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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 @ \$50 per day (includes Nespresso Coffee!!)



Father of four, Barry, embodies resilience and strength. Growing up in a tough environment, he had to look inside himself to make the right choices for himself and his family. Barry, and others like him, were able to take part in a cultural healing program called Red Dust Healing. This program encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within, addressing family and personal relationships and what may be life-long patterns of violence, abuse and neglect. Today, thanks to the Caritas support, he's an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.




Please donate to Project Compassion 2020 and help fathers like Barry continue to uplift their communities, and provide food for their families. Let's Go Further, Together. You can donate through Parish boxes and envelopes, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion or phoning 1800 024 413.

Planned Giving ENVELOPES

The last bundle of envelopes are now in the foyer to collect. We will have some changes next financial year as we are using old stock to save money!!

CWL March Meeting

Please note that the March CWL meeting has changed from the 10th to the 17th. It is now at 1.30pm on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th in the Parish Centre

Finances

We are hoping to raise funds to fix the Bell Tower, carry out works on the church roof, fixing some leaks and general maintenance in Ararat this year 2020

| Church Collections | Planned Giving | Presbytery |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Dec '19 | \$3763.00 | \$3317.80 |
| Jan '20 | \$1790.00 | \$2970.65 |
| Feb '20 | \$1822.00 | \$3074.45 |
| Variation from previous 3 months 2019 | -\$1221.00 | -\$546.85 |

**Sunday 8th March 2020
 Second Sunday of Lent 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.

7th/8th March 2020

First Reading Gen 12:1-4

The call of Abraham, the father of God's people.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32:4-5. 18-20. 22. R. v.22

(R.) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

- The word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. **(R.)**
- The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine. **(R.)**
- Our soul is waiting for the Lord. The Lord is our help and our shield. May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you. **(R.)**

Second Reading 2 Tm 1:8-10

God has saved us, and called us to be holy.

Gospel Acclamation Mt 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
 From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him.
 Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Mt 17:1-9

His face shone like the sun.

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Lenten Prayer

God of all peoples and nations, As you accompany us on our Lenten journey, May our fasting strengthen our commitment to live in solidarity, Our almsgiving be an act of justice, And our prayers anchor us in love and compassion. Awaken our hearts and minds that we may be one human family As we all go further together.
 We ask this in Jesus' name, **AMEN**

BAPTISMS

We welcome Maggie (daughter of Erin and Daniel) into our Catholic Community!



ANNIVERSARIES:

Amy Sertori, Tony Guinan, May Mercovich, Trevor Mast, Kieran Hennessy, Irene Ferguson, James Hynes, Ken Haslett, Fr Brian Murphy SJ, James Hennessy, John Costello, Betty Stevens, Fr Leo Branagan CSsR, Marino Renzeli Des Fox, Betty McNamara, Fr Jim Ryan, Maria Deininger, Caleb Gardner

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

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

Mar 15th 2020
First Reading
[Ex 17:3-7](#)
Second Reading
[Rom 5:1-2. 5-8](#)

A VOCATION VIEW

The Lord called Abram to go forth to a new land and begin a new nation. There's no telling what we can become by responding to the Lord's invitation to us.

| Day & Date | Facilitator | Reader | Eucharistic Minister | G. Gate Communion | Welcomer | Counter | Collector | Flowers | Cleaning | Computer |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Sat Mar 7th | P. Gemmola | Beck Rodger | H&A Collins | | D&M Lister | | G. White | A. Joyce | J. Donnan | Sr. Maree |
| Sun Mar 8th | J. Brennan | G. Mckendrick | N. Billingsley | E. Shea | K. Leggett | E. Coburn & J. Jackson | J. Pola & V. Hooper | As above | As above | R. North |
| Sat Mar 14th | P. McAloon | J. McAloon | L.Horsman or C. McAdie | | | | | | J. Clery | ? |
| Sun Mar 15th | | P. Lardner | K. Cham-mings, | T. Gemmola | V. Hooper | Office | J. Pola & V. Hooper | | As above | R. North |

| Lake Bolac | No Mass Mar 8th | | | | Lake Bolac 15th Mar | Reader | Prayers | Minister | Cleaner |
|------------|-----------------|--|--|--|---------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| | | | | | | I. Meek | V. Albert | R. Liston | I. Meek |

Gospel Mt 17:1-9 His face shone like the sun.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him.' When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

Gospel Reflection

In all three versions of this Transfiguration event that appear in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, the context in which the event occurs is identical. That's a little unusual with these three gospel writers who like to put their own spin on events and often play with the chronology or settings of events. However, in this case, all three writers report the Transfiguration event as taking place immediately after a particular sequence of events. Jesus has asked the disciples who they think he is and Peter has made his confession of faith by declaring that Jesus is the Messiah. This declaration is followed by Jesus teaching about the demands of discipleship and then the account of the Transfiguration. Furthermore, all three versions are directly followed by an account of a man who brings his possessed son to Jesus for healing after the disciples have tried and failed to cast out the demon.

