

# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

## BULLETIN

1st Sunday of Advent - 29th November 2015



### PARISH CONTACTS

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

10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400  
PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402  
Phone: 5382 1155.

Fax: 5382 3016

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

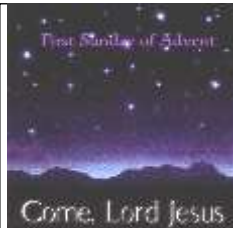
Our Lady Help of Christians

Principal: Gary Typuszak

Phone: 5385 2526

**ADVENT:** The Advent wreath prepares us for the coming of the Christ Child. The circle of greenery is a symbol of God's love without beginning or end, the candles represent the four weeks of preparation time.

We have said farewell to a number of Parishioners in the past who have moved from Horsham. This weekend we say thank you and farewell to Lynda & Barry Hutchinson, for their great Parish and community involvement.



Today is the First Sunday of Advent, and the beginning of a new Liturgical Year.

*We read from Luke's Gospel in this year.*

Sunday Readings Year C.  
Weekday Readings Year 2.

**Advent River Walk** Tuesday December 8th at 7am beginning from the Bennett Road Carpark. Walk to the Weir for prayer and breakfast. Theme "Year of Mercy". All welcome.

**The Jesse Tree** will be decorated, with the Jesse Tree Symbols, by the Children's Liturgy group, at each Sunday Mass.

**The White Christmas Tree** will be in the Foyer from the Third Sunday of Advent, to which you can add the "The Remembering Family Who Are not With Us at Christmas" names. Tags will be in the Foyer then.

**Christmas Anointing Mass on Thursday December 10th at 2pm in SMJ Church.**  
Cuppa and raffle drawn after Mass.

**Advent Reconciliation Service** Monday December 21st, at 7pm

**Time Out Sessions** with Sr Jacinta to help us de-stress before Christmas. Tuesday December 8th, 2pm-4pm and Wednesday December 16th, 7pm - 9pm, both in the Parish Centre.

Christmas Gifts for the Jesse Tree for children - please write age and gender on the gift. Non perishable food welcome for St Vincent de Paul to distribute.

### 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.



We welcome to the Family of God in Baptism:

**Charlie Amor**

son of Justin and Louise

**CWL Christmas Dinner** this Tuesday December 1st at the Commercial Hotel, following **Mass in SMJ Church at 11am.**

*Summer starts this Tuesday December 1st. We pray for safety, care and protection over this time for families and the environment*

### 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

### WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 1st Dec	5.30pm	Also 11am Mass with CWL
Wednesday 2nd Dec	9.30am	Anchilla Panozzo Rubbo sister of Emilia Marchesini
Thursday 3rd Dec	9.30am	St Francis Xavier. Lucille Pekin intentions.
Friday 4th Dec	9.30am	Anthony Hynes aniv. Giacomo Panozzo anniv.
Saturday 5th Dec	10am	Carmel Hennon intentions

