

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

Parish Priest: Fr. Neville Stanislaus

Parish Secretary: George Swierczek 0439 145 805

31 Hamilton Street. PO Box 62, Timboon 3268

Phone: 5598 3193 Mobile: 0439 145 805

e-mail: timboon@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Ruth Hoffmann 0429 983 253

WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .



It's difficult not to make distinctions. Invariably, we favour some people over others. For example: we choose our friends, we choose a person to be our husband or wife, we choose 'sides' in disputes, we choose to avoid some people, and we choose to forgive some people and condemn others. In the second reading, St James calls on believers never to make distinctions or show favour on the basis of social class, wealth, position, status or power. Everyone is to be treated equally regardless of their social background, and when it comes to worship, there are to be no seats of honour set aside for VIPs! Everyone ought to feel equally welcome and valued.

St Paul has a similar vision. In his letter to the Galatians (3:28) he declares that in virtue of baptism, "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Jesus doesn't make distinctions based on social class. In fact, the gospels portray him as having particular concern for the poor, the outcast, the voiceless, the afflicted, the vulnerable and the weak. Today's gospel is a classic example. A deaf man with a speech impediment is brought to Jesus by his friends.

In such an oral and aural culture where people were generally illiterate, not to be able to speak or hear properly was a significant disadvantage. Such people were virtually invisible. They couldn't communicate, and they couldn't be communicated with, in any meaningful way. Thankfully, the man in the story is blessed to have caring friends who bring him to Jesus who has a reputation for giving new life. Jesus gives very personal attention to the man. He takes him away from the crowd, so that they can be alone. Although the man can't hear or speak, he *can* experience the sense of touch, and so Jesus touches his ears, puts his fingers into them, and touches the man's tongue with his own spittle. Jesus also looks up to heaven, in prayer, for it was Jesus' relationship with God that will bring new life to the man.

It's important to remember that the man was not a Jew. The Decapolis ("ten cities") was predominantly Gentile territory. But, there's no distinction here. Jesus is the Messiah for all nations. He saw a brother in need, and in solidarity, lovingly reached out to him. St James challenges us to 'look around' our faith community. Do we see any unhealthy favoritism? Are there people being forgotten, ignored or made to feel unwelcome? Are there voices not being heard? Are there people being discouraged from sharing their gifts and talents, or from becoming involved? Are people's contributions being devalued?

Hopefully, such things are not happening; however, it's important for us all to 'keep our eyes and ears open'.

David J Hore CSsR© Majellan Media 2024

Our Sick: Fran Evans, Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Damian Brick, Peter Brick.



Anniversaries in September : Jeanette Gale, Leo O'Connor, Harriette Conheady, Leo Couch, Jeff Haugh, Jeffrey Arnold, Father Claridge, Father Bob Markey, Mavis Couch, Martin Barake, Denise Savage, Jan van Es, Noel Haugh, Janet Edmondson, Paul Brick, Mick Dillon, Steven Saliba, Mavis Couch, Graham Cecil

Recently Deceased: Noreen O' Connor, Rikki Hintum, Pamela Parsons, Clair Ryan



"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 8th September 2024

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B

First Reading

Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.

Say to all faint hearts,
'Courage! Do not be afraid.

'Look, your God is coming,
vengeance is coming,
the retribution of God;
he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
the ears of the deaf unsealed,
then the lame shall leap like a deer
and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy;

for water gushes in the desert,
streams in the wasteland,
the scorched earth becomes a lake,
the parched land springs of water.

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

Responsorial Psalm:

(R.) Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. (R.)
2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bound down,
the Lord who loves the just,
the Lord, who protects the stranger. (R.)
3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan,
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. (R.)

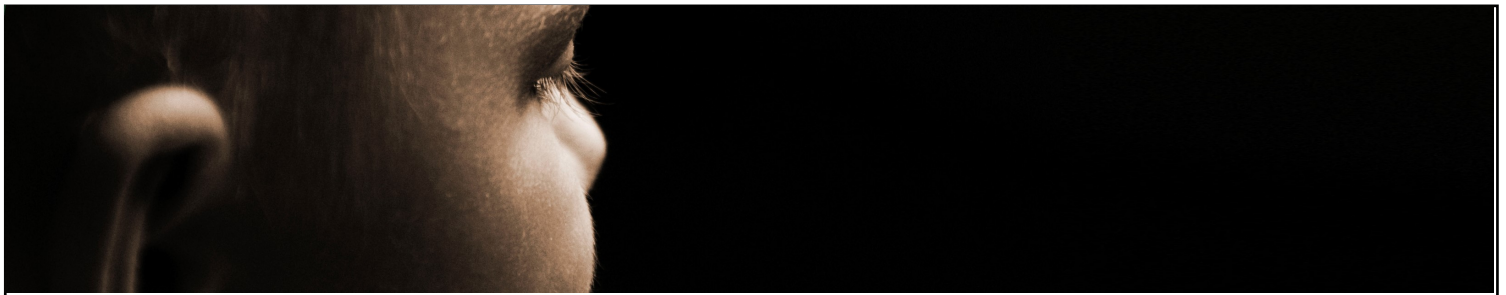
Second Reading:

