



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk

BULLETIN

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 6th September 2015



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero

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Phone: 5382 1155.

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Email:

horsham@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Diocesan Website:

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

SCHOOLS

Ss Michael & John Primary

Principal: Andrea Cox

Phone: 5382 3000

St Brigid's College

Principal: Peter Gutteridge

Phone: 5382 3545

Our Lady Help of Christians

Principal: Gary Typuszak

Phone: 5385 2526



BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

**TODAY is the Collection for
Sick and Retired Priests**

The Ballarat Clergy Support Fund provides for retired priests who have spent a lifetime selflessly caring for others, and who deserve a happy and peaceful retirement. The Fund is currently supporting and caring for eighteen retired priests. Over the next few years a number of priests currently in parish ministry will be moving into retirement, and will also need to be supported by the fund.

This collection has raised nearly 1.7 million dollars since it began in 1991, including nearly \$67,000 last year. Along with the priests' own contribution of approximately \$40,000 per year, this annual collection has allowed the Fund to continue to support our sick and retired clergy. Please give as generously as you can, and help us continue 'caring for those who cared for us'. Special envelopes are available for this collection, which will be taken up today. You may also return your envelope next week.

A credit card facility is available for your convenience, and contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible.

**CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARED FOR
US – THE CHURCH COMMUNITY'S
RESPONSIBILITY**

PRAYER for SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source of all healing power. We entrust our sick brothers and sisters to your loving care. We pray that your blessings be upon all those in their own homes, in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, palliative care. May You be their source of comfort when they experience pain. May You be their source of hope in moments of despair, woundedness and sorrow. May You be their inspiration and solace when they are unable to lift their hearts, minds and voices to You in prayer. Bless them all with the courage and faith to place their trust in your healing touch and your healing love. Bless those who are **caregivers**, as channels of your tender love, for they are your very hands on this earth.

Give them gentleness as they help those who are sick, that they respect the dignity and value of the sick to You. Give them patience as they manage their time, to best serve those in need of their care. Give them courage to continue to serve when weakened by constant demands, and when they need your enduring help and strength. Give them love and understanding to be a caring companion, as they walk the path of pain and sadness with the sick.

Bless the **ministry** of those who take Holy Communion to the sick, elderly, those in Homes and in the Hospital.



Congratulations and blessing to Simon Lynch and Kara Ballinger who were married this weekend

Fathers Day

Father's Day is a celebration honouring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society.

We wish all Fathers and Grandfathers a very special day with their families



Welcome to Fr Anthony

Tuesday we will welcome Fr Anthony Van Dyk who will be with us for a week.

Thank you to Fr Anthony

We thank Fr Anthony Tran for being here this week. He leaves after Mass on Sunday.

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 8th Sept	5.30pm
Wednesday 9th Sept	9.30am
Thursday 10th Sept	9.30am 4.15pm
Friday 11th Sept	9.30am
Saturday 12th Sept	10.00am

A Funeral Mass may replace a Weekday Mass time

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
Silvio Marchesini Ann

Natimuk Nursing Home Mass

Maria Panozzo Ann

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God, my creator, breathe on me, renew me, refresh me, extend my abilities, comfort me in adjusting to changes in health, mobility and activity. Body of Jesus Christ flow through every fibre of my being. Keep me well, and hope filled, always. Holy Spirit use me in my situation, for the good of others. Amen



Please Remember in Your Prayers	
RECENT DEATHS: Joy McDonald,	
ANNIVERSARIES: Silvio Marchesini, Ann Harrison, Bob Neri	
SICK: Kobe Davidson, Corey Panozzo, Ruby Spasic, Bill Kennedy, Renee Kerr, Brian Rice, Susan Finnigan, Stephen Sherman, Helen Brennan, Marge Whitehead, Warren Strauss, Tom Murphy, Eileen Finnigan, Madeleine Cameron, Lyn Couper, John Coleman, Jill Higginbottom, Christie Higginbottom	
Emergency Care: Contact Coordinator Betty 5382 6688	
Confessions after Mass on Saturday (10.25)	
Each Saturday Morning: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20 Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church 9.40. Mass 10am	
Next Sunday 2nd Sunday of the Month 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 13th September 2015	
Horsham	Saturday - 6.30pm Sunday - 10.30am
Dimboola	Sunday Mass 8.30am
Murtoa	Sunday LLA 9.00am
Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet Including the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.	
Regular Activities in the Parish	
Mother's Prayer Group Fortnightly Every Wednesday 2.00pm Church Meeting Room Contact Marina 5382 1047	
Ss Michael & John's Playgroup Tuesday's in school terms 10am to 12 noon - Parish Hall. Contact 0428 119 234	
Craft Group Every Monday - Parish Meeting Room Mornings - 9.30am to 11.30am. Evening - 7pm to 9pm. BYO Craft - Gold Coin Donation. Contact Anita at Parish Office	
Meditation Group Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm. Contact Sr Jacinta 0414 337 807	
CWL Meetings 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm in Meeting Room.	
Men's Group Meet 3rd Thursday of the month, breakfast 7.30am-8.30, in Parish Centre. Contact Patrick 0428 847 455	
St Vincent de Paul Conference. Meets twice monthly. Available Monday & Friday 11am-12pm, for assistance. Phone 5381 2371	
RELATIONSHIP & INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING Michael Grimes , a professional counsellor from Centacare Ballarat visits Horsham every Wednesday . Cost \$30 concessions available. Phone appt 1300 303 988 or contact the Parish Office	
BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENINGS 3rd Thursday of each Month at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Forms to be filled in with the Parish Office prior. Contact is the Parish Office 53821155.	
Piety Stall in the Church has gifts for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, cards, medals etc., lovely Peru crosses.	
Children's Liturgy at 10.30 Mass in School Terms. Children leave at start of Mass, and return at Offertory.	

