

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup



BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Advent - 18th December 2016



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 today
 Christmas and New Year Day

PARISH 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 to which you can add the "Remembering Family Who Are not With Us at Christmas" names. Tags are in the Foyer.

Advent Reconciliation Service
 Tuesday December 20th, 7pm
 at SMJ Church. Hymns, Prayer, Scripture, Examination of Conscience, two priests for individual absolution.

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting this Monday December 19th at 5pm in the Meeting Room.
 Agenda: The Baptistine Sisters



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, their source of 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 them all with the courage and faith to place their trust in your healing touch and love. Bless those who are **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, that they 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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Horsham: Christmas Eve Saturday 24th:
 Children's Mass with Christmas Story 7pm
 Christmas Mass with Choir 10.15pm

Murtoa: Christmas Eve Mass 6.30pm.
Dimboola: Christmas Eve Mass 8.30pm

Horsham: Christmas Day Mass 9.00am
Natimuk: Christmas Day Mass 8.30am

Confession Times: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 10am



We welcome to the family of God in Baptism

Madeline Elizabeth Rowe
 daughter of Michael & Rebekah

Lucy Rose Rowe
 daughter of James & Ema-Lee

in Murtoa
 Theodore Stephenson
 son of Geoffrey and Chloe

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 20th Dec	9.30am	
Wednesday 21st Dec	9.30am	Eugene Gillard anniv.
Thursday 22nd Dec	9.30am	Agnes Hudson anniv
Friday 23rd Dec	9.30am	Kieran Hallam
Saturday 24th Dec	10.00am	Safe and blessed Christmas holidays

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:

ANNIVERSARIES: Terry Wallis, Warren Strauss, Erin O'Connor, Antonio Kardogeros, Kevin Martin, Preston Hynam, Muriel Omant, Bob Wallis, Agnes Hudson, Scott Pymer, Jack McGennissen

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, 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 - 4th Sunday of the Month
Christmas Day - 25th December 2016

Horsham Christmas Eve 7.00pm & 10.15pm
 Christmas Day 9.00am

Dimboola **Christmas Eve 8.30pm**

Murtoa **Christmas Eve 6.30pm**

Natimuk **Christmas Day 8.30am**

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.

God of hope, As we prepare for Christmas, help us to take the time to open our hearts to others and to new opportunities. To stop, listen and wait purposefully in your love, resisting the pressure to do more and buy more by living more simply and sustainably. May we recognize the talents you have given each of us and seek the opportunity to be a light to others: offering a message of hope. Amen

ROSTERS

Dec 17/18	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
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
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	25th December Volunteers	1st January 2017 Carolyn Boseley Gwen Antonucci Carmel O'Connor Anna Carberry

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 126.00
Horsham	\$ 960.00	Dimboola	\$ 64.00
Total			\$ 1150.00

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 1871.00	Loose	\$ 59.15
Direct Debit	\$	Credit Card	\$
Total			\$ 1930.15

Christmas Mass Rosters

Children's Mass—

Projector: Gabby Mills,

Special Ministers: Noreen O'Connor, Tess & Bob Hayes, Joan Parker. Alison McKinnon

Music: Chris Robarts

Vigil Mass 10.15pm:

Projector: Anita Masiero **Commentator:** Kingsley Dalgleish, **Reader:** Eileen McManus, **Special Ministers:** Bob Pritchett, Lorraine Clancy, Maree Plazzer, Mary Dalgleish, Cath Taylor, Russell & Judy Reid **Gospel Procession:** Dalgleish Family **Music:** Choir

Christmas Day 9am:

Projector: Anna Robertson **Reader:** Mary Marshall, **Special Ministers:** Tim Lannen, Bob Pritchett, Lynda Hutchinson **Music:** Chris Robarts

Making Connections: Try to be intuitive to God's voice this week. What is being communicated to you at this time in your life?

Marriage Tip: "Both husband and wife should try to renew their love day after day, and that is done through sacrifice, with smiles, and also with ingenuity."

