

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .



Dear Friends, Most of us can handle changes to our plans that are part of everyday life. For example, a friend 'drops in' unexpectedly and we have to put aside what we're doing or set an extra place for dinner; a family member falls sick and we have to postpone a planned trip; or our computer or smart phone crashes, leaving us 'high and dry', in the midst of something important. We might complain and grumble, but we generally accept the changes, despite the inconvenience and disruption.

The change of plans announced by the angel Gabriel to Mary weren't simply an inconvenience. Her life and future were already somewhat established: she was betrothed and no doubt expecting a typical married life. Gabriel's message changed everything! In saying "yes" to God, Mary had to surrender her plans, her life and her body. By surrendering (saying "yes") to God, new life comes not only to Mary, but through her to the whole world.

It's difficult to really appreciate the disruption to Mary's life plans that her "yes" to God caused. She was a simple young girl who, without understanding fully what was being asked of her, surrendered herself to God and was "overshadowed by the power of the Most High."

Surrendering to the Spirit is a challenge for us all. It is to let God take the lead and allow the power of the Most High to overshadow us and lead us to where God is calling and reveal to us what God is asking. Surrendering to the Spirit means casting aside all the 'baggage' we carry and cling to, and that weighs us down and holds us back from being the person God wants us to be and knows we can be. Without openness and surrender we can become sluggish.

Surrendering to the Spirit stretches us, gives us new colour and outlook, and breathes new air into our lives. Surrendering to the Spirit happens when we realise that it's time to become someone new. It's not about giving up, but moving on to something greater in God's plan.

We don't need all the details of God's plan for us. Like Mary, we need to say "yes" and trustingly to reach out and take God's hand. Only by surrendering, can we come to new life and help bring that life to the world around us.

As we leave behind 2022, we look back and, like Mary, "treasure and ponder in our hearts" all the moments of grace, blessing and growth, and give thanks. As we begin 2023, we look forward with expectation and a readiness to surrender to all that will come our way, ready to say "yes".

To our family, friends and loved ones we say: "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

David J Hore CSsR © Majellan Media 2023

Our Sick: Pat Thornton, Catherine Marr



Anniversaries In January: Vera Hickey, Madge Boyle, Bill Haig, Patrick F Nicholson, Greg O'Flynn, Peg Duffy, Laurie Loft, Nancy Nugent, Jim Rylance Snr, Brian Fleming, Patricia Gaut, Ann Dodd, Bob Maslin, Catherine Dendle, Gertruda Heyden, Frank Keegan, Anne van Duynhoven



Recent Deaths: Maree Newcombe

Columban Calendars 2023 \$10.00. See Katrina Currell

We pray for all who are suffering and bereaved.

At this time of sorrow, incomprehension, and tragedy, we stand together.

In this crisis, we pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 01 Jan 2023

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

First Reading Nm 6:22-27

A reading from the book of Numbers

They will call down my name on the children of Israel and I will bless them.

The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them:

May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace."

This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 66:2-3. 5. 6. 8. R. v.2

(R.) May God bless us in his mercy.

1. God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples.
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

Second Reading Gal 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians

When the appointed time came, God sent his son, born of a woman.

When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father', and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

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

Gospel Acclamation Heb 1:1-2

Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
now he speaks to us through his Son.

Alleluia!



Gospel

Lk 2:16-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the crib... When the eighth day came they gave him the name of Jesus.

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

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

REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSA

Liturgically, the Octave of Christmas commemorates: the Solemnity of the Mother of God; the day designated for prayers for global peace; and the beginning of the New Year. Though the shepherds gain insight into the presence of God by seeing this holy family, it is Mary who holds all these things in her heart. She is the one who ponders the significance of these mysterious events. Mary becomes for Christians an inspiration of contemplation and reflection. She inspires us to consider deeply the significance of events, lest we go blandly through life without meaning or direction. She inspires us to fidelity to the practices of our faith, practices which are the disciplines of soul that lead the community to a clearer focus on God's presence in human affairs.

The theme of peace appears today on many levels. Its meaning, 'fullness of life', bursts forth in every one of the readings. The ancient prayer or blessing of peace is an appropriate start for the New Year. It resonates well with the angels' wish for people of good will. Peace is also our inheritance in Christ. As adopted children of God, we have been given the freedom to live in a godly manner, calling God our *Abba*. Right relationships in the covenant activity of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each dimension of human encounter.

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.

Pope's intention for January - For educators: We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

56th World Day of Peace – January 1, 2023

Pope Francis' message for the 56th World Day of Peace, "No one can be saved alone. Combatting Covid-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace" is available from <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html>

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace: Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instil in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.



May Peace and Joy be our Blessings for 2023

St Vincent de Paul Flood Appeal: The St Vincent de Paul Society has established a Victorian Flood Appeal. Contributions can be made by: Calling 13 18 12; Visiting <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic/vinnies-vic-flood-appeal-2022>
You can also make a monetary donation through any Vinnies Shops at point of purchase; via your local IGA where the purchase of a token supports the recovery of Victorians devastated by these recent floods.

Timboon 2022	1st January Closed	8th January 9:00 a.m. Assembly of W&C	15th January 9:00 a.m. Mass
Welcome		A McMeel	G Vogels
Leaders		P Nicholson E O' Connor	
Statue		M Turner	M Turner
Reader		E O' Connor	S Jayakody
POF		G Vogels	J McInerney
E.M.H.C.		L McInerney	
Bulletin	G Swierczek	G Swierczek	G Swierczek
Slides	P Nicholson	P Nicholson	P Nicholson
Cleaners	M Turner	M Turner	M Turner
Simpson	Mass 9:00 a.m.	Assembly of W&C 9:00am	Closed