

Planned Giving

St. Mary's Parish would like to acknowledge the continued and consistent commitment by parishioners to our Planned Giving Program, especially during these trying times. Without your financial support, we would not be able to run the parish and reach out to those in need. Many thanks

ST. MARY'S PARISH CAFÉ

The St. Mary's Parish Café was created by the church office in response to the pandemic. With the aid of Job Keeper we have been able to employ 4 people whose jobs were greatly effected. On Friday after Mass, we have been running a little lunch kitchen for the parishioners and during the recent lockdown we were feeding the teachers from 3 different schools. We are also catering for Rotary on a Wednesday evening. Do you know a charity or business out there who would like to have their meeting in a safe, clean space and be catered for? Very reasonable rates offered. If so, phone Joyce on 0353525460 or email ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au.

ST. MARY'S PARISH CAFÉ BIG SALE!!

The St. Mary's Parish Café are having a big sale of Gift Baskets (\$25 each), Drinks (from 50c), individual jams/pickles on **Wed July 29th from 3pm to 5pm in the Parish centre!** All monies raised will go back into the parish centre to enable us to meet the requirements of our café, "Pay it Forward" program and of prospective hirers of the hall.

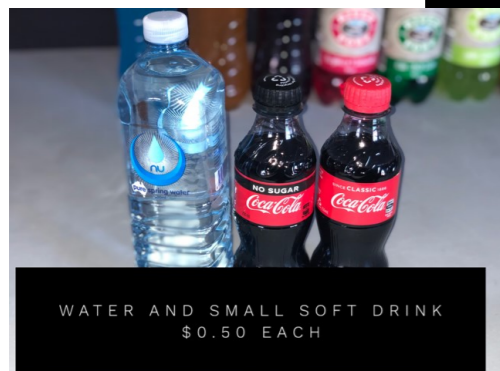


All drinks are within date and have been donated. A very big thank you to the Stapleton Family. Thank you to all the people who donated jars and ingredients to the café.



FLAVOURED DRINKS - \$1.50 EACH

All jams and pickles have been hand-made. You can pick and choose your jam/pickle to go in your basket. It makes a great gift!



WATER AND SMALL SOFT DRINK \$0.50 EACH



600ML SOFT DRINK AND WATER \$1.00 EACH



Sunday 26th July 2020
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time A

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

Masks Masks Masks

With the Covid news and requirements changing so quickly, I again urge all parishioners to follow the advice of the authorities. Let's keep ourselves and one another safe and healthy. Masks are now mandatory in Melbourne and looking more and more like a good idea here. Please listen to the doctors and the premier! In Ararat we're starting to wonder whether the distribution of food to those who are isolated is less of a need, although that time might come again. The need is looking more like masks, so we're starting to talk about an army of parishioners making (non-medical grade) washable masks to distribute freely to those unable to purchase them or to make their own. We need to keep the bugs at bay! More information next week.



Changes to How We Book in for Mass

In Stawell: Please phone Gloria (0438 150 058) between 11am and 5pm on Thursdays to put yourselves into the 20 for Sunday.

In Ararat: Please phone or email Joyce in the parish office (Wednesday to Friday) to put yourselves into the 20 for Sunday. The list of names for Ararat is also in the porch of the parish office. You're welcome to put your names there if that suits.

Fr Andrew stresses that he'd like parishioners to use the allotted office hours. The office staff in both parishes are employed to take calls of this nature during their work hours. Please don't be calling them at home for work things. The staff mightn't mind, but as an employer it is unfair to have them answering work calls when they're not working.

Mass this Week

Ararat: Thursday 30th July 11am (Note change of day-just for this week) followed by lunch

Stawell: 10am Tuesday to Friday

Covid 19 Arrangements

For all public liturgy we will require names and numbers and sanitising of hands, seats and door knobs.

Funerals – We are able to have fifty people. We will not yet be catering for cuppas after funerals.

Mass Times

Ararat 8.30am—sheet on notice board in foyer
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)

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)

New Director of the Catholic Education Office Ballarat

With the retirement of Audrey Brown as the Director of the Catholic Education Office Ballarat, Bishop Paul has announced that our new director has been appointed. He is Mr Tom Sexton. We wish him every blessing.

