

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH.



Our Sick: Fran Evans, Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Damian Brick, Marlene van Nieuwkerk

Anniversaries in April: Laurie Loft, Laurie Dwyer, George Farmer, Father Meredith Delehenty, Joan Rylance, Dos Haugh, Mick McMeel, Pat Warner, Pam Horan, Cis Roberts, Frank Johnston, Elli Howe, Patrick Delaney, John Hunt, Marie McMeel, Margaret Dillion, John McKenzie, Ross Powell, Andrew Powell, Mary Karo, Ian McKenzie, William Couch, Dewyn Bruce, Robert Delaney.



During Lent have we passed judgment on anyone? On social media say, which thrives on it, or at home, at work, perhaps in church, wherever we find ourselves. Often, we criticise others so we feel satisfied we're not like them, and as we do, we happily deflect attention from our own lives. During Lent have we passed judgment on anyone? On social media say, which thrives on it, or at home, at work, perhaps in church, wherever we find ourselves. Often, we criticise others so we feel satisfied we're not like them, and as we do, we happily deflect attention from our own lives.

However, in this week's gospel Jesus shines a light on the woman brought before him where he sits in the Temple teaching the people; on the scribes and Pharisees who want to trap him; and on us.

There's a lot riding on what Jesus says to the woman's accusers because they hope he condemns himself, whatever about her. She might soon be dead because the Law stipulated, she be killed for adultery, though it called for the man's death too, revealing that for her accusers she is simply a means to an end. Initially Jesus says nothing, so they persist with their questioning. Then he looks up and asks them to consider their own lives if they are to cast the first stone, turning the spotlight back on them: feeling exposed, they move silently away.

Jesus now speaks with her – he's the only one who does – and he doesn't condemn her, or excuse her, instead he offers her the possibility of a first step towards forgiveness. In doing so he reminds us that the naming of our sin and the experience of forgiveness will only happen where there is love, where we are accepted. As happened when a dying man was talking with a friend who often visited him in his flat.

At one point he said, 'Can I just tell you?' He was scared, afraid God wouldn't forgive him.

She replied: 'Why don't you say the names of people who hurt you and the people you hurt.'

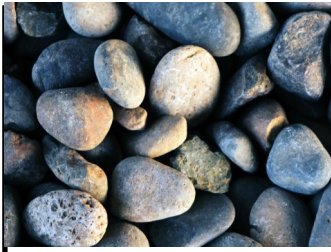
He started calling out names and after each one they said, 'Lord have mercy.' It's mercy we need, and like these friends we need to create spaces in our lives where it might happen.

With the woman in the gospel, we're invited to take a first step towards forgiveness, towards a renewed relationship with each other and with God; so that, no longer 'burdened by our persistent judgment, our constant exclusion and our withholding', we might take a first step towards the scribes and Pharisees too. For if we stop condemning her only to turn upon them, we have misunderstood Jesus, who doesn't condemn them. Instead, he encourages in us all, a change of heart.

We're invited to experience the joy of reconciliation in Lent; to experience a change of heart, so we might see a new deed come to light, a vision of new life, which the prophet Isaiah speaks of in the first reading. And this new life doesn't simply depend on our own effort, which Paul powerfully affirms in the second reading, but is God's gift to us, in Jesus: we have only to receive him into our lives.

Damian Coleridge © Majellan Media 2025

"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

6 April, 2025

5th Sunday Lent, Year C

First Reading: I

Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I am doing a new thing and I will give drink to my people.

Thus says the Lord,
who made a way through the sea,
a path in the great waters;
who put chariots and horse in the field
and a powerful army,
which lay there never to rise again,
snuffed out, put out like a wick:

No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.

The wild beasts will honour me,
jackals and ostriches,
because I am putting water in the wilderness
(rivers in the wild)
to give my chosen people drink.
The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.