ROSTERS		
Sept 5/6	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Sr Jacinta Rice Marie McMillan Tess Hayes Anne Newton Silvanna Foster Rosie Taylor Lorraine Clancy	Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Judy Reid Noreen O'Connor Zita Cannane Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett
Sept 12/13	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Les Butler	Anna Robertson
Commentator	Maree Plazzer	Shayne Keenan
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Joan Parker Ann Hermans Chris Velthuis Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce	Lesley Lannen Karen Hill Shirley Hoffmann Lynda Hutchinson Andrea Cox Faye Wills Alison McKinnon
Projector	Anita Masiero	Gabby Mills
Children's Liturgy		Letitia Dowling
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Men's Choir
Welcomers	Connie Besselaar Pat Strachan	Mary Brown Denise Vallance
Prayers	Anna Robertson, Lesley Price, Alison McKinnon	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	13th September Pauline Barber Pat Williams Louise Guest Kate Hernon-Spasic	20th September Shirley Hoffmann Marie McMillan Margo Hogan
FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):		
Natimuk	\$	Murtoa \$ 68..00
Horsham	\$ 799.00	Dimboola \$
Total		\$ 867.00
2nd Collection (Parish Account)		
Envelopes	\$ 1565.90	Loose \$ 152.45
Total		\$ 1718.35
Making Connections: Be attentive this week to the way gestures and touch can be used to welcome or to exclude. Open your ears to what others are really saying. Open your ears in a special way to what the gospel is saying to you.		
Marriage Tip: Psychologically, negative messages are more powerful than positive ones. If you've been hard on yourself lately, list three things you did well today. It'll make you a more pleasant person for your spouse to be around.		
Daily Prayer: Into the dry and thirsty wilderness of our world, O strong and faithful God, you come with streams of living water to quench our thirst, to cleanse our wounds, to refresh our weary souls! Open our eyes to your presence everywhere. Unstop our ears to hear the challenge of your word. Loose our tongues in songs of praise and fearless witness to your justice.		
A Vocation View: Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom? Chosen to be rich in faith. So take heart, be not afraid, consider your part in God's Kingdom.		

Sunday Country Mass Times in August & Sept:

Sept 13: Dimboola Mass 8.30am Murtoa LLA 9.00am

Sept 20: Dimboola Mass 8.30am Murtoa Mass 10.30

LADIES REVITALISE WEEKEND

Norval, Halls Gap Beginning with tea on Friday 16th October and finishing Sunday 18th October.

Theme "The Song of Sacred Presence"

What is holy? What is Sacred? The answer means different things to different people. We will spend time contemplating the heartbeat of the sacred in all of life.

Facilitated by Sr Carmel Cameri

Cost \$220.00 for the weekend.

Forms available in the Foyer.

All registrations to be in by 18th September with deposit.

Contact the Parish Office for further information.

PARISH CENSUS

This weekend will be the last weekend for the Parish Census. If you have done it last week you will not be required to do one again this week.

After the homily you will be told how to fill in your card correctly

During the collection place you card into the collection bag.

Thank you for your cooperation in allowing us to up-date your details



St Michael & St John's Primary School

Once again we are participating in Operation Christmas Child.

If you are able like to support us in this very worthy project ,

boxes and a brochure are available after Mass today or from the school office. The cost of the box is 50cents.

Boxes are due back to school by **Friday, September 18th.**

Many Thanks

Congratulations and prayerful wishes to **Lyn Couper** for her birthday during the week.

