



St Patrick's Catholic Parish

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

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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,

Today's gospel gives us the picture of the identity of Jesus. That gives us a fuller an answer to what child is this? The annunciation to Mary is the parallel story of the annunciation to Zechariah. There are similarities between the two annunciations, but there are differences too. These differences emphasize the total newness that God is bringing about in the conception of Jesus. The similarity would be that in both announcements the message was clear, 'for nothing will be impossible for God'. Both Mary and Elizabeth have understood this message and have accepted it with willingness.

In contrast to Elizabeth, Mary is not barren. Her child does not come into existence because of sterility. Rather, Mary is a virgin who has not known her partner. So her child is totally God's intervention. Hence John the Baptist is the answer to his aged parent's yearning for a child. But Mary does not yearn for a child, for she has not yet lived with her betrothed. The announcement of the Angel was a surprise call for Mary. The incarnation of Jesus is totally God's initiative, beyond human imagining. This is a mystery that we are going to celebrate at the feast of Christmas. Let us like Mary say 'yes' to God and live according to His Will. Hence let us the Lord to strengthen our faith like Mary so that we may be able to do the will of God and receive the blessing of Christmas – love, peace and joy in our life. - Neville



Saints and Feasts:

- Mon- Christmas Day
- Tues- St Stephens
- Wed- St John, Apostle
- Thu- Holy Innocents
- Fri- St Thomas a Becket
- Sat- St John Alcober

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

Sat: Cobden 6.30 pm

Sun: Timboon 9.00 am

Camperdown 11.00 am.

(Lay Assembly – Lismore)

Next Weekend Readings:

Sirach 3:2-6. 12-14. Colossians

3:12-21. Luke 2:22. 39-40.

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, Margaret Gavin, Alice Bloom, Gladys O'Neil, Kevin Code, Marie McKeown, James Hose, Tracey McLeod, Reginald White.

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.

Christmas Mass Times:

24th Sunday Christmas Eve: 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. Please put your name down if you are volunteering for reading and Eucharistic Minister for Christmas Celebration. Thanks.

4th Sunday of Advent. Year B. 24/12/2023

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

Welcome to our Parish Our Two Seminarians & a Newly Ordained Deacon: We congratulate Cay Trinh (Peter) for taking a big step to a Priesthood and wish him all the very best for his ministry.

We also welcome our two seminarians to our Parish as they enjoy their Christmas holiday with us. Let us read what they say about themselves. Thank you.

Who I Am: I am Simon Zakari, born into the family of Mr and Mrs Boniface Ibrahim Zakari, I am the fifth of nine children, five girls and four boys and the first among the males. I hail from *Adeh, Olamaboro* Local Government Area of Kogi State, Nigeria.

Education: I hold a bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology (In-view).

Contact with the Diocese: I first contacted the Diocese of Ballarat in 2018, after, five years of discernment, paperwork, and inquiry, I was admitted into the Diocese. I later obtained my Visa and enrolled for full-time studies/training for the priesthood at Catholic Theological College, Melbourne.

Long-time Goal: Becoming a Catholic Priest for the Diocese of Ballarat, Vic., Australia.

Hobbies: Listening to Sacred Music, Football, Making Friends, Travelling and Swimming.

My name is Channa Tilakarathna. I was born into a Catholic family in Sri Lanka and have two brothers and a sister. Unfortunately, my father passed away in 2008 when I was still young. I am a twin, and my twin brother is also a seminarian. My sister and younger brother are married and living in Sri Lanka and my brother is with my mother. Since a young age, I have felt a calling to become a priest and have pursued my studies in Philosophy. I studied up to the second year of Theology in Sri Lanka. In 2017, I applied to the Diocese of Ballarat and waited for almost six years to receive a response. Finally, in 2023, I joined the Corpus Christi College Seminary in Melbourne to start further formation for the Diocese of Ballarat. My preparation for the priesthood has been filled with both joyful and challenging moments, but I always emphasize the importance of my relationship with God. I would like to express my gratitude to all who have supported me and prayed for my journey.

Christmas Appeal 2023

Our Christmas Appeal is one way by which the diocese can respond to the many communities from near and far who turn to us for assistance. Often these requests come through people who have personal links with the Diocese of Ballarat.

I thank the diocese people for their support of last year's appeal.

In anticipation, I thank you for your co-operation in recommending the 2023 Christmas Appeal to the generosity of your parishioners and giving them the opportunity to make their contribution when convenient. I note that donations can now also be made directly via the "Parish Giving" link at the bottom of the Diocesan website home page. Click on "Parish Giving", select your Parish, then from the drop-down box "My Giving is For", select "Bishop's Christmas Appeal".

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+ **Paul Bird CSsR**, Bishop of Ballarat

Last weekend's Collection:

I would like to thank everyone for their assistance & support. Last weekend you generously gave to the Parish \$562.00 & Presbytery \$457.45. 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

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.

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.

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 is included below in the bulletin notices.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

A reading from the second book of Samuel

The kingdom of David will be established for ever in the sight of the Lord.

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent'. Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.'

But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan:

'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29. R. see v.2

(R.) For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' (R.)
3. He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure. (R.)

Second Reading: [Romans 16:25-27](#)

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

The mystery kept secret for endless ages is now revealed.

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only

what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Gospel Acclamation: (*Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation*) Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

You will conceive and bear a son.

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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

REFLECTION by Fr Michael Tate

St Luke's account of the Annunciation draws on the Jewish tradition describing creation: 'There was darkness over the deep and *God's Spirit hovered over the water*. God said: "Let there be light", and there was light.' (Genesis 1:2-3) St Luke depicts Mary hearing in the depths of her soul: 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow.' The Holy Spirit hovers over this young Jewish woman so that the most stupendously creative act in human history can take place. With her consent, God assumes human nature to be gradually enfleshed, embodied, in Mary's womb.

A naturally bewildered young woman was able to respond to God's will because she understood the imagery and the symbolism of the Genesis Story. We, in turn, need to read the Gospels in all their Jewishness so that we can understand when God's Holy Spirit hovers over our lives, asking us to fulfil some particular role in the Divine Plan. We could pause for a moment to ask whether *now* is the time for a Marian response: 'Be it done unto me according to your word.'

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	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				
31-December-2023	Holy Family	Reader	P.O.F.	E/Minister
6.30pm: Cobden		G Kelson	P Dwyer	N/A
11am: Camperdown		S Grinter	R Henry	H Seuren
Counting Team: A & N Powling			Altar Camperdown: S Swayn G Lucas	
Church Cleaning: C Walsh			Altar Cobden: Kate Daffy	
Marian Statue: M Russell				

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