



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

## BULLETIN

2nd Sunday of Advent - 6th December 2015



Second Week of Advent :  
"Prepare the Way of the Lord"

### PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson  
Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero  
10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400  
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### 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 for our Masses this weekend.

We welcome SMJ School as they lead the Ministries at our 10.30am Mass today.

Mass at Natimuk Nursing Home this Thursday 10th December at 4.15pm.

**OLHC School, Murtoa,**  
End of Year Mass and  
Year 6 Graduation  
on Monday 14th December  
at 6.30 in the Murtoa Church

**Advent River Walk**  
**this Tuesday December 8th at 7am.**  
Gather at the Bennett Road Car park.  
Walk to the Weir for prayer, breakfast.  
Theme "Year of Mercy".

All welcome.

Please contact Anita 53821155 on Monday 7th if you are coming and will stay for breakfast, to help Jacinta cater for us.

**Christmas Anointing Mass**  
**this Thursday December 10th**  
**at 2pm in SMJ Church.**  
Cuppa in the Hall and raffle drawn.

**Time Out Sessions -**  
**to DESTRESS before Christmas**  
with Sr Jacinta

this Wednesday December 9th, 2pm - 4pm  
Wednesday December 16th, 7pm - 9pm  
both in the Meeting Room.

*The Program outline:*  
*Taking a breather - the present moment*  
*How Meditation helps*  
*The gift of Nature*  
*The inspiration of Creativity.*

Christmas Gifts for the Jesse Tree for children - please write age and gender on the gift.

Non perishable food welcome for St Vincent de Paul to distribute. Please leave under the tree anytime.

### PRAYER for SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source of all healing power. We entrust our sick brothers and sisters to your loving care. We pray that your blessings be upon all those in their own homes, in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, palliative care. May You be their source of comfort when they experience pain. May You be their source of hope in moments of despair, woundedness and sorrow. May You be 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 your healing love. Bless those who are **caregivers**, as channels of your tender love, for they are your very 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 and 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, those in Homes and in the Hospital.



We welcome to the Family of God in Baptism:  
**Amara Agustin**  
daughter of Jayson & Mary

**SBC End of Year Mass**  
**and Year 12 Graduation this**  
**Tuesday December 8th**  
**at 6pm in SMJ Church.**  
All are welcome for this Mass.  
We pray for our Year 12's as they graduate and await their exam results.

### 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



### WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 8th Dec	<b>9.30am</b>	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Wednesday 9th Dec	9.30am	Frances & Mario Plazzer intentions
Thursday 10th Dec	<b>2pm</b>	<b>ANOINTING MASS</b>
Friday 11th Dec	9.30am	Leon & Bernie Ryan intentions
Saturday 12th Dec	10am	Bessie Boseley intentions.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

**RECENT DEATHS:** Sr Maria Nietsche rsm,  
Anchilla Panozzo Rubbo (Italy, sister of Emilia Marchesini)  
Rose Walthers (daughter of Leo and Clare Egan)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Rosemarie Thistlethwaite, Frank Lawson,

**SICK:** Kobe Davidson, Corey Panozzo, Ruby Spasic,  
Bill Kennedy, Renee Kerr, Brian Rice, Susan Finnigan,  
Stephen Sherman, Helen Brennan, Warren Strauss,  
Eileen Finnigan, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman,  
Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Kevin O'Connor,  
Lyn Cooper, Shirley Willetts

**Emergency Care: Contact Coordinator**  
Betty 5382 6688

**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 2nd Sunday of the Month**  
**3rd Sunday of Advent - 13th December**

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm  
Sunday - 10.30am

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 10.30am**

**Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet**  
**Including the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
**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

**Ss Michael & John's Playgroup** Tuesday's in school  
terms 10am to 12 noon - Parish Hall. Contact 0428 119 234

**Craft Group** Every Monday - Parish Meeting Room  
Mornings - 9.30am to 11.30am. Evening - 7pm to 9pm. BYO  
Craft - Gold Coin Donation. Contact Anita at Parish Office

**Meditation Group** Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm  
Contact Sr Jacinta 0414 337 807

**CWL Meetings** 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm in 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

