

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill



BULLETIN

2nd Sunday of Advent - 10th December 2017



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
 Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero
 10 Roberts Avenue, Horsham 3400
 PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402
 Phone: 5382 1155. Fax: 5382 3016
 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
 Acting Principal: Cathy Grace
 Phone: 5385 2526



JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree is decorated with Advent symbols.

You are invited to place gifts under the tree for children

(please write age & gender), and non-perishable food. St V de Paul will distribute these to needy families at Christmas. *Thank you.*

Christmas Mass Times 2017

Horsham Sunday Dec 24th:

7pm: Children's Christmas Story
 Carols 10pm. Mass 10.15pm.

Monday Dec 25: Horsham Mass 9am

Sunday December 24th:

Christmas Mass Murtoa 5pm.

Christmas Mass Dimboola 7pm.

Christmas Mass Nhill 5pm

Advent Reconciliation Service

Tuesday December 19th at 7pm in SMJ Church. Scripture, Prayer, Examination of Conscience, Hymns, 2 Priests for Individual Absolution.

There will be these Masses on Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th

Saturday Dec 23: Horsham 6.30pm

Sunday Dec 24: Horsham 10.30am

Sunday Dec 24: Natimuk 8.30am

Sunday Dec 24: Murtoa 10.30am

You can receive Holy Communion at these Masses and again at the Christmas Masses on Sunday 24th

PRAYER FOR SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source and creator of all healing power.

We entrust our sick brothers and sisters to your loving care.

We pray your blessings upon all in their own homes, in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice care, palliative care.

May You be their source of comfort when they experience pain, their source of hope in moments of despair, sorrow, woundedness, 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 **caregivers**, as channels of your love, they are your very hands on earth. Give them gentleness as they help the sick, to respect their dignity and value to You.

Give them patience as they manage their time, to best serve those who are needful of their care. Give them courage to continue to serve when weakened by constant demands and when they need your enduring help. 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, and those in Homes and in Hospital.



We welcome and thank Fr John and Fr Damian this weekend. Fr Peter has had his angiogram and requires bypass surgery which will take place this Wednesday at Melbourne Private.

There will only be Masses in Horsham next weekend.

Fr Damian will remain in Horsham for the week to help with all the masses.



We welcome in Baptism to the Family of God :

SIENNA BALLINGER

daughter of Louis and Amity



St Brigid's College End of Year Mass and

Year 12 Graduation this Tuesday Dec

12th at 6pm in SMJ Church

We pray for a safe and blessed holidays for Staff and families. We pray for VCE students as they receive their results on December 18th.

Maranatha - Come Lord Jesus

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday 12th Dec **6pm SBC Mass**

Wednesday 13 Dec 9.30 St Lucy

Thursday 14th Dec 9.30 St John of the Cross

Friday 15th Dec 9.30 Frances Plazzer int.

Saturday 16th Dec 10a

**MEN'S GROUP
CHRISTMAS TEA
this Wednesday
Dec 13th at
Natimuk Hotel 6.30**
Car pooling - leave from carpark behind the Church at 6.15

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: Ian Kruger - Edenhope, Bryce Craig

ANNIVERSARIES: Joseph Lawson, Frank Finnigan, Agnes Quirk, Sr Marie Therese Fogarty rsm, John Lloyd, Rosaria Neri, Beverley Khan, Iwan Szczur, Maureen Gumley

SICK: Corey Panozzo, Ruby Spasic, Kobe Davidson, Peter Kelly, Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Joy Flynn, John Coleman, Joan Glen, Judy Francisco, Xavier Reicha, Jean Ivess, Terry Turvey, Debbie Nolan, Lorrain Holland, Jill & Christine Higginbottom, Maureen Ryan, Ken Dowsley, Peter Oakley, Fleur Armstrong, Heather McPhee, Rachel O'Connor, Maurice Brennan, Fr Peter Hudson

Emergency Care: Contact Betty 53826688

Each Saturday Morning:

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9am. Rosary 9.20am
Prayer of the Church 9.40. Mass 10am. Confessions 10.25**

**Next Sunday 3rd Sunday of the Month
Third Sunday of Advent. December 17th 2017**

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

Dimboola **Sunday AWC 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday AWC 10.30am**

**Rosary, Litany of Mary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
SMJ 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 Craft - Gold Coin Donation. Contact Anita at Parish Office

Meditation Group: Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm.

