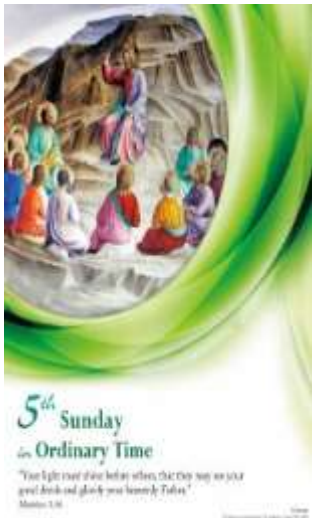


Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham- Dimboola- Murtoa- Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 9th February 2020



5th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

"The light that shines in the dark is a sign that the day is near and that the night is far off."
Matthew 24:29

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.

Fax: 5382 3016

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 Dalgleish

Bushfire Appeal: \$2750

This Tuesday 11th February is World Day of the Sick as a way for believers to offer prayers for those suffering from illnesses. The day coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People around the world take pray for the sick and for those who work to alleviate the suffering of the sick. Faith organisations on this day provide the sick with medicines, food, and spiritual guidance.

We welcome the Principals and Staff of SMJ, OLHC, St Patrick's Nhill and SBC for their **Blessing and Commissioning as our School Staffs** at 10.30 Mass today. There will be Morning Tea after Mass in the Foyer to meet and greet the Staff members.

We pray for God's blessings on our School Year, for families, students, and our teachers as they teach and witness to our children in the ways of faith and in their education.

Opening of the School Year Masses:

St Brigid's College Monday February 17th at 9.30am in SMJ Church.

OLHC Murtoa Tuesday February 18th at 12 noon at St Mary's Church.

St Patrick's Nhill next Sunday February 16th at 10am in the Church.

Ash Wednesday is February 26th.
Easter Sunday is on April 12th.

First Term of the School Year ends on Friday March 27th.

Catholic Education Week Combined Schools Mass for SMJ, SBC, OLHC, Nhill on Monday May 25th at 11.30am in SMJ Church. Lunch for the Schools after.

Parent Meeting Sacrament of Reconciliation Wednesday Feb 19th at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Dates:
Monday March 16th either 5pm or 7pm
Thursday March 19th either 5pm or 7pm.

First Communion and Confirmation Sacrament Masses in SMJ Church

Saturday June 13th at 6.30pm.

Sunday June 14th at 10.30am.

Saturday June 20th at 6.30pm.

Sunday June 21st at 10.30am.

PRAYER FOR SICK and CARERS

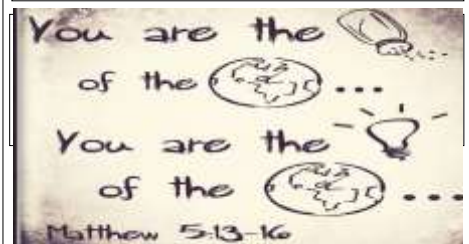
Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source and creator of all healing power. We entrust our sick to your loving care.

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 in pain, of hope in times of despair, woundedness, sorrow, their solace and inspiration when they are unable to lift their hearts, minds and voices to You in prayer. Bless them with courage and faith to place their trust in your healing touch and love.

Bless **caregivers**, as channels of your love, they are your hands on earth. Give them gentleness as they help the sick, give them respect for their dignity and value to You.

Give carers and helpers patience and courage as they manage their time, to best serve those who are needful of their care, 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, on the path of pain and sadness with the sick.

Bless the **ministry** of those who take Holy Communion to the elderly, sick, in Homes or in Hospital.



Fr Peter will be with SBC Year 7 students and Staff in Robe for their Introductory Camp to the College, Wednesday to Friday.

Rupanyup Home Mass this Tuesday Feb 11th at 6.30pm at Weidemann's home.

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 11 Feb	5.30pm	Marie McIntyre anniv. Our Lady of Lourdes
Wednesday 12 Feb	9am	John 'Jock' Panozzo. Andrew Taylor annivs
Thursday 13 Feb	AWC 9.30	
Friday 14 Feb	1.30pm	Funeral Mass Archangela Aucello.
Saturday 15 Feb	10am	Silvio & Reginitta D'Agostin. Agnese Masiero.

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: Janet Connolly (Birchip, Robbie's mother), Arcangela Aucello
ANNIVERSARIES: Jack Delahunty, Marie McIntyre, Pat Oakley, Agnese Masiero, Dorothy Shalders, John "Jock" Panozzo, Clarrie Keenan, Silvio D'Agostin, Reginetta D'Agostin, Andrew Taylor, Irene Gannon
SICK: Brian Rice, Debbie Nolen, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen John McNamara, Elsie Thomas, Sr Tirsa Bale, Laurie Manserra
Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 53821155
Confessions Saturday after Mass (10.25)
Saturday Morning Devotions: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20 Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church. 10am Mass
Next Sunday 3rd Sunday of the Month 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time - 16th February 2020
Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday 10.30am
Nhill Sunday Mass 10am
Dimboola Sunday Mass 8.30am
Murtoa Sunday Mass 8.30am
Rosary, Litany of Mary, Divine Mercy Chaplet HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.