**RELATIONSHIP & INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING**

**Michael Grimes**, a professional counsellor from Centacare Ballarat  
visits Horsham **every Wednesday**. Cost \$30 concessions available.  
Phone appt 1300 303 988 or contact the Parish Office

There will be **NO Baptism Preparation** in the months  
of December and January. Resumes on February 18th

**Piety Stall in the Church** has gifts for Baptism, Confirmation,  
Eucharist, cards, medals etc., lovely Peru crosses.

**Children's Liturgy at 10.30 Mass in School Terms.**  
Children leave at start of Mass, and return at Offertory.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

**ROSTERS**

Dec 5/6	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer Maureen Ervin John Parker Sr Jacinta Rice	Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Neville Strachan Kingsley Dalgleish Lesley Lannen Karen Hill Rosie Taylor
Dec 12/13	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Kevin Dunn	Louise Kemp
<b>Commentator</b>	Geordie Butler	Anna Robertson
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Marie McMillan Tess Hayes Anne Newton Silvanna Foster Lorraine Clancy Micky Roberts Peter Gutteridge	Lynda Hutchinson Shirley Hoffmann Andrea Cox Faye Wills Alison McKinnon Marina Manserra Cate Rigby
<b>Projector</b>	Anita Masiero	Shayne Keenan
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Roberts	Men's Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Bill & Josie Phelan	Angela Murphy Alistair Castle
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>		Amanda Carracher
<b>Prayers</b>	Alison McKinnon & Anna Robertson	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>13th December</b> Lynda Hutchinson Silvanna Foster Helene Bush Mary Ward	<b>20th December</b> Josie Phelan Claire Irwin Joan Butler Mary Dowsley

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

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 111.00
Horsham	\$ 856.00	Dimboola	\$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 967.00</b>	

**2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account) - Wk 3**

*(Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals)*

Envelopes	\$ 1954.00	Loose	\$ 86.60
Credit Card	\$ 4327.50	Direct Debit	\$ 2873.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 9241.10</b>	

**Making Connections:** This week try not to get bound up in the 'Christmas cheer' which dominates all around us. Choose instead to concentrate on the waiting and the preparation for what is to come.

**Marriage Tip:** "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from...the anxieties of daily life." (Lk 21:34) Advent is a time of watchful expectation. What anxieties make you "drowsy"? Talk about them with your spouse, pray for peace.

**Daily Prayer:** God of everlasting glory and eternal love, from west and east you gather the humble, leading them with joy to the glorious light of your kingdom. Make straight your path in our hearts; bring low the heights of our pride; and prepare us to celebrate with ardent faith the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**A Vocation View:** John the Baptist cried out, made ready the way of the Lord. Promote the gospel in our community. **Good stewards** believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. They can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!" May our words and deeds be joyful

### **Country Mass Times in December:**

Sunday Dec 6: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30.  
Sunday Dec 13: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30.  
Sunday Dec 20: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30  
Christmas Eve Dec 24th: **Murtoa 6.30. Dimboola 8.30**  
Sunday Dec 27: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30.

**The Jesse Tree** will be decorated, with the Jesse Tree Symbols, by the Children's Liturgy group at each Sunday Advent Mass,

**The White Christmas Tree** will be in the Foyer from the Third Sunday of Advent, to which you can add the "The Remembering Family Who Are not With Us at Christmas" names. Tags will be in the Foyer then.

### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES and Advent Reconciliation and Anointing Times across the Parish are in the attachment to today's Bulletin**

Bishop Paul Bird's Letter on the Royal Commission which focuses on Ballarat from Dec 7th, letter in the Church foyers.

**CWL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE** tickets sold this weekend.  
⇒ Catholic Churches Insurance give a **Hamper** to Parishes to raffle. Tickets for this are \$1 each or 3 for \$2. Hamper Value \$160. There will be a number of minor prizes too. Proceeds go to our Parish. Sold at Masses next two Sundays. Drawn at Children's Mass.

*Thank you to all who have undertaken the training in Ministries, and OnLine Training for the diocese. We are grateful for all you do. May the Good Lord who has begun this good work in you, bring it to fulfilment.*

**Mass at OLHC school 2pm Tuesday 8th December**

### **Making a Scene at Christmas**

A display over 350 nativity cribs and other items telling the story of the birth of Christ is coming to Ararat this Christmas. Exhibits celebrate the cultures of the world and many are centuries old. Come and see and be amazed! St Mary's Parish Centre, Barkly St. Ararat. Saturday December 19th, 10am – 8pm. Sunday December 20th, 10am – 4pm. Free



**SMJ School End of the Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation** on Tuesday December 15th at 12noon in MJ Church.

