

Dear Friends,

As we approach, the Holy week where we mainly focus on the suffering and death of Jesus on the cross, the gospel reading is preparing us ahead on that theme. Here Jesus gives a new direction; he presents a pattern of life that his disciples have to live. It is a life of self-giving or total sacrifice. Through this self-sacrificing life, we gain the fulfilment of our journey of life. Here the focus is on the giving rather than receiving, service rather than being served. He articulates his point with an example: the seed must fall to the ground and die. It must take in water, sun, and nutrients in the soil. And it must depend on the care of the planter. Only with these conditions can the seed live, grow and bear fruit. This is also what it means to empty oneself, to suffer and to sacrifice. We must be totally dependent on the care and guidance of the planter Jesus. Only then, we can grow in faith and bear much fruits of good works. This is what; we have done in our baptism. Our baptism is our dying to self and our rising to a new life in Jesus. Let us ask ourselves: How do we experience dying to self as to produce much fruits? We can serve God and our neighbour if we bury our selfish ambitions in our witnessing life. Hence, we can be true workers for God if we reject the worldly whims and all that is contrary to the teaching of the gospel. So let us realize our baptismal call to serve God and his people in our sacrificing life. Neville.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Nikayla Oto Mulliawan will approach her first Sacrament of Reconciliation after Mass on March 17th. All are welcome to stay for the short ceremony.

Pope's intention for March – for new martyrs: Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive. Lord, hear us.

Palm Sunday Walk for Justice and Peace - March 24, 2024 The focus this year is on the impact of war where people have been forced to flee to seek places of refuge within their own country (internally displaced) or as refugees and asylum seekers to other countries. The program will commence at 10.30am at the Parliament Gardens (Spring Street/Albert Street, Melbourne) with an interfaith segment and prayers for peace, followed by speeches/presentations from 11.00am and the Palm Sunday 'Walk for Refugees' concluding by 12.00 noon.

<u>Our Sick</u>: Fran Evans, Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Damian Brick, Peter Brick, Carmel Densley, and Des Free.



<u>Recent Death</u>: Brian Davison, Hayley Fyfield, Jean McMeel, Kath Delaney

Anniversaries in March: Charles Boyle, Jeff Lathouwers, Michael Dodd, Matthew Delaney, Robert Maslin, Mary O'Keefe, Coleman O'Keefe, Brian Smith, Perc Roberts, Carmel O'Connor, Paul Couch, Geoff Gale, Martin Van Duynhoven, Park Conheady, Barry Risdale, Kathleen Noonan, Herman Dickmann, Albert Van Es, Rose McMeel, Maria Townsend, Frank Vogels, Riley Hutchinson, Mary Pouw, Jessie Gibblett, Carmel Bruce



"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 Mar 2024 Fifth Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming when I will make a new covenant with Israel and I will forgive their iniquity.

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, 'Learn to know the Lord!' No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-4. 12-15. R. v.12

(R.) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

- Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt. and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
- A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.
 Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
- Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me, that I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. (R.)

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:7-9

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

He learnt to obey and became for all the source of eternal salvation.

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

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

Gospel Acclamation: (Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation) John 12:26

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! If you serve me, follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, my servant will also be. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!



Gospel: John 12:20-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them:

'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies. it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'

People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.'

By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

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

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<u>Reconciliation for Lent</u>: will be combined with this weekend masses as follows (16th & 17th) Saturday 6.30 pm Cobden, Sunday 9am Timboon and 11am Camperdown. Next weekend 24th of March, Sunday 9 am Lismore.

<u>Mass of the Oils 2024</u>: Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am (please note change of time). Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall.



150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat

The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on March 30, 2024. During this year there will be many events to acknowledge this significant anniversary. Keep up-to-date at the diocesan website <u>https://</u>www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/

Logo: The logo for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat will feature on correspondence and events relating to the anniversary as well as on the candle and prayer card. It was prepared by a committee convened by Bishop Paul. The design incorporates the diocesan logo and the bough of a tree drawn by Sr Anne McMillan rsm in 1985. The words Anne had used with this drawing were, "If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come". It is an old Chinese proverb, which could be interpreted as a reminder to keep hope alive and a call to open our hearts to all. The bough of a tree symbolises growth, interconnectedness and life. The leaves could symbolise the communities, the parishes, the people of the diocese.

Text: The text Communities: Remember, Revitalise, Hope reflects various aspects of the anniversary: The word "Community" highlights the fact that a diocese is essentially a community drawn together by Christ, a large community made up of many local communities. The word "Remember" refers us to the history of the diocese. In this remembering, we acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of that history, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. The word "Revitalise" calls us to invest ourselves in bringing new life to the community today. The word "Hope" encourages us to look forward to the future with confidence in God.

Scripture: The Scripture verse chosen for the 150th anniversary year reflects various elements of our vocation as a Christian community. "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*" (Romans 12:12). The words are drawn from a passage in St Paul's letter to the Romans in which the apostle lists qualities appropriate for a community inspired by Christ. As the years go by, the community experiences times of trial as well as times of gladness. Through it all, their trust in Christ makes them joyful in hope and patient in affliction. They recognise that they need God's help in all they do and so they are faithful in prayer, seeking God's help day by day.

Mass of the Oils livestream:

This year the Mass of the Oils will be livestreamed at <u>https://youtube.com/live/SdivIIKiHSs?feature=share</u> Lent programmes: Timboon 10:30 a.m., Stations of the Cross 12:00 p.m.

Project Compassion 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Lent: Meet Ronita

This year, Project Compassion brings you the stories of three resilient women: Ronita from the Philippines, Leaia from Samoa and Memory from Malawi. While from three different corners of the world and facing vastly different challenges, they are all united by one dream: to create a better world *for all future generations*. **Please donate to Project Compassion**.



You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting <u>caritas.org.au/project-compassion</u> or by calling 1800 024 413.

Timboon 2024	17th March Mass 9am	24th March Assembly W&C	30th March Easter Vigil Mass 9am
Welcome	K Currell	N McKinnon	L Tregea
Leaders		A Vogels E O'Connor	
Statue	B Moloney	T O'Connor E O'Connor	G Townsend
Reader	T O'Connor	L McInerny	R Hoffman
P.O.F.	E O'Connor	R Hoffman	A Vogels
E.M.H.C.		J McInerny	
Bulletin	Denny Family	Denny Family	Denny Family
Slides	P Nicholson	P Nicholson	P Nicholson
Simpson	Closed	Assembly W&C 9:00	Closed