



St Patrick's Catholic Parish

Wall Street Camperdown, PO Box 64, Camperdown VIC 3260.

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ABN 39 411 259 534

St Patrick's Church
Camperdown

St Brendan's Church
67 Curdie St, Cobden

St John's Church
High St, Lismore

St Joseph's Church
61 Main Rd Derrinallum

Parish Priest: Fr Neville Stanislaus

Parish Secretary: Joan Seuren



St Patrick's Primary School

Principal Mr Michael McKenzie

Dimora Ave

Phone: 5593 1962

Mobile: 0409 962 148

email:

principal@spcamperdown.catholic.edu.au



Mercy Regional College

Principal: Dr Darren Egberts

Email: www.mercy.vic.edu.au

McAuley Campus

Camperdown - Phone: 5593 2011

O'Keefe Campus

Noorat - Phone: 5592 5353

Dear friends, Today's gospel gives us the picture of the identity of Jesus which is a fuller answer to "what child is this?" There are similarities between the annunciation to Mary and annunciation to Zechariah, but there are differences too. These differences emphasize the total newness that God is bringing about in the conception of Jesus. The similarity would be that in both announcements the message was clear, 'for nothing will be impossible for God'. Both Mary and Elizabeth understood this message and have accepted it willingly.

In contrast to Elizabeth, Mary is not barren. Her child does not come into existence because of sterility. Rather, Mary is a virgin who has not known her partner. So her child is totally by God's intervention. Hence, John the Baptist is the answer to his aged parent's yearning for a child. But Mary does not yearn for a child, for she has not yet lived with her betrothed. The announcement of the Angel was a surprise call for Mary. The incarnation of Jesus is totally God's initiative, beyond human imagining. This is a mystery that we are going to celebrate at the feast of Christmas. So let us like Mary say 'yes' to God and live according to His Will. Hence let us ask the Lord to strengthen our faith like Mary, so that we may do the will of God and receive the blessings of Christmas – love, peace and joy in our life. - Neville



Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 6.30pm Cobden

Sunday: 9am 1st Sun. Simpson

9am 2nd Sun. Lismore

9am 3rd/5th Sun. Timboon

9am 4th Sun. Derrinallum

(Lay led assembly will be held other weekends)

Sunday: 11 am Camperdown.

Weekday Mass Times

Wednesday: 9am Cobden

(2nd Wed. 10.30 Lovely Banks)

Friday: 9.30am Camperdown

When there is a funeral, morning Mass will be cancelled.

Collections

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance and support. Last week you generously gave -

Envelope collection - \$758.00

Presbytery collection - \$579.90

Christmas Mass times - 2017

Sun – Vigil- 6.30 pm Timboon

- **Vigil - 6.30 pm Cobden**

- **Vigil - 8.00 pm Camperdown**

Christmas Day 8.30 am – Lismore



Pray for the Sick:

Brian Wain, Fr Denis Dennehy, Noel Hewitt, Vincent Bacha, Brendan Fowler, Wilson Watts, Terry McKenzie, Sue Henderson, Beth Hose, Kristen Pickford, Shayne Wren, Devin McKlaren.

Mass times next weekend

Sat 6.30 pm Cobden

Sun 9 am Timboon

Sun 11 am Camperdown

Next weekend's Readings

Gen 15:1-6, 21:1-3;

Heb 11:8,11-12,17-19, Lk 2:22-40

Anniversaries of Death

Alice Bloom, Reginald White, Kevin Code, Marie McKeown, Gladys O'Neil, Tracey McLeod, James Hose

Parish Notices

All notices need to be delivered in writing, emailed or phoned into the Parish Office by Thursday evening.

Christmas Appeal 2017 – The Bishop commends the Christmas Appeal to parishioners. He is aware that many times throughout the year we are invited to respond to appeals for worthy causes, but he hopes the Ballarat diocese can continue to support the Appeal this year.

Planned giving envelopes for 2018 – please take your envelopes if you haven't already. Any queries, or if you would like to join the planned giving program contact Tony O'Leary Ph: 5593 1960.

Holiday wishes - We hope all students and teachers enjoy their time with family these Christmas holidays and good luck for the New Year.

Seeking a Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Project Worker

Ballarat Diocese will be employing a Project Worker in Youth and Young Adult Ministry in 2018, the Year of Youth. This will initially be a 12 month position, fulltime preferred but not essential. A position description will be available on the diocesan website in January or you can contact youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au to have the position description emailed to you.