All Parish Families are welcome.

This is the last day of School for SMJ children.

**SMJ School Concert** this Thursday 10th at 6.30 in the Church. No hats, tinsel or caps in the Church, please.  
**Family Tea** in School Grounds at 5.30.



### **SBC End of Year Mass and Year 12 GRADUATION MASS.**

at Ss. Michael and John's Church on Tuesday 8th December at 6.00pm. All students must be seated by 5.50pm, dressed in full summer uniform. College magazines distributed by Teacher Advisors after Mass and the award presentation. Year 12's and their families will celebrate their Graduation Dinner after Mass at Golf Club. Year 12 results come out on December 14th. The College Office closes on December 11th

### **PRAYER FOR RAIN:**

Loving God, maker of all things and protector of your people, in You we live and move and have our being. In your mercy come to our aid, bless our land with rain, to nurture crops sown, and to bring them to a head, and for rain to provide sustenance for all towns. Strengthen our resolve in times of trial and difficulty, and teach us to seek your help on our life journey.

- Our Parish will celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy in Lent 2016, with the possibility of a Parish Mission, with the Redemptorists, and other Liturgies to be planned.
- Our Parish is 140 years old in 2016.
- More details on Year of Mercy and Liturgies for 140th etc after the Liturgy Meeting on January 25th 2016.

**Articles, photos, for the Christmas edition of our Parish Magazine "The Fisherman" are now welcome. Please email or leave your article at the Parish Office by December 10th.**



Horsham Carols  
**TONIGHT** Sunday December 6th  
at Sawyer Park  
5.30pm Children's Carols  
7.30pm Family Carols  
Food stalls available  
*Sponsored by Horsham Churches*

**Natimuk Community Carols**, Friday December 18th  
7.30pm. Gather in front garden. BYO chair. All welcome

**The Morning Craft Group** Christmas Morning Tea at the Horsham Sports Community Club this *Monday 7th at 10am*

**CLIMATE TALKS IN PARIS** Pope Francis joined in the march in Paris by sending his shoes with Cardinal Hummes for the powerful "shoes march" (a response to the cancellation of the Paris march because of the terrorist attacks). The hope is that an agreement in Paris will place the planet on a path to limit global warming below 2 degrees celsius. Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical on the environment has captured the attention of millions, for it puts the Catholic Church firmly behind the environmental movement, calling the world for a conversion that will have a huge impact on how we live, how our economy works and how governments operate.



Pope Francis: **Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy** begins this Tuesday December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception and concludes November 20, 2016, Feast of Christ the King. All are invited to the Opening of the Door of Mercy at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat by Bishop Paul Bird next Sunday Dec 13th at 10.30 Mass. Refreshments will follow the Mass.

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, passing through a Holy Door is part of the pilgrimage that all Catholics are encouraged to make, on a trip to the Cathedrals. "By crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us, it evokes the passage from sin to grace which every Christian is called to accomplish" - Pope Francis.

## Advent Programs 2015

This is a time to pause and take time to prepare for a peaceful and happy Christmas season. Here are some choices for you.

The money-marketing world has apparently changed Christmas to start in November with Santa, Christmas trees, mince pies and bonbon parties being promoted before the four weeks of Advent start.

As we know, in reality, Christmas begins after Advent on Christmas Eve, 24th December, and finishes on the Feast of the Epiphany the first Sunday in January (or 6th January).

Are you ready to live your sacred Christian path in the midst of the consumerist world as you take time out for prayer and quiet in the season of Advent? Can you therefore prepare for the giving of Christmas in its true spirit of peacefulness and loving presence to one another and to strangers?

Be Kind

to Yourself and Others

This Advent!

Advent Morning Prayer Walk  
- Year of Mercy

Date: Tuesday, 8th December, 2015

Time: 7 a.m. - 8.30 am

We meet at Bennett Street Car Park near the river for Commencement of Prayer at 7 a.m. Then we walk to Weir Park for Prayer and Breakfast.