Please Remember in Your Prayers	
<b>RECENT DEATHS:</b> Barbara Pfeiffer	
<b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b> John Lloyd, Mary Miller, Anthony Hynes, Giacomo Panozzo	
<b>SICK:</b> Kobe Davidson, Corey Panozzo, Ruby Spasic, Bill Kennedy, Renee Kerr, Brian Rice, Susan Finnigan, Stephen Sherman, Helen Brennan, Warren Strauss, Eileen Finnigan, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Jill Higginbottom, Christie Higginbottom, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Kevin O'Connor, Shirley Willetts, Fr John Keane, Fr Justin Woodford.	
<b>Emergency Care: Contact Coordinator</b> Betty 5382 6688	
<b>Confessions Saturday after Mass (10.25)</b>	
<b>Saturday Morning Devotions:</b> <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20</b> <b>Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church. 10am Mass</b>	
<b>Next Sunday 1st Sunday of the Month</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Advent - 6th December</b>	
Horsham	Saturday - 6.30pm Sunday - 10.30am
Dimboola	<b>Sunday Mass 8.30am</b>
Murtoa	<b>Sunday Mass 10.30am</b>
<b>Rosary &amp; Divine Mercy Chaplet</b> <b>Including the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b> <b>HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.</b>	
<b>Regular Activities in the Parish</b>	
<b>Mother's Prayer Group</b> Fortnightly Every Wednesday 2.00pm Church Meeting Room Contact Marina 5382 1047	
<b>Ss Michael &amp; John's Playgroup</b> Tuesday's in school terms 10am to 12 noon - Parish Hall. Contact 0428 119 234	
<b>Craft Group</b> 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	
<b>Meditation Group</b> Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm Contact Sr Jacinta 0414 337 807	
<b>CWL Meetings</b> 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm in Meeting Room.	
<b>Men's Group</b> Meet 3rd Thursday of the month, breakfast 7.30am-8.30, Parish Centre. Contact Patrick 0428 847 455	
<b>St Vincent de Paul Conference.</b> Meets twice monthly. Available Monday & Friday 11am-12pm, for assistance. Phone 5381 2371	
<b>RELATIONSHIP &amp; INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING</b> <b>Michael Grimes</b> , a professional counsellor from Centacare Ballarat visits Horsham <b>every Wednesday</b> . Cost \$30 concessions available. Phone appt 1300 303 988 or contact the Parish Office	
<b>BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENINGS 3rd Thursday of each Month at 7.30pm</b> in the Parish Meeting Room. Forms to be filled in with the Parish Office prior. Contact is the Parish Office 53821155.	
<b>Piety Stall in the Church</b> has gifts for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, cards, medals etc., lovely Peru crosses.	
<b>Children's Liturgy at 10.30 Mass in School Terms.</b> Children leave at start of Mass, and return at Offertory.	
<b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b> will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm,	

ROSTERS		
Nov 28/29	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Peter Gutteridge Anthony Amor Joan Parker Ann Hermans Chris Velthuis Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz	Alison McKinnon Marina Manserra Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dagleigh Zita Cannane Anna Robertson
Dec 5/6	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Geordie Butler	SMJ
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Amor	SMJ
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer Maureen Ervin John Parker Sr Jacinta Rice	Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Neville Strachan Kingsley Dagleish Lesley Lannen Karen Hill Rosie Taylor
<b>Projector</b>	Peter Gutteridge	SMJ
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Carolyn Boseley Marie McMillan	SMJ
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>		Letitia Dowling
<b>Prayers</b>	Darryl & Maree Wren	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>6th December</b> Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley Judie Delahunty	<b>13th December</b> Lynda Hutchinson Silvana Foster Helene Bush Mary Ward
<b>FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)</b>		
Natimuk	\$ 43.00	Murtoa \$ 122.00
Horsham	\$ 1015.00	Dimboola \$ 107.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1287.00</b>
<b>2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)- Wk 2</b>		
Envelopes	\$ 2426.00	Loose \$ 62.65
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit \$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 2488.65</b>
<b>Making Connections:</b> This week, be attentive to the time you spend in waiting—in traffic, in a shop, on the phone, to cross the road. Use these small moments of waiting to focus and prepare yourself for the coming of Christ at Christmas		
<b>Marriage Tip:</b> "Fidelity to promises is truly a masterpiece of humanity!" – <i>Pope Francis</i> . Pray today for the grace to be faithful to all your promises, especially those made to your spouse and children.		
<b>Daily Prayer:</b> Lift from our hearts the weight of self-indulgence, and strengthen us for holiness. Amid chaos and confusion, let your people stand secure. Raise our heads to greet the redemption that is drawing near, the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints, your Son who was, who is and who is to come.		
<b>A Vocation View:</b> Be on the watch! Allow God to lead you in the ways of truth and justice. God is calling you to serve. (Jeremiah 33:14-16).		
<b>Advent Wreath:</b> Be on your guard and stay awake, I will return so stay awake. You know not when so stay awake, until I come again. Jesus, we stand awaiting you. Watching in prayer, proclaiming you. You are the light of all the world.		

