

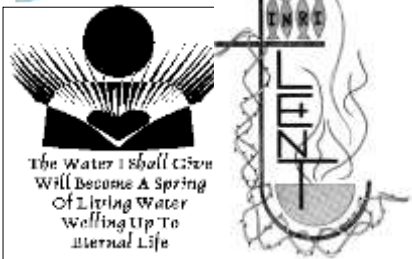


Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup

BULLETIN

3rd Sunday of Lent - 19th March 2017



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

We welcome Fr John.



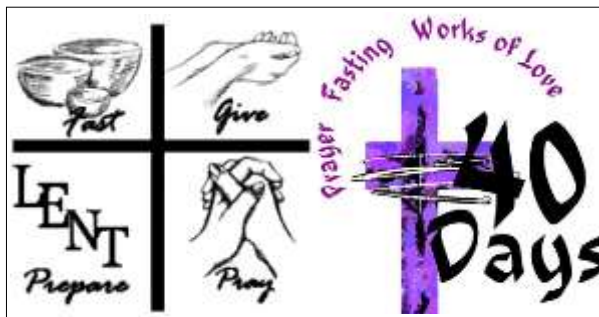
Sacrament of First Reconciliation

this Wednesday
March 22 and

Thursday March 23
at 5pm or 7pm both days in
SMJ Church.

We pray for the children
and their families as they
prepare for this Sacrament.

The children celebrate what
forgiveness means in this
Sacrament, that when we say
sorry and are ready to change
our lives, God forgives us.



Project Compassion Boxes and
Sets of Envelopes
are available in our Churches
65 parishioner are in Lenten Groups or
reflecting with a book at home. *Well done*

We are in urgent need of Computer Operators

at both 6.30pm and 10.30am

Masses at SMJ Masses. Anita will train
you, it is a ministry open to any age.

Please contact the Anita in the Office
53821155 or see Fr Peter. *Thank you.*

*Thank you to those who have responded
we still need more operators, to ease the
burden on current operators.*

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STATIONS OF THE CROSS Tuesday at 6pm in SMJ Church.

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Men's Breakfast

this Thursday March 23rd from
7.30am to 8.30am in the Parish Centre.

Open to all men and youth
Free breakfast, chat, prayer.

PRAYER for SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You
are the source of all healing power. We
pray for 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, of hope in moments of
despair, sorrow and woundedness,
their inspiration and solace when they
are unable to lift their hearts, minds and
voices to You in prayer. Bless them
with the courage and faith to place
their trust in your healing touch and
love. Bless **caregivers**, to be
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
and value 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, and when they
need your enduring 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.



We welcome to the
family of God
in Baptism

Augustus Edward Reid Hinch
Winifred Noelle Frances Hinch
children of Joel and Meagan

Anointing Mass Lutheran Home this Friday 24th at 10.30am

Term 1 of the School Year ends
on Friday March 31st. SMJ Easter
Liturgy Thursday 30th 12 noon in
the Church, SBC Easter Liturgy
Friday 31st 11am in their Gym.

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Tuesday Mar 21st | 5.30pm | Lillia D'Agostin intentions. |
| Wednesday Mar 22nd | 9.30am | World Water Day |
| Thursday Mar 23rd | 9.30am | |
| Friday Mar 24th | 10.30am | Anointing Mass Lutheran Home |
| Saturday Mar 25th | 10.00am | The Annunciation |

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: Joan Chesterfield, Bill McCann.

ANNIVERSARIES: Harold Ballinger, Charles Moore, Silvio & Reginetta D'Agostin, Dawn Buffham, Aaron O'Keefe

SICK: Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Peter Kelly, Corey Panozzo, Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Joy Flynn, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Lyn Cooper, Frances Mitchell, Judy Francisco, Jill & Christie Higgenbottom, Lorrain Holland, Xavier Reicha, Eileen & Bob Arnott, Joan White, Terry Turvey, Joan Glen, Noreen O'Connor

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 Lent - 26th March 2017

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday - 10.30am

Natimuk **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

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

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.

