



### Pope Francis @Pontifex.com 2017

A pregnant woman can participate in God's plan by dreaming of her child. "For nine months every mother and father dreams about their child... You can't have a family without dreams. Once a family loses the ability to dream, children do not grow, love does not grow, life shrivels up and dies"

### A VOCATION VIEW

There was a man \_\_\_\_\_ sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is your name in the Gospel today?



A big thank you to the students and staff at Marian College for their generous donations of groceries and toys for our Christmas Appeal . It is greatly appreciated by the members of the Ararat conference.

### Golden Gate Christmas Party

Thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas Party. It was an enjoyable gathering, greatly appreciated by our friends from Golden Gate Lodge. Special thanks to Santa Jim and his Elf "harry". Also Rose for once again doing the bus run.

### ACRATH Calendars are IN!!

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 each  
Only 6 left. Sr Marie will be selling them at this weekend's Mass. Going to a great cause—Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans

### Grandmother's Club

The GM Club meet on the **second** Wednesday of every month.

Venue TBA

### CWL

The Catholic Women's League meet on the **second** Tuesday of every month.

Venue Parish Centre



### 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, a member of the Clergy or the Safe Guarding Officer on [ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



### Church Toilets

All children—Primary school age and under— must be accompanied by an adult. Thank you for your understanding.

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



## Sunday, 17 Dec 2017 Third Second Sunday of Advent - 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.

### 16th/17th December 2017

### RECENT DEATHS:

Norma Lannen

### ANNIVERSARIES:

Christina O'Brien, Roslyn Lillis, Ellen Byrne, Alex Haslett, William Casanova, Fr. Stephen O'Rourke, Stephan Sugden, Oliver Schwab, Norman Joseph Rowe, Rita Lardner, Rose Hogan, Fr Michael Glennen, Jack Brennan, Vera Cox, Maurice Diggie, Sr. Rose Day RSM

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Sr. Alexia Riddington

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 :

### Baptism

### First Reading **Is 61:1-2. 10-11**

*I exult for joy in the Lord.*

### Responsorial Psalm **Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10**

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)

3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.

He protects **Israel**, his servant, remembering his mercy. (R.)

### Second Reading **1 Thes 5:16-24**

*May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Gospel Acclamation **Is 61:1 (Lk 4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

### Gospel **Jn 1:6-8. 19-28**

*There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.*

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### PARISH PRAYER

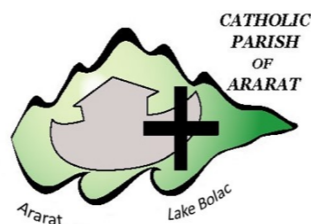
Loving God, Good Shepherd of us all,  
gather us and form us into a welcoming Parish family.

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.



**Parish Priest:** Fr. Andrew Hayes [andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
 Download Church Bulletin - [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Parish Secretary:** Joyce Clery [ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
**Safe Guarding Officer:** Emma Coburn [ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au)  
**Contact:** 03 53525460 PO BOX 92, Ararat, VIC 3377  
**Office Hours:** Wed/Thurs/Fri 10am-3pm



*Bishop's Office*  
 5 Lyons Street South  
 Ballarat VIC 3350  
 P.O. Box 121  
 Ballarat VIC 3353  
 Phone: (03) 5337 7121  
 Fax: (03) 5332 1122

E-mail: [bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL:** Mr Tom Hogan

Download newsletter—[www.smararat.catholic.edu.au](http://www.smararat.catholic.edu.au)

**PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE:** Mrs Carmel Barker

Download newsletter—[www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au](http://www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au)

### MASS TIMES

#### Ararat

(Immaculate Conception)

#### Lake Bolac

(St. Bernard's)

