



St. Mary's Church Christmas Eve Mass

Christmas Eve Mass at The Church of the Immaculate Conception. 6pm Sat Dec 24th. All children are invited to come dressed as a shepherd or angel!

Christmas Mass Times

Note that Christmas Day is a **Sunday** this year. These are **not** the usual Sunday Mass times. There are special times for Christmas.

Sat Dec 24th

6pm Ararat
7.45pm Lake Bolac

Midnight Ararat
9.15pm Glenthompson

Sun Dec 25th

9am Ararat

Reconciliation for Christmas

Ararat 2nd Rite Reconciliation Thursday December 22nd 7pm. Please bring supper to share.

Carols

Ararat Anglican Church, Lake Bolac Uniting Church, Streatham St. Columba's **ALL on** Dec 18th 7.30pm

Office Christmas Opening Hours

Dec 20th Tues 9am-1pm Dec 21st Wed **CLOSED** Dec 23rd Fri 10am-1pm
Dec 27th/28th Tues/Wed **CLOSED** Dec 30th Fri 10am-1pm

Lay Pastoral Ministry Program - start in 2017!

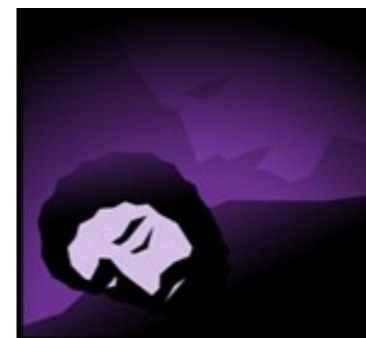
The Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers low-cost opportunities for online study and formation for lay workers, both employees and volunteers. Details on the diocesan website (link to Program on lower front page) email: amanda.smith@ballarat.catholic.org.au or phone 5337 7125

Christmas Appeal 2016

This year's Christmas Appeal from the Bishop's Office is just around the corner. Please see the latter from Bp Paul Bird on the Church notice Board highlighting where the monies raised have been distributed so far. Many thanks.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival 2017 leads to Year of Youth 2018

The Catholic Bishops of Australia invite Catholics across the country to join in celebrating a Year of Youth from the beginning of Advent 2017 to the end of 2018. The theme is, 'Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy: Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment'. The emphasis is on local discussion and dialogue in parishes, schools, youth groups and dioceses. The Year of Youth will be launched at the next Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Sydney in December 2017.



Sunday, 18th Dec 2016: Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year A

As we celebrate, we acknowledge the Indigenous owners of the land on which The Church of The Immaculate Conception is built, the Tjapwurong people, and we respect the presence of the spirits of their ancestors among us.

First Reading **Is 7:10-14**

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**

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**

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17th/18th December 2016

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES:

Ellen Byrne, Lex 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 Diggle, Sr. Rose Day RSM, Timothy Weeks, Pat Brennan

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

If you want 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.

Barry Wilson, Margaret Kidd, Wendy Shea, Shirley Billet, Natasha Martens.

Hospital: *If you are in hospital and would like to receive Communion, could a family member please contact the office.*

Please Pray for the Intentions of:

Pat Lardner

Baptisms:

Welcome to the parish—Charles Ferguson, son of David & Kateryna, Dec 18th

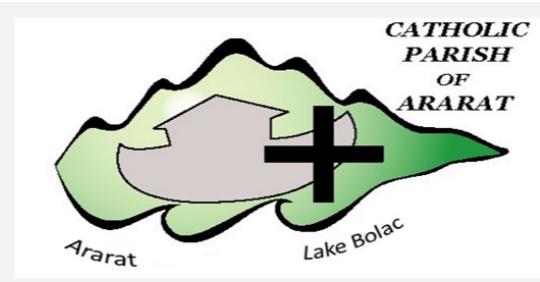
Advent Prayer

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ever faithful to your promises and ever close to your Church: the earth rejoices in hope of the Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to his return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts and remove the sadness that hinders us from feeling the joy and hope which his presence will bestow, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Amen.

CHURCHES - Immaculate Conception, Ararat
St. Bernard's, Lake Bolac

CONTACT US
PHONE: 03 5352 5460
EMAIL: ararat@ballarat.catholic.org.au
WEBSITE: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au



PRIEST:
Fr Andrew Hayes andrew.hayes@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Office Hours
Tues/Wed/Fri 9am—2pm

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

	<u>Ararat</u>	<u>Lake Bolac</u>	<u>Glenthompson</u>
Saturday	6.00pm & Midnight	7.45pm	9.15pm
Sunday	9.00am		

Masses this week

Tues 20th	9.30am	Mass Convent
Wed 21st	9.30am	Church
Thurs 22nd	11am	Lowe St
Fri 23rd	6pm	Hopkins

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."

Church Toilets

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

"I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity."

