

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup



BULLETIN

3rd Sunday of Advent – 11th December 2016



ADVENT / CHRISTMAS DIARY

Jesse Tree Gifts You are invited to bring gifts for children - please write gender and age on the outside - and non-perishable food, for the St Vincent de Paul to distribute.

The White Christmas Tree is in the Foyer from today 3rd Sunday of Advent, to which you can add "Remembering Family Who Are not With Us at Christmas" names. Tags are in the Foyer.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Tuesday December 20th at 7pm in SMJ Church. Hymns, prayer, Scripture, Examination of Conscience, two priests present for individual absolution

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Horsham: Christmas Eve Saturday 24
Children's Mass 7pm

Christmas Eve Mass with Choir 10.15p

Murtoa: Christmas Eve Mass 6.30pm.

Dimboola: Christmas Eve Mass 8.30p

Horsham: Christmas Day Mass 9.00am

Natimuk: Christmas Day Mass 8.30am

+++++ End of the Year School Masses



St Brigid's College Mass this Tuesday December 13th at **6pm** in SMJ Church. Graduation at end of Mass.



Ss Michael and John School Mass this Friday December 16th at **12 noon** in SMJ Church. Year 6 graduate at the Mass.



Our Lady Help of Christians Murtoa Mass this Thursday December 15th at **6pm** in St Mary's Church.

Yr 6 graduation at end of Mass

All families are welcome to these Masses

PRAYER for SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source of all healing power. We pray that your blessings and care be upon all those in their own homes, in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, palliative care. May You be their source of comfort in times of pain, hope in moments of despair, woundedness and sorrow, their inspiration and solace when they are unable to lift their hearts, minds and voices to You in prayer. Bless all with the courage and faith to place their trust in your healing touch and love. Bless **caregivers**, as channels of your tender love, for they are your hands on this earth. Give them gentleness as they help those who are sick, to respect the dignity of the sick to You. Give them patience as they manage their time, to best serve those in need of their care. Give them courage to continue to serve when weakened by constant demands, in times they need your help and strength. Give them love, 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, in Homes and in the Hospital.

Advent River Walk

this Tuesday December 13th at 7am beginning from Bennett Road Carpark. Walk to the Weir for prayer and breakfast. All welcome.

At the end of the School Year, we thank our Schools and Staff for their guidance in faith and Education to the children in their care. Thank you to families for your support to our Schools. Thank you Peter, Andrea, Gary for your leadership. We pray for a safe and blessed holiday for all. We farewell graduating students.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero
10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400
PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402
Ph:5382 1155. Fax: 53823016
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: Gary Typuszak
Phone: 5385 2526

We welcome Fr John this weekend

The Christmas Edition of our Parish Magazine "The Fisherman"

will be out next weekend. If you have an article, photos etc for the Magazine please email it or leave it at the Office by Thursday. Email address is above.

Natimuk Nursing Home Mass this Thursday 15th December at **4pm**.

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 13th Dec	9.30am	St Lucy. Carmel Hemon Holy Souls.
Wednesday 14th Dec	9.30am	St John of the Cross. Moira Hobbs Holy Souls
Thursday 15th Dec	9.30am	Helene Bush Holy Souls
Friday 16th Dec	12noon	Ss Michael and John End of Year Mass.
Saturday 17th Dec	10.00am	Carmel White Holy Souls

