



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham-Dimboola-Murtoa-Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

3rd Sunday of Advent - 13th December 2020



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 this Thursday December 17th at 5.30pm in Meeting Room. The Meeting will be on Zoom for those who can't come. Please have Reports to Camille by Wednesday, and apologies.

Planned Giving Program: Boxes of envelopes and single white envelopes are in SMJ Foyer.

MEN'S BREAKFAST this Thursday December 17th from 7.30am-8.30am in the Parish Centre. Men, sons, single men are welcome for Breakfast, prayer, a chat.

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.

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**

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



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.

Individual Confession Times: after 9.30am Mass this Thursday, after 10am Mass on Saturday, and after 9.30am Mass on Wednesday 23rd.

Our Schools can have Graduation Masses capped at 150.

OLHC in St Marys Church Murtoa this Tuesday 15th, 6pm.
 SMJ Wednesday 16th 12noon in SMJ Church.
 Nhill Wednesday 16th at 6pm in St Patrick's Church.

ADVENT

Sunday Readings Yr B, Weekday Readings Year 1.

Fr John will celebrate his final Horsham Masses this weekend. There will be cuppa after each Mass to thank Fr John and to say farewell to him. Farewell Cuppa after 10.30 Mass in Murtoa next Sunday December 20th.

Fr Peter's Farewell Horsham Masses are next weekend December 19/20. There will be cuppa after each Mass to say farewell to him. Fr Peter will celebrate Horsham Masses on December 26/27, and then he retires. Fr Peter will live in a private Unit in Nazareth House, Ballarat.

Bishop Paul Bird will arrange for a Priest to celebrate Mass in Horsham Parish on January 1st, weekend Masses on January 2/3 and 9/10, any Funerals, until Monsignor Murphy and Fr Jim begin here on January 15th

ONLINE Masses, Weekday Masses:(Eucharistic Group Facebook)

Tuesday 15	9.30	Holy Souls
Wednes 16	9.30	Eugene Gillard anniv.
Thurs 17th	9.30	Phillip White, Agnes Quirk, Frank Finnigan annivs.
Friday 18th	9.30	Agnes Hudson anniv.
Saturday 19	10am	Sr Marie Therese Fogarty, Jim Phelan annivs



Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS:

ANNIVERSARIES: Edith Rice, Agnes Hudson, Brian Curran, Phillip White, Agnes Quirk, Frank Finnigan, Jim Phelan, Jose Lawson

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: 4th Sunday of Advent 19/20th December

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

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 10.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

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.

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

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

GREENERY AND FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you are able to donate any greenery and any flowers, could you please leave them at the back of the church (in buckets of water that will be there) by 24th December. *Thanking you.*

Christmas Dues Envelopes are in the Foyers.

The dues support our retired Priests and needy Parishes. *Thank you.*

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

ROSTERS

19/20 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Sr Jacinta Rice	Andrea Cox
Commentator	Micky Robarts	Bob Pritchett
Eucharistic Ministers	Sr Jacinta Rice Micky Robarts Lorraine Clancy	Fay Wills Rosie Taylor Cate Rigby
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Gabby Mills
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Judie & Hugh Delahunty	Marina Manserra Zita Cannane
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	20th December Lynda Hutchinson Helene Bush Bernadette Delahunty Gwen Antonucci Carmel O'Connor	27th December Josie Phelan Pauline Irwin Joan Butler Margo Hogan

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$		Murtoa	\$	140.00
Horsham	\$	1000.00	Dimboola	\$	165.00
Total			\$ 1305.00		

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$	2357.00	Loose	\$	153.20
Credit Card	\$	3204.17	Direct Debit	\$	2090.00
Total			\$ 7804.37		

Church Donations: \$1500.00

Philippine Typhoon Appeal: \$550.00

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: Light has become a synonym for Christ, who refers to himself as the light of the world (John 8:12). The presence of Jesus is often symbolised by a lighted candle. How does this light shine in you? Bring light to someone's life this week by a visit, a phone call, a gesture...
Sharing the Tradition: The Church is inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit, and we encounter the work of the Spirit *'in the witness of saints through whom he manifests his holiness and continues the work of salvation'*, learn the example of *'holiness and recognise its model in the spiritual tradition and long history of the saints'* who have given witness to Jesus.
Exploring the Word: The Gospel of John was penned at the very end of the first century. A common theme is clear: the Baptist is again presented as the forerunner. John the Baptist rejects all messianic titles. He throws human expectation into chaos. He claims for himself only the role of the 'voice' of Isaiah 40, but the evangelist presents him as the most reliable of witnesses, 'Sent by God...to speak for the light'. Jesus comes from God. Before the leaders of Israel, John witnesses with authority and truthfulness that has its source in God. How do you give witness to Christ?

