

Parish of Timboon
 St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson
 Parish Priest: Fr. Neville Stanislaus
 Parish Secretary: George Swierczek 0439 145 805
 Office and Presbytery:
 31 Hamilton Street. PO Box 62, Timboon 3268
 Phone: 5598 3193 Mobile: 0439 145 805



Our Sick: Bailey Delaney, Frank Vogels, Xavier Reicha, Fletcher Densley, Fr Peter Murnane, John McKenzie



December Anniversaries: Trudy Arnold, Toni Lathouwers, Shelia Freeman, Carmel Baxter, Enid Boyle, Brian Fleming, Ciril Karo, Lilian & James McCluskey, Sr Christina Madden, Brian Parsons, Darryn Tregoea, Maggie Tregoea, Theodore Vogels, Ann Dodd, Winnie O'Keefe, A Vogels, Harold Craven, Pat Bourke, Carmel Brennan, Terry McMeel



A warm welcome is extended to Fr Adrian McInerney, parishioners and visitors to our parish, as we gather to

celebrate Christmas - the birth of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

THANK YOU to Fr Adrian for celebrating Mass with us and for all who helped in preparing our churches and grounds for the celebration of Christmas.

Thanks to all our volunteers for their generous contribution and commitment to the Parish during the year. So many people give so generously of their time and talents.

Christmas Facts



X Marks the Spot. Some people get annoyed when they see "Christmas" abbreviated as "Xmas." It can seem like a

deliberate attempt to take the Christ out of Christmas, or to try and avoid offending the non believers or simply a lazy way to spell the word. In fact, there is no difference between Christmas and Xmas. The letter X in Greek is the first letter of Christ, and Xmas has been used as an abbreviation for Christmas since the mid-1500's.

Christmas Appeal 2017

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to many communities from near and far return to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have personal links with the diocese of Ballarat.

I commend the Christmas Appeal to you. I am aware that there are many times throughout the year when you are invited to respond to appeals for very worthy causes, but I hope the Ballarat diocese can continue to support this particular appeal. I thank the people of the diocese for their support of last year's appeal total of \$52,000. Distribution of the funds is shown on the church notice boards.

There will be a leaving collection at the Christmas Eve Mass.

Reflection

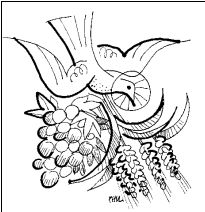
God's answer to human longing

'Christmas is God's answer to human longing. God's response to the centuries of prayers that lay hidden in our groaning, our sighs, our frustrations, and our religious efforts, each of them a plea, mostly silent, for a divine intervention, all of them asking God to come and rid the world of injustice and our hearts of loneliness and heartache.'

Ron Rolheiser OMI

A little boy was overheard praying : "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, Don't worry about it. I'm having a great time just the way I am."

'It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.' Mother Teresa



Sacramental Program 2017-18

The Children who approached the Sacrament of Reconciliation in 2017 will complete the initiation sacraments - Confirmation and First Eucharist on **29th July 2018.**

The next Sacrament for children in years 2, 3 or above will commence early in 2019. Any enquiries to Ruth Hoffmann 0429 983 253.



The Feast of the Nativity

This feast has been celebrated for almost 2000 years but the common word we use to name it stretches back half that time. The word "Christmas" comes from the old English "Christes Maesse" which means "Christ's Mass." The first recorded use of "Christes Maesse" dates from 1038 AD.

Timboon	Dec 24th 6.30pm Mass	Dec 31st 9am Mass	Jan 7th Mass Simpson
Welcome	J Delaney	P. Haugh	
Leaders			
Statue	M van Nieuwkerk	K. Currell	C & P Martin
Reader	E O'Connor	T. O'Connor	
P.O.F.	A Vogels	C. Marr	
Gifts	D and N Denny	A & R McMeel	
M of C	C Bullen P Martin	M. Van Nieuwkerk, L Tregoea	
Church Cleaning	M Turner	M. Turner	
Bulletin	C Marr A McMeel	C, Marr, A. McMeel	No Bulletin
Slides	K Currell	K. Currell	
Simpson		Mass - Timboon	
Statue	N & E Weel	P & J de Jong	A & J O' Connor