

Parish of Timboon

St Joseph's Timboon & St Andrew's Simpson

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WE ARE A CHILD SAFE PARISH .



The gospels are full of great stories; and this Sunday's extract is no exception. It all hinges on a "trick question". The Pharisees and Herodians attempt to tempt Jesus into committing a political *faux pas*.

The question they put to him – "is it lawful to pay the Census tax to Caesar or not?" – permits no "safe" answer. If Jesus answers "Yes, you should pay the tax," he could be condemned as a collaborator with the hated Roman occupation. If, however, he advocated that people avoid the tax, he could be denounced as anti-Roman.

Tax revolts against Rome were common. A large-scale one had taken place during Jesus' boyhood and had been crushed with typical Roman brutality.

Ironically, the Pharisees were not normally known for their cooperation with either the imperial authorities or their aristocratic collaborators. Yet they joined forces with the supporters of Herod against Jesus.

Jesus evades the question by posing his own riddle. He asks to see the coin that was used to pay the tax; most likely, the silver denarius of Tiberius. The denarius bears an idolatrous image of the Emperor Tiberius with the confronting inscription 'Tiberius Caesar, son of the Divine Augustus.'

The coin related to the pagan imperial cult in the East Empire and represented an affront to Jewish religious and political sensibilities. The ancient Jewish historian, Josephus proudly proclaimed that the Jewish citizens of Jerusalem preferred death to allowing Caesar's image to enter Jerusalem on standards (Antiquities of the Jews, 18.59). Yet Jesus finds some of Jerusalem's most respected citizens had the idolatrous images of Caesar.

Jesus asks, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?" When his opponents reply, "Caesar's," Jesus tells them to "repay to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what belongs to God."

By asking his interlocutors to produce the coin, Jesus forces them to admit that they kept such idolatrous objects on their person. Jesus is not advocating what today we would call "the separation of Church and State." Rather, Jesus is suggesting that Caesar's regime was a blasphemous nonsense, which God would one day overthrow and replace with a new kingdom.

Jesus' words remind us of those of an earlier Jewish revolutionary, Mattathias, who told his sons "Pay back to the Gentiles what is due to them and keep the law's commands" (1 Mc 2:68). Neither Jesus nor Mattathias were talking about money, but about personal integrity and fidelity.

The lesson in here is that we shouldn't allow ourselves to be tricked into thinking that any political party or regime can bring about justice and peace. A truly just society is one aligned to God which we have yet to achieve. So, until the kingdom comes, we are called to engage in the social and political realms as critics and agents for change, champions of justice and seekers for peace.

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Our Sick: Fran Evans, Pat Thornton, Hugo Reidl, Mary Dillon, Damian Brick, Carmel Densley

Anniversaries in October: Frank McKinnon, Gus Dickman, Edith Delahanty, Eileen Bartels, Sandra van Kempan, Ann Ryan, Greg Carey, Lucy Nicholson, Marilyn Vogels, Laurence Dillon, Johan Gagel, June Hunt, Jason McKenzie, Ken Berry, Joseph Pekin



"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 22nd October

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A



First Reading:

Isaiah 45:1.4-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

I have taken the hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before his countenance.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whom he has taken by his right hand
to subdue nations before him
and strip the loins of kings,
to force gateways before him
that their gates be closed no more:

It is for the sake of my servant Jacob,
of Israel my chosen one,
that I have called you by your name,
conferring a title though you do not know me.
I am the Lord, unrivalled;
there is no other God besides me.
Though you do not know me, I arm you
that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
that, apart from me, all is nothing.

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

Responsorial Psalm:

Ps 95:1. 3-5. 7-10. R. v.7

(R.) Give the Lord glory and honour.

1. O sing a new song to the Lord,
sing to the Lord all the earth.
Tell among the nations his glory
and his wonders among all the peoples. **(R.)**
2. The Lord is great and worthy of praise,
to be feared above all gods;
the gods of the heathens are naught.
It was the Lord who made the heavens. **(R.)**
3. Give the Lord, you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power,
give the Lord the glory of his name.
Bring an offering and enter his courts. **(R.)**
4. Worship the Lord in his temple.
O earth, tremble before him.
Proclaim to the nations: 'God is king.'
He will judge the peoples in fairness. **(R.)**

Second Reading:

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

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

We are mindful of your faith, hope, and love.

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

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

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

Philippians 2:15. 16

Alleluia, alleluia!

Shine on the world like bright stars;

you are offering it the word of life.

Alleluia!

Gospel:

Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Give to Caesar the things that belong to Caesar and to God the things that are God's.

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar – and to God what belongs to God.'

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

Faithful invited to pray for Synod of Bishops

The Vatican is asking all baptised people, regardless of whether they will be in Rome, to participate in October's assembly of the Synod of Bishops with their prayers. More information available from the diocesan website <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/for-a-synodal-church-communion-participation-and-mission/>

Prayer for the Synod:

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;

teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life

and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,

in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.



World Mission Sunday THIS SUNDAY – October 22

Inspired by the Pope's message for World Mission Sunday, this year Catholic Mission is raising awareness of the life-giving work of lay and religious missionaries around the world with the theme "Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move". In his message, Pope Francis reflects on the resilience that everyday missionaries demonstrate in their life-giving work and the burning passion for God and people that inspires their hearts. Dedicating their lives to others, in partnership with communities, missionaries aim to create a positive change through spiritual care and the implementation of grassroots projects, such as healthcare and education, reaching far beyond Catholic communities. To support missionaries in their work or for more information, scan or click the QR code for more information.

Prayer for Missionaries

*Lord, fill the hearts of your missionaries with the Holy Spirit.
Guide their steps with your mighty arm and with the power of your grace.
Strengthen them in spirit so that they will not falter though weariness.
Look kindly on your servants, who you have sent forth as messengers of salvation and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

October is National Mental Health Month



National Mental Health Month is an initiative of the Mental Health Foundation Australia (MHFA) to advocate for and raise awareness of Australian mental health. It is an important time where the Australian community comes together to raise awareness and promote better mental health for all. Mental Health Australia invites organisations to participate in the "Look after your mental health, Australia" campaign which will run throughout October. Scan or click the QR code for more information.

Link: <https://lookafteryourmentalhealthaustralia.org.au/>

Prayer for Mental Health month: *Lord God, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve those challenged by serious and chronic mental and emotional illnesses. Give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*



National Children's Week: October 21-29, 2023

Children's Week is an annual event celebrated in Australia. Children's Week celebrates the right of children to enjoy childhood. The Children's Week National Theme for 2023 is based on UNCRC Article 31: *Children have the right to relax, play and take part in activities they enjoy.* The Children's Week Council of Australia have developed a range of activities and tip sheets to celebrate the week and promote children's rights awareness. Scan or click the QR code for more information. Link: <https://childrens-week.org.au/>

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Timboon 2023	22nd October Assembly W&C 9 a.m.	29th October Mass 9:00 a.m.	5th November Closed
Welcome	A McMeel	N McKinnon	
Leaders	K Currell T O'Connor		
Statue	G Townsend	P Haugh	
Reader	J McInerney	L McInerney	
POF	A Vogels	K Currell	
E.M.H.C.	T O'Connor		
Bulletin	G Swierczek	G Swierczek	P Nicholson M Moloney
Slides	P Nicholson	P Nicholson	A McMeel
Simpson	Assembly 9:00 a.m.	Closed	Mass 9:00 a.m.