As food is provided it would be a help for our preparation if you contacted either Anita (53821155) or Sr Jacinta (0414337807) to let us know you are coming. Thank you



*Time Out to  
Destress before  
Christmas*

*Venue: Parish  
Centre*

*Date of First  
Session-  
Wednesday, 9th  
December  
Time: 2-4 p.m.*

*Date of Second  
Session-  
Wednesday,  
16th December  
Time: 7-9 p.m.*

Come along to one  
or both!

Program Outline

Taking a Breather-  
The Present  
Moment

How Meditation  
helps

The Gift of Nature

The Inspiration of  
Creativity





## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CALENDAR 2015

### **RUPANYUP**

Mass including Anointing and Reconciliation      Wednesday 2nd December      6.30pm

### **HORSHAM**

Mass of Anointing and Healing      Thursday 10th December      2.00pm

### **HORSHAM**

Advent Reconciliation Service      Monday 21st December      7.00pm

### **DIMBOOLA**

Mass with Anointing and Reconciliation      Sunday 20th December      8.30am

### **MURTOA**

Mass with Anointing and Reconciliation      Sunday 20th December      10.30am

### **SCHOOL MASSES**

St. Brigid's College, Horsham      Graduation Mass      6.00pm  
Tuesday 8th December

Our Lady Help of Christians, Murtoa      Graduation Mass      6.30pm  
Monday 14th December

Sts Michael & John's, Horsham      Graduation Mass      12.00 noon  
Tuesday 15th December

### **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

#### **HORSHAM**

Family Mass with Children's Play      Thursday 24th December      7.00pm

Mass with Choir      Thursday 24th December  
*Carols*      10.00pm  
*Christmas Mass*      10.30pm

Christmas Morning      Friday 25th December      9.00am

#### **MURTOA**

Christmas Mass      Thursday 24th December      6.30pm

#### **DIMBOOLA**

Christmas Mass      Thursday 24th December      8.30pm

**1st Reading: Baruch 5:1-9**

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125**

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from

bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

**2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-6. 8-11**

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your

perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

**Acclamation: Luke 3:4. 6**

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 3:1- 6**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

**Gospel Reflection -2nd Sunday of Advent Sister Veronica Lawson rsm**

This Tuesday, 8th December, marks the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. Pope Francis has called us to look into our hearts and to let go of all that is condemnatory and harsh or cruel and to bring the mercy of God to our troubled planetary home and to its inhabitants. Our courageous Pope is giving extraordinary leadership to the global community. Like Luke, the author of the third gospel and of the Acts of the Apostles, Pope Francis recognises that the message of the gospel is for the whole world and not simply for the chosen few.

For the third time within the space of three chapters, Luke situates his gospel drama on a national and international stage and in relation to global events.

He insists that religion is no private affair and that the story of Jesus of Nazareth is no ordinary, everyday story. It is rather a story with momentous political and religious significance.

Luke is strong on dramatic impact and less concerned with precision of detail. He situates events in the "pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas". Caiaphas succeeded his father-in-law Annas as high priest. Luke presents John the son of Zechariah as a prophet in the long line of prophets that culminates in the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth on the world stage. Jesus is the one who truly brings the salvation of our God. It is worth noting that prophecy in Luke is not reserved to the male characters. With the shift from private to public space in Luke 3, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna now disappear from the narrative.

Luke 3:1-6 contains some of Luke's favourite themes: prophecy and its fulfilment; the word of God; reversal of expectations; conversion or repentance; proclaiming the good news; forgiveness of sins; salvation. As in Israel's past, the wilderness or desert is the locus of God's revelation. The prophet John calls on the people of the region around the Jordan River to turn their hearts and their lives around, to accept "a baptism of metanoia or conversion for the forgiveness of sins". "Prepare the way..." in the first reading from the prophet Baruch. God's way involves putting on the "cloak of justice" or "robe of righteousness" God's works of mercy (eleēmosunē), justice/right relationship (dikaiosunē). Take seriously the call to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy, to search for ways to heal our planet.

**Next Week's Gospel: Luke 3:10-18**

When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.'

Some soldiers asked him in their turn, 'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I

am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.