



St Patrick's Catholic Parish

Wall Street Camperdown, PO Box 64, Camperdown VIC 3260.

Ph: (03) 5593 1284 **Fax:** (03) 5593 2708 **Email:** camperdown@ballarat.catholic.org.au

St Patrick's Church
Camperdown

St Brendan's Church
67 Curdie St, Cobden

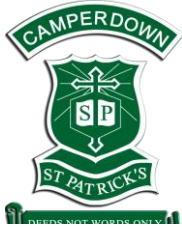
St John's Church
High St, Lismore

Parish Priest: Fr Neville Stanislaus

Parish Secretary: George Swierczek

Parish Child Safety Officer: Rose Henry, Ph: 0407 875 886

Phone: 0439 145 805



St Patrick's Primary School

Principal: Tim Bourke

Dimora Ave

Phone: 5593 1962

Mobile: 0438334077

email:

principal@spcamperdown.catholic.edu.au



Mercy Regional College

Principal: Sharon Gillett

Email: www.mercy.vic.edu.au

McAuley Campus

Camperdown - Phone: 5593 2011

O'Keeffe Campus

Noorat - Phone: 5592 5353

Dear Friends, We come across again the person of John the Baptist. He baptizes people in the Jordan River and he is a witness to Jesus. He reveals himself as the voice crying in the desert when pressed for his identity. His mission was to introduce Jesus to the people and not to identify himself. He wanted the people to recognize Jesus who was among them. John seems to be making a reference to a Jewish tradition according to which the Messiah will remain relatively obscure until the moment of his presentation to the people of Israel. John the Baptist's act of humility further increases the honour of the one who gives witness to Jesus of Nazareth.

Here John the Baptist testifies Jesus as the Master to whom he is unworthy to minister as a servant. He says: "the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie". He testifies not only with words but also with acts. He witnesses to the very end, up to the shedding of his blood. Our mission also is to witness Jesus, like John the Baptist. In following the examples of John the Baptist we have to witness Jesus not only with our words but also with our deeds. So let the Lord give us the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith like John the Baptist, so that we may witness Jesus to the very end even if we were to suffer any hardship or persecution. Neville



Saints and Feasts:

Mon- St Peter Truat

Tues- St Darius

Wed- St Dominic of Silos

Thu- St Peter Canisius

Fri- St Demetrius

Sat- St John of Kanty

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday: 6.30pm Cobden

Sunday: 9am 1st Sun. Simpson

9am 2nd/4th Sun. Lismore

9am 3rd/5th Sun. Timboon

(Lay led assembly will be held on the other weekends)

Next Weekend Masses

Sun: Cobden 6.00 pm

Timboon 6.00 pm

Camperdown 8.00 pm

Mon: Lismore 8.30 am

Next Weekend Readings:

2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16.

Romans 16:25-27. Luke 1:26-38

Pray for the Sick:

Please remember & pray those who are sick: Brendan Fowler, Wilson Watts, Kristen Pickford, Devin McKlaren, Brian Wain, Bernd Menz, Shirley Rohan, Peter Karlsen, and Shirley Fletcher

Recent Deaths & Anniversaries:

We pray for those who died recently & those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Christopher Fay, Betty Eccles, Sergio Sarto, Michael Molan, Eileen Clark, Theresa Russell, Owen Evans, Charlie Absalom.

Please consider making your Planned Giving contributions and Sunday collections via bank transfers. This will help running the parish which still needs to cover its costs while the current situation continues.

Parish bank details: BSB: 083-561 Acct No: 51-571-8126 (Envelopes).

Presbytery: BSB: 083-561 Acct No: 51-571-8142. Thank you.

We pray for all who are suffering and bereaved. At this time of sorrow, incomprehension, and tragedy, we stand together. In this crisis, we pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them. Amen.

3rd Sunday of Advent. Year B. 17/12/2023

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

Welcome and Thank you Fr Jim McKay for celebrating the weekend Masses in our parish. We appreciate your time and willingness to come and celebrate a mass with us. Thank you.

