

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham-Dimboola-Murtoa-Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Advent - 20th December 2020



4TH SUNDAY OF Advent

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

Interim Principal: Gerard Raven

Phone: 5382 3545

Our Lady Help of Christians

Principal: Cathy Grace

Phone: 5385 2526

Nhill: St Patrick's

Principal: Kingsley Dalglish

Covid Safe Plans for coming to Mass or Church:

- Social distancing 1.5 meters is adhered to. * Hand sanitiser is provided.
- To facilitate the signing in process at each door way:

Write only your given name (no surname) and your phone number.

Use your mobile phone to photo the QR Code at each door, this will register your first name and phone number to our Church.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMETABLE

Thursday December 24th:

Horsham:

Family Mass 7pm

(no children's story)

Carols: 9.45pm with the Choir

Mass: 10.15pm.

Christmas Day: 9am.

Thursday December 24th:

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



Advent Reconciliation Service this 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: after 9.30am Mass Tuesday.

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.*

Fr Peter's Farewell Horsham Masses are this weekend December.

Fr Peter celebrates Horsham Masses this weekend, and then he and Fr John retire.

Fr Peter will live in a private Unit in Nazareth House, Ballarat.

Fr John at this stage will live in retirement in a Unit in Ballarat.

A very happy, blessed, holy and joyful Christmas to you all, peace and blessings for the holidays, from Frs Peter, John, Sr Jacinta, Sr Manuela, Camille. Safe travelling for those going away. A warm welcome to family members home for Christmas, and to visitors.

Bishop Paul Bird has arranged that **Fr Michael McKinnon** will 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 22 9.30 Our Families for a safe, happy, holy, joyful Christmas

Wednes 23 **10am** **Funeral Mass for Shane Kennedy**

Thurs 24th **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Friday 25th **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Saturday 26 St Stephen

On our White Christmas Tree in the Foyer you can write the names of loved ones who you wish to remember at Christmas, and these will be included in our Christmas Masses.

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

Thank you.

The Parish Office will be closed Christmas Day, Monday 28th and Tuesday 29th December



Parish Bulletin is online
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
Thank you for Staying Connected with phone calls, texts, emails, food.



Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Shane, Kennedy, Marina Neri (Epping), Fr Frank Young (Sale)

ANNIVERSARIES: Ron McIntyre, Warren Strauss, Noreen Ellis, Celina Ellis, Antonius Kardogeros, Preston Hynam

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

Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 5382 1155

No Saturday Morning Devotions until further notice.

Next Sunday: Feast of the Holy Family 26/27 December

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

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am. Nhill Mass 10am**

Regular Activities in the Parish

From January 15th 2021,

Monsignor Glynn Murphy, currently Administrator of Warracknabeal and Hopetoun Parishes, is the **Parish Priest** of West Wimmera Ministry District of Horsham, Nhill, Warracknabeal, Hopetoun. **Fr Jim McKay**, currently Assistant Priest in East Wimmera Parish, will be Assistant Priest.
* The parish office will be based in Horsham,.

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 McGenniken** 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.

Ministries for Christmas Masses

Sign-up sheet in the SMJ Church Foyer.

7pm Family Mass

Music: Chris Robarts

Projector: Gabby Mills

Commentator: Micky Robarts.

Reader: Anna Robertson

Special Ministers:

10.15pm Mass after Carols

Music: Combined Choir

Projector: Anita Masiero

Commentator:

Reader:

Special Ministers: Geoff Simpson, Bob Pritchett,

9am Mass Christmas Day.

Music: Chris Robarts

Projector: Geoff Simpson

Commentator:

Reader:

Special Ministers: Tim Lannen,



ROSTERS

26/27 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Frank O'Connor	Angela Murphy
Commentator	Kevin Dunn	Louise Kemp
Eucharistic Ministers	Peter Gutteridge Bob Hayes Cath Taylor	Mary Dalgleish Anna Robertson Tim Lannen
Projector	Geoff Simpson	Robert Sartori
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Pat Williams Gary Coutts	Mary Dalgleish Alistair Castle
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	27th December Josie Phelan Pauline Irwin Joan Butler Margo Hogan	3rd January 2021 Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhoda Tursi

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$		Murtoa	\$	280.00
Horsham	\$	736.00	Dimboola	\$	79.00
Total			\$ 1095.00		

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$	1830.00	Loose	\$	72.00
Total			\$ 1902.00		

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: Mary's perfect 'yes' to God's will establishes her as a model of discipleship. Like Mary, who visited Elizabeth when she was in need, call on someone this week who may be in need of company or support.