Welcome and introduction - My name is Peter Cay, I come from the central area of Vietnam. I was born in a catholic family with 10 members. As part of a catholic family, I have been educated about life, moral values, especially catholic faith and that has led to my vocational path. I wanted to become a priest when I was in high school, so I had to try my best to keep my goal alive as much as possible. Therefore, I joined the Pre-Seminary group of my diocese in preparation for the Saint Francis Xavier Seminary's examination after graduating from university in English literature. One day, I received a call from the Auxiliary Bishop Peter Vien Nguyen, who asked me "Do you want to study to become a priest in Australia"? After thinking carefully and praying, I replied, "Yes, how wonderful that would be".

After a few weeks, he introduced me to Bishop Paul Bird from the Ballarat Diocese who was visiting Vietnam. He invited me to study in Australia and agreed to fully sponsor the total cost of my studies. I arrived in Australia late of June 2017 and then participated in the English for Academic Purposes Course at Australian Catholic University, Melbourne for 20 weeks. It has been arranged for me to stay in Camperdown during my holidays. I think I will benefit a lot by staying here. The people are very friendly and welcoming and really look after me. I experienced that on the very first days of being here, and I do appreciate that.

I would like to wish all the people in Camperdown a very Happy, Holy, and Peaceful Christmas. Please remember me in your daily prayers. God bless.

Message from Bishop Bird - Just last month, Pope Francis published a document that expressed both his compassion for those in sorrow and the joy he finds in faith in Christ. The document is called *The Joy of the Gospel* and begins with an invitation to the joy offered by Christ: "No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since 'no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord'." In the course of the document, Pope Francis speaks often of the joy of a relationship with Christ. At the same time, he speaks much of the sorrows that afflict people today and he calls us to respond to the poor and to all people in need as Christ himself did – with tender compassion.

"God's heart has a special place for the poor, so much so that He Himself 'became poor'."

The Saviour was born in a stable, in the midst of animals, like children of poor families.

When he began to preach the Kingdom, crowds of the dispossessed followed him. He assured those burdened by sorrow and crushed by poverty that God has a special place for them in his heart: Blessed are you poor, yours is the kingdom of God.

"As Christians, we are called to care for the vulnerable of the Earth. I think of the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned, and many others."

Pope Francis encourages us to be of good cheer as we celebrate the birth of Christ but he also challenges us to share this good cheer with others, especially those in need.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

We, the Parish community wish to pledge ourselves for our children's safety and well-being

First Reading

2 Sm 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.'
I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading Rom 16:25-27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Lk 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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REFLECTION by Dianne Bergant CSS

The world in which we live and the events of which we are a part are the stage upon which the drama of salvation is enacted. God works through real flesh and blood people, those like David, who occupy the seats of power and influence as well as those like Mary and us, who are unseen and unknown. All can be agents of salvation. God's future is in our hands. Human history is really the history of salvation. Each turn of God's revealing causes us to wonder at what might come next. In this tension, mystery is revealed. What was hidden is now made known. Jesus establishes a people of covenant promise. Still, the mystery is unknown, for it continues to come to us from the future, revealing more and more of itself in the junctures of history.

The waiting of Advent is over. In the face of the impossible, God works the possible. During Advent, we have been waiting for the realisation of the promise made to David. We have been waiting for Mary's yes. With this yes, hope is enlivened, and history is changed. There is an unimaginable future for all people, a future that comes from God. Salvation is created among us, and the fate of history is altered by a godly presence. This salvation resides in the hearts of those who believe in the gift, and who stay awake eagerly to know its coming. With David we await it, with the nations we long for it, with Mary we behold it.

| 23rd/24th Dec | Reader | P/Faithful Reader | Offertory | E/Minister |
|--|---------------|--|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 6.30 pm Cobden | G Gleeson | G Kelson | Noy Family | J Blair, E Downs |
| 9am Derrinallum | S McLeod | M Hodson | Volunteer | S McLeod |
| 11am Camperdown | M Larkins | P Conheady | Conheady Family | C Conheady, M Russell, G Lucas |
| Counting Team: M, J & P Conheady | | Flowers / Altar Cobden: M Noy / K Daffy | | |
| Church Cleaning: M Sinnott | | Camperdown: J Delaney / C McCarthy | | |
| Marion Statue One: B & K Gee | | Marion Statue Two: M Hickey | | |

| 30th and 31st Dec Holy Family | Reader | P/Faithful Reader | Offertory | E/Minister |
|--|---------------|--|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6.30 pm Cobden | G Gleeson | B Hammond | K Walsh | J Hammond J Blair, G Kelson |
| 9am Derri – lay led | A Mahoney | A Mahoney | Volunteer | A Coutts |
| 11am Camperdown | R Henry | J Saunders | M & D Russell | R Henry, H Hickey M Saunders |
| Counting Team: P & J Dwyer | | Flowers / Altar Cobden: M Noy / K Daffy | | |
| Church Cleaning: J & H Seuren | | Camperdown: C Conheady / J Conheady | | |
| Marion Statue One: M Lucas | | | | |

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