



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham-Dimboola-Murtoa-Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

2nd Sunday of Advent - 6th December 2020



Covid Safe Plans for coming to Mass or Church this week:

- Face masks must be worn in Church. Legal requirements apply to these.
- Social distancing is adhered to. * Hand sanitiser provided.
- We are able to accommodate 150 at each of our Masses.
- To facilitate the signing in process at each door way:
- **Write only your given name (no surname) and your phone number**

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
 Parish Secretary:
 Camille Del Castillo
 10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400
 PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402
 Phone: 5382 1155.
 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: Cathy Grace
 Phone: 5385 2526

Nhill: St Patrick's
 Principal: Kingsley Dalglish

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday December 17th
at 5.30pm, with tea after.

Planned Giving Program

2021: New boxes of envelopes and single white envelopes are in SMJ Foyer for pick up.

Thank you.



The Advent and Christmas
ADORE Daily Reflections

booklets. \$5 each
 Please purchase booklet(s) from the Office in mornings
 You can use these individually, in groups with daily prayers.

Parish Bulletin is online
 www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
select Horsham Parish, click the yellow magnifying glass symbol, open Horsham which appears below.

Thank you for Staying Connected with phone calls, texts, emails, food.

We welcome Fr Richard Leonard for our Advent Parish Mission
Saturday December 5th to Wednesday December 9th.



Fr Richard will celebrate SMJ Masses tonight Saturday at 6.30pm, and Sunday 10.30am.
 There is Mass on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9.30am, then a Talk in the Church.

There will be a Talk at **7pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday in SMJ Church**, to accommodate numbers and distancing.

♦ Fr Richard will celebrate 5pm Mass at Nhill tonight, tea, talk.
There will be a Collection at each Session.

Fr Richard will develop his Mission around these themes:
Advent - the season of preparedness and anticipation.

As a community we are re-gathering and re-connecting following COVID-19 restrictions. We are entering a time when "joy and gladness" can really come to the fore. It is a time for looking forward, not back.

Our Schools can have Graduation Masses capped at 150.

SBC Yr 12 Mass this Wednesday December 9th at 5.45pm
 OLHC St Marys Murtoa Tuesday 15th, 6pm. SMJ Wednesday 16th 12noon in Church. Nhill Wednesday 16th at 6pm.



ADVENT

Sunday Readings Yr B, Weekday Readings Year 1.

ANOINTING MASS this THURSDAY December 10th at 2pm in SMJ.

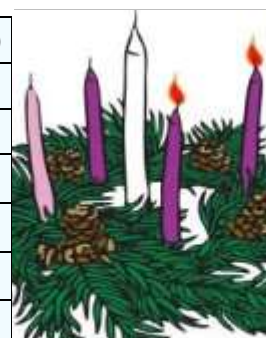
Advent Reconciliation Service Tuesday December 22nd at 7pm in SMJ Church. Hymns, Readings Prayers, Examination of Conscience, Fr John and Fr Peter will give Individual Absolutions.

Fr John will celebrate Horsham Masses next weekend December 12/13, his final Masses in Horsham. There will be cuppa after each Mass to thank Fr John and to say farewell to him. Farewell Cuppa after Mass in Dimboola 8.30 next Sunday, and after 10.30 Mass in Murtoa on Dec 20th.

Fr Peter's Farewell Horsham Masses are on December 19/20.

ONLINE Masses, Weekday Masses:(Eucharistic Group Facebook)

Monday 7th	9.30	Mission Mass with Fr Richard and talk after Mass
Tuesday 8th	9.30	Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary
Wednesd 9	9.30	Mission Mass and Talk.
Thursd 10th	2pm	Anointing Mass 2pm. Stephen Baker
Friday 11th	11a	John Sharry Memorial Mass
Saturday 12	10am	Special Intentions. Bryce Craig, John Coleman.



Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Stan Sheehan (Qld), Mary Christina Pitman (Ballarat, 91, Bill's mother), Kathy Gilmour (Melb)

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin O'Connor, Stephen Baker, Brice Craig, John Coleman

SICK: Ken Dowsley, Des Gaynor, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen, John McNamara, Elsie Thomas, Doris McDonald, Kobe Davison, Shane Kennedy, Norm Griffin, Rick Burchell, Mary Thompson, Bob Atkins, Moira Kelly snr, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Debbie Nolen,

Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 5382 1155

Saturday Morning Devotions:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9am. Rosary. Prayer of the Church. **Mass 10am. Confessions 10.25**

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent 6th December 2020

Horsham **Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday - 10.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 10.30am**

Nhill **Sunday Mass 5pm**

Rosary, Litany of Mary & Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.

Regular Activities in the Parish

Craft Group : in recess until 2021

Meditation Group: Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm.

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

Men's Group Meeting will be at the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Parish Centre. Contact Patrick 0428847455

St Vincent de Paul Conference. Meets twice monthly. Available Monday & Friday 11am-12pm for assistance. Phone 53812371

BAPTISM PREPARATION. For enrolment and appointment contact Parish Office 53821155.

