



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

BULLETIN

3rd Sunday of Advent - 13th December 2015



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero

10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400
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Phone: 5382 1155.

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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 for our Masses this weekend.



We light today on the Advent Wreath the Candle of **JOY**.

Today is Gaudete Sunday (be joyful)

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Time Out Sessions - with Sr Jacinta to DESTRESS before Christmas this Wednesday December 16th, 7pm - 9pm in the Meeting Room.

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



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

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

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, 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.

The White Christmas Tree

is in the Foyer from today the Third Sunday of Advent. You can add "The Remembering Family Who Are not With Us at Christmas" names to this tree. Name Tags are in the Foyer.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Monday December 21st at 7pm in SMJ Church.

Prayer, Scripture, Examination of Conscience, Individual Absolution to finish

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve: Thursday December 24th:

Horsham: 7pm - Children's Mass and Play

10pm - Carols with Choir

10.30pm - Mass with Choir

Murtoa : Mass 6.30pm. Dimboola: Mass 8.30pm

Christmas Day: Horsham: Mass 9am

Rosters for Christmas Masses

The Rosters are in the Foyer. Please sign your name to a Ministry you can assist with at the Mass you attend. *Thank you*

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 15th Dec	5.30pm	Carmel Armstrong intentions
Wednesday 16th Dec	9.30am	Barbara Szczur intentions
Thursday 17th Dec	9.30am	Leon & Bernie Ryan intentions
Friday 18th Dec	9.30am	Cyril Carracher intentions
Saturday 19th Dec	10am	Mary Lawson and Michael Baviello intentions

Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Kevin O'Connor, Jack Ashton (brother-in-law of Marge Lloyd)

ANNIVERSARIES: Erin O'Connor, Preston Hynam, Ivan Szczur, Margaret Dowie, Maureen Gumley, Peg Rice, William Schaeffer.

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, Lyn Cooper, Shirley Willetts, Jill Higgenbottoms, Christie Higgenbottoms

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 3rd Sunday of the Month
4th Sunday of Advent - 20th 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 Breakfast resumes Thursday February 4th

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 will resume in Term 1 in 2016.
Thank you to all our helpers at each Mass

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

ROSTERS

Dec 12/13	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	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
Dec 19/20	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Tess Hayes	Andrea Cox
Commentator	Micky Roberts	Kingsley Dalglish
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Anthony Amor Joan Parker Ann Hermans Chris Velthuis Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes	Tim Lannen Mary Dalglish Zita Cannane Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Neville Strachan
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Gabby Mills
Musicians	Chris Roberts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Bob & Tess Hayes	Lyn Starr Angela Stephens
Prayers	Mary Brown & Anita Masiero	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	20th December Josie Phelan Claire Irwin Joan Butler Mary Dowsley	27th December Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhonda Tursi

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$
Horsham	\$ 1272.00	Dimboola	\$ 150.00
Total			\$ 1422.00

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account) - Wk 2
(Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals)

Envelopes	\$ 1562.00	Loose	\$ 88.35
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
Total			\$ 1650.35

Making Connections: Make a special effort to live ethically this week.

Marriage Tip: Generosity is a virtue, but too often couples overspend around the holidays and rack up credit card debt. Simple gifts are great, as is time spent together (always free!).

Daily Prayer: O God, the fountain of life and rejoicing, renew us in your love and baptise us with the fire of your Holy Spirit, that we may proclaim to all people the good news of your presence in our midst. May we delight to share with them your peace, which surpasses all understanding.

A Vocation View: "What ought we to do?" Let joy and gladness show forth in you, called to be the presence of Jesus.

Experiencing God's mercy. That we may all experience the mercy of God, who never tires of forgiving. May our families, especially those who suffer, find in the birth of Jesus, a sign of certain hope, comfort and peace.

Good Shepherd. Gather us and form us into a welcoming parish family. Touch our hearts with your love so that we, in turn, may reach out to love one another, in a neighborly community. Guide to do Christ's will. Bless us in service, care

Country Mass Times in December:

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.
New Year's Day: Horsham 10am.
January 3rd: Dimboola LLA 8.30. Murtoa Mass 8.30am

Fr Peter will celebrate the Masses next Sunday December 20th, at Dimboola at 8.30am, and Murtoa at 10.30am, offering the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing after these Masses.



SMJ School

End of the Year Mass and
Year 6 Graduation
this Tuesday December 15th
at 12noon in SMJ Church.
All Parish Families are welcome.
The last day of School for SMJ children.

OLHC School, Murtoa,

End of Year Mass and Year 6 Graduation
this Monday 14th December
at 6.30 in St Mary's Church, Murtoa.



