



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

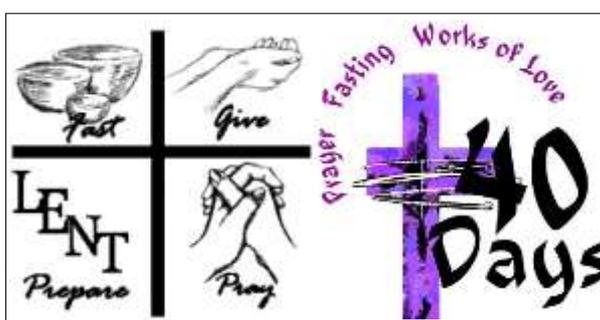
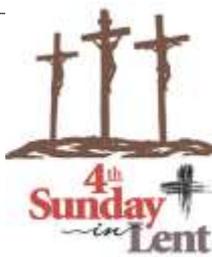
Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup

## BULLETIN

### 4th Sunday of Lent - 26th March 2017



Walk  
in the  
Light  
of the  
LORD



#### **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.

#### **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



**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*

**Rosters for Holy Week Ceremonies are in the SMJ Church Foyer today.**  
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.*

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**We need helpers to fill our Easter Water bottles. Please come to the Office if you are able to take bottles and fill them. Thank you.**

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On Tuesday at 5.30pm Fr Peter will attend the Diocesan Farewell to Mark Bromley who is retiring as Diocesan Finance Manager after many years in this role. We express our deep gratitude to Mark for his financial guidance to our Parish and our Diocese, and wish him well.

We welcome Fr John.



We welcome SMJ School Families as the children and parents lead us in our Ministries today at 10.30 Mass.

We pray for a safe, blessed and happy Easter holidays for our Schools as Term 1 ends this Friday March 31st.  
+ Term 2 begins Easter Tuesday April 18th

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.*

#### **WEEK-DAY MASSES:**

Tuesday Mar 28th	<b>9.30am</b>	
Wednesday Mar 29th	9.30am	Angelina & Tony Panozzo anniv.
Thursday Mar 30th	9.30am	Marie White, Pat O'Toole, Andrew Fahey
Friday Mar 31st	9.30am	Dr Mark O'Brien anniv.
Saturday 1st April	10.00am	

#### **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:** Fr Paul Gardiner SJ, Chris Mills, Jim Dowling (Mary Lawson's brother), Hilary Spurr (Brian Chalkley's sister), Sr Margaret Jenkins, formerly Mother Julienne

**ANNIVERSARIES:** James & Hazel Cortesi, Doreen Stowe John Baviello, Kerry Hartigan, Bunny O'Connor, Austin Dillon, Annie Ryan, Marie White, Pat O'Toole, Dr Mark O'Brien, Gwen Robertson

**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, Lorraine 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 - 1st Sunday of the Month  
5th Sunday of Lent - 2nd April 2017**

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

**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.

**Laetare Sunday. This 4th Sunday of Lent was traditionally called Laetare Sunday** from the first word in the entrance antiphon of the old Latin Mass. The word means "Rejoice" - it is a quotation from Isaiah 66, which looks to the day when peace will be "flowing like a river" from the hand of the God of Israel. Laetare Sunday is a few days after the midpoint of Lent; it made a break from the severe fasting that used to be part of the Lenten observance and reminded the faithful that Easter was not too far away.

## ROSTERS

March 25/26	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	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
<b>April 1/2</b>	<b>Vigil 6.30pm</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<b>Readers</b>	John Parker	Kingsley Dalgleish
<b>Commentator</b>	Maree Plazzer	Anna Robertson
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Pat Glaubitz Bernadette Trounce Maree Plazzer Bob Hayes John Parker Tess Hayes	Kingsley Dalgleish Faye Wills Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalgleish Russell Reid Zita Cannane
<b>Projector</b>	Anita Masiero	Gabby Mills
<b>Musicans</b>	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Lorraine Clancy Pat Strachan	Denise Vallance Mary Brown
<b>Prayers</b>	John & Joan Parker	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>2nd April</b> Josie Phelan Pauline Irwin Joan Butler Mary Dowsley Margo Hogan	<b>9th April</b> Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhonda Tursi

### FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 116.00
Horsham	\$ 865.00	Dimboola	\$ 105.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 1086.00</b>

### 2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

*Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals*

Envelopes	\$ 3083.00	Loose	\$ 78.45
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 3161.45</b>

**Making Connections:** Bring light and life to others this week. Is there some way you can assist in 'healing' another?  
**Marriage Tip:** Has anyone close to you died who has enriched your life? Loss is always hard, but having a spouse to share it with makes it bearable.

**Daily Prayer:** O God, whose face we long to see, in Christ you come in search of us, judging not by our outward appearance but gazing into our hearts at the light you have kindled. As once you gave Samuel insight to see young David as your shepherd-king, as once you led the man born blind to look on Christ and behold the face of your Anointed, so now clear our vision and focus our sight that all of us, the elect and the baptised, may acknowledge Christ as the Light of the world.