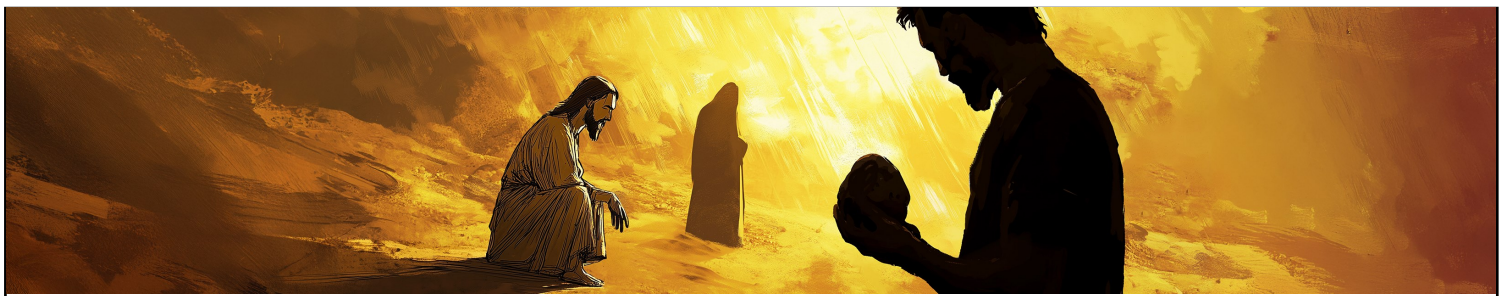
This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 125. R. v.3

(R.) The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy.

1. When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage,
it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
on our lips there were songs. **(R.)**
2. The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels
the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad. **(R.)**
3. Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage
as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears
will sing when they reap. **(R.)**
4. They go out, they go out, full of tears,
carrying seed for the sowing:
they come back, they come back, full of song,
carrying their sheaves. **(R.)**



Second Reading:

Philippians 3:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

Because of Christ I look upon everything else as useless in order to gain him.

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

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

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

Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
With all your heart turn to me,
for I am tender and compassionate.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel:

John 8:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Let the person without sin be the first to throw a stone.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them.

The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

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

Project Compassion 2025 Week 4: Unite against poverty this Lent

Thank you for supporting Caritas Australia's annual Project Compassion Appeal this Lent. The work of Caritas Australia is only possible with the dedication, passion and tenacity of their local partners who implement the programs. They are the heroes on the ground, working tirelessly behind-the-scenes every day to create a better future for their communities. This year's featured partners include Caritas Samoa in Samoa, Catholic Relief Services in Vietnam and Caritas Kongolo in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Please donate today: You can support Project Compassion 2025 through the donation boxes and envelopes, or by scanning or clicking on the QR code, or online at [caritas.org.au/project-compassion](https://www.caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling. 1800 024 413. Download the weekly reflection from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/project-compassion-2025/>

Holy Land Collection – Good Friday, April 18, 2025

The annual collection for the support of the church in the Holy Land will take place on Good Friday, April 18. Over the last five years the people of the Holy Land have had so much turmoil in their lives. We pray that the ceasefire in Palestine, Gaza and Israel will be honoured by all the leaders. Already the Christian church leaders are encouraging people to come back on pilgrimage. Pilgrims are vital because they generate income that allows care for the Holy Places (which also gives work to the local people), as well as running parishes, schools and caring for orphans, refugees, the homeless and more. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection will continue to support the works of the Holy Land through the generosity of the Australian Church. Your donation is a direct way to make a difference in the lives of people who are keeping alive the Christian presence in the land of Jesus, often in the face of great odds.

Masses over Easter:

Palm Sunday 13th April 9:00 a.m. at St Joseph's Timboon
Holy Thursday 17th April 5:00 p.m. at St Joseph's Timboon
Good Friday 18th April 3:00 p.m. at St Joseph's Timboon
Easter Vigil 19th April 5:00 p.m. at St Joseph's Timboon
Easter Sunday 20th April 11:00 a.m. at St Andrew's Simpson

Mass of the Oils 2025: All are welcome to attend the Mass of the Oils this year on Monday, April 14, 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 1.00pm. Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall. The Mass will also be livestreamed at <https://youtube.com/live/qUVA7OFoZ9c?feature=share>

If you would be interested in attending the Mass and collecting the Oils for the Parish, please ring the Parish number 0439 145 805 and advise. Thank you

Keyholders: Would those who have keys to the Churches and/or Presbyteries please advise the office as we are creating a register to contain this information. Thank you.

Timboon 2025	6th April Closed	13th April Assembly W&C 9:00am	19th April Easter Vigil 5:00 p.m.
Welcome		N McKinnon	G Vogels
Leaders		J McInerney P Nicholson	
Statue		C Martin P Martin	M Turner
Reader		R Hoffmann	J McInerney
P.O.F.		A Vogels	E O'Connor
E.M.H.C.		T O'Connor	
Bulletin	G Swierczek	G Swierczek	G Swierczek
Slides	A McMeel	A McMeel	A McMeel
Simpson	Mass 9.00 am	Assembly W&C 9:00am	20th April Mass 11:00a.m.