



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 .

Unlike the writers of the horoscope columns in our newspapers, these Wise Men were scholar astrologers, probably from Syria or Iraq. They believed that the stars controlled the destiny of human beings, but they were open enough to the Hebrew scriptures to be led to the amazing discovery of a star-child in Bethlehem.

They knelt before this baby, doing homage, because they realised that the stars did not control *this* infant, but that there was something of this baby which caused the night sky to respond! They preserved the child from the deadly schemes of Herod, and then they returned to their home country, 'by a different way'. They were on a different journey after encountering the Child.

Who can doubt that the Holy Spirit led these wise men from the East to the manger? In fact, the Holy Spirit is at work in every human being, prompting each and every one to become seekers after Truth.

As a person responds to this prompting and tries to lead a good humane life, then the Church teaches that the Holy Spirit can draw them into the saving life of God. Thus, billions in China and India who have never heard the Gospel, can be saved. But, such persons do not savour the fullness of Truth as we do with the privilege of having the scriptures and the sacraments. Where it is possible, we are obliged to offer them the road map to the Truth.

We can take a moment to affirm our faith in the baby in the manger as the One of whom Dante spoke: 'the Love which moves the sun and other stars'. Come, let us adore him...**Fr Michael Tate**

Dear Friends, Through this feast the Church proclaims the revelation of God to the whole world. God reveals and makes Himself accessible to all men and women. Everyone, without exception, can come to God anytime and anywhere. This feast invites us to reflect on two truths of life. First, life is a call. Everyone is called, no one is excluded. God wants all people to be saved and calls us from our old life of darkness of sin into a new life with Him. But if we, like the king of Herod, we hold on to power, comfort and convenience, prestige and popularity, we will turn a deaf ear to God's call.

Second one is, life is a journey to God. Who always makes it easy for us to find Him. God gives us directions but leaves us free to use these. God provides a star to light and guide our path to Him. Unfortunately, there are other "Stars" attractive and worldly like, power, wealth, success and popularity – that could lead us astray. These can cloud our vision and keep us from seeing the true star that leading us back to the heavenly Father. **-Neville**

Wishing our parishioners and visitors a New Year filled with faith in God's promises. May your faith in Jesus Christ keep you Strong, Healthy and Happy throughout the New Year.



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

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, Getruda Heyden, Frank Keegan, Anne van Duynhoven

Recently Deceased: Lucia Sinatore, Denis Monaghan brother of Fr John Monaghan, Richard Kealy, Bernard Dillon.



"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 5th January 2025

The Epiphany of the Lord Year C

First Reading: .

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The glory of the Lord shines upon you.

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,
though night still covers the earth
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises
and above you his glory appears.
The nations come to your light
and kings to your dawning brightness.

Lift up your eyes and look round:
all are assembling and coming towards you,
your sons from far away
and your daughters being tenderly carried.

At this sight you will grow radiant,
your heart throbbing and full;
since the riches of the sea will flow to you;
the wealth of the nations come to you;

camels in throngs will cover you,
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;
everyone in Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing the praise of the Lord.

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13, R. see v.11

(R.) Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

1. O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. (R.)
2. In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. (R.)
3. The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts
shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. (R.)
4. For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. (R.)



Second Reading: .

Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

The revelation means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body.

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Christ Jesus, through the gospel.

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

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

Matthew 2:2

Alleluia, alleluia!

We have seen his star in the East;
and have come to adore the Lord.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

We have come from the East to worship the king.

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him, 'for this is what the prophet wrote:

And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,
for out of you will come a leader
who will shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

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



2025 Columban Calendars \$10.00 Advent Reflection Booklets *Hope Reigns* \$6.00

Available from Katrina Currell

Collection 5th January 2025: There will be a follow-up collection for Father Neville following the Mass on the 5th January 2025 at 9:00 a.m. at St Andrew's Simpson



Laudato Si'



To ensure economic freedom from which all can effectively benefit, restraints occasionally have to be imposed on those possessing greater resources and financial power. (Laudato Si' 129)

reduce reuse recycle rethink repurpose

Pope Francis calls us to move towards “more sustainable lifestyles”.

Quote for January:

2025 promises to be an “annus mirabilis” (wonderful year) in the life of the Church. With a global Jubilee, the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'* and of *Laudato*

Si' Movement, the 800th anniversary of the Canticle of the Creatures and a momentous UN conference on climate change, this is a year for change. Without doubt, 2025 will be a grand adventure. Join us for these key moments along the journey. <https://laudatosimovement.org/news/2025-a-year-of-adventure/>

Make a new kind of New Year's resolution! Set aside time to pray about change(s) you feel called to explore in 2025 to support our planet and all life upon it. Perhaps devote time each day to noticing the natural world around you: the sky, clouds, bird song, moon or stars. Make a weekly visit to your local farmers' market adding seasonal items into your meals. Swap out something small: a traditional toothbrush for one made of recycled yogurt containers. Choose an environmentally themed book / blog / organisation each month on a topic that calls out to you to deepen your understanding of the positive impact that you can make. Enjoy, have fun, and thank you! “Environmental problems are caused by billions of small, unthinking actions. They'll be cured by billions of small, sensible actions, simple substitutions of environmentally conscious habits for thoughtless and wasteful ones.” Donella Meadows <https://stfrancisnyc.org/laudato-si-circle-at-st-francis-tips-to-care-for-our-world-2/>

Jubilee Year 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has declared a Jubilee Year of Hope in 2025, centred on the theme, “Pilgrims of Hope.” A Jubilee is a special year of grace and conversion, involving prayer, pilgrimage and sacramental repentance, held every 25 years, or during other years as called for by the Pope. Through a series of concrete rituals, acts and commitments, the goal of a Jubilee year is to inspire and encourage holiness of life among the faithful and therefore to strengthen the Church's witness to God's loving mercy in and for the world.

Pope Francis has written a prayer for the Jubilee Year. Prayers cards will be provided to parishes and schools in the new year.

Timboon 2025	5th January 2025 Closed	12th January 2025 Assembly W&C	19th January 2025 Mass 9:00 am.
Welcome		K Currell	A McMeel
Leaders		T O' Connor C Bullen	
Statue		K Currell	C Martin P Martin
Reader		P Nicholson	E O'Connor
P.O.F.		T O' Connor	R Hoffmann
E.M.H.C.		A McMeel	
Bulletin	G Swierczek	G Swierczek	G Swierczek
Slides	A Vogels	A Vogels	A Vogels
Simpson	Mass 9:00 a.m.	Assembly W&C 9:00 a.m.	Closed