



Holy Spirit Parish Gariwerd



St Patrick's
Stawell



Immaculate Conception
Ararat



St Francis of Assisi
Landsborough



St Bernard's
Lake Bolac

First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from the book of Numbers

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.' At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

Responsorial

Ps 77:1-2. 34-38. R. v.7

(R.) Do not forget the works of the Lord!

1. Give heed, my people, to my teaching; turn your ear to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable and reveal hidden lessons of the past. (R.)

2. When he slew them then they would seek him, return and seek him in earnest. They would remember that God was their rock, God the Most High their redeemer. (R.)

3. But the words they spoke were mere flattery; they lied to him with their lips. For their hearts were not truly with him; they were not faithful to his covenant. (R.)

4. Yet he who is full of compassion forgave their sin and spared them. So often he held back his anger when he might have stirred up his rage. (R.)

Second Reading

Philippians 2:6-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

The state of Jesus was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your cross you have redeemed the world. Alleluia!

Gospel

John 3:13-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus said to Nicodemus:

'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'



Information – Holy Spirit Parish, Gariwerd

Parish Priest Fr. Neville Stanislaus neville.stanislaus@ballarat.catholic.org.au
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We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, and pay our respects to their elders both past, present and future, for they hold the memories, the traditions and culture of our ancient land, Australia. We honour the presence of these ancestors who reside in the imagination of this land

Mass Times

Ararat Sunday 9am
Stawell Sunday 10.30am
Lake Bolac 1st 3rd 5th Sundays 6.30pm Vigil Sat
Landsborough 2nd 4th Sundays 12 noon
Glenthompson (Hamilton Parish) 2nd 4th Sundays 8.30am

Readings for next Sunday 21st Sept

Amos 8:4-7/ 1 Timothy 2:1-8
Luke 16:10-13

Weekday Masses (usual schedule) (Check bulletin for occasional changes)

Tuesday: 10am Stawell (**Not on the 1st Tuesday of each month**)

Wednesday: Aged Care

Thursday: 2.30pm Hopkins

Friday: 11am Ararat

Aged Care Roster

1st Wednesday 11.15am Eventide
2nd Wednesday 10am Lowe St
3rd Wednesday 10am Garden View
4th Wednesday 10am ARVillage

If there is a Funeral on Tuesdays (Stawell) or Fridays (Ararat) there will be NO Mass on that day.

Recent Death Frank Jumpertz

Anniversaries

Molly O'Connor, Keith Young, Teresa Conroy, Geoffrey O'Brien, Stephen Gavin 1971, Donald McLean 1983, Leith Galway Thomas 2003, Rose Harrison, Ruth Molloy, John Molloy, Martin Creenaune, Maureen Rathgeber, 2006, Patricia Vendy 2008, Eileen Arnold, Hugh Waring, Judith Vos, Naomi Phillips, James Fleetwood Smith 1961, Anthony Delahunty 1967, Thomas Brown 1967, Mary Fallon 1988, Carmel D'Arcy 2001, Jan Smith, George Tutton, Julia Sweeney 1962, Arthur Connell 1964, Thomas O'Connor, Alice Parker, John Parker, Cyril Tour, John Flynn, Alice Harrington, William Sea, Mona Hoane, George Brady, Fr Peter Claridge, Lynnette Carthew, Thomas McPhee 1945, Eliza Colvin 1985, Jim Sanders, John Monaghan 2004,

Lake Bolac Roster

Sat Sep 20 Reader Damian Phillips/ Prayers of Faithful Mick Brennan

Sat Oct 4 Reader Val Albert/ Prayers of Faithful Damian Phillips /Cleaning Tricia Higgins

Ararat Roster

Sun Sep 14 Facilitator C Reid/ Reader E Shea/ Euch Min Mary C & M Ollie

Sun Sep 21 Facilitator Harry /Reader K Leggett / Euch Min A Collins & Blessie

Stawell Roster

Sun Sep 14 S/Minster S DeLeon & K Ashton /Reader D Jones / Offertory T East

Sun Sep 21 S/Minster J DeLeon & D Jones/ Reader G Madafferi / Offertory M McGaffin

Stawell St Vincent de Paul - Next meeting Monday 15th September at 2pm in the St Pat's Church Hall.

Stawell CWL - Next monthly cuppa will be after Sunday Mass 28th September.

St Pats Stawell - After Mass this Sunday there is a meeting in the hall to form our "St Joseph's Workshop" group. All parishioners invited especially the youth! "

BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND - Collection for Retired Priests

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for seventeen retired priests. This annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our retired priests. Your generous support has enabled us to continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up next week on the 21st September.

Safeguarding Sunday, 14 September

Today we are gathered on Safeguarding Sunday, a day when we pause to focus on our responsibility to protect and care for those who are vulnerable. In the Bible, we find a clear and strong message about justice, compassion, and speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves. We are called to be a safe, welcoming and hope-filled church. In our everyday lives, let's be mindful of those around us who are vulnerable or marginalised. Who are the "silent" ones in our society, the ones without a voice? Today, God may be calling you to stand up for them. Whether it's through prayer, support, or direct action, we are invited to participate in God's work of justice.