First Reading

1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. **(R.)**
2. Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live for your law is my delight. **(R.)**
3. That is why I love your commands more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts: I hate false ways. **(R.)**
4. Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

Gospel Acclamation

See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.
Alleluia!

Gospel

Mt 13:44-52

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. 'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. 'Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well, then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

Gospel Reflection by Greg Sunter

The twin parables of today's gospel – the treasure in the field and the pearl of great value – reveal a paradoxical truth about the kingdom of Heaven. Throughout the gospels, Jesus presents the kingdom as 'now but not yet'; as 'present but future'. This paradox is captured in these twin parables. In both cases, the kingdom is likened to something of great value that is discovered but cannot be immediately grasped. In both parables, the finder must go away and sell everything so that they can eventually come to possess the treasure they have discovered.

By comparing this experience with the kingdom of Heaven, Jesus suggests that most of us can only ever catch glimpses of what it means to live in the kingdom. For most of us, only in the future reality of heaven will we ever fully come to understand the kingdom. However, those glimpses that we catch – those moments of inspiration and connection with God and with one another – are like the treasures of the parables. They are enough to inspire us to do what it takes to make sure that we will one day enter into that kingdom reality.

The third parable of this gospel passage reveals yet another truth about the kingdom. The dragnet thrown into the sea is like the message of Jesus – it is flung far and wide and does not discriminate about where it falls or on whom it falls. This parable rounds out the chapter that began with the parable of the sower and the image of casting the net is a neat parallel to the indiscriminate casting of seed. It is not up to the one who casts the net, the seed or the Word. Rather it is up to each individual to determine how they will respond to receiving the Word.

© Greg Sunter

ANNIVERSARIES: July 27th to August 2nd

Lionel Tillett, Marjorie Tillett, Paddy McLoughlin,
Robert Mason, Molly Gleeson, Leonard Henry Horsley,
Don Hearn, Josephine Pinzone, Phil Brady, Neville Cruse, Christopher Hogan, Nora Hogan, Alice Greenwood, Vincenzo Pinzone, Myrtle Casey, Susan Aisbett,
Kathleen Frances Hewitt, Keith McOwan, Dr Dan Meagher, Bill Kenyon, Les Clark, Barbara Brossner,
Denise Hourigan, Aileen Falvey, Sr Josephus Lannen, Peter Henderson

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Please contact the office if you would like your name to be on the sick list. Names are kept on this list for one month—and be put on again.

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

Margaret Hassall, Sally Rook, Geraldine Mckendrick

Ministry to the Sick:

Please email Fr. Andrew during these difficult times to discuss Ministry to the sick on
Andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Or phone the office on 5352 5460

Readings August 2nd 2020

First Reading [Is 55:1-3](#)

Second Reading [Rom 8:35. 37-39](#)

A VOCATION VIEW:

Finding our vocation in life is like finding a buried treasure. We will do whatever we have to in order to be able to possess it. Finding the treasure is a gift, possessing it is our vocation.

Pope Francis—Twitter

Prophecy is born whenever we allow ourselves to be challenged by God, not when we are concerned to keep everything quiet and under control.

@Pontifex July 22nd 2020

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Priest: God co-operates with all who love him. Let us bring our needs and the needs of the world before God who is our delight and consolation.

Reader: That the Church will continue to find strength and joy in and through its living and dynamic tradition. In your wisdom:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who govern or who are in positions of authority will be wise and fair. In your wisdom:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have wealth will share what they have gained with the many who have nothing. In your wisdom:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who teach or counsel others will be given right knowledge and a discerning spirit. In your wisdom:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That nations, groups and individuals will resolve disagreements peacefully and respectfully. In your wisdom:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those in the medical profession working in difficult and uncertain circumstances will be granted courage and endurance. In your wisdom:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That this community will value above all earthly things the treasure that is God's word. In your wisdom:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That God will glorify those who have died and those whose anniversaries occur at this time. In your wisdom:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: God of all goodness, your kingdom is like a pearl of great price. Hear these prayers and help us to delight in your gifts by working for the coming of your kingdom. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.