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: Xavier Edward Murphy (stillborn)	
ANNIVERSARIES: Eugene Gillard, Ivan Szczur, Margaret Dowie	
SICK: Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Peter Kelly, Fred Webb, Corey Panozzo, Brian Rice, Teresa White, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Lyn Cooper, Joy Flynn, Carmel Cannard, Jill & Christie Higgenbottom, Roma Magee, Frances Mitchell, Judy Francisco, Michael De Jong, Heather McPhee, Lorrain Holland, Xavier Reicha, Shannon Spencer, Bernie Ryan	
Emergency Care: Contact Betty 53826688	
Confessions Saturday 10.25	
Saturday Morning Devotions: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20. Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church 9.35. Mass 10.	
Next Sunday - 3rd Sunday of the Month 4th Sunday of Advent - 18th December 2016	
Horsham	Saturday - 6.30pm Sunday - 10.30am
Dimboola	Sunday Mass 8.30am
Murtoa	Sunday Mass 10.30am
Rosary, Litany of Mary & Divine Mercy Chaplet 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 in the Office	
Meditation Group in Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm. Contact Sr Jacinta 0414 337 807	
CWL Meetings 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm. Meeting Room.	
Men's Group Meet 3rd Thursday of the month, breakfast 7.30am-8.30, Parish Centre. Contact Patrick 0428 847 455	
St Vincent de Paul Conference. Meets twice monthly. Available Monday & Friday 11am-12pm, for assistance. Phone 5381 2371	
BAPTISM PREPARATION held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Contact the Parish Office 53821155,	
Piety Stall in the Church has gifts for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, cards, medals etc., Peru crosses.	
CHOIR PRACTICE 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.	
Affordable Counselling , by Centacare Ballarat, for families individuals, Free call 1300 303 988 to make an appointment.	

Australian Sainthood: Sr Mary Glowrey. Doctor and humanitarian Sr Mary Glowrey was exhumed from her grave in Bangalore, India, this week, her body has been returned to Guntur, where she carried out most of her work with India's poorest before her death 60 years ago. Sr Mary graduated from the University of Melbourne as a Doctor in 1910. As an undergraduate she served the marginalised and vulnerable, visiting slums in Fitzroy, Collingwood, and Richmond to care for women and their babies. The Church started the process for Sr Mary Glowrey's sainthood three years ago. The legacy of her efforts from 1920 to 1956 live on. Mary left her thriving medical career in Victoria in 1920 to join the Congregation of the Society of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, prompted into mission work after reading about the appalling death rate of babies in India. She received a special dispensation from Pope Plus XI to practice medicine to become the first nun-doctor missionary.

ROSTERS		
Dec 10/11	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Micky Robarts Rosie Taylor Sr Jacinta Rice Peter Gutteridge Joan Parker Ann Hermans Cathy Taylor	Lynda Hutchinson Judy Reid Andrea Cox Kingsley Dalgleish Faye Wills Cate Rigby Anna Robertson
Dec 17/18	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Maree Plazzer	Anna Robertson
Commentator	Garry Heinrich	Kingsley Dalgelish
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce Simon Lynch Sr Jacinta Rice Rosie Taylor Tess Hayes	Tim Lannen Mary Dalgleish Russell Reid Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon Mary Marshall Bob Pritchett
Projector	Shayne Keenan	Gabby Mills
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Connie Besselaar Gavin Hynam	Denise Vallance Mary Brown
Children's Liturgy		Lise Eagan-Bales
Prayers	Lesley & Mary Dalgleish	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	18th December Pat O'Connor Win Step[hens Barbara Connellan Kath Atkins	25th December Cleaning— Volunteers Flowers— Cheryl Howard

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)			
Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 147.00
Horsham	\$ 1011.00	Dimboola	\$ 96.00
Total			\$ 1254.00
2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)			
Envelopes	\$ 2236.00	Loose	\$ 62.95
Direct Debit	\$ 2086.67	Credit Card	\$ 3838.33
Total			\$ 8223.95

Making Connections: This week, find ways to be 'good news' to others, especially those who are sick or alienated or marginalised.

Marriage Tip: "Children benefit from our 'presence' more than our 'presents'" (Raising Kids Who Will Make a Difference). During this Advent, ponder the tone that time with your spouse, children, and extended family will take during the upcoming Christmas season.

Daily Prayer: Sustain us, O God, on our Advent journey as we go forth to welcome the One who is to come; and make haste to help us as we seek to understand what we went out to see in the Advent wilderness: your patience nurturing your saving purpose to fulfilment, your power in Jesus making all things new.

A Vocation View: "As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." (James 5:10) A vocation is responding to the call of God.

3rd Sunday of Advent "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." J 5:8 Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan,

Country Mass Times in December, January 1st

December 18: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30
Christmas Eve 24th: Murtoa 6.30pm. Dimboola 8.30pm
Christmas Day Dec 25: Natimuk 8.30am. Horsham 9am
New Year Day Jan 1: Dimboola 8.30am Murtoa 10.30am

Day Craft Group Christmas Lunch on Monday 12th December at 12 noon at the Sports and Community Club. All Welcome. RSVP to Mary Walsh on 53826429

CWL Christmas Raffle

1st Prize - Hamper from CCI Insurance
2nd Prize - Christmas Cake. 3rd Prize - 2 bottles of wine
\$1 per ticket.