**Saturday 6.00pm**

**Sunday 10.30am**

**8.30am** (except 2nd Sunday)

### Masses This Week in Ararat

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup> 9am** Ararat

**Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> 11am** Lowe St

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> 6pm** Hopkins

**Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> 6pm** Ararat

### Christmas Eve

**Sun 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm** Ararat (Family Mass)

7.45pm Lake Bolac

9.15pm Glenthompson

11pm Ararat

### Christmas Day

**Mon 25<sup>th</sup> 9am** Ararat



**Saint of the Week:** St. Dominic of Silos

**Feastday:** December 20

**Patron** of captives; pregnant women;

prisoners; shepherds

Birth: 1000

Death: 1073

Benedictine **abbot** and defender of the faith. Born in Canas, Navarre, Spain, circa 1000, he entered the Benedictines at San Millan de la Cogolla. King Garcia III of Navarre challenged him when he became **abbot** of the monastery, and Dominic refused to surrender part of the Benedictine lands to the crown. For this he was exiled, going to King Ferdinand I of Castile and Leon, who made him **abbot** of **St. Sebastian Abbey** at Silos, now called St. Dominic's. Dominic reformed the abbey, built the cloisters in Romanesque style, and started a **scriptorium** that became famous throughout the region.

Read more on [www.catholic.org/saints](http://www.catholic.org/saints)

### Joke of the Week:



**A reminder that there will be no Masses in Ararat or Lake Bolac next Sunday morning December 24.**

#### LAKE BOLAC- MASS Dec 17th

**READER:** I. Meek

**PRAYERS:** L. Breen

**EUCCHARISTIC**

**MINISTER:** D. Haslett

**Cleaning:** L. Breen

#### LAKE BOLAC- Christmas Eve Dec 24th

**READER:** Jane Higgins

**PRAYERS:** V. Albert

**EUCCHARISTIC**

**MINISTER:** R. Smith

**Cleaning:**

November 22, 2017

Dear Father,

### Christmas Appeal 2017

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have personal links with the diocese of Ballarat.

I commend the Christmas Appeal to you and to your Parishioners. I am aware that there are many times throughout the year when you are invited to respond to appeals for very worthy causes, but I hope the Ballarat diocese can continue to support this particular appeal.

I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's appeal. The money was distributed as follows:

Loreto Vietnam Australia Programme	5,000
St Columban's Mission Society	5,000
Refugees in the Middle East (through Melkite Catholic Eparchy)	5,000
Catholic Education in Myanmar	5,000
Caritas Australia	5,000
Catholic Mission	5,000
Nazareth House Ballarat	5,000
Opening the Doors Foundation	5,000
3BA Christmas in July Appeal	2,000
Exodus Community, Wendouree West	2,000
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)	2,000
Edmund Rice Centre	2,000
Villa Maria Catholic Homes	2,000
NET Ministries Australia	2,000
<b>Total donations made in 2017</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>

In anticipation I thank you for your co-operation in recommending the 2017 Christmas Appeal to the generosity of your parishioners and giving them the opportunity to make their contribution on or about Christmas Day.

With every good wish, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ,

*+ Paul Bird CSSR*

+ Paul Bird CSSR  
 Bishop of Ballarat

# Everything Christmas

## Giving

**Bishop's Christmas Appeal**—December 24th/25th

**Vinnies Christmas Appeal** – Envelopes in church foyer

Christmas Giving Tree in church foyer in Ararat—please leave the gifts UNWRAPPED in a box or bag under the tree.



## Reconciliation 2<sup>nd</sup> Rite

Ararat Tuesday December 19th @ 6pm in the Church

## **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

6pm Mass in Ararat as usual on Saturday Evening Dec 23

## This Christmas, Give a Gift That Changes the World

If you would like to give a little extra to those who need it most at Christmas time, Caritas Australia offers Global Gift Cards. Donations go towards empowering the most marginalised members of our One Human Family to eradicate poverty in all its forms <https://fundraise.caritas.org.au/globalgifts>

## Office Hours over Christmas

December Mon 18th 10am-3pm, Tues 19th 9am—12 noon, Wed 20th 10am—3pm

December 21st to January 4th—**CLOSED**

**Office reopens** Friday January 5th 10am—3pm



## Bishop Paul Bird's Christmas Message

**"2017 Joys and Sorrows"**

Bishop Paul Bird's Christmas message can be found on the notice board in the Church Foyer.

## Notices

### **No Midnight Mass—11pm instead**

A reminder that we will NOT have Midnight Mass for Christmas in Ararat. Our late Mass will be at **11pm**.

