



St Patrick's Catholic Parish

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

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St Patrick's Church
Camperdown

St Brendan's Church
67 Curdie St, Cobden

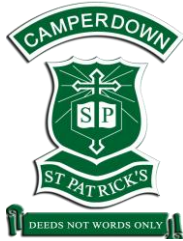
St John's Church
High St, Lismore

Parish Priest: Fr Neville Stanislaus

Parish Secretary: George Swierczek

Parish Child Safety Officer: Rose Henry, Ph: 0407 875 886

Phone: 0439 145 805



St Patrick's Primary School

Principal: Tim Bourke

Dimora Ave

Phone: 5593 1962

Mobile: 0438334077

email:

principal@spcamperdown.catholic.edu.au



Mercy Regional College

Principal: Sharon Gillett

Email: www.mercy.vic.edu.au

McAuley Campus

Camperdown - Phone: 5593 2011

O'Keefe Campus

Noorat - Phone: 5592 5353

Dear friends,

In this weekend's gospel we hear the story of the birth of Jesus, which focuses on the conception of the child by Mary as the fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah.

According to the prophecy, the child shall be named Emmanuel, which means, God is with us. We are given an advance notice of the good news of Christmas: that the son of God became man, became one of us and is with us. This explains the mystery of the incarnation. This took place because we went away from God. Hence, God has sent us his son to be one of us, to live among us as Jesus. The name Jesus means Yahweh (God) saves. So Jesus saves us by living among us as the visible expression of God's love. Our God is not self-centred but reaches out to others in love.

As Christmas approaches, let us open ourselves more and more to Jesus who was born as God among us. Let us open our hearts to him and make him the centre of our lives. When we accept him into our hearts we become the centre of the personification of God's love for others, then we shall be one with each other in God. We will be one family with one heart in Jesus. Before welcoming Jesus into our hearts, let look back at our lives and ask, are we ready to welcome him into our hearts? Let us take the message of Advent seriously and prepare to welcome Jesus into our hearts and then share the joy and blessing of Christmas with our family and faith community.

-Neville



Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 6.30pm Cobden

Sunday: 9am 1st Sun. Simpson

9am 2nd/4th Sun. Lismore

9am 3rd/5th Sun. Timboon

(Lay led assembly will be held on the other weekends)

Christmas Day Masses

Sat Vigil: Cobden 6.00 pm

Timboon 6.00 pm

Camperdown 8.00 pm.

Christmas Day:Lismore: 8.30 am

Next Weekend Readings:

Is 62: 1- 5; Acts13:16-17,22-25.

Mt 1: 1 - 25.

Saints and Feasts:

Mon- St Darius

Tues- St Dominic of Silos

Wed- St Peter Canisius

Thu- St Demetrius

Fri- St John of Kanty

Sat- St Emiliana of Rome

Pray for the Sick:

Please remember& pray those who are sick: Brendan Fowler, Wilson Watts, Kristen Pickford, Devin McClaren, Brian Wain, Mary Hickey, Bernd Menz, Shirley Rohan and Peter Karlsen.

Recent Death: Ian McInnes

Anniversaries:

We pray for those who died recently & those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Theresa Russell, Christopher Fay, Owen Evans, Charlie Absalom, Betty Eccles, Mildred Lourey, Alice Bloom, Margaret Gavin.

Please consider making your Planned Giving contributions and Sunday collections via bank transfers. This will help running the parish which still needs to cover its costs while the current situation continues. **Parish bank details:** BSB: 083-561 Acct No: 51-571-8126 (Envelopes). **Presbytery:** BSB: 083-561 Acct No: 51-571-8142. Thank you.

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.

4th Sunday of Advent, Year A. 18/12/2022

Christmas Mass Times: 2022

Saturday Vigil 6:00 p.m. Timboon, Vigil 6:00 p.m. Cobden,

Vigil 8:00 p.m. Camperdown,

Sunday, Christmas Day Mass 8:30 a.m. Lismore.

THE SEASON OF ADVENT

The time of Advent is the four-week period of preparation for the season of Christmas. Advent begins the cycle of the Liturgical Year and focuses on the coming of the Lord. The first weeks offer a vision of the future, looking to the end of time when Christ will come again. The final weeks point more specifically to the birth of Christ. Christ, the promised one, is awaited with joyful expectation. The First Sunday of Advent follows the final Sunday of Ordinary Time and the season concludes on Christmas Eve.

Advent Resources

Resources to assist with the celebration of Advent 2022 are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/liturgy-sacraments/liturgy-resources/> Resources available include the Advent Stations of the Cross, prayers of the faithful for each week of advent and other prayer resources.

Last weekend's Collection:

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance & support. Last week you generously gave to the Parish \$570.00 & Presbytery \$683.50. God bless you and keep you all safe in His Care.

Collection for Catholic Mission: \$832.45. Thank you for your generous support for Catholic Mission.

