



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup

## BULLETIN

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12th February 2017



### PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson  
Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero  
10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400  
PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402  
Ph: 5382 1155. Fax: 53823016  
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

We welcome Fr John this weekend.

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting this Thursday February 16th at 5.30pm.**  
Please have your Reports into Anita this Monday 13th.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**  
this Thursday February 16th from 7.30am to 8.30am in the Parish Centre. Father's and sons, widowers, single men are welcome. Chat and prayer over breakfast.

### WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday Feb 14th	5.30pm	Sts Cyril & Methodius. Agnese Masiero ann
Wednesday Feb 15th	9.30am	Marie McIntyre anniv.
Thursday Feb 16th	9.30am	
Friday Feb 17th	9.30am	<b>and 12nn: SMJ School Opening Mass</b>
Saturday Feb 11th	10.00am	Pat Oakley 1st anniversary



**SBC Opening of the Year Mass is now on**  
Friday February 24th at 9.30am in SMJ Church.

**SMJ Opening of the Year Mass this**  
Friday February 17th at 12 noon in SMJ Church



**Blessing and Commissioning of our School Staffs at 10.30 Mass next Sunday February 19th.**

A cuppa after Mass for us to meet and greet Staff.

+++++

**2017 Lent Program -  
Up from the Waters  
Brisbane Program.**

**HOPE -  
Woollongong Program**

Both Resources are based on the Gospel of Matthew (Year A):

The Lenten Gospels include the three fundamental texts for our Baptismal journey to Easter:

the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well;  
Jesus healing the blind man and the washing in the pool of Siloam;  
and the raising and unbinding of Lazarus to new life.

**Please sign the list in the Foyer today to join a Discussion Group or for an individual book**

**The cost of the booklet will be \$8.**  
A copy of the CD is provided.

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1st**

### PRAYER for SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source of all healing power. We pray that your blessings and care be upon all those in their own homes, in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, palliative care. May You be their source of comfort in times of pain, their source of hope in moments of despair, woundedness and sorrow, 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 love. Bless those who are **caregivers**, as channels of your tender love, for they are your 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, 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, in Homes and in the Hospital.

Fr Peter is in Swan Hill this Tuesday February 14th for the Northern Zone Priests and Parish Leaders Meeting. Home for 5.30 Mass.

+++++

**Our Lady Help of Christians School, Murtoa, Opening of School Year Mass this Wednesday**

**February 15th at 12 noon at the School.**  
All families and parishioners are welcome.



### 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:** Mary Scanlon (Ireland)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Jessie Garwood, Pat Oakley, Marie McIntyre, Agnese Masiero

**SICK:** Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Peter Kelly, Corey Panozzo, Brian Rice, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Lyn Cooper, Joy Flynn, Carmel Cannard, Frances Mitchell, Judy Francisco, Jill & Christie Higgenbottom, Michael De Jong, Heather McPhee, Lorrain Holland, Xavier Reicha, Bernie Ryan, Eileen & Bob Arnott, Joan White, Terry Turvey, Joan Glen

**Emergency Care: Contact Betty 53826688**

**Confessions Saturday 10.25**

**Saturday Morning Devotions:**  
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20.**  
**Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church 9.35. Mass 10.**

**Next Sunday - 3rd Sunday of the Month**  
**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19th February 2017**

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday - 10.30am

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 10.30am**

**Rosary, Litany of Mary & Divine Mercy Chaplet**  
**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

**Craft Group** Every Monday - Parish Meeting Room  
 Mornings - 9.30am to 11.30am. Evening - 7pm to 9pm. BYO

**Meditation Group** in Church Meeting Room Tuesdays  
 2.00pm. Contact Sr Jacinta 0414 337 807

**CWL Meetings** 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm. Meeting Room.

**Men's Group** Meet 3rd Thursday of the month, breakfast  
 7.30am-8.30, 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

**BAPTISM PREPARATION** held on the 3rd Thursday of  
 the month at 7.30pm. Contact the Parish Office 53821155,

**Piety Stall in the Church** has gifts for Baptism,  
 Confirmation, Eucharist, cards, medals etc., Peru crosses.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

**Affordable Counselling**, by Centacare Ballarat, for families  
 individuals, **Free call 1300 303 988** to make an appointment.