Prayer for Safeguarding Sunday

You guard us, Lord God, beneath the shelter of your wings till the storms of destruction pass by (Psalm 57:1). The storms of abuse have struck and have not yet passed by. We see the damage done and we seek shelter in you. Beneath your wings we gather the survivors and their loved ones, all the victims, living and dead. We gather those who work to bring healing and to make the Church a safe place for all. We gather all the faithful, the Body of Christ, bearing the wounds of the Cross. May the Church grow more like you, wings spread wide to provide shelter for all, till the storms of destruction pass by and peace without end has come. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Season of Creation

Each year from September 1 - October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created. This year's theme, "Peace With Creation", reminds us that many human activities amount to a "war against Creation." Unsustainable lifestyles, exploitive business models, excessive consumption and throw-away cultures, thoughtless destruction of habitats, disregard for biodiversity loss and the devastation of literal wars are just a few of the human dynamics threatening the web of life around planet Earth. The mission before us as people of faith and members of the human community is to work for the justice and global solidarity that are essential to establishing "Peace with Creation."

Prayer for Season of Creation

Peace with Creation. Creator of all, we praise you for the gift of life and for the faith that unites us in care for our common home. We confess how estranged we have become—from one another, from your Creation, and from our truest selves. We acknowledge that our greed and destructive impulses have fractured our relationships with you, with others, and with the Earth. Fertile fields have become barren, forests lie desolate, oceans and rivers are polluted. Thriving communities have become places of suffering, and the earth cries out. Beloved Christ, who spoke "Shalom" to frightened hearts, stir us to compassionate action. Inspire us to work for the end of conflict, and for the full restoration of broken relationships—with you, with the ecumenical community, with the human family, and with all Creation. Prince of Peace, through your wounds, teach us to stand in solidarity with the woundedness of others, of creation, and of the world. Through your resurrection, make us people of hope—with a vision of swords turned into ploughshares and tears transformed into joy. May we come together as one family, to labour for your peace—a shalom where all your people may dwell in safety, and rest in quiet places. Amen.

School Community Improvement Grants

The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation will make funding available to six Catholic Primary Schools for new projects that aid in the improvement of the welfare of their community within the Diocese of Ballarat. Up to \$5,000 will be made available, per project, delivered during 2026. Any DOBCEL primary school within the diocese can apply for the grant through the grant process, as outlined on the Diocese of Ballarat website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/stewardship/catholic-diocese-of-ballarat-foundation/>. Grants will be awarded to the six schools within the diocese that best meet the criteria for community improvement that show impactful support toward the mission and objectives of the Foundation. This includes, but not limited to, providing relief, comfort and support for those suffering disadvantage within the diocese.



REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate - The Triumph of the Cross

What other religion would have as its central symbol two rough hewn planks of wood fashioned into an instrument of torture on which our Founder, Jesus of Nazareth, was cruelly done to death? And yet, today, we speak of 'The Triumph of the Cross'. Where is the triumph? Let us rid ourselves of one terrible answer: that our heavenly Father willed that Jesus Christ should suffer that tortured death. What sort of cruel despot would I be called on to worship if that were the case? What his Heavenly Father willed was that Jesus Christ should remain steadfast in the face of adversity, should remain true to his mission to teach and embody the mercy, the forgiveness, the all-inclusive love of God for every human being. When Jesus persevered (not my will but thine be done), the Cross was the inevitable result. Death appeared to have won the battle to ensure a death dominated world. But three days later, our Lord appeared to St Thomas bearing the marks of the wounds of the Cross but now indelibly imprinted on his resurrection body. That is victory, that is triumph. A victory and a triumph in which we are all called to share.

Lectionary Art and Reflection by Jenny Close

The triumph of the Cross is the victory of life over death. In this reading from John's gospel it is clear that God is in love with the world. The cross is a sign of God's commitment to love and it calls for a loving response from us.

Gospel Reflection

To many people, venerating and reverencing the Cross seems a very strange practice. The Cross was the instrument of torture used by the Romans to execute particularly troublesome or rebellious inhabitants of their conquered lands. It was a form of execution – along with burning alive and being eaten by wild animals – the Romans used as a means of literally annihilating an enemy. All three methods were designed to ensure that the person was destroyed completely so that nothing was left to

bury. In the eyes of the Romans, this was the greatest insult that could be paid to an enemy: without proper burial their families could not properly mourn their passing and they could not enter into the afterlife. The general practice with crucifixion was that the executed person was left on the cross for wild dogs and carrion birds to attack. Ultimately, the picked over bones were cast into a lime pit where they effectively dissolved. It was rare that a victim of crucifixion was allowed to be buried. Given this history, it is easy to understand why the early Christians did not generally reverence the Cross. It was not until the 4th century, apparently on 14 September, 326, that Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine, identified the cross of Christ's crucifixion and acclaimed its potential for miraculous cures. On the site that she located the Cross, Helena ordered to have built the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. From this time, and with the formal adoption of Christianity as the religion of Rome, the Cross became a symbol of the passion, death *and* resurrection of Christ. The common understanding shifted from the Cross being the means of Christ's death to being the means of his triumph over death.

