree
Dec 22nd	P. Brady	J. Clery	C. Bulger & K. Chammings	K. Leggett	J. Pola	Sr. Maree
Dec 24th 6pm	P. Gemmola	B. Rodger	C. McAdie	J. Clery	J. Pola	Sr. Maree
Dec 25th 9am	P. Lardner	P. Brady	Sr. John & G. McKendrick			

For Golden Gate—please look at the roster on the board.

St. Mary's Grade 6 Graduation Mass

St. Mary's Parish Primary school Grade 6 students celebrated their Graduation Mass on Tuesday this week (Dec 17th) and enjoyed a lovely spread organised by the Community Committee. Once again, our Parish Centre was a great venue for this important occasion.

Joke of the week: **Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:**

"The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals."

"Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles & other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children."

"The sermon this morning—Jesus walks on water
The sermon this evening—"Searching for Jesus"

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell?"
Come early and listen to our choir practice."