### **Royal Commission**

As I write this note the Royal Commission is in its last hour. The findings are due to be published tomorrow (Friday). No doubt this will bring relief to some but will bring further hurt to others. Helplines (including for the police) are published on our parish bulletins every week. At St Mary's Parish we have non-negotiable child safe practices and procedures in place. Information is available on our parish website and in the church foyers. There is a letter from Bishop Paul Bird available to read in the church foyers this week. I wish people every blessing at this difficult time. Fr Andrew

### **Four Day Workshop**

Kardia Formation invites you to join us for a weekend Summit in Melbourne with Margaret Silf, 18 – 20 May 2018, Imagining the Self in a Spiritually Expansive World and/or a four-day workshop The Future is Within Us, 14 – 17 May 2018. For more information [www.kardia.com.au](http://www.kardia.com.au) or see the flyer on the parish notice board.

### **ACYF - view Youth Festival events**

All the highlight plenary events from the Youth Festival are available for viewing at xt3. How do we connect with young people? Have a look at this. View ACYF on demand at [xt3.com](http://xt3.com)

### **Year of Youth**

Resources from the National Youth Office are now available, including *No Young People in my Parish*, and *A Guide to Listening Forums*. For these and other information go to 'Year of Youth' on the Youth and Young Adult Ministry page of the diocesan website: [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-and-agencies](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-and-agencies)

***Some Parishioners may like to consider doing the Lay Ministry program (below) as we will need more people on board next year when Fr. Andrew is away!***

### **Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – now open for new participants**

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers in the diocese, both employees and volunteers. A wide range of subject areas are offered: Scripture, Sacraments, Social Justice, Leadership skills, Youth Ministry, many more. Study one subject or many - it's a flexible program! Registration for the January 2018 study cycle is open now (closes 5 January). A study cycle means you do one subject over 5 weeks. There are 6 study cycles each year, you can start at any one. Details on the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) (link is on home page), or contact Amanda, ph: 5337 7125 or email [amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



## CHURCH ROSTER

<u>Day &amp; Date</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>	<u>Reader</u>	<u>Eucharistic Minister</u>	<u>Golden Gate Communion</u>	<u>Welcomers</u>	<u>Counter</u>	<u>Collector</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Cleaning</u>
<b>Sat Dec 16<sup>th</sup></b>	P. Gemmola	I.Brady	H&A Collins			I. Brady, P. Gemmola	Geoff White,	A. Joyce & Marilyn Brady	P. Weeks
<b>Sun Dec 17<sup>th</sup></b>	C. Reid	C. Bulger	G. O'Loughlin, N. Billingsley & S. Reid	H&A Collins	P. Lardner	(as above)	Jim Crowe	(as above)	(as above)
<b>Sat Dec 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	P. McAloon	Beck Rodger	A. Reynolds, L.Horsman & C. McAdie		M. Ryan	A&V Joyce	G. White	M. Jeram & M. Dempsey	Jo Donnan
<b>Sun Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm MASS</b>		R. Cooper	C. Bulger & Kaye Chamings					(as above)	(as above)
<b>Sun Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 11pm MASS</b>									
<b>Mon Dec 25<sup>th</sup> (Christmas day)</b>	TBA-to be arranged	TBA	TBA	J&J Crowe	TBA	Emma Coburn & Beck Rodger	Jim Crowe	Mary Cunningham	TBA
<b>Sat Dec 30<sup>th</sup></b>									
<b>Sun Dec 31<sup>st</sup></b>									

## HELP!

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers urgently required for Christmas/New Year Masses.

(Often those rostered are away)

There is a sheet in the foyer where you can put your name down or down below and hand in to Joyce in the office

Please consider putting your name down for the following Masses:

Sunday December 24th in Ararat for 11pm Mass

Monday December 25th in Ararat for 9am Mass

New Year's Weekend

Saturday December 30th in Ararat for 6pm Mass

Sunday December 31st in Ararat for 10.30am Mass

<u>FACILITOR</u>	<u>READER</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER</u>

*There is a temporary Roster for January 2018 up on the notice board in the Foyer.*

*Please let Joyce know what you are available to do.*

*The Parish Council, along with Joyce in the office, will endeavor to put together a roster for next year.*

*The following areas require a minimum of two people, for health and safety reasons:*

*Flowers, Counters, Collectors and Cleaning*