### National Council of Priests of Australia Media Release on 8th February on the Royal Commission

The blight of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church has caused inexpressible pain and suffering to the victims and their families. It has been a cause of shame and disgrace for the Catholic faithful. With humility we acknowledge the strength of character and courage of individuals who gave evidence at the Royal Commission, and express our sorrow for the abused and their families. We, the Priests of Australia, support and endorse the initiatives of the Bishops of Australia in their endeavors to eradicate the scourge of sexual abuse in our Church.

## ROSTERS

Feb 11/12	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	John Parker Tess Hayes Ann Hermans Silvana Foster Micky Roberts Joan Parker	Faye Wills Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalgleish Russell Reid Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon
Feb 18/19	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Garry Heinrich	Angela Murphy
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Amor	Michael Connellan
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer John Parker	Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Julie Antonoff Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson
<b>Projector</b>	Anita Masiero	Gabby Mills
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Roberts	Combined Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Connie Besselaar Gavin Hynam	Helene Bush Marina Manserra
<b>Prayers</b>	Mary Brown & Anita Masiero	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>Feb 19th</b> Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker	<b>26th Feb</b> Pat O'Connor Win Stephens Barbara Connellan Kath Atkins

### FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 108.00
Horsham	\$ 917.00	Dimboola	\$ 88.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 1113.00</b>

### 2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

*Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals*

Envelopes	\$ 1754.50	Loose	\$ 104.45
Credit Card	\$ 2662.50	Direct Debit	\$ 1911.67
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 6438.12</b>

**Making Connections:** This week, be honest and open in your dealings with all the people you encounter. Go further than the basic requirement of good manners.

**Marriage Tip:** "Where you invest your love, you invest your life." Is your love invested in the most important parts of your life – God, your spouse, your children? Take a moment to evaluate.

**Daily Prayer:** As we come to offer our gift at your altar, make us eager in seeking reconciliation, so that we may live the gospel of your kingdom with single-hearted devotion, our every thought filled with respect for one another, and our every deed with reverence.

**A Vocation View:** God in his wisdom predestined our glory before the ages began. Some people he predestines to be priests or religious - might you be one of them? Listen to the call!

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time:** Stewardship involves more than just the gift we bring to the altar. Today's readings say clearly that it is fidelity to God's law that makes our offering acceptable.

"It is by the path of love, which is charity, that God draws near to us, and we to God." - *St. Albert the Great*

## Country Mass Times

February 19th: Dimboola 8.30am. Murtoa 10.30am  
February 26th: Dimboola 8.30am. Murtoa 10.30am  
Natimuk Mass 8.30am.  
March 5th: Dimboola 8.30am. Murtoa 10.30am  
March 12th: Dimboola AWC 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 8.30  
March 19th: Dimboola Mass 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 10.30

# 90

Congratulations to Col Bigham on his 90th Birthday today.



## Ss Michael and John School Community 4 Group Meetings this week, each at 7pm in the Senior Learning Community.

Each Class family is in a School House and is assigned to one of the Groups:

Fun Group - Grampians (Green) House - Monday 13th.  
Fundraising Group - Arapiles (Red) House - Tuesday 14th  
Family Group - Wimmera (Yellow House) - Wednesday 15th.  
Faith Group - Hindmarsh (Blue) House - Thursday 16th.

We hope that at least one parent from each family could attend their Group night, to ensure another successful year for Community 4.



*Thank you to all who are involved in liturgical ministries, Parish Groups, who volunteer time and talents to these and to community organizations*  
**U are important.**

You cannot spell Ch\_rh without u.  
You cannot spell Ad\_It without u.  
You cannot spell Yo\_th without u.  
You cannot spell S\_ccess without u.  
You cannot spell S\_nday Mass without u.  
You cannot spell Comm\_nity without u.  
The Community and Church needs u. **THANK U**

**The Readings today focus on what is true wisdom,** as Jesus continues to instruct the disciples in the kingdom of heaven. It is this true wisdom which prompts us to choose the right course of action. It is true wisdom that directs us in our interpretation of the law. The longer we live, the more we realise that life experiences open up for us a series of choices. With these choices we chart the path that we will take. Circumstances might be thrust on us, but we can still make choices about how we will deal with them. Obedient people do what they are told; wise people choose what good they will do. True wisdom calls us to choose life and whatever enhances life. If we are truly wise, we will come to realise that what was acceptable and life enhancing in one situation may not be appropriate in another. Life is fluid, and our thinking and acting must be flexible enough to adapt when necessary. True wisdom, which comes to us through the Spirit, will enrich us with insight into life in ways we never thought possible. We will realise where and how we fit into the vast and interrelated ecosystems of the universe, and we will be overawed with the majesty and intricacy of its workings. We will understand once and for all that the value of anything is determined by its capacity to enrich life, and we will commit ourselves to and cherish every manifestation of that life. © *Dianne Bergant* CSS

O God, thank you for a great harvest, may prices improve.