Marriage Tip: "This is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more." God wants your love to grow, always. God gave us two ears and one mouth. Keeping this ratio in mind can help you deepen your relationship. Try listening to your spouse twice as much as you speak

Daily Prayer: God of peace, whose word is good news to the oppressed, healing for the broken-hearted and freedom for all who are held bound, gladden our hearts and fashion the earth into a garden of righteousness and praise! Sanctify us entirely, in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of the One who even now is among us, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

A Vocation View: There was a man sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this

COUNTRY MASS TIMETABLE:

Sunday Dec 20: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30. Nhill 5.
Sunday Dec 27: Murtoa 8.30.

Happy Christmas! May Christmas be a celebra3on of life for you and your family—relaxing, healthful and community mak-

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 thank our Schools for their great love and care of students and families during this difficult year, for their online support to families, and for the personal contacts made to encourage and support students in their home learning , and then back at School.

Remembrance Candles. Next weekend, 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:
Friday: International Migrants Day.



The third week of Advent is a celebration of joy and peace and especially of womanhood. **Our candle for the third week is always pink. Rose or pink also symbolizes joy, the joy that Jesus is almost here.**

When parents get ready to bring a new baby home, they typically paint the baby's room lovely colours. They do this out of joy for the baby's arrival. The young woman, Mary, in agreeing to have this baby, changed the course of human history. In her hidden life, she nurtured a son who was to become the long-promised Saviour of God's Chosen People. Let us pray for women and girls everywhere, that their contribution to the advancement of humanity is appreciated and recognised. Of the 1 billion young people – including 600 million adolescent girls – that will enter the workforce in the next decade, more than 90% of those living in developing countries will work where it is common for low or no pay, abuse and exploitation. We pray for an inclusive world. Lord, we pray that young girls have the opportunity of a liberating education, remembering especially the girls in poor and war-torn countries where their lives are not valued. Lord, help us to really appreciate the sacrifices mothers make for each of us. We sometimes do not realize the care and unselfishness that they have for us. We give thanks for their unconditional love. Lord, in this season of peace and joy, we remember those wives, partners and mothers who are not considered as persons in their own right. They are not treated with dignity and respect. May those who assist victims of domestic violence be strengthened in their work to put an end to such needless tragedy as death at the hands of a partner. Lord, we give thanks for women in positions of power and influence who can bring about changes so that girls have the opportunity to follow their dreams.

We can use our mobile phones to sign in at Mass using the QR Code. Download the QR Code App, or hold your phone over the QR Code in the Church, then add your name and phone number. Each time you come in, hold your phone over the QR Code, and you will be automatically registered, therefore you don't have to sign in.

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 61:1-2, 10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-50, 53-54

My soul rejoices in my God.
My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him. He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy.
My soul rejoices in my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything - hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the

God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation: Isaiah 61:1 (Luke 4:18)

Alleluia, alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia!

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.

Gospel Reflection: SunBAdvent03 Veronica Lawson rsm:

The first section of today's gospel reading comes from the prologue of John's gospel and offers comment on the identity of John the Baptizer. The second section revolves around a question that has already been answered in the prologue. In other words, the reader knows the answer to the question posed by the characters in the second section. The prologue presents John the baptizer as one "sent from God". He is not "the light"; he is rather a "witness" whose role is to testify to "the light". The true light [Jesus] was "coming into the world". As we proclaim Jesus as "the light", we might take time to appreciate the wonder and the properties of the material reality that informs this metaphor. In the face of less than friendly questioning, John the baptizer responds simply and honestly to questions about his identity. The questions in this second section of the reading are relentless and John's responses are unambiguous. He is not the Messiah/the Christ, the Anointed of God. He is not the prophet Elijah that some identified with God's messenger of Malachi 3:1-3 who would return and restore the "descendants of Levi" He is not the prophet-like-Moses of Deuteronomy 15. He states his identity with reference to the words of the prophet Isaiah: he is the voice crying out in the wilderness, inviting God's people to prepare the way for God's advent, God's coming. John

knows who he is. He understands the parameters of his mission and he points his questioners in the direction of the truth. His role is pivotal in the story of God's saving action and in the unfolding of the drama of the fourth gospel. It is worth asking how we might answer the question that the priests and Levites put to John on behalf of the Jerusalem "Jews": "Who are you?" If we can honestly answer that question, if we can admit who we are with all our strengths and weaknesses, if we can know our place in the scheme of things and own it in all humility, then we are probably in a good position to recognise and, like John, witness to the "one who is coming", the light of the world, the revelation of God, the Word who became flesh and tented amongst us. For many of us, pandemic time has sharpened our awareness of who we are and how we are called to be. A caution is in order regarding this reading: not only the opponents of Jesus but most of the actors in the gospel drama are Jewish. The group of characters specifically named as "the Jews" includes some influential members of the Jewish religious leadership, but cannot be identified with them because it comprises a more extensive group who are consistently in conflict with Jesus. It would be a serious disservice to the gospel to condemn the Jewish people on the basis of this and similar stories of Jewish opposition to Jesus.

Next Week SunBAdvent04's Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called

Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

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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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Happy Christmas! To those who will be away for Christmas, may Christmas be a celebration of the life and love of Jesus for you and your family. May your time away be relaxing, healthful, happy and community making.

