

## 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

The Old Testament Law existed to protect God's people from physical and moral hazards that could harm the whole community. The Law's emphasis on spiritual and bodily purity established how God's people could live together in a healthy relationship with God and each other.

And a leper was a danger to the whole community. While leprosy, more commonly known today as Hansen's disease, is still a highly contagious infection, in ancient times, it was incurable, and its diagnosis was virtually a death sentence.

The only thing a community could do to protect itself was to quarantine those infected permanently. As a result, lepers had to live outside walled cities, could no longer enter God's presence in the Temple and were forbidden to interact with the community. Even a chance encounter with a leper could make someone unclean.

To re-enter right relationship with God and the community, a leper would need to be healed and ceremonially purified. The process required a Temple priest to investigate a leper claiming to have been healed and then pronouncing them fit to re-enter contact with God and with other people. The healing of leprosy was so rare that many rabbis considered it akin to raising someone from the dead and the rare holiness of the healer.

The leper in today's gospel identifies Jesus as the one through whom the power of God is uniquely present. Instead of notifying Jesus of his condition by shouting "unclean, unclean" and avoiding contact with Jesus, as the Law demanded, the leper's plea of "If you wish, you can make me clean" shows his utter confidence in Jesus' power. And instead of avoiding the leper to preserve his cleanness, Jesus touches him. From the perspective of the leper, this may have been the first time another human being touched him in years. In this moment, Jesus restores both human and divine contact to the leper who had been cut off from both.

The response of Jesus to the leper is his response to all of us who have been devastated by the effects of sin, sickness, and death. Jesus is not disturbed, scandalised, or tainted by any human impurity. Instead, he restores in us the capacity for communion with God and others.

As St Paul reminds us, the true fulfilment of the Law, and the primary healing work of God, is cleanness from the disease of sin, which rots the inside of a person and prevents authentic communion. As Jesus says elsewhere in the gospels, "First clean the inside of the cup, so that the outside also may become clean."

Jesus' holiness goes beyond what the Temple priests could accomplish and what the Law of Moses could prescribe. Jesus can purge uncleanness from everyone who comes to him in faith since no defilement can touch him. Jesus does not just pronounce us clean, like the Temple priests could, but he makes the whole person clean, inside and out.

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**Our Sick:** Fran Evans, Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Damian 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 11th February 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

## First Reading:

Leviticus 13:1-2. 44-46

A reading from the book of Leviticus

*As long as he is unclean, he must live alone, outside the camp.*

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'If a swelling or scab or shiny spot appears on a man's skin, a case of leprosy of the skin is to be suspected. The man must be taken to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests who are his sons.

'The man is leprous: he is unclean. The priest must declare him unclean; he is suffering from leprosy of the head. A man infected with leprosy must wear his clothing torn and his hair disordered; he must shield his upper lip and cry, "Unclean, unclean". As long as the disease lasts he must be unclean; and therefore he must live apart; he must live outside the camp.'

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

## Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 31:1-2. 5. 11. R. v.7

(R.) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

1. Happy the man whose offence is forgiven,  
whose sin is remitted.  
O happy the man to whom the Lord  
imputes no guilt,  
in whose spirit is no guile. (R.)
2. But now I have acknowledged my sins;  
my guilt I did not hide.  
I said: 'I will confess  
my offence to the Lord.'  
And you, Lord, have forgiven  
the guilt of my sin. (R.)
3. Rejoice, rejoice in the Lord,  
exult, you just!  
O come, ring out your joy,  
all you upright of heart. (R.)

## Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1

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

*Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*

Whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do at all, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone – to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God; just as I try to be helpful to everyone at all times, not anxious for my own advantage but for the advantage of everybody else, so that they may be saved.

Take me for your model, as I take Christ.

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

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

Luke 7:16

Alleluia, alleluia!

A great prophet has appeared among us;

God has visited his people.

Alleluia!