Did you Know?: From the time of the Exile in Babylon, Israel had longed for the Messiah to come. He was to be the anointed one of God and the prophets foretold that he would come from the House of David and be born in David's home town of Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph live in Nazareth in the north and travel to Bethlehem to be counted in the census - Joseph is of David's line and returns to his 'home' country.

Sharing the Tradition: The Second Vatican Council emphasised Mary's role as the first disciple and model for all disciples. Mary is Mother of the Church and Mother of God. The title 'Mother of God' conveys one of the truths of Christianity: that Jesus Christ, Son of God is the son of Mary, a human being. It expressed the mystery of the Incarnation where God became flesh and dwelt among us.

Living the Word: God does not always act in grand or expected ways, nor does God manipulate human response. God simply invites collaboration and we, like Mary, respond freely.

Marriage Tip: As we wait for Christmas, it's a good time to develop the virtue of patience. Focus on being patient today, especially with your family members. Offer up the frustrations that come from things not going the way you had planned.

Daily Prayer: Great and merciful God, from among this world's lowly and humble you choose your servants and call them to work with you to fulfil your loving plan of salvation. By the power of your Spirit, make your church fertile and fruitful, that, imitating the obedient faith of Mary, we may welcome your word of life and be joyful in our witness, a great and holy posterity of children destined for undying life.

A Vocation View: Every person who has ever born a child, and every person who has freely vowed away this honour, helps in some mysterious way to bring Jesus Christ into this world again. Can you say: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord"?

COUNTRY MASS TIMETABLE:

Sunday Dec 27: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10.

COLLECTIONS AT OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES.

The 1st Collection is for the support of our Priests and Parish.

The 2nd Collection is the Bishop's Annual Christmas Appeal.

Christmas Dues Envelopes support our retired priests and needy parishes. You can place these on the Collection plate

Thank you for your support and generosity



As I conclude my nine years as Parish Priest of Horsham and Nhill (5 years) I retire from the active priestly ministry, but enter

into another phase of my priestly life – highlighted by “administrative downsizing.” - but retaining, as long as I can, pastoral work and helping Parishes with supply Masses. I thank you for your welcome and acceptance of me and Fr John, to whom I am deeply grateful for his faithful support to our Parish in his weekend support and my holiday supply. Our Parish has a wonderful history and recognizes the many people and cultures who have been part of our Parish over its long history. I am proud to be part of that history. For all my faults and failings, I pray, in the spirit of today's Psalm: “O Lord; through all ages my mouth has proclaimed your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.” There are so many generous and caring people who make up the life and care of our Parish and I thank each one of you for your generous use of your gifts, talents and time to support our Parish and Ministries, and so many community organizations. Jesus calls us to be disciples who are industrious in advancing His Father's Kingdom not ambitious for the greatest place of honor in the Kingdom. The truth I have tried to live with you is that we have no importance, except in the eyes of our Creator God who loves us, and in the lives of the people who need us and to whom we have been called to serve. Especially this year, after what we have been through, being cut off from others for a long period, facing anxiety and wondering what will or could have happened. Everyone has faced challenges of one kind or another. It has been inspiring to see the faith and support in our communities. I would like to thank everyone for the many ways you contribute to the life of our two Parishes and help each other through strange times. May God's blessing be on everyone this Christmas and may we all keep safe and healthy into 2021. I include the list of people who make up our Parish and its extension to other organizations. This is the list that I thank God for as I end my 49.5 years of Parish Ministry, the people who make up our Parish and Diocese. For those I have hurt by not listening or being attentive or my lack of care, I ask forgiveness. May the Christ we welcome this Christmas show us his mercy and compassion, love and peace. As we say farewell to Shane Kennedy this week, Shane epitomizes the spirit of people whom I have been privileged to serve in Terang, Ballarat, West Warrnambool, Hamilton, Swan Hill, Horsham and Nhill. I thank God for this privilege.

The people, Ministries and life of our Parish and Community. Thank you all. Fr Peter.

Fr John Pothiyittel, Anita Masiero, Camille Del Castillo Sr Jacinta, Sr Tirsa, Sr Manuela, Bob Pritchett in the grounds and Church, Bob Pritchett and Jill McGennissen - our Safe-guarding and Protocols Officers, OH&S team.

