

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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St Joseph's Timboon



St Andrew's Simpson

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH

We've all had to put up with boring speeches or sermons from time to time, whether it be from politicians, preachers, at school speech nights or the local service or sports club. Every now and then though we come across someone who really arrests our attention. It mightn't be only that he or she puts words together well; it's often a combination of that and something in the content that strikes a chord. Maybe we are even envious of the obvious gift that person has. This is surely how Jesus came across to those people in the synagogue. This was someone quite different; they had had their share of the run-of-the-mill scribes with their tired old platitudes. Here was someone who really meant what he said and was able to back it up with fearless engagement with a power from which they shrank in ignorance and doubt.

It is not without importance that this is the first public appearance of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. Over the next few weeks we will witness the popular acceptance of Jesus as he battles with a force that takes various forms – physical sickness, opposition from entrenched mindsets, the accusation of collusion with the enemy itself. This is the 'gospel', the good news that Jesus invites the people to accept readily by changing their lives.

The same 'gospel' is offered to us for we are dealing with a power that can change our lives, not merely a set of nice, pious sayings. Too often we reduce the gospels to that and so remain relatively unmoved by the dynamic challenge they contain.

As we know, in that society possession by 'unclean spirits' was a general term that covered all kinds of conditions for which we today have medical or social explanations and sophisticated labels. We can therefore approach these stories with a type of superiority as if they either don't occur anymore or are best left to experts to deal with. Yet isn't it true that all of us are 'possessed' in different ways by forces over which we have to admit to having little or no control? Some people are enslaved by addictions to drugs, alcohol, food, gambling and so on. Many of us suffer from more subtle addictions so that we don't even want to admit to ourselves, let alone to anyone else, that we are virtually powerless to control them. All of us know deep down that many of our habits and ways of dealing with others are so much a part of our make-up that we can do little to change them.

The people who acclaimed Jesus realised that he had something special that could influence them to change their lives. The authority and healing power of Jesus is present today in his body, the Church, through the Sacraments, but also in the love, care and compassion of every community of faith. We only have to look around us when we are gathered for the Eucharist to name it and accept it. It is when the Church is able to back up teaching and doctrine with the same concern for the troubled lives of ordinary people that it is most effective in continuing the mission of Jesus. That is why in the Gospels he is always accompanied by followers learning how to be genuine 'fishers of men'.

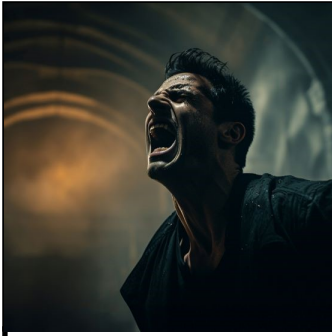
Father Chris Hope

Our Sick: Fran Evans, Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Damian Brick, Carmel Densley, Jean McMeel and Des Free.

Anniversaries in January: Vera Hickey, Madge Boyle, Bill Haig, Patrick F Nicholson, Greg O'Flynn, Peg Duffy, Laurie Loft, Nancy Nugent, Jim Rylance Snr, Brian Fleming, Patricia Gaut, Ann Dodd, Bob Maslin, Catherine Dendle, Gertruda Heyden, Frank Keegan, Anne van Duynhoven



"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 28th January 2024

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

First Reading:

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

I will put my words into the prophet's mouth, and he will tell them all I command.

Moses said to the people: 'Your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. "Do not let me hear again" you said "the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die"; and the Lord said to me, "All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.'"

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 94:1-2. 6-9. R. v.9

(R.) If today, you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)
2. Come in, let us kneel and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)
3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' (R.)

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

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

The unmarried woman dedicates herself to the things of the Lord, that she might be holy.

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

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

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

Matthew 4:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A people in darkness have seen a great light:
a radiant dawn shines on those lost in death. Alleluia!



Gospel:

Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is a new kind of teaching that speaks with authority.

