



Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .

Popular fiction is replete with doomsday stories depicting seers and prophets predicting the end of the world. In such stories, the end comes courtesy of an alien invasion, an ecological disaster, a meteorite collision, or a zombie apocalypse.

The gospel story today is similarly apocalyptic in its outlook, although there are no aliens or zombies at the empty tomb. And there is no doomsaying involved.

The Matthean version of Jesus' resurrection is replete with all the trappings of a world-ending apocalypse – earthquakes, radiant angels descending from heaven, and temple police paralysed with fear. Similar portents attended the death of Jesus in Matthew, with thunder, lightning and earth-shaking storms, the dead rising from their tombs and Roman centurions quaking in awe.

The events of Easter Sunday (as it has come to be known) are at the heart of the Gospel story, and rightly so. Up until his resurrection, Jesus may have appeared to most as a simple sage or street preacher, at best, a prophet. And like many such prophets before him, he met his death at the hands of those whom he criticised. Tragic! But far from uncommon in Jesus' world. On that first Easter Sunday morning, however, his emergence from the empty tomb was seen as something earth-shatteringly new.

Such was the extraordinary nature of the encounter with Jesus redivivus, that his disciples could only describe their experience in terms that had previously been associated with end-of-world scenarios. Resurrection is not simply resuscitation. Those saints who rose from their tombs at Jesus' death were merely resuscitated – much like Lazarus in John's Gospel.

The risen Jesus was an entirely new order of being. Not resuscitated or reborn, but re-created as part of a now-and-future reality when God would remake all creation.

Paul, writing decades before Matthew's Gospel, indicates that these initial witnesses saw Jesus' resurrection as the first fruit of the anticipated end-time event of the general resurrection of the dead (1 Co 6:14; 15:12-23; 1 Th 4:13-18; Rm 8:11; cf. Lk 14:14) – a portent of the future reign of God upon the earth. Moreover, as Paul stresses in today's second reading, they came to believe that through baptism they could share in Christ's new life (Col 3:3-4).

Paul wrote letters; Matthew wrote stories. Two very different genres of literature; but both authors are wont to stress the apocalyptic nature of Jesus' death and resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus is not an end, it is a promise and a sign that we too will be raised to new life in a new creation.

We do not know how the end will come, despite the aliens, zombies and meteorites conjured up in the popular imagination. But we do know that having died with Christ, we will also be raised when he comes in his glory (Col 3:4). This is the central message of the "good news" – death is not the end; nor is the end of the world as we know it the final chapter in the human story.

Ian J Elmer © Majellan Media 2023

Our Sick: Pat Thornton



Anniversaries In April: Laurie Loft, Laurie Dwyer, George Farmer, Father Meredith Delehenty, Joan Rylance, Dos Haugh, Mick McMeel, Pat Warner, Pam Horan, Cis Roberts, Frank Johnston, Elli Howe, Patrick Delaney, John Hunt, Marie McMeel, Margaret Dillion, John McKenzie, Ross Powell, Andrew Powell, Mary Karo, Ian McKenzie, William Couch, Dewyn Bruce, Robert Delaney.

Recent Death: Nell O'Sullivan (Mother of Bernadette Moloney)



Many thanks to those who prepared and presented the service on Good Friday at St Joseph's Timboon

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

Holy Land Collection – Good Friday, April 7, 2023

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 7. The ongoing effects of the pandemic have created enormous challenges for the people of the Holy Land in terms of health and a catastrophic loss of income due to the absence of pilgrims. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows the Friars and local Church to fulfil their mission of caring for the Holy Places (that also gives work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless and more. It is also used to maintain over 70 churches and shrines associated with the life of Jesus. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will continue to support the works of the Holy Land through the generosity of the Australian Church. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great odds and in recent years, made all the more difficult by the pandemic.

Envelopes are still available in the church if you would like to make a contribution to this worthy cause.

Mass Counts start on weekend May 6-7

The Annual Diocesan Mass Count will take place over 4 weekends in May. Counting will start on May 6-7 and continue each weekend until the end of May. Please record a count for every Mass and Lay Led Assembly held in your parish on each of the four weekends. Forms and further information will be sent out in the next few weeks. If you have any queries please email fran.peterkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Notes about Holy Communion

Bishop Paul has issued the following information for people of the diocese:

Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice.

Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that Covid infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion.

I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.

In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.

May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another.

God bless you all.

Bishop Paul

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

I ask you to pray the Our Father for peace in Ukraine, now and throughout this day.

Let us ask the Lord to grant that the country may grow in the spirit of brotherhood, and that all hurts, fears and divisions will be overcome.

We have spoken about the Holocaust. But let us think too that [in Ukraine] millions of people were killed [1932-1933].

They are a people who have suffered; they have suffered from hunger, suffered from much brutality and they deserve peace.

May the prayers and supplications that today rise up to heaven touch the minds and hearts of world leaders, so that dialogue may prevail and the common good be placed ahead of partisan interests.

Please, no more war.

Easter Message 2023

I write these words on March 30, 2023, exactly a year before we celebrate a special jubilee, the 150th anniversary of our Diocese of Ballarat. It was on March 30, 1874, that Pope Pius IX issued a decree establishing the western part of Victoria as a distinct diocese, with the Murray River as the northern boundary and the sea as the southern boundary. We continue to echo the Pope's decree in our diocesan vision statement, beginning with the words "We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea."