James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James

Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you



take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

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

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

cf Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom
and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

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

Launch of the ACBC Social Justice Statement 2024-2025

The 2024-2025 Social Justice Statement, "Truth and Peace: A Gospel Word in a Violent World" will be launched by Bishop Vincent Lond OFM CONV and Associate Professor Joel Hodge on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes, St Paul's Catholic College Sports Hall from 10.00 – 12.00noon. To attend the launch please RSVP at <https://rb.gy/ewt929>. Recordings of the launch will be available following the event.



WINTER APPEAL – Dear parishioners, your conference is proud to represent Catholics in caring for the needy. To donate go to <https://donate.vinnies.org.au/appeals-vic> . Take care to write Cobden Simpson in the Comments/Conference Name box. Thank you. Pat



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.

For the cry of the earth: *Let us pray that each of us listen with our hearts to the cry of the Earth and of the victims of environmental disasters and the climate crisis, making a personal commitment to care for the world we inhabit. Lord, hear us.*

Formation in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024

In preparation for the Diocesan Assembly in November 2024, there will be formation sessions held around the diocese with a focus on leadership and governance. There is a flyer attached that you could display in your parish or add to your bulletin. The flyer is also available from the diocesan website

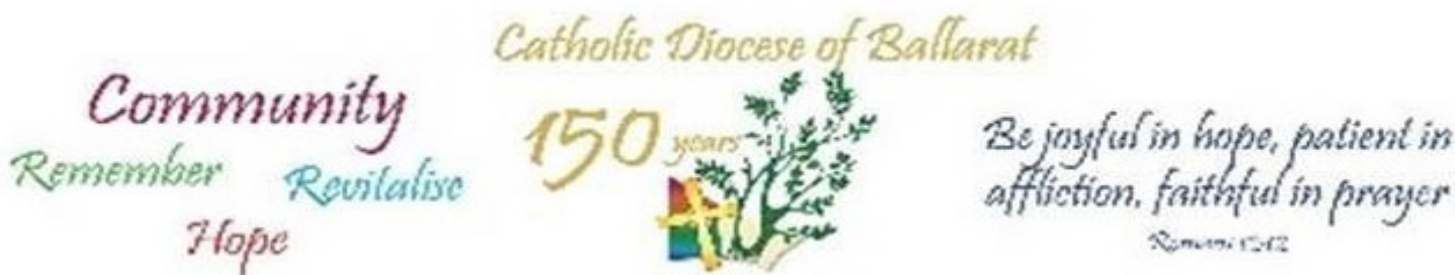
<https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/our-diocese/150th-anniversary-of-the-diocese-of-ballarat/>

Season of Creation 2024

The Season of Creation runs from September 1 – October 4, with the theme for 2024, "To hope and act with Creation". Resources are available from <https://seasonofcreation.org/>

Catholic Earthcare to host Season of Creation workshop in September

Caritas Australia's Catholic Earthcare team is inviting the Catholic community – including schools, parishes, diocese, organisations and religious orders – to join its 2024 Season of Creation convocation. Taking place from Thursday, September 12 to Saturday, September 14, the convocation will call participants to 'Wonder', 'Weave' and 'Heal' together. Attendees will enjoy keynote presentations, workshops, discussions and spiritual experiences, before gathering to transform learnings into action. Keynote speakers include Sr Anne-Maree O'Beirne RSM, Pedro Walpole and Sally Neaves. More information is available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/catholic-earthcare-to-host-season-of-creation-workshop-in-september/>



Timboon 2024	8th September 9:00 a.m. Assembly of W&C	15th September 9:00 a.m. Mass	22rd September 9:00 a.m. Assembly of W&C
Welcome	A McMeel	N McKinnon	G Vogels
Leaders	E O'Connor, P Nicholson		T O' Connor C Bullen
Statue	M Turner	B Moloney	T AO' Connor E O' Connor
Reader	T O'Connor	L McInerney	P Nicholson
P.O.F.	R Hoffmann	K Currell	J McInerney
E.M.H.C.	P Martin		E Roberts
Bulletin	Denny Family	Denny Family	Denny Family
Slides	A Vogels	A Vogels	A Vogels
Simpson	Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.	Closed	Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.