**A Vocation View:** If we can't see where we're going, we'll never get there. The Good Shepherd leads us to green pastures, refreshes our souls, brings light to a darkened world

**4th Sunday of Lent** The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

### **Country Mass Times**

April 2nd: Dimboola Mass 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 10.30  
April 9 Passion Sunday: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30  
April 15: Easter Vigil and Mass: Murtoa 7.30pm  
April 16: Easter Sunday: Dimboola 8.30.  
April 23: Natimuk 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30

**Mass of the Oils** will be celebrated in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 6.30pm on Monday, April 10. This Mass is a celebration of the whole Church of the Diocese of Ballarat. We celebrate the unity and ministry of the ordained priests in the midst of the entire priestly people of God and Diocese. Oils for 2017 will be blessed, the ordained, the sick, those to be baptized and confirmed. All members of the Diocese are invited to this Mass, which truly expresses the unity of the Diocesan Church.

**Year 3 Sacrament children** are invited to have their feet washed at the Holy Thursday Mass on Thursday April 13th at 7.30pm. Fr Peter will come to the seats where the children are sitting to wash the feet. The washing symbolises the call to serve that we receive at Confirmation and First Communion.

**Anointing Mass with the newly blessed Oils** on Tuesday April 11th at 2pm in the Church. Cuppa after.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
this week will be with  
**SMJ School**  
in their **Easter Liturgy**  
on **Thursday 30th** in the Church at 2pm.

**St Brigid's College Easter Liturgy on Friday 31st at 11.10am in their Gymnasium.** The students will then walk to the Weir for lunch to raise money for Project Compassion.

### **Social Justice: Back to School and Educational Assistance :**

St Vincent de Paul information regarding support for families. For further information please contact St V de P. 1. Sustainable School Shop - an online service for families or schools to trade school items. 2. Laptops and iPads: Reboot IT has a very good range of re-conditioned ACER and DELL laptops. Apple Refurbished has laptops, iPads and desktop computers. 3. Assistance for school camps, excursions and sports events - the Department of Education is providing financial assistance for primary and secondary students in government and non-government schools to attend school camps, excursions and sports events where the parent is a holder of a Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card. Primary school students will receive \$125 and secondary school students will receive \$225 per year.

*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\_unday Mass without 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.



#### **4th Week of Lent: Vietnam featured**

In a small town in Vietnam, a severe disability kept young Nguyet behind closed doors. Constrained by the high demands of her condition, her parents were also isolated from their neighbours. There is a high level of disability in Vietnam, particularly as a legacy of war, but little support for families whose children have disabilities. People with disability have poorer health outcomes, lower educational achievements, lower economic participation and higher rates of poverty than people without disability. The future seemed bleak for the whole family, until Nguyet's family participated in a Caritas program. A neighbour kindly introduced the family to the Capacity Building for Parent Associations Supporting Children with Disabilities program, which has given them support on several levels. The neighbour, a teacher, has been able to offer Nguyet home-based education, and there is capacity building for her parents and others in the same situation, through their local Parents' Association. At Association meetings, Nguyet's mother has been able to increase her skills for managing her daughter's condition, and share her experiences with other parents of children with disabilities. Nguyet has learnt to read and write and better manage her physical needs, and her creative gifts

**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: 1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-**  
The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22**

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he

gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14**

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

**Acclamation: John 8:12**

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel: John 9:1. 6-9. 13-17. 34-38**

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 ...

**Gospel Reflection - 4th Sunday Lent  
Sr Veronica Lawson rsm**

"There are none so blind as those who will not see." Last week, we journeyed with a woman of Samaria from bewilderment to deep insight into Jesus' identity and mission and to a strong personal faith commitment. This week, we journey with a man born blind and with the different groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith. Not all accept the invitation. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness. In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of eight powerful actions or "signs" in John's gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life.

The "signs" invite the reader to accept Jesus and his revelation of God's purposes. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus' Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. This story reminds us of the need to check out our assumptions, and to accept the fact that we can be wrong about things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to see from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of a man born blind, his neighbours, the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. They mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith. In

the common estimation, the man was blind, so he or his parents must have sinned. Not so, according to Jesus. From the perspective of the authorities, Jesus heals on the Sabbath and is therefore a sinner. Not so, from Jesus' point of view. The man was born blind and so needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the religious authorities. He presents them with the truth about Jesus but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent: they drive him out. Jesus goes in search of him and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding. Read the story once more and put yourself in the place of the different characters. There is a little bit of each character in every one of us.

**Next Weeks Gospel: John 11:3-7. 17. 20-27**

The sisters Martha and Mary sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even

now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life, if anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' 'Yes Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb:

it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him 'Lord by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me. But I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' .....