Liturgy - Readers, Music, Choir, Singers, Commentators, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Collectors, Computer, Offertory Procession, Welcomers, Children's Liturgy, Flowers, Church Cleaners, Church Linen, Sacristy, Cup of Tea, Piety Stall, Lorraine and Helen. **Schools** - Ss Michael & John – Principal Andrea Cox, St Brigid's – Principal Peter Gutteridge, Our Lady Help of Christians – Principal Cathy Grace, St Patrick's Nhill—Kingsley Dalgleish, **In all our Schools** teachers and staff, School Advisory Councils, Parents and Friends, Young Vinnies, parents and helpers.

Parish - Parish Pastoral Council, Finance, Sacrament Program, Liturgy, Baptism Preparation, Adult Faith, RCIA, Pastoral Care, Bereavement, Seder Meal, CWL, Catering, Men's Group, Prayer Groups, Meditation Groups, Craft Groups, Hospital Visitation, Cleaners, Counters, Communion to homes, Lenten Program, Maintenance, Spiritual Direction, Brigidine Past Pupils, Grounds, The Fisherman, St Vincent de Paul, Vinnies Shop, Relay for Life, Christian Emergency Food Centre, those who help with putting letters, cards and planned giving into envelopes, Counselling, our Indian, Filipino, African, Italian, other ethnic communities, **Country Centres:** Dimboola, Natimuk, Murtoa, Rupanyup. **Coughlin Park** User Groups, to Brendan Ryan for his leadership,

Christian Food Emergency Centre and the wonderful volunteers

Our Community: what an inspiration you are in your generous support to the prayerful and financial and practical challenges of maintaining our Parish buildings, supporting works of charity, sharing in Parish and Diocesan and Community commitments, supporting our Priests, and so many other causes.

Thank you for your service, time, generosity and talents

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.

Christmas Dues Envelopes are in the Foyers.

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

Remembrance Candles. Today, Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th December at Mass Fr Peter 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:

Today Sunday is Human Solidarity Day. Monday is the Longest Day of the Year

From Sr Manuela and Sr Jesusita: Thank you for your support



First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.
I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.' He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

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.

Gospel Reflection: SunBAdvent04 Veronica Lawson rsm:

We are all familiar with Luke's story of the annunciation, a story that has inspired artists through the ages. God's messenger, Gabriel, approaches a young Galilean Jewish woman, Mary of Nazareth, and greets her as God's graced one. The angel's greeting to Mary is unique. No other person in the Christian scriptures is addressed as "favoured one" or "graced one". The Greek form kecharitōmenē contains within it the notion of grace, charis in Greek. It can also mean "mercied one". Mary is troubled by the angel's greeting, succinct as it is. After being addressed as "favoured or mercied one", she is told only that God is with her. She knows the traditions of her people. She knows that those said to be the graced or favoured of God (Noah and Moses and Gideon and Samuel) are called to be agents of God's saving action and to carry heavy responsibilities. Now a young woman is called to be God's agent. In a formula that forms part of angelic announcements of birth, the angel tells Mary not to be afraid and reassures her by stating explicitly that she has been graced by God. The angel then proceeds to announce the conception and birth of the child she is to name

"Jesus". This child will reign forever. The prophecy of Nathan, recounted in today's first reading, is to be fulfilled in the conception and birth of Mary's son who is also, and especially, God's son in the line of David who in his turn was first of many "sons of God" called to rule with the justice and the wisdom of God. In the face of almost constant failure on the part of the kings, later prophets projected Israel's hope into the future and looked for one who would truly have the characteristics of God, who would truly be "son of God". Mary's response to the angel, "How can this be...?" echoes the prayer of David in the continuation of today's first reading: "Who am I...and who are we that you have brought us to this point?" (2 Sam 7:18). Mary learns that God's dwelling place is her own human flesh and that this extraordinary event will be accomplished through the grace of God and the power of God's Holy Spirit. At Christmas we the celebration of the ongoing comings of the Christ into our world, pause to wonder at the goodness of God at work in all that incarnates the grace and mercy of God. Let us give thanks in the spirit of today's gospel for the incarnation we celebrate at this time, as the pandemic places limits on our communal celebrations.

Next Sunday Holy Family Gospel: Luke 2:22, 39-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

Rupanyup Home Mass this Monday at 6.30pm at Weidemanns.

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,



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. Have a blessed, safe, happy holidays.