**Rosters for our Holy Week Ceremonies will be
 in the SMJ Church Foyer next weekend.**

Please sign up for any Ministry you may be available
 to assist with from Palm Sunday April 8th/9th
 to Easter Sunday April 16th. *Thank you.*

Oils Mass in the Cathedral Monday April 10th
 at 6.30pm.

Year 3 Sacrament children are invited to have
 their feet washed at the Holy Thursday Mass on
 Thursday April 13th at 7.30pm.

ROSTERS

| March 18/19 | Vigil 6.30pm | Sunday 10.30am |
|--|--|--|
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | John Parker Tess Hayes Ann Hermans Silvanna Foster Peter Gutteridge Anthony Amor Lorraine Clancy | Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalglish Russell Reid Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon Anna Robertson |
| March 25/26 | Vigil 6.30pm | Sunday 10.30am |
| Readers | Micky Robarts | Louise Kemp |
| Commentator | Tess Hayes | Shayne Keenan |
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion | Micky Robarts Rosie Taylor Sr Jacinta Rice Simon Lynch Joan Parker Anne Newton Cathy Taylor | Bob Pritchett Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Judy Reid Andrea Cox |
| Projector | Peter Gutteridge | Alison McKinnon |
| Musicians | Chris Robarts | Combined Choir |
| Welcomers | Bill & Josie Phelan | Angela Stephens Lyn Starr |
| Prayers | Mary Brown & Anita Masiero | |
| Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging | 26th March Lynda Hutchinson Silvanna Foster Helene Bush Mary Ward | 2nd April Josie Phelan Pauline Irwin Joan Butler Mary Dowsley Margo Hogan |
| FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct) | | |
| Natimuk | \$ | Murtoa \$ 77.00 |
| Horsham | \$ 968.00 | Dimboola \$ |
| Total | | \$ 1045.00 |
| 2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account) | | |
| <i>Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals</i> | | |
| Envelopes | \$ 1277.00 | Loose \$ |
| Credit Card | \$ | Direct Debit \$ |
| Total | | \$ 1277.00 |

Making Connections: Who do you know who is thirsty for company, acceptance or affirmation? Meet their needs this week.

Marriage Tip: Are there any places in your heart where you have allowed resentment to grow or grudges to fester? Open these parts to God. Ask for His help to soften your heart and see your family through His eyes of love.

Daily Prayer: O God, you loved us while we were yet sinners; in Christ you come in search of us. We thirst for your grace. As once at Moses' hand in the desert, as once at Jacob's well with the Samaritan woman, so now make your gift of faith in all of us, a spring of living water, leaping up to eternal life.

A Vocation View: Only the Lord can give true living water, fullness of life. Our body cannot survive without water; our spirit cannot survive without living water. Now is the time to renew our lives in the waters and Spirit of Baptism.

3rd Sunday of Lent: When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

Country Mass Times

March 19th: Dimboola Mass 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 10.30
March 26th: Natimuk Mass 8.30. Dimboola 8.30.
Murtoa 10.30
April 2nd: Dimboola Mass 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 10.30

2017 Lent Program

Eileen McManus Group on Thursday mornings from 10am in the Church meeting room.

SBC Staff will meet each Tuesday at 3.45.

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter with those who are being baptised.

CWL Novena of Rosaries

each day this week at 1.30pm in the Church.

To pray for forgiveness and healing in the Church, to express our sorrow for victims of violence and abuse, to pray for our families for a deeper understanding of God's mercy and forgiveness in times of our own human frailty and weakness.



SMJ SCHOOL

Foundation Year Liturgy
this Wednesday March 22nd at 12.15 in their Learning Area.

Years 5 & 6 will attend the 9.30am Mass
this Thursday March 23rd.

Years 1 & 2 Liturgy this Thursday March 23rd at 12.15 in their Learning Area.

All families are welcome to these Liturgies

SMJ School Athletics Carnival this Friday March 24th at Dudley Cornell Oval.
Parent helpers are welcomed.

Where is God's word to be kept?

In the heart, as the Prophet says: *"I have hidden your words in my heart so that I may not sin against you."*

Keep God's word in this way.

