

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .



For centuries, the Jewish people had treasured the words of prophets like Isaiah. They would have had the promises we see in today's gospel and first reading inscribed on their minds and hearts.

Isaiah, particularly, spoke of the promise of God's decisive response to the suffering of his people and to evil in the world. Through Isaiah, God promised his people that, in the "year of favour from the Lord and the day of vindication", he would "reveal his glory", "feed his flock like a shepherd" and "gather the lambs in his arms". On that day, God would raise a king from the house of David, whom he would anoint to "bring good news to the poor", "bind up hearts that are broken" and "proclaim liberty to captives".

And after years of waiting, John the Baptist was telling his people that the day was arriving.

By quoting Isaiah 40, John casts himself as Isaiah's prophesied "voice crying out in the wilderness". John proclaims that he is the herald for the moment when, as Isaiah describes, "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together".

The mention of God's glory is a crucial point, as the glory of the Lord was often described in the Old Testament as a pillar of consuming fire that showed God's strength and holiness. This glory would go before them in extraordinary moments of salvation and deliverance, such as during the Exodus, or moments of the revelation of God's will, such as the giving of the Law at Sinai. God's presence was so holy and mighty that when it appeared before them, it needed to be concealed from the people of Israel in a pillar of cloud or, later, in the Temple.

The prophets spoke forward to a day when God's glory would be revealed in a way that was no longer concealed but fully disclosed for all to see. John the Baptist's quoting of Isaiah calls to mind this promise of the day when the one true God would dwell among them without barrier or division between them.

So, when John the Baptist explains that he is preparing people to meet "the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie", he is describing this person as the revelation of God's glory, coming with the power and holiness of God himself.

Through Jesus, the glory of God witnessed in the gospels is not the fiery presence of the Old Testament but the radiance of the character of God, the grace and truth about which Moses heard and Isaiah witnessed, in the person and life of Jesus.

In Jesus, who John the Baptist will soon reveal as the "lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world", we can know the God who is so powerful, holy and unlike us that there should be barriers between us. But we know him now as God with us, anointing us with the same Spirit that Isaiah promised would anoint the Messiah.

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Recently Deceased: Frances Kealy

Our Sick: Fran Evans, Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Damian Brick, Carmel Densley

Anniversaries in December: Brian Fleming, Enid Boyle, Shelia Freeman, Toni Lathouwers, Cyril Karo, Sister Christina Madden, Brian Parsons, Dennis O'Connor, Pat Bourke, Harold Craven, Ad Vogels, Ann Dodd, Theodora Vogels, Winnie O'Keefe, Darryn Tregea, Maggie Tregea, Terry McMeel, Reg McVilley, Lilian McCluskey, James McCluskey



Christmas Mass Times:

24th Sunday Vigil 6.00 pm at Timboon, Cobden Vigil – 6.00 pm and Camperdown Vigil – 8.00 pm.

25th Monday Christmas Day only at Lismore 8.30 am.

Reconciliation Rites: 17th of December at Timboon, 23rd of December at Cobden and 24th of December Lismore and Camperdown. The Reconciliation Rite will be held during the celebration of the weekend masses.

"Our Parish Community wishes to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Giraiwurrung lands on which we live, work and worship Our God."



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 17th December

3rd Sunday in Advent Year B

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.'

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

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 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

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

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.



May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: *(Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation)* **Isaiah 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: **John 1:6-8. 19-28**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
as a witness to speak for the light,
so that everyone might believe through him.
He was not the light,
only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you?' We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptizing if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptize with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord...**All: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.**

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Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal

An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health and psychosocial needs. "This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this devastating conflict." Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia. With your support, there will be aid to help partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal - scan or click the QR code. Link: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/>

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Significant Catholic Person/People from your Parish

In preparation for the Ballarat Diocese's 150 year Anniversary in 2024, the anniversary committee for the Mass of the Oils are searching for 1 or 2 significant Catholics from your parish for a display to be presented in the Hall after the Mass of the Oils on Monday, March 25, 2024. This could be a well-known person who has achieved success in their chosen field or it could be someone who has left a legacy in your parish, as a benefactor, contributor or historian. Please provide names and supporting information and photo to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au before February 5, 2024.

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) is an international movement that is more than 170 years old. Each month, the Pope puts forward a prayer intention and asks Catholics around the world to join him in prayer. These intentions cover all sorts of areas of life, encouraging faith, renewing hope and calling us to loving service. Praying each month 'The Pope Video' forms part of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

Christmas Cards:

SVdP is selling nativity themed Christmas cards after Mass. Cards are \$2.50 for a pack of 5 cards. These can be ordered from Pat.

Advent Appeal for Ukraine – this weekend :

During Advent 2022, all Australian dioceses were invited to take up a special collection for the people of Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of dollars was raised to support people in the war-torn nation through the work of *Mudra Sprava* (Wise Action), a Patriarchal Charitable Foundation in Ukraine.

The organization has three focus areas: Evacuation of people from frontline territories; food packages for people in need; shelters for internally displaced persons. At the Bishops Conference's November 2023 meeting, bishops were asked to again consider if an appeal could be taken for the people of Ukraine during Advent. Therefore at the end of Mass today, a leaving collection will be taken.

Thank You to **Rosie Stansmore** of Peterborough for her donation of a toilet chair as an aid/ support.

Synthesis Report of the Synod, "A Synodal Church on Mission"

Members of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops adopted a Synthesis Report, "A Synodal Church on Mission." This is not a final document but an instrument in the service of ongoing discernment. Read and/or download the report <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Synthesis-Report-Session-1-Oct-2024.pdf>.

Timboon 2023	17th December Mass 9:00a.m.	24th December Christmas Eve	31st December Mass 9:00 a.m.
Welcome	N McKinnon	G Vogels	A McMeel
Leaders			
Statue	B Moloney	T O' Connor E O' Connor	D Moloney M Moloney
Reader	T O'Connor	R Hoffman	P Nicholson
P.O.F.	A Vogels	E O' Connor	J McInerney
E.M.H.C.			
Bulletin	Denny Family	Denny Family	Denny Family
Slides	K Currell	K Currell	K Currell
Simpson	Closed	Closed	Closed