**Ss Michael and John Parish Remembrance Wall**  
Our Parish plans a Remembrance Wall near to SMJ Church, to acknowledge and celebrate people who have died and who have been part of the story and history of our Parish, and of your family life. Parishioners will be invited to purchase a plaque with name/s and date/s of people. The Remembrance Wall will not be a wall of glorification, but a wall that reminds us of the faith, commitment and giving nature of our forbears and our loved ones. We are in the process of having a Wall made. A number of people have left details with Anita for a Plaque. You can do the same at any time.

### A Plan of a wall is below.

The plaques can have whatever symbol you wish and wording you wish. The cost of a plaque is \$120. *This Memorial Wall has spaces for 252 plaques and is in the shape of a Book*



## **SACRAMENT DATES for Children in 2017**

**Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation:**  
Wednesday February 22nd at 6pm in the Parish Centre.

**First Reconciliation Times and Dates:**  
Wednesday & Thursday March 22/23, either day at either 5pm or 7pm, in SMJ Church

**Parent Meeting for Confirmation and First Communion:** Thursday April 20th at 6pm in the Parish Centre.

**Masses for Confirmation / First Communion:**  
Saturday June 3rd 6.30 Mass.  
Sunday June 4th 10.30 Mass  
Saturday June 17th 6.30 Mass  
Sunday June 18th 10.30 Mass.  
Saturday June 24th at 6.30pm Mass.

**Confirmation and First Communion for Murtoa and Rupanyup** will be on Sunday October 8th at 10.30 Mass at Murtoa

**PROJECT COMPASSION: this year marks 50 years of Project Compassion and the Theme for the year is, "Learning More, Creating Change."**

**This Tuesday February 14th St. Valentine** Patron Saint of Love, Young People, and happy marriages. We pray for all married couples, those couples preparing for marriage, and for happy relationships in families and with friends.

**1st Reading: Sirach 15:15-20**

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1-2. 4-5.**

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts.

You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes.

Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of your law. Teach me the demands of your

statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

**2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

**Acclamation: cf Matthew 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37**

A Jesus said to his disciples: ' Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, the man who infringes even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but the man who keeps them and teaches them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. I tell you solemnly, you will not get out till you have paid the last penny.

All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

**Gospel Reflection – 6th Sunday Yr. A Sr Veronica Lawson rsm**

We sometimes forget that Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today's gospel continues Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds gathered. The mission of Jesus ("I have come to...") is to fulfill the law, not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is a question of "righteousness". The Greek term for righteousness, *dikaio sunē*, translates both the Hebrew *sedeqah* meaning "right relationship" and *mishpat* meaning "justice". The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God's reign, "the kingdom of heaven" in Matthew's terminology. The righteousness

of Jesus' followers is to "exceed" such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law. Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that "fulfills" the Law. Four of these examples are included in today's reading. What was heard "of old" is contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to them. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself. In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a reason for settling out of court: you may actually find yourself in prison! There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time. The second example puts "lustful looking" on a par with adultery. In an age of easy access to internet pornography,

this example has a particular resonance. Such activities make a travesty of gospel righteousness. The third example on divorce is complicated by the exceptive clause, "except in the case of *porneia*". *Porneia* referred to any illicit sexual activity. Here it probably means marriages within degrees of kinship prohibited by Jews but not by Gentiles. The question seems to have arisen as to whether couples in such unions could stay together on becoming Christian. While Jesus presents the ideal (no divorce), we have to put this teaching into a broader context. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since "God has called us to peace". The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness calls for honesty and transparency in every day dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims.

**Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go

one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and

dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

**World Day of Prayer Service is on Friday 3 March, with the Country of Study being the Philippines**

The Catholic Community of Natimuk are hosting this Day at the Natimuk Uniting Church. Morning Tea at 9.30am (please bring a plate), the Service begins at 10. The theme "Am I being unfair to you?"

**Nominations for the Diocesan Pastoral Council for 2017.**

DPC is a consultative and advisory body to the Bishop. For more information see Fr Peter, or contact Anita 53821155, or phone Amanda in the Diocese office, ph. 5337 7125.