CHOIR PRACTICE Second Wednesday in the Church at 6pm.

Choir Practice on Wednesday 9th December at 6pm in the Church. New members are welcome. *Kaye Vincent.*



Mr Peter Gutteridge announced to St Brigid's College Staff, and Families have been informed, that he will not be seeking a 4th term as Principal. 2021 is the last year of Peter's current Contract.

Over the past 16 years, plus 3 years as Deputy Principal, Peter has accumulated various leave entitlements which he will take during 2021. Catholic Education Ballarat has appointed Mr Gerard Raven, currently Deputy Principal at Sacred Heart College Geelong, as Interim Principal of SBC, commencing in January. The recruitment process for a new Principal of St Brigid's College will be undertaken in the First Semester, with the hope of an appointment of a new Principal to commence in July 2021. College families, staff, students will be involved in the consultation process. The College will have an opportunity to farewell Peter. We thank Peter.

ROSTERS

12/13 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Garry Heinrich	Claudia Haenel
Commentator	Maree Plazzer	Andrea Cox
Eucharistic Ministers	Anne Newton Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker	Andrea Cox Kingsley Dalglish Alison McKinnon
Projector	Geoff Simpson	Robert Sartori
Musicians	Filipino Choir	Men's Choir
Welcomers	Gavin Hynam Judy Bryan	Denise Vallance Helene Bush
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	13th December Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley Judie Delahunty	20th December Lynda Hutchinson Helene Bush Bernadette Delahunty Gwen Antonucci Carmel O'Connor

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$
Horsham	\$ 1163.95	Dimboola	\$ 141.65
Total		\$ 1305.60	

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 1495.90	Loose	\$ 74.40
Total		\$ 1570.30	

Philippine Typhoon Appeal: \$585.00

If you wish to give via our Parish BSB Account :

BSB: 083 680

Account: 515830337

REF: Your Envelope number/surname or put "Presbytery"

Making Connections: Make time this week to spend a while within your heart, listening to the voice that is there.

Marriage Tip: As Christmas shopping accelerates, seek simplicity. Enjoy homemade fun (playing games, singing) and homemade treats at this time. Sit down with your spouse and look at some of your favourite photos from the past year.

What were the hard times you weathered together? Was there an unexpected blessing? Give thanks for life and love.

Daily Prayer: Open our eyes to the One who comes into our midst, that by lives of holiness and service we may hasten the coming of that day and be found at peace when it dawns.

A Vocation View: That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will. That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

Reflect: The candles on the Advent wreath remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. How might we reflect the light of Christ to others this season and beyond? Today we light the Candle of Peace, we pray for peace in our hearts, our family, our world, in all troubled hearts and in war zones.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light!
God of Salvation, help us give voice to the voiceless as we cry out in the name of your son, Jesus. Amen.

Liturgical Roster: The celebration of Mass relies on the assistance of volunteers. Camille has sent out new Rosters. It is presumed all who have been included on the roster (pre-Covid) will continue, unless you notify the Parish Office otherwise.

Thank you.

COUNTRY MASS TIMETABLE:

Sunday Dec 13: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10

Sunday Dec 20: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30. Nhill 5.

Sunday Dec 27: Murtoa 8.30.

♦ From December 28th to January 10th, for weekend Masses, Fr Michael McKinnon will be in Horsham.

From January 15th 2021,

Monsignor Glynn Murphy, currently Administrator of Warracknabeal and Hopetoun Parishes, is the **new Parish Priest** of Horsham, Nhill, Warracknabeal, Hopetoun.

Fr Jim McKay, currently Assistant Priest in East Wimmera Parish, will be Assistant Priest in these Parishes.

* The parish office will be based in Horsham,.



From Sr Manuela and Sr Jesusita:

Thank you for your support

Please leave money in an envelope marked Sr Manuela on the Collection or at the Office.

You can send your donation directly to:

Account Name: The Superior of CSSJB – Phil. Inc.

Account Number: 2574-0384-59

Bank: BPI North Green Hills, San Juan, M.M.

Swift Code (BIC): BOPIPHMM

Advent Wreath and Jesse Tree.

At each weekend Mass Chris, the Filipino Choir on December 12th and our Choir will lead us in singing as we light each week the Candles on our Wreath

To our Jesse Tree you are invited to bring wrapped gifts of non-perishable food and gifts for children (write age & gender). These will be distributed by St Vincent de Paul to needy families.

We congratulate and pray for Sienna Finnigan and Maeve Delahunty as they celebrate their Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion at Murtoa today, Sunday.

Remembrance Candles. On Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th December at Mass I will give you a remembrance candle, for those who have passed away these past 12 months, and in memory of all our loved ones.

