

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .



One of the most memorable animated movies in recent times is "Frozen." This hit Disney film, which had the song, "Let it Go," tells the story of two sisters, Anna and Elsa.

The elder sister, Elsa, struggles to discover who she really is. After accidentally injuring her sister with her magical powers, she escapes to the icy far north. However, her younger sister, Anna, cannot let Elsa go and goes in search of her.

Anna finds companions along the way – Kristoff, Olaf and the reindeer Sven – who help her to win Elsa back. Elsa repeatedly spurns Anna and her attempts to reach out, but the younger sister's determination to restore the relationship, even to the point of sacrificing herself, eventually leads to a happy reunion.

The determination of the younger sister to fight for the relationship resonates with the message of today's gospel according to Matthew. Jesus explains the importance of trying three times to restore and rebuild the relationship with the person who has done something wrong: First time, go it alone to have it out with them; the second time, bring one or two others; and finally bring everyone to try to win the person back.

The number three in the bible symbolises completeness, wholeness and perfection. By mentioning three times, perhaps Jesus is saying to keep trying until it's totally hopeless. In spite of trying everything humanly possible, and if there is still no change and the person persists in refusing to listen, Jesus says to then treat the person as you would a Gentile or a tax collector, in other words, an outsider, at least on a temporary basis.

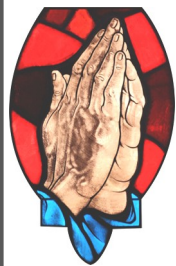
But remember that, earlier in the same gospel, Jesus calls upon a person named Matthew, who is a tax collector, to be one of his disciples. This reveals that, while there are limitations to our own human attempts to restore relationships, no such limitations exist for God, for whom no one is out of reach. God will not ever stop inviting and receiving a person back into the fullness of his/her relationship with God.

The lyrics at the ending of "Let it Go" are: "Let the storm rage on, the cold never bothered me anyway." Sadly, unlike the movie, in real life there are no fairy tale endings and broken relationships are part and parcel of many people's lives.

When relationships are broken, there is often anger, resentment, pain and grief. There can also be feelings of loneliness and isolation and a sense of being left out in the cold. But God wants us to be in loving relationship with one another and with God everyday of our lives. Whatever the difficulties and disappointments we face in life, all we can do is to keep doing our best, knowing and trusting that God will never give up on us and will always be with us.

Mark Chia CSsR

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Our Sick: Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Mary Dillon, Carmel Densley

Anniversaries In September Jeanette Gale, Leo O'Connor, Harriette Conheady, Leo Couch, Jeff Haugh, Jeffrey Arnold, Father Claridge, Father Bob Markey, Mavis Couch, Martin Barake, Denise Savage, Jan Van Es, Noel Haugh, Janet Edmondson, Paul Brick, Mick Dillon, Steven Saliba, Mavis Couch

Recent Deaths: Ron Smith, Kevin Baxter, Bert Pepperkamp, Peter Davison (son of Jessie Davison)



Wednesday 27th September , graveside service for Peter Davison at Scott's Creek Cemetery at 12:00 p.m. with lunch afterwards. Open invitation to all.

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



LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 10th September

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading

Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

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

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. **(R.)**
2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. **(R.)**
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **(R.)**

Second Reading

Romans 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

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

Gospel Acclamation

(Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation) 2 Corinthians 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God was in Christ, to reconcile the world to himself;
and the Good News of reconciliation he has entrusted to us.

Alleluia!



Gospel

Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.'

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord... **Thanks be to God.**

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

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Boundaries and Juries Our Lord acknowledged that the community he was establishing had to set boundaries. Who is to decide who is within or outside those boundaries? In today's Gospel, Our Lord teaches that a nuanced step by step process should be invoked. First, there is private conversation, then slightly extended to bring in two or three others, then a sort of church community jury before a person is put beyond the pale. Our Lord promises to be with them to help guide their decision. We all know of marriages which are fractured and where one partner has found intimacy and security in a second (civil) marriage. Pope Francis has not suggested that the second marriage be regarded as valid. But he has suggested a process of discernment to allow a divorced person to receive 'the Eucharist . . . a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak.' Could a jury of ordinary Catholic lay people help make that discerning judgement, and then advise the Bishop as to the next step? We could pause for a moment to ponder the promise: 'Where two or three are gathered into my name, I am there with them.'

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Project Compassion 2024 Thank you for your continued support of Project Compassion. A reminder to please order your Project Compassion 2024 materials by the cut of date of September 30, 2023. If you choose not to reorder, the order requirements from this year will be sent. You can reorder through the website www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassionorderform or by the QR code sent to you by email or contact our Supporter Services team at Caritas Australia on 1800024413. *Jillian Hogbin, Diocesan Director Caritas*

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.



CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal

The CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal is held in August each year in partnership with parishes and is their major annual fundraiser. CatholicCare Victoria delivers programs and services to support families, children, young people and individuals to help everyone reach their full potential. The services include counselling and mental health services, specialised support for children and teens, refugee and asylum seeker help, pastoral care in hospitals and prisons, support for separating families, social housing and homelessness support. Please donate to the CatholicCare Victoria Sunday Appeal. Your support and generosity will help provide caring and compassionate support for struggling individuals and families in our community. You can donate online, ph. (03) 9287 5513 or scan or click the QR code for more information.

This weekend, the Catholic Church in Australia marks **Safeguarding Sunday**, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. Rebuilding trust and confidence in the Church requires constant work and vigilance. We recommit to cultural change that will help the Church be a place that builds and supports safe communities for all people.

You can find out more about the Church’s work in this area at:

www.catholic.au/s/article/safeguardingsunday2023

Season of Creation Resources 2023

Every year from September 1 - October 4, Catholic Earthcare Australia (Caritas and the Australian Bishops Conference) joins with Christian communities globally to celebrate the Season of Creation, to celebrate the gift of our common home. The theme for 2023 is “Let Justice and Peace Flow “, drawing on the river imagery of in Amos 5:24. It challenges us to act for ecological justice, creating change and speaking out with communities most impacted by rising sea levels, biodiversity loss and other consequences of climate change. The following resources for the Season of Creation are available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/welfare/catholic->

Praying with Pope Francis

The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) Praying each month ‘The Pope Video’ forms part of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network – view at www.thepopevideo.org.

Pope’s intention for September – For World Youth Day: Let us pray for those people on the margins of society in subhuman living conditions, that they may not be neglected by institutions and never be cast out.

It has been decided to re-introduce refreshments after Masses, please bring a plate to share.

Interested in helping at the Timboon Hospital, visiting the sick? This would require one visit a month, chatting with patients who do not have family or visitors.

More information: Patty Martin on 0400 533 734 or 5598 5495

Timboon 2023	10th September W&A 9:00am	17th September Mass 9:00 am	24th September W&A 9:00 a.m.
Welcome	L Tregua	A McMeel	N McKinnon
Leaders	E O’Connor A Vogels		P Nicholson C Bullen
Statue	C & P Martin	M Turner	T O’Connor E O’Connor
Reader	A Vogels	N McKinnon	G Vogels
POF	L McLnerney	P Nicholson	T O’Connor
E.M.H.C.	A McMeel		A Vogels
Bulletin	Denny Family	Denny Family	Denny Family
Slides	A Vogels	A Vogels	A Vogels
Simpson	Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.	Closed	