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

Men's Group TEA at Natimuk Hotel this Wednesday 13th at 6.30. Carpooling at Church. Contact Patrick 0428847455 by Monday 11th December for catering purposes.

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

BAPTISM PREPARATION. 3rd Thursday of month at 7.30pm. For appointment contact Parish Office 53821155.

CHOIR PRACTICE 2nd Wednesday 6pm in the Church

Affordable Counselling from Centacare Ballarat, for families, individuals. **Free Call** 1300 303 988 for appointment

The Advent / Christmas Edition of our Parish Magazine "The Fisherman". We welcome articles, photos, items of interest from your families. Please have any of these into Anita by this Friday December 15th. Thank you.



SMJ SCHOOL CONCERT
this Thursday December 14th
at Sawyer Park. BYO tea 5.30, with the Concert **"FOLLOW THE STARS"** at 6.30. BYO chair. All welcome.

• Morning Tea to farewell Judy Reid, Monday Dec 18th at 10am in the Parish Centre.

Piety Stall: Columban Calendars \$8 and Christmas Cards

ROSTERS

9/10 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 9.30am*
Eucharistic Ministers	Geoff Simpson Ann Hermans Lorraine Clancy Micky Robarts Rosie Taylor Sr Jacinta Rice Simon Lynch	Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalglish Russell Reid Zita Cannane Judy Reid Andrea Cox
Commentator	Emelia Sudholz	Anna Robertson
16/17 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Maree Plazzer	Anna Robertson
Commentator	Anthony Amor	Alison McKinnon
Eucharistic Ministers	Joan Parker Anne Newton Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bernadette Trounce Peter Gutteridge Bob Hayes	Faye Wills Kingsley Dalglish Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Bob Pritchett Karen Hill Mary Dalglish
Projector	Geoff Simpson	Gabby Mills
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Pat Williams Joan Whiley	Zita Cannane Mary Dalglish
Children's Liturgy		Teash/Sharon
Prayers	Lesley Price and Mary Dalglish	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	17th December Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney	24th December Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 130.00
Horsham	\$ 962.00	Dimboola	\$ 73.00
Total			\$ 1165.00

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 3076.00	Loose	\$ 105.00
Credit Card	\$ 1926.67	Direct Debit	\$ 630.00
Total			\$ 5737.67

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 today.

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 at last it dawns.

A Vocation View: "In every age consecrated men and women must continue to be images of Christ the Lord, fostering through prayer a profound communion of mind with him." - Pope John Paul II 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!* (Isaiah 9: 1-2) God of Salvation, help us give voice to the voiceless as we cry out in the name of your son, Jesus.

Country Mass Times:

Sunday Dec 17: Dimboola AWC 8.30am
Murtoa AWC 10.30am

Sunday Dec 24: Natimuk 8.30
Murtoa 10.30

Christmas Eve Sunday Dec 24th: Murtoa 5pm. Nhill 5pm Dimboola 7pm

Sunday Dec 31: Dimboola 8.30
Murtoa 8.30. Nhill 10am

New Year's Day: Horsham 10am

January 7th: Dimboola AWC 8.30
Murtoa Mass 8.30am



The Year of Youth

The Australian Bishops celebrate the Liturgical year of 2018, as a **National Year of Youth, the theme is Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy, Anointed and Sent.**

How might we celebrate locally? Year of Youth information is on the Ballarat Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/Youth and Young Adult pages, or email youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

The Year of Youth aims:

- To prayerfully discern the vision for ministry with young people,
- Authentic, personal engagement in the challenges and successes in young people's lives;
- acknowledging the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of young people, and young people acting upon the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church;
- upholding the dignity of young people, ensuring a safe environment from physical, emotional and spiritual harm. The Year of Youth is focused on local renewal and engagement.

If interested please see Fr Peter.

Advent, Christmas Masses, Anointing and Reconciliation Schedules are in the Foyers

ADVENT PROGRAM 2017

- Eileen McManus Advent program in the Church meeting room each Monday at 10am.
- Lesley Price Group evening time. Contact Lesley 0408369487.
- Sr Jacinta's Group. Contact Jacinta

If you wish to do the Program at home you can collect a booklet from the Parish Office at \$5 per



St Vincent de Paul Society Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2017

will again be distributing Christmas hampers to those less fortunate than most of us. Over the years as a Parish you have been extremely generous when we have sought your assistance. Last Christmas over 130 families and individuals received hampers/gifts as a result of your generosity.