Christmas Mass Times:

24th Sunday Vigil 600 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.

Last weekend's Collection:

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance & support. Last weekend you generously gave to the Parish \$465.00 & Presbytery \$575.60. God bless you and keep you all safe in His Care.

Thank you for your generous support & care for the Parish.

Christmas Cards and Calendars: SVdP is selling nativity themed Christmas cards and Columban Calendars after Mass. Calendars are \$10 ea. Cards are \$2.50 for a pack of 5 cards.

Andrew O'Flynn for Camperdown Conference of SVdP

St Vincent de Paul Cobden Christmas Giving Tree: Please support the Cobden Community Christmas Appeal. Please pick up a card from the Christmas Tree in the church foyer and return the goods by 16th of December.

Lay Led Assembly Resources: Sunday Assembly of Word and Communion resources for Advent, the Christmas Season 2023 and Sundays 2-6 in Ordinary Time Year B 2024 have been emailed/mailed to contacts. Resource material is also available from the diocesan website members area.

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat - Significant Catholic 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 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. These people 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.

Pope's intention for December – For persons with disabilities: We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation. Lord, hear us.

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Journey with us this Advent

Caritas Australia's Advent resources invite participants to journey through the four weeks of Advent, reflecting on Scripture and sharing in the stories of our sisters and brothers around the world. Each resource explores Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love, with a special focus on justice and the idea of integral ecology that Pope Francis emphasises in *Laudato Si'* (2015) and *Laudate Deum* (2023). Visit www.caritas.org.au/advent

to find Advent resources tailored to primary schools and families, secondary schools and youth groups, and parishes and individuals.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2. 10-11

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I exult for joy in the Lord.

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak
of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels.

'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

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

Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50. 53-54. R. Is 61:10

(R.) **My soul rejoices in my God.**

1. My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)
2. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. (R.)
3. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

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

May you all be kept blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

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

Gospel Acclamation: (*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation*) Isaiah 61:1 (Lk 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:6-8. 19-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me.

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked, 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not,' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ**

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

St John's Gospel never calls John, 'the Baptist'. No, he is John the Witness: 'a witness to speak for the Light'. We discover in this Gospel that this light is embodied in Jesus Christ, most graphically portrayed in the Transfiguration when Christ's body is radiant, translucent, with Divine Light. Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the One who came to liberate human beings from the many dark captivities which imprison them, the One who vanquished the inky blackness of the tomb. We can become partakers in the life of this Divine Light. At baptism, this is symbolised by the lighting of a small candle from the great Easter candle which is sung into the church on the Easter Vigil as 'Christ our Light', the Conqueror of Death. As a baptised people our allegiance to 'The Light' is not to be a private matter between 'me and God'. No, like John, we must bear witness to 'The Light' by being instruments of His power to dispel the darkness which can enshroud people's lives. We could pause for a moment to commit ourselves to fulfil the promise of our baptismal candle so that we might more authentically celebrate the birth of the Divine Light come into human history.

17-December-2023	3rd Sunday of Advent	Reader	P.O.F.	E/Minister
6.30pm:	Cobden	G Gleeson	M McKenzie	N/A
11am:	Camperdown	J Saunders	A O'Flynn	S Grinter
Counting Team: M & K McKenzie			Altar Camperdown: L Hickey M Larkins	
Church Cleaning: N Powling			Altar Cobden: Kate Daffy	
Marian Statue: R & M Larkins				

24-December-2023	4th Sunday of Advent	Reader	P.O.F.	E/Minister
Cobden		P. Dwyer	B Hammond	N/A
Camperdown		R Henry	S Gillett	
Counting Team: M & K McKenzie			Altar Camperdown: D Daffy C McCarthy	
Church Cleaning: R Henry/A Wynd			Altar Cobden: Kate Daffy	
Marian Statue: M Macauley				

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We, the Parish community wish to pledge ourselves for our children's safety and well-being