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Symbols and Images

Jesus could have healed this man with words alone but he chooses to use gestures as well. The actions are signs of what is taking place. Ritual gestures continue to be a rich means of communication in the Church. Just think of the number of ritual gestures or actions involved in the celebration of the liturgy each Sunday. It would be useful to spend some time this week identifying those and exploring their meaning. Ritual actions are best carried out with dignity and purpose. This strengthens their meaning and the impact they have on those present.

PRAYER FOR RAIN: Loving God, maker of all things and protector of your people, in You we live and move and have our being. In your mercy come to our aid, bless our land with rain, especially in these coming months to nurture crops sown, and to bring them to a head, and for rain to provide sustenance for all towns. Strengthen our resolve in times of trial and difficulty,, and teach us to seek your help on our life journey.

Rite of Catholic Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

- Would you like to know more about the Catholic Religion?
- Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic?
- Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic?
- Are you a Baptised Catholic, but have not received the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?
- Do you have a Catholic Partner/Children?
- Are you taking the responsibility of the faith education of your children but are not Catholic?

Interested people can contact Lesley Price on 0408 369 487 or the Parish Office for further information

Online diocesan training course about safeguarding children and vulnerable adults

If you have a particular role in the parish, you may be contacted about providing your email address for the purpose of completing an online training course to be distributed by the Diocesan Professional Standards office. The training relates to two diocesan documents: "Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults" and "Code of Conduct for Caring for Children". The training aims to ensure that all those who work with children and persons in positions of responsibility in our parishes have read and understand the documents.

DRAWN TO CHRIST BY THE FATHER

Faith is a gift from God. Faith is akin to falling in love. Faith is to feel loved by God, and to respond in love. Why do we believe in Jesus, especially his claim that he is the **living bread** come down from heaven? It is because we feel that he is special. He makes us feel loved. He delivered himself for us. He continues to **sustain** us in the often monotonous, and sometimes painful, moments of our lives. Risen from the dead, he is the bread that restores our **strength**. So this is our prayer for all humans: may they be drawn to Christ by the Father so that they may experience his **living presence** among us.

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:4-7

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7-10

Praise the Lord, my soul!

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.

The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever,

Zion's God, from age to age.

Praise the Lord, my soul!

2nd Reading: James 2:1-5

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that? Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

Acclamation Matthew 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

Gospel Reflection - Veronica Lawson rsm

Those who are profoundly deaf frequently find themselves on the edge of the human and earth communities. Without access to birdsong, to spoken discourse, to the vast range of media communication, they often struggle to understand and to be understood. Their capacity to communicate their deepest wisdom, their hopes and dreams, their anxieties and fears, is limited not only by personal disability but also by the incomprehension of others. In our contemporary technological world, sophisticated hearing devices and cochlear implants transform the lives of many who previously suffered from serious hearing loss and its social consequences. Whatever degree of deafness is experienced, relief from such an affliction offers far more than physical healing. It brings insertion into the life of family and community and workplace. It opens up new horizons and unimagined possibilities. In

first century Palestine, the chances of relief from hearing deficiency and associated speech impairment were minimal. Desperate people put their faith in folk healers who used their healing hands and drew upon their knowledge of the medicinal properties in certain herbs and other plants. It seems clear that Jesus was known as an effective healer and that he used some of the same methods as other healers of his time. Many of his contemporaries in that part of the world would have turned to Asclepius, the Greek god of healing, or his daughter Hygeia. Jesus turns, not to Asclepius or Hygeia, but to the God of Israel ("looking up to heaven...") as the source of healing power. There is layer upon layer of meaning in today's healing story. Habitat features significantly. Jesus travels from Tyre on the northern Mediterranean coast to the Sea of Galilee via the non-Jewish territory on the eastern side of the lake. It was a regular route, but definitely not the most direct one.

The gospel writer seems to be stressing the all-embracing nature of Jesus' healing ministry. Land belongs to God and territorial claims on land are no barrier to Jesus' healing ministry, a lesson Jesus himself has just learned from the Syro-Phoenician woman whose story is told in Mark 7:26-30. As the gospel story has unfolded, we have found that the same healing power of God is available to Jews and Gentiles, to male and female, young and old alike. It is available to those with bodily afflictions and those who are paralysed by anxiety and fear. There is irony in the telling of the story: a Gentile deaf man can be brought from no hearing to hearing, from "speaking with difficulty" to clarity of speech, but Jesus' own disciples will shortly fail to hear and understand, "Do you have ears and not hear?" (Mark 8:18). We open our ears to hear in the hope of understanding.

Next Week's Gospel: Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And they told him. 'John the Baptist,' they said, 'others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he asked, 'who do you say I am?' Peter spoke up and said to him, 'You are the

Christ.' And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he

rebuked Peter and said to him, 'Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' He called the people and his disciples to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.'