

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

Abraham is a problematic figure in the biblical story. He lies to Pharaoh about his wife, hanging her out to dry to protect his own skin. He does the same thing a few chapters later to another king, Abimelech. But when push comes to shove, at the moment of the test, he ... 'passed with flying colors' as we used to say in school.

Abraham was not perfect, but he did pass where Adam and Eve failed. The Parents of humanity were called to partnership with God in accomplishing his creation plan. They were given a privileged place of rule in the world; they named the animals; they were fruitful and multiplied. But when push came to shove, at the moment of the test, they took the fruit of the tree and ate it. They failed the test. The serpent deceived them, saying, in effect, that God, in forbidding them access to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, did not have their good in mind.

They needed to take for themselves the good thing that God held back from them. They decided to determine right and wrong for themselves. Taking the fruit was 'good in their own eyes'. They rejected the only possible path by which they—we—can find the fullness for which we were made.

That path is obedience to God's commands. In obedience we are liberated. To ride a bicycle you must *obey*, so to speak, the law of gravity. You must *trust* that collaborating with the bicycle's pedals, seat, and handlebars, and through them, the wheels, will work.

You must submit yourself to be free. Otherwise, you are going to get hurt. The price of being God's (GOD'S!) special collaborator in his creation project is obedience. Trust. We must trust that God has our good in mind, that our Creator is *supremely good*, even when—most especially when—we do not see *how* that can be the case.

Abraham is the Old Testament exemplar of obedience. He was put to the most difficult test imaginable. He trusted God's goodness even through the command to sacrifice his 'one and only son', Isaac. He trusted what God had *promised* him (through his numerous descendants all nations will be blessed) and what God *gifted* him to initiate the fulfillment of that promise (a son).

Obedience brings the blessing. For Abraham, this meant being the father of the people Israel, through whom, finally, the Messiah would come to bless all creation, to bring, in Jesus' words, *the kingdom of God*.

Beyond Abraham, the Messiah, Jesus, passed the test. That test reached its make-or-break moment in the Garden of Gethsemane, where he sweated drops of blood, bringing his fully human will to complete transparency with the divine will, obedience to the point of death, death on the cross. In that obedience, Christ Jesus won *the ultimate blessing* for himself, for humanity, for the world. And he makes us now his collaborators in the project.

W Chris Hackett

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

Recent Death: Brian Davison

Anniversaries in February: Mary McMeel, Mary van Nieuwkerk, Walter Churchill, Peter O'Connor, An Vogels, Nellie Kennedy, Jim McMeel, Pat Maslin, James Coleman, Joe Delaney, Nell Pekin, Susan Boyle, Frances Hammett, Carmel O'Connor, John Fowler, Graeme Bell, Peter Crowe, Ceily Plozza, John Vogels, Eileen Maguire, Nora Townsend



"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 25th February 2024

2nd Sunday of Lent Year B

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

A reading from the book of Genesis

The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham,' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of your enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

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

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 115:10, 15-19, R. 114:9

(R.) I will walk in the presence of the Lord
in the land of the living.

1. I trusted, even when I said:
'I am sorely afflicted.'
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:
I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

Second Reading: Romans 8:31-34

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God did not spare his own Son.

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

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



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

See Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard:
this is my beloved Son, hear him.
Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

This is my Son, the beloved; listen to him.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

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

Mission: Transform Lives - theirs...and yours



Palms Australia

Communities in Africa, Asia, Australia and the Pacific are looking for qualified and experienced Australians from ALL sectors to share their skills with those who have had little opportunity for formal training. You too will learn and grow within a most welcoming community. Experience the joy as you assist to change

lives. Bishop Paul has written a letter of endorsement for the work of Palms Australia. Learn more at <https://palms.org.au/> or ph. 02 9560 5333,

· Join the Mission Webinar on March 5, 2024, from 6.00pm – 6.30pm <https://palms.org.au/event/global-development-webinar/>

· Join the two-week tour to Timor-Leste on 06/05/2024 to see Palms program participants our local partner communities in action together <https://palms.org.au/encounters/timor-leste-cultural-encounter/>

World Day of Prayer 2024 – Friday, March 1, 2024

WDP is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women have prayed and reflected together over the past several years to respond to the invitation from the WDP International Committee in 2017 to write the 2024 program. The theme is "I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1-6. Our Christian sisters invite the global church to pray for peace, justice and freedom for every individual irrespective of nationality, religion or origins.

World Day of Prayer service:

St Jude's Anglican Church, 22 Barrett Street, Timboon



150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat

The Diocese of Ballarat will turn 150 on March 30, 2024. During this year there will be many events to acknowledge this significant anniversary. Keep up-to-date at the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/>

Logo: The logo for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat will feature on correspondence and events relating to the anniversary as well as on the candle and prayer card. It was prepared by a committee convened by Bishop Paul. The design incorporates the diocesan logo and the bough of a tree drawn by Sr Anne McMillan rsm in 1985. The words Anne had used with this drawing were, "If I keep a green bough in my heart, the singing bird will come". It is an old Chinese proverb, which could be interpreted as a reminder to keep hope alive and a call to open our hearts to all. The bough of a tree symbolises growth, interconnectedness and life. The leaves could symbolise the communities, the parishes, the people of the diocese.

Text: The text *Communities: Remember, Revitalize, Hope* reflects various aspects of the anniversary: The word "Community" highlights the fact that a diocese is essentially a community drawn together by Christ, a large community made up of many local communities. The word "Remember" refers us to the history of the diocese. In this remembering, we acknowledge the strengths and weaknesses of that history, celebrating the achievements and recognising the failures to live our Christian faith to the full. The word "Revitalize" calls us to invest ourselves in bringing new life to the community today. The word "Hope" encourages us to look forward to the future with confidence in God.

Scripture: The Scripture verse chosen for the 150th anniversary year reflects various elements of our vocation as a Christian community. "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*" (Romans 12:12). The words are drawn from a passage in St Paul's letter to the Romans in which the apostle lists qualities appropriate for a community inspired by Christ. As the years go by, the community experiences times of trial as well as times of gladness. Through it all, their trust in Christ makes them joyful in hope and patient in affliction. They recognise that they need God's help in all they do and so they are faithful in prayer, seeking God's help day by day.

Mass of the Oils livestream:

This year the Mass of the Oils will be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/SdivllKiHSs?feature=share>

Lent programmes: Timboon 10:30 a.m., Stations of the Cross 12:00 p.m. **Simpson** 11:00 a.m. 1st March.

Second Sunday of Lent 25th February

After the birth of her children, 22 year old Ronita was at risk of having to leave school permanently. But, with the support of Caritas Australia's partners in the Philippines, she resumed her studies and secured a job at a call centre to support her family. **Please donate to Project Compassion.**

Together, we can help vulnerable communities face their challenges today and build a better tomorrow **for all future generations.**

You can donate through Project Compassion donation boxes and envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion or by calling 1800 024 413.



Timboon 2024	25th February Assembly W&C 9:00	3rd March Closed	10th March Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.
Welcome	L Tregua		A McMeel
Leaders	R Hoffmann T O'Connor		J McInerney K Currell
Statue	C Martin P Martin		M Turner
Reader	N McKinnon		E O'Connor
P.O.F.	J McInerney		T O'Connor
E.M.H.C.	E O'Connor		P Martin
Bulletin	G Swierczek	Denny Family	Denny Family
Slides	A McMeel	P Nicholson	P Nicholson
Simpson	Assembly W&C 9:00	Mass 9:00 a.m.	Assembly W&C 9:00