Advent Prayer Group meets 10am each Thursday in the Church Meeting Room

The Season of Advent

"To come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel"



The Meaning of Advent Candles

As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. Each of the candles represents an aspect of preparation during Advent. Week 3 Candle is:

The Candle of Joy - Colour: PINK

Symbolizing anticipation and rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day.

CHOIR PRACTICE

in preparation for Christmas in the Church this
Wednesday December 14th at 6pm

As we come to the end of the year, there have been, and this week will be, events to acknowledge the life of our Parish and its ministries and outreach, and our Schools. All of these events, gatherings, meetings and ministries highlight the importance of people in Ss Michael and John Parish, who are seeking to do what Pope Francis says that a Parish is called to do.

In his Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel* he says "The Parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, for proclamation, for charitable outreach, for worship, prayer, celebration. In all its activities the Parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach."

Half way through Advent we celebrate **Gaudete Sunday**, a Sunday of joy and rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. The desert that once seemed to be dead is now bursting with life; new sight, energy and strength is renewed in God's people, like the earth is renewed with refreshing rains. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God's presence in our midst, we discover life's meaning and purpose. John the Baptist is a standard for judging the meaning of the kingdom of heaven. He was the herald of the coming of Jesus, who prepared for him, but John himself died before the death and resurrection of Jesus opened the gates of heaven. John says even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than he is. Know your greatness!!!

O God, we pray for a successful harvest for our farmers.

Ss Michael and John Parish Remembrance Wall

Our Parish plans a Remembrance Wall near to SMJ Church. In our 140th year, this Remembrance Wall will celebrate people who have died and who have been part of the story and history of our Parish. Parishioners will be invited to purchase a plaque with name/s and date/s of people. This is a way of remembering and acknowledging those who have gone before us. The Remembrance Wall will not be a wall of glorification, but a wall that reminds us of the faith, commitment and giving nature of our forbears and our loved ones.

A Plan of a wall is below.

The plaques can have whatever symbol you wish and wording you wish. The cost of a plaque is \$120.

This Memorial Wall has spaces for 252 plaques and is in the shape of a Book



FLOWERS AND GREENERY FOR CHRISTMAS

Once again Cheryl Howard is doing the floral decorations for Christmas. Donations of Native Flowers or Greenery, which Cheryl can use, can be left in a container of water in the Church on **Thursday 22nd December**. Thank you.

Children's Christmas Story at the 7pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Thank you to families for helping us with your children. We will have our first practice in the Church this Wednesday December 14th at 3.30pm. We will work out roles then. A short meeting of 15 minutes. Thank you.

Bishop Paul Bird has appointed Fr Peter Sherman (currently at Wendouree) Parish Priest at St Alipius, Ballarat East, commencing January 25th, 2017

Available NOW in the Piety Stall



- Columban Calendars \$9.
- St Vinnies Christmas Cards
- Daily Mass Book \$15
- Divine Mercy Calendars \$9
- Daily Diary with Mass Readings \$20



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

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan..

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

Lord, come and save us.

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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: Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'

Gospel Reflection –3rd Sunday of Advent Yr A. Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: "the desert shall rejoice and bloom ..." (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10).

Today's gospel passage is full of questions. First John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are

raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kingdom is greater than John.

John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and

imprisoned John and later will have him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong.

The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or Anointed of God. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with his disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah (first reading). In a sense, Advent never ends: the women and children brought into our own cities as sex slaves can attest to this, as can those who remain in the limbo of Nauru and Manus Island. We might well pray: "Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees" in the face of such challenges.

Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give

birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

We pray for VCE students receiving their results this Monday December 12th. May the wisdom and love of God be with you in deciding your future career choices. Peace and prayer

Ministries for Christmas Masses

Please fill in the Sheet in the Foyer any ministries you can assist with at the Christmas Mass you attend. Thank you.