

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .



In preparation for the birth of Jesus, today we celebrate the Annunciation, the announcement to Mary that she is being invited to become the mother of the Saviour. Moreover, we hear the story in the Gospel of Luke who portrays Mary as a true believer and first disciple of Jesus. While Mary is not a disciple like the Twelve who accompany Jesus in his ministry, she is presented as the true disciple who hears the Word of God and acts upon it. Birth announcements play a significant role in the Hebrew Scriptures turning supposed barren wombs into surprising conceptions: Ishmael is born to Hagar; Isaac to Abraham and Sarah; John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth ["She who was thought to be barren is now in her sixth month!"]. Israel's God is ever full of surprises!

The telling of the Annunciation story is also significant because it follows the pattern of the calling of the Jewish prophets (e.g., Moses and Jeremiah): there is a heavenly messenger or angel; the 'prophet' expresses fear but is told to not be afraid; God's intention is announced; objections are given; finally, a sign of divine power is presented.

Mary's objection to the idea of bearing a son is grounded in biological reality: "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel's answer is that the Holy Spirit will overshadow her and enable this 'miracle' to occur in the same manner the Spirit hovered over the waters at the origin of creation. This same Spirit was again present at the baptism and transfiguration of Jesus.

Mary's final response – "I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me" – is not an expression of passive servitude. Mary's fiat ('let it be done') demonstrates a conscious and active faith; and it shows an almost outrageous authority as she first questions the angel before making a decision that implies enormous risk and danger. After all, if the law of Deuteronomy was applied, as an unwed mother Mary could be stoned to death!

The birth of the Lord in human flesh coming into the world to deliver us from power and greed relies on this poor, peasant Jewish woman saying yes to God's invitation. Certainly, Mary's call is unique insofar as she alone is invited to conceive and deliver Jesus. Yet, like Mary, we are all called to give Jesus Christ in our own lives.

God's gracious care and desire to repair our lives and planet earth is occurring today. Do we have Mary's faith, hope and courage to say "Yes" to the divine invitation to be missionary disciples of Jesus in the way of Mary. Like Mary, we are all called to be prophets, people who denounce the world's injustices, and cry out to God to bring peace and reconciliation to all peoples. As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ may we, like Mary, learn to hear the Word of God and put it into practice.

Gerard Hall SM © Majellan Media 2023

Recently Deceased: Frances Kealy

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

Anniversaries in December: Brian Fleming, Enid Boyle, Shelia Freeman, Toni Lathouwers, Cyril Karo, Sister Christina Madden, Brian Parsons, Dennis O'Connor, Pat Bourke, Harold Craven, Ad Vogels, Ann Dodd, Theodora Vogels, Winnie O'Keefe, Darryn Tregea, Maggie Tregea, Terry McMeel, Reg McVilly, Lilian McCluskey, James McCluskey



Christmas Mass Times:

24th Sunday Vigil 6:00 pm at Timboon, Cobden Vigil – 6.00 pm and Camperdown Vigil – 8.00 pm.

25th Monday Christmas Day only at Lismore 8.30 am.

Reconciliation Rites: 17th of December at Timboon, 23rd of December at Cobden and 24th of December Lismore and Camperdown. The Reconciliation Rite will be held during the celebration of the weekend masses.

"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 24th December

4th Sunday in Advent Year B

First Reading: *Isaiah 62:11-12*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Your Saviour is born.

This the Lord proclaims
to the ends of the earth:

Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Look,
your savior comes,
the prize of his victory with him,
his trophies before him'.
They shall be called 'The Holy People',
'The Lord's Redeemed'.
And you shall be called 'The-sought-after',
'City-not-forsaken.'

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

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps 96:1. 6. 11-12*

(R.) A light will shine on us this day:
the Lord is born for us.

1. The Lord is king, let earth rejoice,
the many coastlands be glad.
The skies proclaim his justice;
all the peoples see his glory. **(R.)**
2. Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.
Rejoice, you just, in the Lord;
give glory to his holy name. **(R.)**

Second Reading: *Titus 3:4-7*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Titus

His own compassion saved us.

When the kindness and love of God our savior for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our savior. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

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

Gospel Acclamation: *(Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation)* *Luke 2:14*

Alleluia, alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth.

Alleluia!



Gospel: Luke 2:15-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

Now when the angels had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.' So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told.

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

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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/>

57th World Day of Peace – January 1, 2024

Pope Francis' message for the 57th World Day of Peace, "Artificial Intelligence and Peace" is available from <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20231208-messaggio-57giornatamondiale-pace2024.html>

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace: Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarrelling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

What do you get if you cross Santa with a detective? Santa Clues!!!

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Significant Catholic Person/People from your Parish

In preparation for the Ballarat Diocese's 150 year Anniversary in 2024, the anniversary committee for the Mass of the Oils are searching for 1 or 2 significant Catholics from your parish for a display to be presented in the Hall after the Mass of the Oils on Monday, March 25, 2024. This could be a well-known person who has achieved success in their chosen field or it could be someone who has left a legacy in your parish, as a benefactor, contributor or historian. Please provide names and supporting information and photo to jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au before February 5, 2024.

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.

Christmas Cards:

SVdP is selling nativity themed Christmas cards after Mass. Cards are \$2.50 for a pack of 5 cards. These can be ordered from Pat.

Vinnies Christmas Kindness Appeal

Aussie families are struggling with the escalating cost of living crisis 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. Scan or click the QR code to donate.



“Love Natural Resources” Did you know? Bees help pollinate flowers and food crops, which helps them grow. Bees are the MVPs of our ecosystem. Taking care of the plants and flowers in your garden helps the bees do their job.

Thank You to **Rosie Stansmore** of Peterborough for her donation of a toilet chair as an aid/ support.

Synthesis Report of the Synod, “A Synodal Church on Mission”

Members of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops adopted a Synthesis Report, “A Synodal Church on Mission.” This is not a final document but an instrument in the service of ongoing discernment. Read and/or download the report <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Synthesis-Report-Session-1-Oct-2024.pdf>.

Timboon 2023	24th December Christmas Eve	31st December Mass 9:00 a.m.	7th January Closed
Welcome	G Vogels	A McMeel	
Leaders			
Statue	T O' Connor E O' Connor	D Moloney M Moloney	
Reader	J McInerney	P Nicholson	
P.O.F.	E O' Connor	J McInerney	
E.M.H.C.	P Martin L McInerney		
Bulletin	Denny Family	Denny Family	G Swierczek
Slides	K Currell	K Currell	A Vogels
Simpson	Closed	Closed	Mass 9:00 a.m.