St Vincent de Paul Cobden Christmas Giving Tree:

Please support the Cobden Community Christmas Appeal. Thank you.

Planned Giving Program.

The current Planned Giving Program will finish at the end of this month. Thank you to those that have contributed to this program for the last three years. Next weekend we will need to re pledge our new contribution for the next three years. Pledge forms will be available in the foyer.

Please take one with you and return the completed form next weekend. Contributions can be made weekly, monthly, quarterly, half yearly, yearly or by direct debit. Please consider your contribution as the parish expenses keep rising like our own home expenses. Ongoing maintenance is necessary for the comfort and safety of all parishioners. **The future financial viability of the parish depends on the generosity of all**

Parishioners. Thankyou.

Tony. Planned Giving Co Ordinator.

The Christmas Appeal 2022: Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance.

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.

Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat

There would be a second collection for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal on our Christmas celebration. Thank you

Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study

The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is a new initiative to offer adult religious education and faith formation anytime and anywhere. This low-cost (\$50usd) online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parishes is available through our partner, Dayton University. The first Cycle for 2023 begins 9th January. There are 36 subjects to choose from – find one that interests you! Registrations are open now. More information is available on the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/pastoral/pastoral-ministry/lay-pastoral-ministry-program/> or ph. 5337 7121.

Share joy this Christmas with a gift that can change a life

Global Gifts are Caritas Australia's charitable Christmas cards. The funds raised from these cards go towards supporting vulnerable communities around the globe, including right here in Australia. Whether you purchase your Global Gift for a family member, friend or colleague, each gift reflects real items that will help assist the world's most vulnerable people in their fight against poverty and injustice. Gifts of Education. Gifts of Health. Gifts of Empowerment. The beauty of these Global Gifts is that they bring joy to their recipient and provide someone in need the chance to build a better future. This Christmas please consider buying a gift that changes lives. Visit www.globalgifts.org.au or call 1800 024 413 toll free to browse the range.

We are a Child-safe, Welcoming and Environmentally-friendly Parish

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal

Aussie families are struggling to survive the increasing cost-of-living pressures this Christmas. Your generosity can provide urgent relief for a family who's doing it tough this Christmas and give them hope for a better future. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/christmas-appeal>

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Is 7:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The virgin will conceive.

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No', Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.'

Then Isaiah said:

'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too?

The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign.

It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:1-6. R. see vv 7. 10

(R.) *Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.*

1. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. (R.)
2. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. (R.)
3. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob. (R.)

Second Reading: Rom 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ, a descendant of David, is the Son of God.

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures.

This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

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

Gospel Acclamation: (*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation*) Mt 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mt 1:18-24

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus was born of Mary, the betrothed of Joseph, a son of David.

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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

REFLECTION by Diane Bergant CSA

Despite all of the excitement associated with eschatological fulfilment, despite all of the assurance we have that it will be an experience of peace and abundant life, the mystery for which we long requires the risk of faith. Despite all of the times that we have celebrated the Nativity, we still do not have full comprehension and understanding. Still we are invited to enter deeply into the event that is before us. Will we step into a life of deeper faith and commitment, or will we merely participate in the external celebration of the feast? Only we can decide, and only we will really know the decision that we make.

The circumstances of our lives influence the way we live out our faith. As Christians, we are called to devote ourselves to the service of Christ. Our primary commitment must be to Christ and to the way of being human that he has shown us. We must be committed to what enriches life and not to what diminishes it. We must be committed to the good of people and not to the hoarding of things. We may not be official heralds of the gospel, but we proclaim our faith in the way we live our lives, in the kindness with which we treat others, in honesty of our business transactions. We proclaim the gospel when we stand for justice, when we forgive those who have offended us, when we show compassion to those who suffer. As we step into the eschatological age, we are called to recommit ourselves to genuine Christian living.

18-December-2022 4th Sunday Advent	Reader	P.O.F.	Offertory	E/Minister
6.30pm: Cobden	J Dwyer	P Dwyer		
9 a.m. Lismore	S Bialek	S McLeod		A Coutts
11am: Camperdown	M Smart	C McCarthy		R Henry
Counting Team: M, J & P Conheady	Altar Camperdown: No flowers			
Church Cleaning: R Henry	Altar Cobden: No flowers/KDMP			
Marian Statue: J Fry				

25-December-2022 Nativity of the Lord	Reader	P.O.F.	Offertory	E/Minister
6:00 p.m: Cobden Christmas Eve	G Gleeson	K Daffy	Noy Family	J Blair
8.00pm: Camperdown	R Henry	P Conheady	Conheady Family	H Seuren H Hickey
8:30 a.m: Lismore	S McLeod	A Mahony		
Counting Team: R & A Gardner	Altar Camperdown: R Henry A Cunningham			
Church Cleaning: B Hewitt	Altar Cobden: K Daffy M Pekin			
Marian Statue: B Hewitt				

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