



Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson
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At the end of his gospel, Saint John reminds us that he has had to be selective in what he's told us, and that what he has recorded is there so that we might "believe that Jesus is the Christ", and that by believing, we might have life through his name. The story that John uses of the healing of a blind man is described in much more graphic detail than any accounts of similar cures in the gospels and is a perfect illustration of how John is seeking to ensure that we get the message in all its depth and complexity. The context is his recurring theme of Jesus as the light of the world. Blind people are in the dark and there are many people in this story who are in the dark.

To begin with, the disciples themselves are still burdened with the old notion that our infirmities must be the consequence of sin, either the blind man's sins or those of his parents. Jesus dispels this idea immediately and invites us to open our eyes to a much bigger picture in which we will see "the works of God" displayed. But Jesus is confronted with obstinacy on the part of the religious authorities and fear on the part of the man's parents. Accordingly, each of them is rendered blind, unable to see the truth before their very eyes.

One of the fascinating aspects of this story is that Jesus does not demand an act of faith from the man before he cures him; he simply asks him to co-operate by washing the paste from his eyes. Now this man becomes the vehicle through whom John will teach us in whom we should put our faith. After all the interrogations and investigations are over, Jesus seeks the man out and asks him if he believes in "the Son of Man"?

Assured by the Lord that he can now see him, the blind man has no hesitation in saying: "Lord, I believe," and then worships him. Later in the gospel, we see a comparable call to faith when Jesus confronts Martha after the death of her brother, Lazarus. "I am the resurrection ... Do you believe this?"

She replies: "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world."

The blind, like many others, were the outcasts at that time. Jesus had come to reach out to them and fulfil the message of the prophets: the outcasts would be cured and welcomed into the community at the expense of those who wielded power for their own ends. There are still many outcasts in our world today and it is the mission of the disciples of Jesus to speak out against the injustices that keep them imprisoned and to set them free so they can give glory to God.

Timothy J Buckley CSsR © Majellan Media 2023

Our Sick: Pat Thornton



Anniversaries In March: : Charles Boyle, Jeff Lathouwers, Michael Dodd, Matthew Delaney, Robert Maslin, Mary O'Keefe, Coleman O'Keefe, Brian Smith, Perc Roberts, Carmel O'Connor, Paul Couch, Geoff Gale, Martin Van Duynhoven, Park Conheady, Barry Risdale, Kathleen Noonan, Herman Dickmann, Albert Van Es, Rose McMeel, Maria Townsend, Frank Vogels, Riley Hutchinson, Mary Pouw, Jessie Giblett, Carmel Bruce. **Recent Death:** Greg McKenzie (Son-in-Law of Carmel Cecil, ex-Simpson)



"Our Parish Community wishes to respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live, work and worship Our God."

Advance Notice

Mass of the Oils 2023: Monday, April 3, 2023 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 6.30pm. Supper will follow in the Hall. The Mass of the Oils will take place on Monday, April 3, 2023. Can you please advise if your catechumens and candidates would be available and/or willing to participate in this Mass.



Sacramental Program 2023

Today Ester Couch will enroll to commence preparation for the Sacraments after Baptism. Over the next few weeks she will complete a series of lessons at home with her family. Please remember them in your prayers.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sunday 19th March 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent Year A



First Reading 1 Sm 16:1. 6-7. 10-13

A reading from the first book of Samuel

In the presence of the Lord God, they anointed David king of Israel.

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 22 R. v.1

(R.) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

1. The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit. **(R.)**
2. He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **(R.)**
3. You have prepared a banquet for me
In the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **(R.)**
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **(R.)**

Second Reading Eph 5:8-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said:

Wake up from your sleep,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.

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



Gospel Acclamation Jn 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel Jn 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The blind man went off and washed himself and came away with his sight restored.

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored.

His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.'

They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said, 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet' replied the man.

'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away.

Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him.' Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants.

God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

Many Samaritans of that town had believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony, so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; and they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the Saviour of the world.'

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

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World Youth Day will be held from 1-6 August, 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal. Anyone interested in attending can register with the Archdiocese of Melbourne to join with them in pilgrimages they have on offer. More information at <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/services-agencies-2/-adult-ministry/world-youth-day/>

We pray for all who are suffering and bereaved. At this time of sorrow, incomprehension, and tragedy, we stand together. In this crisis, we pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them. Amen.

Lenten Program Books

Contact Katrina Currell if you wish to order a booklet From ashes to Hope. \$5 each.

Round Table Ecological Theology Sessions: The recent Plenary Council committed the Catholic Church in Australia to developing and committing to a culture of life-long faith formation. For some years now, Fr. Barry Ryan and Sr. Veronica Lawson have been offering regular adult theology classes. A new series of six sessions begins on Wednesday, February 22 (1-3pm or 7-9pm) at Mercy Centre, 16 Gent St. Ballarat East. Then (March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26). For more info please send your mobile number and email to Sr. Veronica on veronica.lawson@mercy.org.au

Project Compassion Prayers of the Faithful

4th Week of Lent March 18/19: We pray for those who live in confusion and doubt. May we try to support positive approaches to even the most difficult problems, such as the partnerships created by Caritas Australia through Project Compassion.

Thu lost his leg after stepping on a land mine in Vietnam. With the support of the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development, Thu can now earn extra income and care for his wife as she recovers from a stroke.



Please donate to Project Compassion 2023.

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/envelopes available from your parish, by visiting caritas.org.au/project-compassion, or by calling 1800 024 413.

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.

Pope's intention for March :- In his prayer intention for March 2023, Pope Francis prays for victims of abuse, and says the Church must serve as a model of safeguarding and must offer safe spaces for victims.

The Bishops Commission for Evangelization, Laity and Ministry is inviting Catholics to register for an online national sports consultation to be held on February 28. The consultation will include a keynote address from Santiago Pérez de Camino, head of the Church and Sport Office in the Vatican's Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

Lenten Prayer Group Friday 10:30 a.m. During Lent
Stations of the Cross Friday 12:00 noon During Lent.

| Timboon 2023 | 19th March 9:00 a.m. Mass | 26th March 9:00a.m Assembly W&C | As- | 2nd April Closed |
|--------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Welcome | G Vogels | L Tregua | | |
| Leaders | | P Nicholson C Bullen | | |
| Statue | P Haugh | G Delaney | | |
| Reader | S Jayakody | E O' Connor | | |
| POF | A Vogels | T O' Connor | | |
| E.M.H.C. | | J McInerney | | |
| Bulletin | Denny Family | Denny Family | | G Swierczek |
| Slides | A McMeel | A McMeel | | A Vogels |
| Cleaners | | | | |
| Simpson | Closed | Assembly W&C 9:00am | | Mass 9:00am |