Let it enter your very being,

let it take possession of your desires, your whole life. Feed on goodness and your soul will delight in richness. Let God's Word be in your heart, your mind and spoken with your lips, and this will fill your soul with richness and strength. If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you.

Baptism formalizes our relationship with Jesus. As this relationship grows Jesus joins with and strengthens our own effort in living a full and joyful life and resisting temptation.



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

You cannot spell Ch_rch without u.

You cannot spell Ad_It without u.

You cannot spell Yo_th without u.

You cannot spell S_ccess without u.

You cannot spell S_nday Mass without u.

You cannot spell Comm_nity without u.

The Community and Church needs u. **THANK U**

O God, in Autumn, bless our lands with good seasonal rain

SACRAMENT DATES for Children in 2017

Parent Meeting for Confirmation and First Communion: Thursday April 20th from 5.30pm to 6.30pm in the Parish Centre. **Fr Elio Capra** will speak to our Sacrament Families.

Masses for Confirmation / First Communion:

Sunday May 28th 10.30am Mass

Saturday June 3rd 6.30 Mass.

Sunday June 4th 10.30 Mass

Saturday June 17th 6.30 Mass

Sunday June 18th 10.30 Mass.

Confirmation and First Communion for Murtoa and Rupanyup Sunday October 8th at 10.30 Mass at Murtoa.

Dates for our Calendars:

Thursday April 20th: At 7.30, in the Parish Centre, Fr Elio will speak to a Parish Meeting on the theme *Pope Francis's Approach and Vision for the 21st century*

Sunday November 12th: Bishop Paul Bird and the Diocesan Liturgical Committee will lead a Sacrament Formation Day in Horsham. **Topics:** Sacraments of Initiation; Let the Children Come; Funeral Ministry Workshop; Formation for Lectors.



3rd Sunday of Lent Project Compassion Story

First Australian Uncle Richard is a survivor of the Stolen Generations, forcibly removed from his family as a child and taken to Kinchela Boys Home (KBH) in NSW. Hundreds of Indigenous boys were incarcerated there between 1924 and 1970, suffering ongoing physical and verbal abuse. They lost every aspect of their identity

– their names, their culture and their families. When Uncle Richard left KBH, he struggled with the legacy of pain, trying to find relief through his work as an artist. But he attributes the beginning of his healing to something even more powerful than his creative work: his reconnection with former KBH boys. The KBH Aboriginal Corporation (KBHAC) unlocks the Past to Free the Future program works to restore the social and emotional wellbeing of the survivors and their families. The former KBH boys shared suffering has created a brotherhood. They support each other by sharing their stories, and coming to a common understanding of how their experiences have impacted on themselves and their descendants.

Caritas Australia supports KBHAC and is proud to walk alongside in partnership on the journey to wellbeing.

Child Safety Standards. St Michael & John Parish has appointed 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 Par-

1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 94:1-2. 6-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah

in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2. 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Acclamation of John 4:42. 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me living water, that I may never thirst again.

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 4:5-16. 19-26. 39-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His

disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria? (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his children and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water. Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must

**Gospel Reflection - 3rd Sunday Lent
Sr Veronica Lawson rsm**

John's stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus come three weeks into Lent, Today's Gospel invites us to take a faith journey in the company of a courageous outsider, an unnamed woman from a despised religious group. A woman of Samaria comes to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. She belongs in a long line of women whose lot as women is to undertake the burdensome, often dangerous, daily toil of carrying water so that their families might simply survive. Jesus asks the woman for a drink and elicits a bewildered response. Her response, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a

drink of me, a woman of Samaria?", provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange in which the woman proves herself a knowledgeable and worthy dialogue partner. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for her journey to faith in Jesus as the Messiah or Christ and her engagement in the mission of proclaiming the good news to her people. Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she has had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner although there is nothing in the text to support this position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints

may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The "husbands" may refer to the strange gods that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus among scholars. At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who breaks with established custom by asking her for water. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She risks sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and Jesus' further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world.

Next Weeks Gospel: John 9:1. 6-9. 13

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself

said, 'I am the man.' They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this? And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself,

now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.