Our 150th anniversary next year will be an opportunity for each community throughout our diocese to remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parish and school communities and the social services and health care in our diocese today. The anniversary will also be an opportunity to review our history, acknowledging both strengths and weaknesses, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. It will be a chance to take stock of where we are now and look ahead to how we can live as a truly Christian community, sharing the good news of Christ, in the years to come.

Since my last Easter message, the Australian Plenary Council has met to consider a wide range of issues of concern to our Catholic community throughout Australia. The Council encouraged us to find ways in which all the members of the Church might be engaged in the life of the community and share in the mission to spread the gospel. In a similar vein, Pope Francis has called us to develop a "synodal" way of living in which the whole community walks together. He has highlighted the value of listening to one another as we all seek to discern what the Holy Spirit wishes us to do in response to the many challenges facing the world in our time.

In line with the calls of the Plenary Council and Pope Francis, I propose some steps for us as a diocese in the next few years.

First of all, I ask each parish to make 2023 a year when you focus on the leadership in the local community, through forming or developing further a parish pastoral council or leadership team according to your local circumstances.

In 2024, as well as celebrating the 150th anniversary of our diocese, we will hold a Diocesan Assembly, bringing together representatives of the leadership teams in our parishes and schools, to consider how we might develop the leadership in our communities in the future. Following the 2024 Assembly, we could form a Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council to help us fulfil our mission to share the gospel with the wider community, as well as helping us develop the pastoral services we provide throughout the diocese.

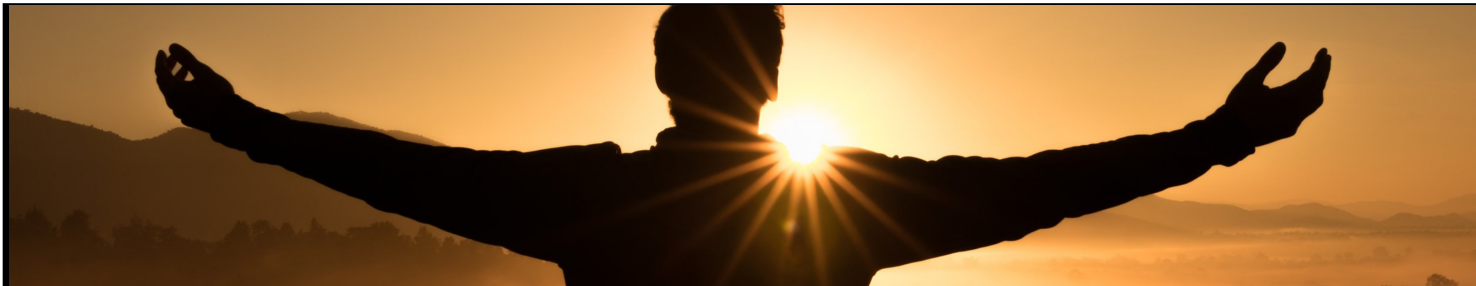
Then, in 2025, the Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council would lead the preparations for a Diocesan Synod to be held in 2026-2027. That Diocesan Synod would consider how we are to implement the various decrees of the Australian Plenary Council in our diocese.

I hope that all our parishes and schools and all the organisations in our diocese will walk together in these steps over the next few years.

As we approach the great feast of Easter, I take confidence in the promise of the Risen Christ, that he will be with us as we gather in his name and as we seek to fulfil the mission he has entrusted to us. As we look to the 150th anniversary of our diocese, I give thanks that Jesus has guided our communities through the years so far and I pray that he will continue to guide us in the years ahead.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

Paul Bird CSsR Bishop of Ballarat



Thank you Father McInerney for coming and saying our Easter Mass for us all at Timboon.

Thank you to all who helped present our Easter ceremonies.

A Blessed, Safe and Happy Easter to all our parishioners and visitors.

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 April - For a culture of peace and non violence: We pray for the spread of peace and non violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

Bishop Paul's Easter Message

Read Bishop Paul's Easter Message on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/bishop-pauls-easter-message-for-2023/>

Project Compassion Easter Sunday – April 9, 2023

Happy Easter from all at Caritas Australia! Thank you for your continued support for Project Compassion – past, present and future. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion 2023 Lenten appeal. Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **For All Future Generations**. You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.

Mass of the Oils thanks

Thank you to all who attended the Mass of the Oils this year, especially those who travelled long distances, and to those involved in the music, ministries and collecting the oils for parishes. Your attendance contributed to the success of this diocesan celebration. A report and photos from the Mass are on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/mass-of-the-oils-2023/>

Timboon 2023	8th April Easter Vigil 6:00 p.m.	16th April Mass 9:00 a.m.	23rd April Assembly W&C 9:00 am
Welcome	A McMeel	N McKinnon	L Tregear
Leaders			R Hoffmann J McInerney
Statue	K Currell	C Martin P Martin	M Turner
Reader	1. RH, 2. TO'C, 3. GS	K Currell	P Nicholson
POF	M Turner	L McInerney	E O'Connor
E.M.H.C.	M Dillon P Martin		K Currell
Bulletin	G Swierczek	G Swierczek	G Swierczek
Slides	A Vogels	A Vogels	A Vogels
Cleaners			
Simpson	Closed	Closed	Assembly W&C 9am