

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .



Many would have seen the 2016 movie, "Hidden Figures," which focused on the roles of three African American women mathematicians – Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson – who worked at NASA during the Mercury program. Few would have known how these three women played crucial roles in the success of John Glenn's historic spaceflight.

The film highlights their struggles against racial and gender discrimination while contributing significantly to the US space program during the early 1960s. It is a powerful portrayal of their achievements and the challenges they faced in a segregated society. In today's gospel, we encounter two other "hidden" women, whose contribution to the Jesus' story is often overlooked or underestimated.

Mary, Jesus' mother is well known; but her role is often glossed over with pious niceties and elevated titles, which tell us very little about her true strength of character. In the opening chapters of Luke, Mary accepts a divine call to be the mother of Jesus, embarks on perilous quests to fulfil that vocation, and embraces a challenging vision of a coming end time revolution when paupers will displace kings (Lk 1:2).

Similarly, the elderly widow and seer, Anna, appears exercising matriarchal privilege and prophetic authority. Luke tells us that for many decades she "never left the temple, where she worshiped with fasting and prayer night and day" (Lk 2:37). This description implies that her role as a prophetess involved both religious and political activity. It is significant that she carries out this role in the Temple, the Jewish centre not only of social, political, and religious life, but also end time expectations. Like Mary, Anna "began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were expecting the redemption of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:38).

Anna and Mary lived in a society with its own set of challenges and expectations. As wives and mothers, one would normally expect them to be portrayed as homemakers concerned with cooking, cleaning, clothing, and childrearing. In the first century, a Jewish woman could exercise considerable freedom in domestic affairs, including managing servants in larger households. In the absence of a male authority, either through the death of her husband or other factors, a woman could govern her own affairs.

But women did not normally exercise authority in the public sphere. Even the privileged wives, widows and daughters of nobles and powerful officials could only aspire to employing influence within their immediate circles of friends and family.

Anna's very public allegiance to her faith and Mary's heroic role in pursuing her vocation were remarkable acts that broke societal norms. Anna and Mary showed strength and resilience in the face of the ruling patriarchy, and, ultimately, had a substantial impact on the subsequent events of history.

Ian J Elmer© 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



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>

"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 31st December

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Year B



First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

Whoever fears the Lord honours his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children,
and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons.
Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins,
he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune.
Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own,
he shall be heard on the day when he prays.
Long life comes to him who honours his father,
he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord.
My son, support your father in his old age,
do not grieve him during his life.
Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy,
do not despise him in your health and strength;
for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten
but will serve as reparation for your sins.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 104:1-6. 8-9. R.vv.7.8

(R.) The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

1. Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
O sing to him, sing his praise;
tell all his wonderful works! **(R.)**
2. Be proud of his holy name,
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.
Consider the Lord and his strength;
constantly seek his face. **(R.)**
3. Remember the wonders he has done,
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.
O children of Abraham, his servant,
O sons of the Jacob he chose. **(R.)**
4. He remembers his covenant for ever,
his promise for a thousand generations,
the covenant he made with Abraham,
the oath he swore to Isaac. **(R.)**

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Concerning the Christian life in the world.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.



Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

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

Gospel Acclamation: (*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation*) **Colossians 3:15. 16**

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and the fullness of his message live within you.

Alleluia!

Gospel: **Luke 2:22-40**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

The child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom.

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master,
you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favor was with him.

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

Dear Parishioners, Visitors and Friends,

The joy we experience at Christmas is a unique experience. The family, friends and beloved ones come to gather for Christmas bring Joy and peace around the table at Christmas dinner and at home. This joy we experience at Christmas season should be part of our lifestyles to help people face difficult situations in life.

So, as we celebrate the birth of Christ this Christmas, let joy be born in our hearts not just this Christmas day, but the whole year; not just the whole year, but our whole lives. Let us inspire this world, that can seem so lost in darkness, with the light of Christ in the light of our joy. Let us welcome family and friends. Let us welcome strangers and travelers into our company and share our joy with them. We have to make room in our hearts; greet them with a welcoming smile and offering loving hospitality those like Mary and Joseph, who are seeking room in the inn. Let us not send them away to be born in a manger like the baby Jesus.

Let the joy of this celebration of Christmas fill us. Let the light of Christ into our lives and into our hearts that our hearts may grow “three sizes” this day and return to the joy of celebrating the Christmas today and every week of the year.

My thanks to all of you who have been faithful and dedicated parishioners, for all you do around the Church. It is with humble joy that I give thanks for the honor of serving as your Priest. Thank you for all your support and prayers. “for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the City of David a Savior. Fr. Neville.

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.



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.

Timboon 2023	31st December Mass 9:00 a.m.	7th January Closed	14th January Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.
Welcome	A McMeel		L Tregua
Leaders			R Hoffman J McInerney
Statue	D Moloney M Moloney		D Moloney M Moloney
Reader	P Nicholson		N McKinnon
P.O.F.	J McInerney		T O’ Connor
E.M.H.C.			L McInerney
Bulletin	Denny Family	G Swierczek	G Swierczek
Slides	K Currell	A Vogels	A Vogels
Simpson	Closed	Mass 9:00 a.m.	Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.