Regular Activities in the Parish
Craft Group Mondays - Parish Meeting Room. BYO Craft Mornings - 9.30am to 11.30am. Evening - 7pm to 9pm.
Meditation Group: Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2pm
CWL Meetings 1st Tuesday of the Month: Upcoming meeting 4 February - 10.30am* in Meeting Room. (until April)
Men's Group Meeting on 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 of the month, Church 6pm



**Rite of Christian
Initiation of Adults.**

Our Parish rejoices as we welcome and prepare for Reception into the Fulness of the Church these our Candidates:

Robbie Fry, Hanna Melicio and Harold Melicio, Maryann and Julia Kardogeros, Maricel Mahmood

Please pray for our candidates.

We will have the Rite of Welcome for them on February 23rd at 10.30 Mass.

ROSTERS		
8/9 Feb	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer Cathy Taylor Micky Roberts John Parker Geoff Simpson Simon Lynch	Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalglish Andrea Cox
Commentator	Peter Gutteridge	Angela Murphy
15/16 Feb	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Peter Gutteridge	Alison McKinnon
Commentator	Maree Plazzer	Andrea Cox
Eucharistic Ministers	Peter Gutteridge Bob Hayes Anne Newton Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce	Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill Anna Robertson
Projector	Anita Masiero	Shayne Keenan
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Joan Whiley Connie Besselar	Marina Manserra Zita Cannane
Prayers	Darryl & Maree Wren	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	16th February Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhonda Tursi	23rd February Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 128.00
Horsham	\$ 958.00	Dimboola	\$ 54.00
Total			\$ 1140.00

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 1289.00	Loose	\$ 89.50
Credit Card	\$ 2129.17	Direct Debit	\$ 1250.00
Total			\$ 4757.67

Making Connections: Identify one talent which you have and use it well and often this week. Let your light shine.
Marriage Tip: "Taking time to rest is not a waste of time."
 Give yourself a break today or tomorrow – from kids, a chore, worries. It doesn't have to be long to refresh.
Daily Prayer: Remove from our midst all false accusation and malicious speech, that our words may season the world with the flavour of the gospel. Let the light of your justice shine in our lives, that all may see our good works and give you praise
A Vocation View: Jesus speaks on Vocations: "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before people so that they may see your goodness in your acts, giving praise to your heavenly Father."

Hundreds of mourners prayed the Rosary at the Oatlands crash in a massive outpouring of heartbreak and prayer for four children killed by an alleged drunk driver. Ms Abdallah, a member of the Maronite Church, said she had prayed her whole life to God but did not foresee losing her children. "To be honest with you, I am sad, I am heartbroken, but I'm at peace because I know my kids are in a better place. My kids are angels. They are right now with us, I can feel them, I've got goosebumps, I can feel them touching me and telling me they are with us." Ms Abdallah said she could not hate the driver. "I can't hate him, I don't want to see him, I don't hate him ... I think in my heart, I forgive him," she said. "that's not who we are and that's not what our religion tells us."

COUNTRY MASS TIMES

16th Feb: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am
23rd Feb: Natimuk 8.30. Murtoa 8.30. Nhill 10. Dimboola 11.30
1st Mar: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10. Kaniva 11.30
8th Mar: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am

Lenten Program 2020: In this year's program '**Grace**' we are called to open our hearts and minds to the fullness of life in God and allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit. The program begins in the first week of Lent.
Booklets will be on sale before Lent, \$5 ea, for Groups or for Individual use.

Beautiful Woman Program 2020

By Heart and Soul Community Education
Course Dates and further details available at the church foyer. Registrations open till 17th April 2020. Contact Julie Madden at 0447121000 for enquiries.

ENCOURAGING A FAITH THAT WELLS FROM WITHIN

Helping people form a mature Catholic faith that will sustain them in years to come is a key challenge of the upcoming Plenary Council, says Br Mark O'Connor FMS
"People are led and only changed by insights. They must well up from within; they can never be imposed. Yes, we do have a beautiful treasure in our Catholic faith. The Spirit keeps teaching us through the Word of God; our profound Catholic tradition, especially the Sacraments and the "signs of the times". This treasure, however, cannot be just simply imposed by an external authority in a culture such as ours. People must now be encouraged to deepen the insights of the gift of faith. Faith always needs to well up from within. Only then can faith dialogue with the culture around it. That's what is at the heart of the coming Plenary Council and the journey of synodality. Helping people form such a mature adult Catholic faith, that will sustain them in the difficult but joyous decades ahead, is then a key challenge of the coming Plenary Council. For the voice of the laity must be given much greater recognition and legislated for in canon law. Since lay people – especially women – make up the majority of the Church, we urgently need to ensure there are practical structures to make their voices count at every level of our Church."