Read more at [www.catholic.org](#) -Pope Francis @Pontifex 2016

St. Mary's Parish
304a Barkly St. or PO Box 92
Ararat, 3377 Ararat, 3377
PARISH PRIEST: Fr Andrew Hayes
PRINCIPAL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: Mr Tom Hogan
Download newsletter—www.smararat.catholic.edu.au
PRINCIPAL MARIAN COLLEGE: Mrs Carmel Barker
Download newsletter—www.mcararat.catholic.edu.au
PARISH SECRETARY: Ms Joyce Clery

Saint of the week: St. Lucy
Patron Saint of Blindness
Lucy's history has been lost and all we really know for certain is that this brave woman who lived in Syracuse lost her life during the persecution of Christians in the early fourth century. Her veneration spread to Rome so that by the sixth century the whole Church recognized her courage in defence of the faith.

Because people wanted to shed light on Lucy's bravery, legends began to crop up. The one that has passed the test of time tells the story of a young Christian woman who vowed to live her life in service of Christ. Her mother tried to arrange a marriage for her with a pagan and Lucy knew her mother could not be swayed by a young girl's vow, so she devised a plan to convince her mother that Christ was the better partner for life.

Read more on www.catholic.org

Advance Notice – dates for 2017:
Rite of Election: Saturday, March 4 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
Mass of the Oils: Monday, April 10 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat

Vinnies Toy Collection!
Cut off date for the toy donation is this Monday Dec 19th—please leave the toys under the tree in the Church. Many Thanks!

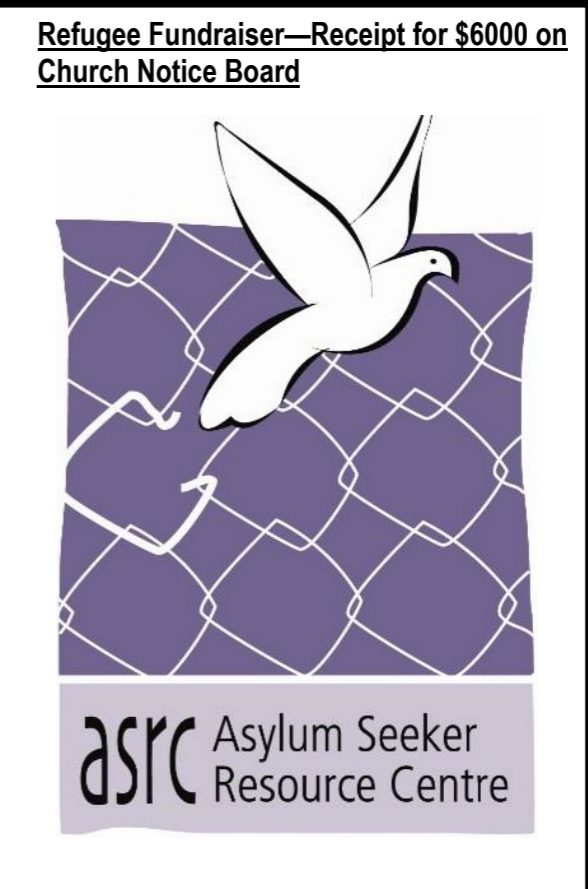
Day & Date	Facilitator	Reader	Eucharistic Minister	Golden Gate Communion	Welcomers	Counter	Collector	Flowers	Cleaning
Sat Dec 17 th		P. McAloon	A. Reynolds, L. Horsman & C. McAdie		Geoff White & M. Ryan	I. Brady, P. Gemmola & L. Styles	Geoff White	Anne Joyce & M. Brady	P. Weeks
Sun Dec 18 th	J. Start	P. Lardner	C. Bulger, M. de Jong & K. Chamings	J&J Crowe	D. Dijon & S. Pickering	(as above)	John Pola	(as above)	(as above)
Sat Dec 24 th	H. Collins	P. Gemmola	T. Gemmola		R&M Jerram	P. Lardner, & P. Brennan	C. Brennan & V. Hooper	M. Dempsey & M. Jerram	?
Sun Dec 25 th Christmas Day	N. Potter	K. Leggett	M. Cunningham, Sr. John & C. Reid	H&A Collins	Elizabeth Shea	(as above)	J. Crowe	(as above)	(as above)

LAKE BOLAC—MASS

READER: V. Albert
PRAYERS: I. Meek
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: L. Breen
CLEANING: I. Meek

LAKE BOLAC—MASS

READER: T. Higgins
PRAYERS: D. Haslett
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: I. Meek
CLEANING: J. Aldous



Fair Trade Chocolate and Other Products
St Mary's Parish abhors the practice of underpaying workers in plantations producing chocolate and other products. We bring to your awareness the Fair Trade logo. Look for the logo when purchasing.

Lifeline: 131114
Ararat Police: 5355
1500 Sexual Assault Crisis line: 1800 806 292
Counselling service: Relationships Australia – 1800 052 674
Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Towards Healing – 1800 099 340