### Country Mass Times in December:

Sunday Dec 6: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30.  
Sunday Dec 13: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30.  
Sunday Dec 20: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30  
Christmas Eve Dec 24th: **Murtoa 6.30. Dimboola 8.30**

**Hope** is the hand that the Lord gives us when wind blows against us and obstacles impede our perceiving the goal. Hope is the final resource that the Creator puts at our disposition when we think that all is lost. To nourish hope we are in need of trust and of living in the present. Let us be diffusers of hope in the present and the future of each person we meet



## CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE LAUNCH

Monday, 30 November 10.30am Murtoa Community Health Centre

Come along and enjoy some Christmas carols. Select a gift tag or bring a gift along to place under the Christmas Tree for someone less fortunate. It's not just the children, but teenagers, young adults and the elderly. The gifts donated will remain in the Murtoa, Minyip and Rupanyup districts.

Gifts can be returned to: the Murtoa Community Health Centre, the Minyip Community Health Centre, the Rupanyup Pharmacy or the Rupanyup Doctor's Surgery.

There will be **NO Baptism Preparation** during the months of December and January. Resumes February 18th

### **MALE VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

St Vinnies seek the help of any male volunteers to help with the clearing of the cupboard and one bin, at the shop only, on a Sunday, between 4 & 6pm. Contact Pat on 53824003

### Making a Scene at Christmas

A display over 350 nativity cribs and other items telling the story of the birth of Christ is coming to Ararat this Christmas. Exhibits celebrate the cultures of the world and many are centuries old. Come and see and be amazed! St Mary's Parish Centre, Barkly St. Ararat. Saturday December 19th, 10am – 8pm. Sunday December 20th, 10am – 4pm. Entry is free and everyone is welcome.



SMJ Year 5 and 6 students participate in a shared experience at St. Brigid's College this Wednesday, Thursday Friday. Home Economics, Art and Stadium facilities and, at the same time, mix with senior students and different staff members. This program assists with the smooth transition from primary to secondary years.

### **SBC YRS 7-12 GRADUATION MASS.**

Our final whole school celebration will be held at Ss. Michael and John's Church, Tuesday, 8th December commencing at 6.00pm. All students must be seated by 5.50pm, dressed in full summer uniform. College magazines will be distributed by Teacher Advisors at approximately 7.45pm following the conclusion of Mass and the award presentation. Year 12's and their families celebrate their Graduation Dinner after Mass at the Golf Club. This week 20 of the Year 12's are in Vietnam on their "Schoolies Trip" building houses and mixing with the culture of the people. We wish them a safe and blessed time.

Congratulations to Darcy Tucker, drafted to Fremantle

### **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, 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.

⇒ Our Parish will celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy in Lent 2016, with the possibility of a Parish Mission, with the Redemptorists, other Liturgies to be planned.

- Our Parish is 140 years old in 2016.
- More details on Year of Mercy and Liturgies for 140th etc after the Liturgy Meeting on January 25th 2016.

**Articles, photos, for the Christmas edition of our Parish Magazine "The Fisherman" are now welcome. Please email or leave your article at the Parish Office by December 10th.**

The Parish Budget will be included, with a report from the Stewardship Program, and Coughlin Park progress



Horsham Carols  
next Sunday December 6th at Sawyer Park  
7pm Children's Carols  
8.30 Family Carols. Bring a chair.  
Sponsored by the Horsham Churches.

We pray for the World Climate Conference in Paris this week



SMJ Spring Community Festival Committee says THANK YOU to all Parishioners who donated goods or items and supported our school Festival.



**Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Adelaide from 3rd to 5th December.** A number of young people from the Diocese are attending. **We pray for its success.**

### Christmas Mass Times

**Horsham:** Christmas Eve 7pm and 10.30pm  
Christmas Day 9am .

**Christmas Eve:** Murtoa 6.30pm. Dimboola 8.30pm

There is a letter in the Foyer from Bishop Paul Bird on the current sitting of the Royal Commission. Please take a copy.



NAVAILABLE in the Piety Stall

⇒ **God's Word for 2016. \$16 each**

⇒ Daily Mass Book 2016 \$20 ea

\* Christmas Cards.

\* Columban Calendars \$9



Pope Francis: **Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy** begins on December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception and conclude on Sunday, November 20, 2016, Feast of Christ the King. All are invited to the Opening of the Door of Mercy at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird on Sunday December 13th at 10.30 Mass.

Refreshments will follow the Mass.

**1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

See, the days are coming - it is the Lord who speaks - when I am going to fulfil the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah: 'In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practise honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.'

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 24:4-5. 8-9.**

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my Saviour.

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and

will. The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant.

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.

**2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12- 4**

May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints. Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.

**Acclamation Ps 84:8**

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 21:25-28. 34-36**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.' 'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

**Gospel Reflection -1st Sunday of Advent Year C, 29 November 2015 (Luke 21:25-28, 34-36)**

**Sister Veronica Lawson rsm.**

Today's gospel passage, with its vivid description of the end-time signs, may seem a strange choice of reading for Advent and the beginning of the Church year. It is only strange if we take the descriptions literally and focus on the old rather than the new that is forever breaking into the world. The image of Jesus coming on the clouds belongs within an ancient understanding of the structure of the world in which God and God's heavenly court is located in the heavens above. It might function in our times as a reminder that the Incarnation, "of God's becoming material" (Karl Rahner), is an ongoing cosmic event. The Advent and Christmas periods are about the coming "in power and great glory" of the One who brings the liberation of our God. The earliest Christians believed that Jesus would return in their own times and bring

everything to completion. Some decades after the death of Jesus, the members of Luke's community had come to realize that this second coming of Christ was not just around the corner as they had expected. They then needed to be reminded that a delayed return was no excuse for lack of vigilance. Luke warns against activities and attitudes that de-sensitize the heart or the human spirit: carousing, drunkenness and undue worry. Suffering is part of life and God's advent or coming in the lives of the suffering takes myriad forms. From Luke's perspective, the sufferings of the present may well be the prelude to a new experience of the presence of God in the world. An attentive heart and constant prayer for the strength to withstand whatever comes-this is the proper stance for the Christian believer. This gospel passage is best read against the backdrop of today's first reading from Jeremiah that looks to the fulfillment of God's promise of the

"virtuous branch for David". The organic metaphor of the branch reminds us of the interconnectedness of God's people and of all being across the ages. The virtue of the expected descendant of David finds expression in honesty and integrity, literally "justice and righteousness/right relationship". Justice in the Hebrew tradition is about redress in the law courts for the most vulnerable. Righteousness is about right relationships as well as the equitable sharing and proper use of Earth's resources. Justice and righteousness are two sides of the one coin. Where they are absent, there is no liberation. Our prayer and practical action this Advent might embrace the concerns of those who yearn for liberation from various forms of oppression, including those seeking asylum among us and those who have sought asylum yet still await resettlement. Our Advent could make a difference to their Christmas.

**Next Week's Gospel: Luke 3:1- 6**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate

of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet

Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

The liturgical season of Advent marks the time of our spiritual preparation before Christmas. We often miss Advent's power because the December weeks are full of Christmas parties and preparations for the festive season. Each year, the busyness of this period serves to distract us from having an Advent season that truly prepares us for the celebration of

a spiritual Christmas, with all its meaning. Advent is an ideal time to reflect, appreciate and prepare for the joys of this time. It is a special time for us to appreciate our family and friends, to reflect upon the effect of our actions upon others and to prepare for the true meaning of Christmas. (SBC Newsletter Mr Gutteridge)