



St Patrick's,
Stawell

St Patrick's Parish Newsletter Stawell and Landsborough

Ascension of the Lord —Year A
May 24th, 2020



St Francis of Assisi,
Landsborough

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

Sunday Mass

It was lovely to have Mass last weekend if even for a handful of parishioners. The Masses in Ararat will continue to be in the Parish Centre for the moment. It's warm. Stawell, Landsborough and Lake Bolac will be in the churches. Parishioners will be invited when your turn arrives and will be required to leave your names and numbers for contacting if necessary. We will need to sit at a distance and sanitise hands, chairs, door handles and so on.

Feast of the Ascension

I came across this statement recently from Fr Ron Rolheiser OMI. It speaks of the theology that we might draw from the Ascension story.

The theology and spirituality of the ascension is essentially contained in these words: Refuse to cling to what once was, let it go and let it bless you, so that you can recognize the new life you already have with and within you and receive its spirit. The synoptic gospels teach that to us in their pictorial rendering of the ascension; Jesus blesses everyone and then rises bodily out of their sight. John gives us the same theology, in a different picture, in his description of the encounter on Easter morning between Jesus and Mary of Magdala: "Mary don't cling to me!" Ron Rolheiser

Today, Thursday, we will celebrate the requiem Mass of Don Urquhart. We will use the Ascension readings and I will speak about today being a GREAT faith-filled day to be returning to God. The Feast of the Ascension is about the profound love of God who invites everyone on of us to live in God.

Weekday Masses in Stawell

Beginning this week Fr John Pothiyittel will celebrate Mass in St Patrick's Church in Stawell from Tuesdays to Fridays at 10am, with the exception of funeral days and Eventide Mass days. As per the Covid 19 regulations, these Masses will be limited to 10 people. Be prepared to go home if you are the 11th. Please sit on the seats at the front of the church and observe the sanitising requirements, including that seats are cleaned at the end of Mass.

Mass Times

We are returning to public liturgy. The following will be our new Mass times: **Max 10 people, by invitation ONLY**

Ararat 8.30am—by ballot system

Stawell 10.30am— by ballot system

Landsborough 6pm Sat Vigil 2nd 4th Sundays

Lake Bolac 6.30pm Sat Vigil 1st 3rd 5th Sundays

(Glenthompson have Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays)

Funerals in the Churches

Now that the next phase has begun we will re-open the churches for funerals. We can have twenty people in the church and thirty at the cemetery, with the same arrangements as above. We'll need lists of attendees with phone numbers, and so on.

Pope Francis—Twitter

Receiving the joy of the Spirit is a grace. Moreover, it is the only force that enables us to preach the Gospel and to confess our faith in the Lord. Faith means bearing witness to the joy that the Lord gives to us. A joy such as this cannot be the result of our own

First Reading Acts 1:1-11

*Why are you standing here looking into the sky?
Jesus has been taken into heaven.*

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said, 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.' As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 46:2-3. 6-9. R. v.6

**(R.) God mounts his throne to shouts of joy:
a blare of trumpets for the Lord.**

1. All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth. (R.)
2. God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise. (R.)
3. God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne. (R.)

Gospel Acclamation Mt 28:19. 20

Alleluia, alleluia!
Go and teach all people my gospel.
I am with you always, until the end of the world.
Alleluia!

Second Reading Eph 1:17-23

He made Jesus to sit at his right hand in heaven.

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him, as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

Gospel Mt 28:16-20

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commandments I gave to you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

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REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

The feast of the Ascension is really a kind of liminal moment in the Easter season. It is a time between times, a moment when we have left one place in our journey but have not yet arrived at a second. The glory of the Risen Christ has already been revealed in us, but not yet totally. The feast itself celebrates the exaltation of Jesus. Today we stand awestruck, watching Jesus ascend into the clouds of heaven, there to be enthroned at the right hand of God. Today we are overwhelmed by the reality of the divinity of the one whom we have known in his humanity. Like the conquering creator-god, he has overcome his enemy (death) and now reigns over his new creation (the church).

Christ who ascended into heaven in his body carries on what he began on earth through his new body, the church. He teaches through its apostles and evangelists. He ministers through its prophets and pastors. In and through the church, Jesus continues to heal and to comfort; to forgive and to include. We have not been left alone; we have his power, the same power with which he performed marvels when he walked the earth. We have not been left alone; we have each other. Together we make up the new body of Christ. Together we await the fullness of this body. It is this new body that stands in between the times, secure in what we have, confident of what we will be given. © Dianne Bergant CSA

ANNIVERSARIES ST PATRICK'S PARISH

STAWELL 25—31 MAY

ElizaKate Rutter1951, John McGuan 1975, Ailsa Faye Molan 2017, Ellen Earle 1945, John Smith 1955, James Walsh 1961, Frank McManus 1964, Kathleen Peters 1966, Maxwell Rogers 1995, Mary Hooper 1997, Francis Sheedy 1986, Julia Aubrey 1952, Hilda Cross 1989, David O'Brien 1946 , John McGee 1964, Ezekiel Dineen 2002