The Vinnies Shop is in urgent need of volunteers to help in the Shop and with clothing sorting etc. If you can help please phone Heather or Pat at the Shop, 5382 4003, or just call in. You will need a Working with Children's card.



Centenary Celebrations 2020. Please email us at 100@stbc.vic.edu.au with name, contact details, years you at SBC.

CWL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WINNERS

- 1st Prize—Carmel Armstrong—Christmas Cake and bottle of wine
- 2nd Prize—Betty Fitz Gerald—Biscuits
- 3rd Prize—Mary Guillemotti—bottle of wine.

Natimuk Nursing Home Mass this Thursday Dec 14th at 4.15pm.

CAROLS at Natimuk Nursing Home this Friday Dec 15th at 7pm.

There are no flowers in the Church in Advent



Children's Story at 7pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

We invite children to participate in this story. Please contact Alison McKinnon at SMJ School if your child can participate.

End of the Year School Masses and Graduations

OLHC School Murtoa Monday December 18th at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church Murtoa.

SMJ School Wednesday December 20th at 12 noon in SMJ Church.

St Patrick's School Nhill at 6pm Wednesday December 20th in St Patrick's Church.

Srs Manuela and Tirsia pray the Rosary in the Church each Thursday and Friday at 4pm. You are welcome to join them anytime

Bishop Paul Bird's response to the Royal Commission's Report into Case Study 28 on Ballarat Diocese

The Royal Commission has found serious failures in the way the Diocese responded to child sexual abuse. Bishop Bird said that mishandling of complaints against priests and church personnel and a lack of response to such complaints led to unnecessary suffering for many victims and their families and has brought distress to communities throughout the diocese. He said that the Church should be a safe place for everyone but the history brought to light in the Royal Commission's inquiry has shown that the Church was not safe for those who were victims. "Where the failures of my predecessors allowed abuse to occur, I offer my heartfelt apology." Bishop Bird added that he is confident that the diocese and its parishes and schools now have the policies and procedures required to provide a safe environment for children. He said that there is a firm commitment from all those who minister in parishes, schools and social services across the diocese to the safety and wellbeing of children in their care. Bishop Bird said that the Church would learn from the case study and the forthcoming final report from the Royal Commission, both to assist those who have suffered in the past and keep children safe now and in the future

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Chris Robarts (Chair), Peter Gutteridge, Andrea Cox, Fr Peter, Lesley Price, Alison McKinnon, Daryl Wren, Bob Pritchett, Garry Heinrich, Marg Lingham, Joan Lane-Storey, Anita Masiero (Secre)

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has Bob Pritchett as our Safeguarding Officer. 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 in the Parish. Our Parish seeks to always be a child safe Parish

1st 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, and 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, and grant us your salvation.

2nd 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. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. 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.

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 – 2nd Sunday of Advent. Veronica Lawson rsm.

The first verse of Mark's gospel evokes the opening words of Genesis and thus situates the saving presence of Jesus in relation to the creation of earth and of all earth beings. The whole of Mark's story of Jesus is presented as a beginning. It is the beginning of a faith journey into which the listener/reader is invited. In some manuscripts of the Greek text, there are only twelve words in our English translation. The term gospel (euangelion) means good news. It referred 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 this Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One of God, Israel's longed for Messiah. The two additional words present Jesus

as "son of God", or 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, the home of the other-than-human, of diverse forms of life. 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 by metanoia (usually translated as "repentance"), thus being ready for the one who comes. The nuances of the

Greek term metanoia literally means a "change of mind" and suggests an "expansion of horizons", thus our repentance. God's advent demands a new mindset that will predispose us to receive the gift of God's forgiveness and be open to feel 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". And yet there is nothing in the subsequent narrative about Jesus baptizing. As we reflect attentively on Mark's gospel this liturgical year, we might discover for ourselves the meaning of that reference.

Next Week's Gospel: 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.

MINISTERS at CHRISTMAS MASSES

There is a sheet in the Foyer, please put your name beside any ministries you can help us with in our SMJ Church Christmas Masses.

Thank you