Jesus and his followers went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the Sabbath came Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

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

In today's gospel, the Evangelist Mark, from whose gospel we will take the readings this year (Year B), tells us about the very beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Last week, we learnt of Jesus choosing his disciples. This week, Mark describes Jesus' first public action. In important ways, this portrayal of Jesus here at the outset of his public life encapsulates the key elements of Jesus' person and ministry that inform Mark's whole gospel. In this brief passage we learn two vital things about Jesus: he teaches with authority and he has power over evil.

In the first few verses, Jesus goes to the synagogue in Capernaum. He is, after all, a faithful Jew. It is the sabbath. And there he begins to teach. To the utter amazement of those in the synagogue – for no one knows Jesus, has heard of him or where he's from – he teaches with extraordinary authority.

But this puzzling thing is then followed by another astonishing thing: an exorcism, when Jesus commands and rebukes an unclean spirit to come out of an afflicted man; here too he demonstrates extraordinary authority. Even a demonic spirit obeys him.

In this way, Mark describes that, in his very first public appearance, Jesus teaches with authority and performs an exorcism with similar authority. The people perceive something radically new here, and there is something compelling about the congruence of Jesus' teaching and his actions. They exclaim: "What is this? A new teaching—with authority!"

It is interesting to note that it is the unclean spirit – not the synagogue goers – who actually recognises Jesus and calls him by his name: "Jesus of Nazareth . . . I know who you are, the Holy One of God." Notice too that the synagogue goers exclaim "*What* is this?" not "*Who* is this?" At the end of this gospel, the centurion will exclaim the truth Mark wants us to understand: "Truly this man was the Son of God."

So Jesus not only teaches with authority (and his listeners were clearly used to teachers who teach without authority), but what he teaches in word and in action is very clearly a NEW teaching!

His teaching is the good news of the coming of the Kingdom; his actions enact the good news he proclaims, demonstrating his power and authority.

As we go through this liturgical year, our readings from Mark's gospel will highlight these essential characteristics of Jesus' person and ministry: Jesus as teacher, who teaches with authority and whose teaching is the truth; and Jesus as victorious over the forces of evil and darkness, even death.

He is indeed the Holy One of God. Let us place our faith and trust in him, listen to him, and follow him. He doesn't promise that it will be easy, but he does promise that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

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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.

Pope's intention for January – For the gift of diversity: Let us pray that the Spirit helps us recognise the gifts of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

Advance Notice 2024

Rite of Election 2024: Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 12.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat. Lunch will follow in the Hall.

Mass of the Oils 2024: Monday, March 25, 2024 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 11.30am (please note change of time). Lunch and displays will follow in the Hall.

Word of God Sunday – February 4, 2024

The Church in Australia marks Word of God Sunday on February 4 this year. Resources to come.

Lenten Programme: Please make enquiries with Katrina Currell about this year's programme.

What is the difference between love and marriage — love is blind and marriage is an eye-opener! Majellan Media

Pope Francis has announced the start of a **Year of Prayer** in preparation for the Catholic Church's 2025 Jubilee Year. Source: CNA.

In his Angelus address (21st January 2024), the Pope said that a Year of Prayer starting 20th January 2024 will be "a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world".

"Dear brothers and sisters, the coming months will lead us to the opening of the Holy Door, with which we will begin the jubilee," Pope Francis said from the window of the Apostolic Palace.

"I ask you to intensify your prayer to prepare us to live this event of grace well and to experience the power of God's hope. That is why today we begin a Year of Prayer."

The Pope said that the Vatican's Dicastery for Evangelisation will publish resources to help Catholic communities to more fully participate in the Year of Prayer. The Holy See Press Office has also announced that a press conference on the Year of Prayer will take place on Tuesday.

Timboon 2024	28th January Assembly W&C 9:00	4th February Closed	11th February Assembly W&C 9:00
Welcome	A McMeel		A McMeel
Leaders	P Nicholson E O'Connor		C Bullen N McKinnon
Statue	G Townsend		G Delaney
Reader	R Hoffmann		J McInerney
P.O.F.	K Currell		L McInerney
E.M.H.C.	C Bullen		T O'Connor
Bulletin	G Swierczek	P Nicholson M Moloney	P Nicholson M Moloney
Slides	A Vogels	P Nicholson M Moloney	P Nicholson M Moloney
Simpson	Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.	Mass 9:00 a.m.	Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.