

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .



The rabbis in Jesus' time identified 613 commands (248 positive [you shall] and 365 negative [you shall not]) that were prescribed in the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. Given the impossible burden this posed, this prompted much argument as to which were the most important.

When, in the gospel today, the Pharisees, through a lawyer, ask Jesus which is the greatest commandment, they do it to trick him, knowing that he is unschooled in the intricacies of Jewish Law.

Jesus' reply is disarmingly simple and straightforward. Jesus is in no doubt about the first and greatest commandment. It is to love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. But Jesus immediately goes on to state that the second commandment is to love your neighbour. Notice that he distinguishes these two commands, but he does not separate them.

Indeed, he indicates that, in a sense, they constitute a single command. His point is very clear: love of God and love of neighbour go hand in hand and, together, encapsulate what God requires of us.

But Jesus then adds a punch line that is a real challenge to his interlocutors: "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." In other words, these two commandments are not simply the greatest or the most important. But all other laws (those 613 or any others that might be promulgated) fall under these two. Those two commandments are the core. They are like the pillars from which all else hangs and to which all others must adhere.

Here then we come to the very heart of Jesus' teaching about how we are to live our lives and express our discipleship. It is love that is commanded of us as his followers. This love is to be expressed in mercy, compassion and forgiveness, in generosity of heart and magnanimity of spirit, in our individual lives and in our life together as a community.

The reading from the Book of Exodus puts before us some very concrete demands of love of neighbour: we are not to wrong or oppress a resident alien. This surely prompts us to reflect in particular on our response, individually and collectively, to refugees and asylum seekers.

We are also urged not to abuse any widow or orphan, nor the defenceless or the vulnerable, the poor or oppressed. To meet these very practical and concrete demands of love of neighbour is an essential aspect of our Christian lives.

Jesus' teaching is so very simple and yet so profoundly challenging. Just as he challenged his listeners then, he challenges us today to reflect on our behaviour in terms of our love of neighbour, and how we might do better, and on our love of God and how we might grow in loving God with all our heart, soul and mind.

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Our Sick: Fran Evans, Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Mary Dillon, Damian Brick, Carmel Densley

Anniversaries in October: Frank McKinnon, Gus Dickman, Edith Delahanty, Eileen Bartels, Sandra van Kempan, Ann Ryan, Greg Carey, Lucy Nicholson, Marilyn Vogels, Laurence Dillon, Johan Gagel, June Hunt, Jason McKenzie, Ken Berry, Joseph Pekin



"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 29th October

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

First Reading:

Exodus 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. (R.)
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. (R.)

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

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

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

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



Gospel Acclamation: *(Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation)*

John 14:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

All who love me will keep my words,
and my Father will love them and we will come to them.
Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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

Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal



An estimated 1 million people have been displaced in Gaza with immediate food, shelter, health and psychosocial needs. "This is a period of incredible turmoil and sadness. The escalation of violence has only exacerbated needs for the people in Gaza and West Bank, who already live in dire conditions. We are working with our partners on the ground to provide comprehensive and critical support to over 17,000 families affected by this



devastating conflict." Sally Thomas, Humanitarian Lead, Caritas Australia. With your support, there will be aid to help partners on the ground to assist people displaced and affected by the current conflict. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal - scan or click the QR code. Link: <https://www.caritas.org.au/donate/emergency-appeals/gaza-crisis/>

An Urgent Prayer for Peace

God of compassion, we turn to you with heavy hearts as we consider the needs of your family. Israelis and Palestinians, we are all your people, each of us loved by You and called to live in peace and justice.

We lament the dreadful loss of life, destruction of property and loss of human dignity.

We are pained by so much suffering. We beg you to bring healing to this ancient place. Help your people find a way forward.

Enable everyone to look each other in the eye, and embrace each other as sisters and brothers, as they find your image in every face.

We ask that courage and grace will help create a wiser and more gentle future, where everyone has a home.

God of wisdom, come to our aid. Amen.

By Michael McGirr / Caritas Australia

Invitation: On November 5th at 10.30 a.m. the Port Campbell Baptist Church will be having a celebration service for commencing Pastor James O'Brien and Associate Geoff Russell. An invitation is extended to local churches for anyone to attend.

Dear Friends,

Firstly, thank you to all who have sent through a donation to The Shared Table in the past few months. The ongoing support of contributors has enabled Fr Mick to plan for the future with confidence, address the educational needs of the children in Yanaoca following Covid lockdowns and continue to support the kitchens, vegetable gardens and other projects on the outskirts of Lima.

Secondly, I have attached Fr Mick's October newsletter. I am sure you enjoy catching up on his news. Many thanks for your continued support and God bless,
Helen McBrearty, The Shared Table

Remembrance Day and final viewing - Faith at War

The Ballarat Catholic Diocesan Commission archives currently displays an exhibition which explores



priests from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat who served during WWI, WWII, in Vietnam and Afghanistan. Priests that enlisted from the diocese could serve as Chaplains either in the Australian Army, Australian Royal Air Force or the Australian Royal Navy. Other priests worked at RAAF bases at Ballarat, Hamilton and Nhill where they served men and women working for the AIF. To commemorate Remembrance Day 2023, the "Faith at War" exhibit will remain on display until Monday, November 13, 2023. People wishing to visit the archives can by appointment only Monday to Friday. Alternatively, people can view the display online via the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/stewardship/diocesan-historical-commission/faith-at-war-and-the-priests-who-served-from-the-catholic-diocese-of-ballarat/>.

To visit the archives please contact the archivist by email archives@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Diocesan Business Manager Position:

The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat invites applications from appropriately qualified and experienced persons for the position of Diocesan Business Manager, who is responsible to the Bishop for the accounting and financial management of the various diocesan departments and commissions, investment and property management and advice to parishes, clergy and the Bishop on finance and administration matters. This is a full-time five year contract position (six month probationary period) with ongoing contract after review. Information about the position and how to apply can be accessed on the diocesan website at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/employment/> or by contacting the bishop's office at bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au or by phoning (03) 5337 7121. Queries can be directed to the Bishop's Office on 5337 7121. The closing date for applications is Friday, November 3, 2023 at 5.00pm.

Timboon 2023	29th October Mass 9:00 a.m.	5th November Closed	12th November Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.
Welcome	N McKinnon		G Vogels
Leaders			A Vogels J McInerney
Statue	P Haugh		G Delaney
Reader	L McInerney		P Nicholson
P.O.F.	K Currell		T O'Connor
E.M.H.C.			P Martin
Bulletin	G Swierczek	P Nicholson M Moloney	P Nicholson M Moloney
Slides	P Nicholson	A McMeel	A McMeel
Simpson	Closed	Mass 9:00 a.m.	