Next Week's Readings **May 31st 2020**

First Reading [Acts 2:1-11](#)

Second Reading [1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13](#)

OFFICE INFORMATION

Parish Priest: Fr. Andrew Hayes Ararat & Stawell

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Download Church Bulletin—www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

Finance Manager: Gloria Pickering

stawell@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Office: 03 5358 1119

PO BOX 87, Stawell, VIC 3380

Office Hours: Thurs 11am-5pm

ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs. Michelle Hogan

PO Box 856 Stawell. 3380.

Phone 03 5358 2493 Email: principal@spstawell.catholic.edu.au

catholic.edu.au

Prayers of the Faithful

Ascension of the Lord

Priest: My sisters and brothers, awaiting the return of Jesus let us pray to the God of all life for the needs of world.

Reader: That all the baptised will carry the Good News of Jesus Christ to every nation, culture and race.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those working in communications will use their skills with honesty and integrity.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For communities and nations experiencing suffering due to the Covid-19 pandemic. . In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For students, facing uncertainty in their lives. In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are suffering financial hardship because of the pandemic. In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That students, facing uncertainty in their lives, will be guided and encouraged by their families and teacher.

In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For scientists, working to develop vaccines for Covid-19 and other diseases. In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who have died and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time and this week and for their loved ones and friends. In the spirit we pray

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God of all creation, Christ moved beyond our sight, leaving us the power of his Spirit. Through the prayers we offer, guide our deeds and words so that all may be drawn into the embrace of your mercy. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen. © Creative Ministry Resources Pty Ltd



SICK LIST

Noah Amarant; Kathryn Young; Glenis Leddin; Lourdes de la Cerna; Kath Hayes (Ballarat); John Delaney; Lynn Wright; Simon Monas; Angela Moore; Kate Sargent; Yvonne Evans; Margaret Boag; Nigel James (Canberra); Ian Kindred; Sharron Pickering; Andrew Van Diesen; Benjamin Wolfson; Robbie Loxton; Nicole Lee (Horsham); Brian O'Loughlin; Steven Oates; Maree Parkin; Rosemary Chisholm (Bendigo); Harry Comitti, John Dalziel; Mollie Barton; Patty Fenwick; Bailey Young, Graeme Blake, Pat Rathgeber; Kate Whelan; Sam Sharrock.

NB: A Family member of the sick person must contact the Parish Office to have names added. They must also have the permission of the sick person if they are able to give it.

Finances

Thank you for your continued support at this incredibly hard time. Please phone the office 03 5358 1119 to discuss contributions for the Planned Giving Program and the Presbytery. During office hours—Thurs 11am-5pm, there will be a box to place your envelopes in. Otherwise you can make a direct debit into the following account:

St Patricks Parish BSB 013 815 Account No 2863 26347

Please reference your Family name

Deus te Benedicat—God Bless You

Humour

A man died and went to heaven. As he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates, he saw a huge wall of clocks behind him.

He asked, "What are those clocks?"

St. Peter answered, "Those are Lie-Clocks. Everyone on earth has a Lie-Clock. Every time you lie, the hands on your clock will move."

"Oh", said the man. "Whose clock is that?"

"That's Mother Teresa's. The hands have never moved, indicating that she has never told a lie."

"Incredible", said the man. "That's Abraham Lincoln's clock. The hands have moved twice, telling us that Abe told only two lies in his entire life."

"Where's Trump's clock?" the man asked.

"His clock is in Jesus' office. He's using it as a ceiling fan."

WHO CAN I CALL FOR HELP?

<p>LIFELINE</p> <p>13 11 14</p> <p>24 HOURS/7 DAYS CRISIS SUPPORT SUICIDE PREVENTION</p>	<p>BEYOND BLUE</p> <p>1300 22 4636</p> <p>24 HOURS/7 DAYS ONLINE FORUMS & CHAT FUNCTION</p>
<p>HEADSPACE</p> <p>1800 650 890</p> <p>AGES 12-25 PHONE & ONLINE SUPPORT (eheadspace)</p>	<p>KIDS HELPLINE</p> <p>1800 551 800</p> <p>AGES 5-25 24 HOURS/7 DAYS COUNSELLING</p>
<p>HEADSPACE BALLARAT</p> <p>5304 4777</p> <p>AGES 12-25 REFERRALS DROP IN SERVICE MON-FRI 9AM-4PM VIA TELEHEALTH</p>	<p>NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS HELPLINE</p> <p>1800 020 080</p> <p>24 HOURS/7 DAYS INFO ON COVID-19</p>

"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken"—Oscar Wilde