When all three of the synoptic gospels use the same story with little variation and all three retain the same context around the event then there are some pretty clear signals that this was a commonly accepted sequence of events and their sequence holds significance. The core message of this sequence of stories is about the faith of the disciples. Whilst Peter declares Jesus to be the Messiah, he and the others don't really yet know what this means. In the Transfiguration, they are given the clearest possible indication of Jesus' identity and yet they're confused and scared by what they witness. The following failure by the disciples to cast out a demon shows that they still haven't understood fully who and what Jesus is.

During this Lenten season, like the disciples, we are called to consider who Jesus is and what role he plays in our lives.

@gregsunter

Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2020

I ask you to remember me in your prayers and also the members of the Roman Curia, who this evening begin a week of Spiritual Exercises.

MASS TIMES

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Ararat | (Immaculate Conception) |
| Saturday | 6.00pm |
| Sunday | 10.30am |
| Lake Bolac | (St. Bernard's) |
| 8.30am | 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays <i>2nd Sundays at Glenthompson at 8.30am</i> |
| Weekday Masses | |
| Tues 10th | 10am Garden View |
| Wed 11th | 10.30am Eventide (Stawell) |
| Thurs 12th | 3.30pm Hopkins |
| Fri 13th | 9.10am St Mary's School (note time) |

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)

Plenary Council—Joy, hope filled & Servant Community

Following on from the last Plenary discussion, Joyce had reached out to the Orbest Catholic Parish Community in the Diocese of Sale in East Victoria for their thoughts on developing a "SISTER PARISH" - more info to follow!

Saint of the Week

St. Frances of Rome, Feastday: March 9, Birth: 1384, Death: 1440 Frances was born in the city of Rome in 1384 to a wealthy, noble family. From her mother she inherited a quiet manner and a pious devotion to God. From her father, however, she inherited a strong will. She decided at eleven that she knew what God wanted for her -- she was going to be a nun.

Read more on www.catholic.org

New Arrangements with Stawell Parish

With Fr Eric's retirement, Bishop Paul has appointed Fr Andrew as the Parish Priest of Stawell, sharing with Ararat. This will of course make a difference to us in Ararat and Lake Bolac. We'll have lots to discuss in the coming weeks, not the least will be a change to Mass times. More information to come.

Lenten Discussion Group Ararat

This week the Lenten discussion will be on Friday at 10am, after the Mass at school. All welcome, cup of tea and biscuits provided.

Child Safety for the Children of the Parish

On Sunday **March 22**, during Mass, we will be inviting all children of the parish to the Parish Centre for a "child-safety" discussion. This session will be led by Christine Bulger (Deputy Principal of St Mary's School, Ararat) and Jo-Anne Bond (Principal of Emmaus Catholic Primary School, Mt Clear.) We intend that there will be a separate session at the same time for secondary students.

Ireland Group Tour, "Eat Pray Love"

Check out the notice board!!

Joyce Clery and Emma Coburn (Ararat Parishioners) are co-hosting a tour of Ireland from 1-13, September 2020. Itinerary on the notice board. ONLY A FEW PLACES REMAINING! So if you'd like a trip of a lifetime, co-hosted by an Irish native, then look no further! 0419157841 The itinerary has been praised by Irish Tour Company's!

From Fr. Andrew:

Special Treat April 19

On Sunday April 19 at 10.30am Mass we will have a special treat! The Royal High Jinx will be providing the music. Sarah (Violin), Silas (Piano, Drums), Jen (Guitars) and Terry (Mandolin) will be in Ararat for a cultural celebration (more info to come) and Fr Andrew has invited them to play at Mass while they are here. Their songs and tunes are inspired by European traditions, peppered with Gypsy Jazz, Latin, Balkan & Swing grooves with a pinch of Folk... In 2018 TRHJ excited and ignited European audiences on their 18 shows in 24 days "Gone Gone Gone" Germany Tour...



Pastoral Statement from the Vicar General

As a result of the increased spread of the coronavirus, the following health directives have been issued:

- In those parishes and communities in the diocese where Holy Communion is distributed under both kinds (Host and Chalice), this practice will cease. The Host can be distributed to all but Communion of the Precious Blood will be for the celebrant only. Given that one of the easiest ways to transmit a virus is by the transmission of saliva, Communion will be received in the hand and not on the tongue.
- At the Sign of Peace, parishioners with coughs and sneezes, the vulnerable and those parishioners who may feel uncomfortable about shaking hands at the Sign of Peace, may wish to exchange the Peace of Christ with a smile or a bow, and should be encouraged to do so.
- All ministers of Holy Communion (both ordinary and extraordinary) are to use hand sanitisers before the distribution of Holy Communion commences, and are not to physically touch anyone in the act of blessing.
- Holy water has been removed

Prayer for Volunteers

God strengthen and sustain all those who volunteer in our churches; that with patience and understanding they may love and care for your people; and grant that together they may follow with Jesus Christ offering to you their gifts and talents. AMEN

St Patrick's Eve Celebration

Join the **Ballarat Irish Association** for a buffet supper, a stimulating guest speaker and musical entertainment on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6.30pm at the Ballarat Welcome Centre, 25-39 Barkly Street, Bakery Hill. Cost is \$25.00. For enquiries and/or bookings contact Marlene ph. 0402 447546.