If we do not have your email address please forward it to horsham@ballarat.catholic.org.au to receive Parish Bulletins, Parish and Diocesan news

Taking Place This Week:

Monday—St Ambrose. Tuesday—Immaculate Conception of Mary. Thursday—Human Rights Day. Friday—Mountain Day Saturday—1831 Founding of Sisters of Mercy by Catherine McAuley



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

Thursday December 24th:
Horsham: Family Mass 7pm
(no children's story)
Mass with Choir: 10.15pm.
Christmas Day: 9am.

Thursday December 24th:

Murtoa: 5pm. Nhill: 5pm. Dimboola: 7pm

Columban Calendars \$8, and Christmas Cards at the Piety Stall. Also Sacrament Gifts.

It's been 36 weeks, just prior to the 4th Sunday of Lent when we learnt that churches were to close due to COVID-19. Since then family members and friends have died, others have become frail, and for some, being absent from the Eucharist for such a long time, may take some time to return. Thus let us not be too disappointed if numbers are significantly less than prior to the coronavirus. May we rejoice that the 'doors' have opened and that we may celebrate our faith again on a regular basis with our faith community. May we be patient in these times as there are a few regulations to contend with in order to ensure a healthy environment for all. *Fr Peter*

Reconciliation, Anointing in Country Centres
Today, Sunday, at Dimboola Mass.

We pray for SBC Year 11's on their Retreat to Adelaide this week. We pray for a safe and blessed holiday for all staff, students and families, as they begin their Christmas break this Friday.



We welcome to the Family of God in Baptism this Sunday:

Freddy Hartigan son of Bradley & Lucy



Palms Australia: Reaching Beyond 2020

People of all trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. [Palms Australia](http://www.palms.org.au) will provide you with thorough preparation to ensure your readiness as travel resumes...See www.palms.org.au and talk to Roger on 0431 995 058, or email palms@palms.org.au

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Chris Robarts (Chair), Peter Gutteridge, Andrea Cox, Fr Peter, Lesley Price, Alison McKinnon, Daryl Wren, Bob Pritchett, Garry Heinrich, Cathy Grace, Margaret Lingham, Joan Lane-Storey. Camille Del Castillo

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has **Bob Pritchett** and **Jill McGennicken** as our Safeguarding Officers. We have a **Child Safety Policy** to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in our care. A **Child Safety Code of Conduct** has been adopted for all who work with children and vulnerable adults in the Parish.

Our Parish seeks to always be a child safe Parish.

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

'Console my people, console them' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 84:9-14

Lord, let us see your kindness, grant us your salvation. I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people. His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced. Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit. Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

Lord, let us see your kindness, grant us your salvation.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget:

that with the Lord, 'a day' can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. You should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 3:4, 6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Gospel Reflection: SunBAdvent02 Veronica Lawson rsm:

The first verse of Mark's gospel evokes the opening words of Genesis and thus situates the saving presence of Jesus the Christ in relation to the creation of earth and of all beings. The whole of Mark's story of Jesus is presented as a beginning., of a faith journey into which the reader is invited. In some manuscripts of the Greek text, there are only five words in this verse, seven in other manuscripts, and twelve in our English translation. The term gospel (euangelion) means good news, referring originally to the news of victory delivered by a messenger, usually in time of war. The good news in this context is about Jesus, a name meaning "Yahweh saves". The reader learns that Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, Israel's longed for Messiah. As we read the story we have to discover this truth as the drama unfolds. The two additional words present Jesus as "son of God", as one having the characteristics of God. John the Baptizer is identified as the messenger who proclaims the need to prepare the way for the arrival of a new Presence in our world. Mark creates the impression that something big is happening here. John draws massive crowds from city and

country alike. They come to him in the wilderness, home to diverse forms of life. At a metaphorical level, wilderness recalls Israel's experience in the Sinai desert. It is the place of testing and of new beginnings for God's people, the place of God's coming or God's "advent" to Israel. Jesus will be impelled by the Spirit into the wilderness where he will pass the tests that Israel failed. This reading invites us to prepare for God's advent or coming with metanoia ("repentance"), and thus being ready for the one who comes. The translation "repentance" does not convey the nuances of the Greek term metanoia which literally means a "change of mind" and suggests an "expansion of horizons". God's advent demands a new mindset that will predispose us to receive the gift of God's forgiveness and to be open to feel the pain of earth as well as the pain of those rendered poor. Mark's depiction of John evokes the image of the prophet Elijah in 2 Kings 8 and the "hairy mantle" of the prophet in Zechariah 13:4. John is a prophet who, like the prophets of old, calls God's people to reconsider where they stand in relation to God. He is also the one who heralds the advent of the "stronger" one who will baptize "with the Holy Spirit".

Next Week 's Gospel (SunBAdvent03) John 1:6-8, 19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further

question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you unknown to you the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

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Advent has a two fold purpose: to prepare for Christmas Christ's birth, to await Christ's second coming at the end of time
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December 5th is International Volunteers Day. Thank you to all who volunteer their time, talents and gifts to support our Church, Schools, all who are carers, and Community and Sport organizations