## Gospel:

Mark 1:40-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

*The leprosy left him and he was cured.*

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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

### Notes about Holy Communion

Bishop Paul issued the following information for people of the diocese last year and this is still relevant:

*Now that the Covid pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice.*

*Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that Covid infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion.*

*I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.*

*In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.*

*May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another.*

*God bless you all. Bishop Paul*



### Project Compassion Sunday 10 & 11 February

Please take home a Project Compassion box or a set of donation envelopes to support Caritas Australia this Lenten season and help support vulnerable people around the world, now and **for all future generations**. With your support, Caritas Australia has been able to support vulnerable communities around the world to tackle poverty, food security, education, water and sanitation and disaster risk reduction to build a better future for all.

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](https://caritas.org.au/project-compassion) or by calling 1800 024 413.

**Ash Wednesday – 14<sup>th</sup> February Mass Times:** Cobden (Tuesday 13th) 6.00 pm.

14<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – 9.00 am, Timboon, 11.00 am Mass at St. Patrick’s Church at Camperdown with the St. Patricks Primary School’s staff and students.

**World Day of the Sick – Sunday, February 11, 2024:**

There are some media resources available for World Day of the Sick – Sunday, February 11, 2024 at <https://www.popesprayer.va/>. Resources for Australia will be published next week and will be available from the diocesan website.

**Prayer of the Faithful for World Day of the Sick:** We pray for the sick, the vulnerable and the poor. May they be at the heart of our human concern and pastoral attention. We pray to Mary Most Holy, that she may intercede for those most in need. Lord, hear us.

**OUR DIOCESAN COMMUNITY 2024:**

The Ballarat Diocesan print publication “Our Diocesan Community” (ODC), jointly sponsored by the Diocese and Catholic Education Ballarat, will again be published three times during 2024. Attached is the timeline of publication. The aim of “Our Diocesan Community” is to share the good news of the many initiatives taking place in our parishes, schools and agencies around the diocese. ODC is distributed to all parishes, and families and staff of primary and secondary schools of the diocese. Contributors to ODC are the people of the diocesan community. The only way we all will hear of the good things happening in the various communities is if they are written and contributed from the local level. It is helpful if we have an ODC contact person in each parish / school / agency to assist with the gathering of news and distribution of the magazine. If you are able to provide a contact person please email their contact details to [odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

We now invite your contribution to the first issue for 2024. The focus for this year will be the **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat** with the theme **Community – Remember, Revitalise & Hope** which reflects various aspects of the anniversary, along with the scripture passage, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (Romans 12:12) that considers diverse elements of our vocation as a Christian community. We look forward to you sharing your stories with these concepts in mind. We are hoping also to gather stories and examples of new initiatives and experiences in the Catholic community – schools, parishes and agencies from all around the diocese. We also invite you to share significant events that may have taken place over the last few months in your parish, school communities and agencies. We hope to have this first issue of “Our Diocesan Community” delivered in the week beginning March 25 so the latest date for submissions to this issue is Friday, February 23. Articles should be approximately 250 words maximum in length and accompanied by photos where possible. Photos should be sent as separate JPEG files (not inserted into a Word document). Material can be sent to [odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:odc@ballarat.catholic.org.au).

A reminder that when sending in photos, permission should be sought from those in the pictures. From time-to-time, these photos will also be used in other diocesan publications.

Kind regards

Julie & Jane

*for the ODC Editorial Committee*

**150<sup>th</sup> 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/>

Timboon 2024	11th February Assembly W&C 9:00	18th February Mass 9:00 a.m.	25th February Assembly W&C 9:00
Welcome	A McMeel	G Vogels	L Tregua
Leaders	C Bullen N McKinnon		R Hoffmann T O’Connor
Statue	G Delaney	K Currell	C Martin P Martin
Reader	J McInerney	L McInerney	N McKinnon
P.O.F.	L McInerney	A Vogels	J McInerney
E.M.H.C.	T O’Connor		E O’Connor
Bulletin	G Swierczek	G Swierczek	G Swierczek
Slides	A McMeel	A McMeel	A McMeel
Simpson	Assembly 9:00 a.m.	Closed	Assembly W&C 9:00