

## Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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**WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .**



In today's gospel it seems Jesus is asking too much of us! Following the commandments is not enough. We must also avoid anger, abusive language, lustful thoughts, and not take oaths of any kind! Even calling someone a 'fool' or 'renegade' is an offence. But is Jesus actually asking us to follow an impossible set of commandments ... or is he doing something else?

First, we need to note Jesus' statement in Matthew's Gospel: *"I have not come to abolish the law or the prophets, but to complete them"*. The community of disciples Jesus is addressing are all Jews who show great respect for the Law. The pharisees, in particular, are suspicious of Jesus because he doesn't speak much about major Jewish rules such as circumcision, food laws or Sabbath requirements. At times, they think, Jesus even acts against them!

However, Jesus is not interested in debating them about any particular law. Instead, he challenges their inadequate, superficial – at times hypocritical – thinking that assumes God's favour is won by following the letter of the Law.

In fact, Jesus says the Law does not go far enough unless it highlights love of God and neighbour. So, Jesus reinterprets the Law according to the spirit of the Beatitudes: *"Blessed are the pure in heart; blessed are the poor in spirit; blessed are the merciful; blessed are the peacemakers"*.

But, who among us can claim to be these perfect "Beatitude people"? We are still left with this problem of what seems to be the "impossibility of the gospel" captured in Jesus' statement: *"You must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect"*. Now, Jesus is not naïve. He is perfectly aware that none of us – scribes, pharisees or his own disciples – is able to claim this degree of spiritual conversion to the law of love. So, do we just wash our hands, shrug our shoulders and carry on as before?

Or do we take the second option of turning to the God of love and mercy who challenges us to change our ways, forgives our failures, and assists us to become more effective "gospel people"? To be a gospel person is to be on a journey. This call to deepening conversion is not only needed in the current world of geo-politics; it is also needed in our own Christian communities.

Let us together look to God's revelation in Jesus and the Scriptures so wonderfully summarized in today's reading from St Paul: *"The things no eye has seen, no ear has heard, things beyond the human mind, all that God has prepared for those who love him"*. The gospel is not impossible because it is the wisdom and work of God in process. As we continue on our life's journey, living and growing as gospel people, let us play our small but important role in bringing the gospel to birth in our families, communities and world.

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**Our Sick:** Pat Thornton, Catherine Marr

**Anniversaries In February:** Mary McMeel, Mary van Nieuwkerk, Walter Churchill, Peter O'Connor, An Vogels, Nellie Kennedy, Jim McMeel, Pat Maslin, James Coleman, Joe Delaney, Nell Pekin, Susan Boyle, Frances Hammett, Carmel O'Connor, John Fowler, Graeme Bell, Peter Crowe, Ceily Plozza, John Vogels, Eileen Maguire, Nora Townsend

**Recent Death:** Maureen Isobel Younis



### Advance Notice

**Rite of Election 2023:** Saturday, February 25, 2023 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

**Mass of the Oils 2023:** Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall. The Mass of the Oils will take place on Monday, April 3, 2023. Can you please advise if your catechumens and candidates would be available and/or willing to participate in this Mass.



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 12 Feb 2023

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A**

## **First Reading** Sir 15:15-20

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

*He never commanded anyone to be godless.*

If you wish, you can keep the commandments,  
to behave faithfully is within your power.  
He has set fire and water before you;  
put out your hand to whichever you prefer.  
Man has life and death before him;  
whichever a man likes better will be given him.  
For vast is the wisdom of the Lord;  
he is almighty and all-seeing.  
His eyes are on those who fear him,  
he notes every action of man.  
He never commanded anyone to be godless,  
he has given no one permission to sin.

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

## **Responsorial Psalm** Ps 118:1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. R. v.1

**(R.)** Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

1. They are happy whose life is blameless,  
who follow God's law!  
They are happy those who do his will,  
seeking him with all their hearts. **(R.)**
2. You have laid down your precepts  
to be obeyed with care.  
May my footsteps be firm  
to obey your statutes. **(R.)**
3. Bless your servant and I shall live  
and obey your word.  
Open my eyes that I may consider  
the wonders of your law. **(R.)**
4. Teach me the demands of your statutes  
and I will keep them to the end.  
Train me to observe your law,  
to keep it with my heart. **(R.)**

## **Second Reading** 1 Cor 2:6-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

*God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began.*

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him.



These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

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

### **Gospel Acclamation** See Mt 11:25

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;  
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

Alleluia!

### **Gospel** Mt 5:17-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

*Such was said to your ancestors; but I am speaking to you.*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven.

'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court; if a man calls his brother "Fool" he will answer for it before the Sanhedrin; and if a man calls him "Renegade" he will answer for it in hell fire. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell.

'It has also been said: Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a writ of dismissal. But I say this to you: everyone who divorces his wife, except for the case of fornication, makes her an adulteress; and anyone who marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

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

**Project Compassion Sunday: February 19, 2023:** Bishop Paul Bird CSsR will launch Project Compassion on Sunday, February 19, 2023 during Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat.

**Round Table Ecological Theology Sessions:** The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation. For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. A new series of six sessions begins on Wednesday, February 22 (1-3pm or 7-9pm) at Mercy Centre, 16 Gent St. Ballarat East. Then (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). For more info please send your mobile number and email to Sr. Veronica on [veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au](mailto:veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au)

**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program – Online Study:** The Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation is an 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 next Cycle for 2023 begins 27th February. There are 38 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 email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au) or ph. 5337 7121.

### 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](http://www.thepopevideo.org).

**Pope's intention for February :-** In February, we pray with Pope Francis that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need .

**The Bishops Commission for Evangelization, Laity and Ministry** is inviting Catholics to register for an online national sports consultation to be held on February 28. The consultation will include a keynote address from Santiago Pérez de Camino, head of the Church and Sport Office in the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

### Lenten Program Books

Contact Katrina Currell if you wish to order a booklet. The order will be placed soon.

| Timboon 2023 | 12th February 9:00 a.m.<br>Assembly W&C | 19th February 9:00am<br>Mass | 26th February 9:00a.m.<br>Assembly W&C |
|--------------|---|------------------------------|--|
| Welcome      | L Tregaea                               | L Tregaea                    | N McKinnon                             |
| Leaders      | J McInerney R Hoffmann                  |                              | A Vogels,                              |
| Statue       | M Moloney                               | G Vogels A Vogels            | G Townsend                             |
| Reader       | N McKinnon                              | L McInerney                  | N McKinnon                             |
| POF          | E Roberts                               | J McInerney                  | R Hoffmann                             |
| E.M.H.C.     | A McMeel                                |                              | C Bullen                               |
| Bulletin     | P Nicholson M Moloney                   | P Nicholson M Moloney        | P Nicholson M Moloney                  |
| Slides       | K Currell                               | K Currell                    | K Currell                              |
| Cleaners     |   |                              |  |
| Simpson      | Assembly W&C 9:00am                     | Closed                       | Assembly W&C 9:00am                    |