Celebrating 100 years of the Brigidine Sisters in our Parish. Long weekend in June 6th to 8th.



Pope Francis designated **8th February as a World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action Against Human Trafficking.** It is the Feast of St Josephine Bakhita. Josephine was born in Southern Sudan in 1869, and during her life experienced kidnapping and slavery in both Sudan and Italy. After gaining her freedom Josephine Bakhita dedicated her life to sharing her story and to supporting the poor and suffering. She eventually became a Canossian Sister and was Canonised in 2000.
She is Patron Saint of Sudan.

"Loosen the chains . . . they are so heavy"

Plenary Council Sessions on the Themes of Listening and Discerning.

Sr Jacinta, Lesley Price and Fr Peter met to work our dates for the remaining Themes we have to reflect upon. These are dates and times:

Monday February 10th at Dimboola at 7pm.
Fr Peter.
Theme: Joyful, Humble and Servant Community.

Wednesday February 12th at 7pm in the Meeting Room. Lesley Price.
Theme: Inclusive, Synodal and Participatory.

Sunday February 16th at 11.30 in the **Church Meeting Room.** Sr Jacinta.
Theme: Missionary and Evangelising.

Tuesday February 18th at 2pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Fr Peter.
Theme: Joyful, Hopeful and Servant Community.

Tuesday February 18th at Dimboola at 7pm.
Fr Peter.
Theme: Joyful, Hopeful and Servant Community

Sunday February 23rd at 11.30am in the **Church Meeting Room.** Lesley Price.
Theme: Open to Conversion.

Thursday February 27th at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Sr Jacinta.
Theme: Open to Conversion.

Sunday March 1st at 11.30am in the **Church Meeting Room.** Sr Jacinta.
Theme: Inclusive, Synodal and Participatory.

All Parishioners are welcome to attend any or all of these Sessions. There will be materials for all to help us participate.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting on Thursday February 20th at 5pm.

Men's Breakfast first gathering Thursday Feb 20.

Finance Meeting on Wednesday February 19th at 12 noon.



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

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has **Bob Pritchett and Jill McGinniken** are 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 and vulnerable adults in the Parish.

Our Parish seeks to always be a child safe Parish

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, Srs Manuela & Tirsia.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 111:4-9

A light rises in the darkness for the upright. He is a light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just. The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour. The just man will never waver: he will be remembered for ever. He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord. With a steadfast heart he will not fear; open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm for ever. His head will be raised in glory.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show

of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on the power of God.

Gospel Acclamation: John 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson rsm

In today's gospel, Jesus addresses two short parables to his disciples in the presence of the crowds. The crowds as well as the disciples hear what he has to say. Parables were intended to tease their hearers, inviting them to see things differently or from a new perspective, to see themselves in a new light. One of the difficulties for us is that Jesus told these parables in early first century Palestine with its particular symbol system, while we hear them through the multiple layers of our own twenty-first century contexts and symbol systems. "Salt" and "light" have slightly different resonances in different contexts, as do "earth" and "world". Exploring those resonances or nuances can bring us to a deeper appreciation of the text. This short reflection allows for a focus only on "the salt of the earth" parable or metaphor. For Jesus' Palestinian audience, salt was used to preserve and to season food. It also functioned as a cleansing or purifying

agent. It could only lose its savour if contaminated by additives. We can resonate with all of that. For some of the Jewish rabbis, salt signified wisdom: a "salted" disciple was a "wise" disciple. In some parts of the ancient world, as in Pakistan today, salt was used in dyeing processes as a way of intensifying as well as preserving the colour of fabrics. Many Westerners are not aware of this practice. These days we are rightly concerned about high levels of salinity in overworked soil. That was certainly not so for first century Palestinians. When we declare someone to be "the salt of the earth", we are generally referring to the sheer goodness of the person in question, her/his down to earth reliability, lack of pretentiousness and practical wisdom. To be salt of the earth is to season the earth community, to intensify its beauty, to be wise in one's judgments, to be just and compassionate in all of one's dealings. This parable, with its multi-layered symbolism, certainly teases the mind.

Next week's Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

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. So then, if you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. 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. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and

throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

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"You can see power lines running alongside the street. Unless current is flowing through them, there is no light. *The power line is you and I! The current is God! We have the power to allow the current to flow through us and thus to generate the light of the world: Jesus - or to refuse to be used and, thus, allow the darkness to spread.*" (Saint Mother Teresa)

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"A Candle loses nothing of it's light by lighting another candle."
"With you O Lord is the Fountain of Life and in Your Light we see Light"