Daily Prayer: Higher than the heavens, O Lord our God, and deeper than the nether world is your steadfast mercy and unwearied love, revealed in the child we call Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, until the end of time. Make us as obedient as Mary in embracing the mystery of your will, as unafraid as Joseph in welcoming the unfolding of your purpose. May the promise of the gospel embrace us all.

A Vocation View: Vocations from God are not always clear. Not all of us are like Joseph who had an angel appear to him saying: "Take Mary as your wife, and fear not."

Welcoming Prayer: Lord, our God, source of all life, you reveal yourself in the depths of our being drawing us to share in your life and love. Bless each of us as we respond to your Spirit's invitation to open wide the doors to Christ. Make the doors of our hearts, our homes, and communities wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, prejudice and pride. Let us hasten to welcome the stranger, and so welcome your Son.

Country Mass Times in December

Christmas Eve 24th: Murtoa 6.30pm. Dimboola 8.30pm
Christmas Day Dec 25: Natimuk 8.30am. Horsham 9am
January 1st: Dimboola 8.30am. Murtoa 10.30am.
January 8th: Dimboola AWC 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 8.30
January 15: Dimboola Mass 8.30. Murtoa AWC 9am
January 22: Dimboola AWC 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 8.30

CWL Christmas Raffle Winners

1st Prize - Hamper from CCI Insurance - Lois Keegan
2nd Prize - Christmas Cake - Maureen Anton,
3rd Prize - 2 bottles of wine - Ferdie Masiero
Congratulations to our winners

Advent Prayer Group meets 10am 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 4 Candle is:

The Candle of Love - Colour: Purple

The Candle of Love - Colour: Purple

During this fourth week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16-17

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



MEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS DINNER

this Monday 19th December, at Jim & Linda Hutchinson's home at 6.30pm. RSVP to Patrick Ellis on 0428 847455. Cost \$20 per head. BYO drinks.

SACRAMENT DATES for Children in 2017

Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation:

Wednesday February 22nd at 6pm in the Parish Centre.

First Reconciliation Times and Dates:

Wednesday & Thursday March 22/23, either day at either 5pm or 7pm.

Parent Meeting for Confirmation and First

Communion: Wednesday April 20th at 6pm in the Parish Centre.

Masses for Confirmation and First Communion:

Saturday June 3rd 6.30 Mass.

Sunday June 4th 10.30 Mass

Saturday June 17th 6.30 Mass

Sunday June 18th 10.30 Mass.

Christmas Mass Collections:

1st Collection for the Parish and Priests

2nd Collection Bishop's Christmas Appeal

Details of last year's distribution of the Christmas Appeal are on the Notice Board in each Church.

If you are going away before Christmas have a blessed, happy, holy, safe Christmas and holiday.

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 **this Thursday 22nd December**. Thank you.



Pope Francis celebrates his 80th birthday on December 17th

- * Bishop Paul Bird has appointed Fr James Kerr assistant Priest in Mildura from January 25, 2017
- * Fr Damien Styles in Mildura this year returns to the Army Chaplaincy at Kapooka.
- * Mark Bromley will retire as Diocesan Finance Officer at Easter 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 7:10-14

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:1-6

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things.

He shall receive blessings from the

Lord and reward from the God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, then, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

Acclamation: Matthew 1:23

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

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.

Gospel Reflection – 4th Sunday of Advent Yr A. Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. "Nothing", was my immediate response. "I just want to spend time with community and friends and family". And that's what I'll be doing, simply "being with". Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that "being-with" is not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are "with-us" even in our absence and "being-with" in spirit or in person is closely allied with "being-for". Today's gospel affirms "being-with" as God's Christmas gift to us. The first

chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is "God-with-us", Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into Matthew's story of God-with-us in the person of Jesus and to live out the pattern of that story more fully in our own lives. There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series of dreams.

The angelic annunciation in today's gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God. If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or "being-with" as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us has the potential to drive out fear and to draw us into the deepest mysteries of life.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her child.

She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields keeping watch over their flock by night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and

lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

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Today at 10.30 Mass Jahryn Martin - Year 2 at SMJ School - will speak on his project to grow his hair for one year to support cancer research. Your donations will be welcome at any time