We pray for a safe, blessed and happy Christmas and School holidays for all children, staff and families

Natimuk Community Home Mass this Thursday December 17th at 7pm

at Jamila Tyrri's home,
1423 Natimuk - Frances Road, Mitre.
All welcome.

Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing after Mass
Please bring a plate for supper.

INDIVIDUAL RECONCILIATION TIMES this week

Tuesday 6pm, Thursday 10am, Friday 10am,
Saturday 10.25am.

Some Dates for 2016

Liturgy Meeting: Monday January 25th at 12nn.
School and College Staffs Return: January 27th.
Classes begin for SMJ, OLHC, SBC: February 1st.
Ash Wednesday: Wednesday February 10th.
SBC Opening of Year Mass: Tuesday Feb 23, 9.30
Sacraments for Year 3 Students in 2016:
Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation: February 17th
At 6pm in Parish Centre. A letter will be sent to you.
Reconciliation nights: March 16 & 17 either 5 or 7pm
Eucharist & Confirmation Parent Meeting: April 26

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.
Entry is free and everyone is welcome.

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.

Fr Anthony Van Dyk was ordained a Dominican Priest in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, on December 11th, 1965.

We congratulate Fr Anthony on his Golden Jubilee of Ordination as a Priest.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to Anthony. He will celebrate his 50th Jubilee Mass in Adelaide on December 19th.

Fr Anthony's address is:
Dominican Priory, 14 Barker Road, Prospect SA 5006

WORKING BEE

this **Monday 14th December at 10am** to pull weeds and spread mulch around the Church and Presbytery ground for Christmas. Please bring along wheelbarrow and shovels. *Many hands make light work!*
From the OH&S Committee.

Advent is a time for joy, not primarily because we are anticipating the anniversary of the birth of Christ, but because God is already in our midst (Immanuel). The readings for this Sunday assure us that God is with us, not as a judge but as a Saviour. We rejoice over the saving acts of God that make us confident of God's care and unafraid of whatever may cross our paths. We rejoice in the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Advent joy is like the delight that fills a woman who has just given birth, even if it occurred in the throes of birthpangs. Advent joy springs from the realisation that the presence of God in our midst can so transform our lives that the promises of peace and security will be fulfilled. Advent joy is the way we live in the tension between already and not yet. *Dianne Bergant C.S.S.*



Pope Francis: **Holy Jubilee Year of Mercy** began on Tuesday December 8, Feast of the Immaculate Conception and concludes November 20, 2016, Feast of Christ the King.

Bishop Paul Bird will Open the Door of Mercy at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat today Sunday at 10.30 Mass.
Refreshments will follow the Mass.

Pope Francis said: "You cannot conceive of a true Christian who is not merciful, just as you cannot conceive of God without his Mercy. Mercy is the key word of the Gospel. ... We should not be afraid: We should allow ourselves to be embraced by the mercy of God. Pope Francis invites us to enter into the Jubilee of Mercy. "With these sentiments of gratitude for everything the Church has received, and with a sense of responsibility for the task that lies ahead, we shall cross the threshold of the Holy Door fully confident that the strength of the Risen Lord, who constantly supports us on our pilgrim way, will sustain us. May the Holy Spirit, who guides the steps of believers in cooperating with the work of salvation wrought by Christ, lead the way and support the People of God so that they may contemplate the face of mercy." (para 4)

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Shout for joy, daughter of Zion, Israel, shout aloud! Rejoice, exult with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem! The Lord has repealed your sentence; he has driven your enemies away. The Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst; you have no more evil to fear. When that day comes, word will come to Jerusalem: Zion, have no fear, do not let your hands fall limp. The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a day of festival.

Responsorial Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear. For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples! Declare the

greatness of his name. Sing a psalm to the Lord for he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth! People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness. Let your tolerance be evident to everyone: the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry; but if there is anything you need, pray for it, asking God for it with prayer and thanksgiving, and that peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand, will guard your hearts and your thoughts, in Christ Jesus.

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: 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.

Reflection on the Gospel-3rd Sunday of Advent Year C, 13 December 2015 (Luke 3:10-18)

Sister Veronica Lawson rsm.

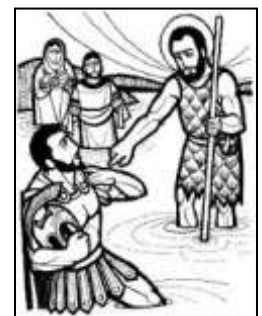
The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy. It is certainly present in the first two readings: God is in our midst, renewing us in love (Zephaniah) and there is no need for worry (Philippians). It is also implicit in the gospel reading from Luke with its sense of expectancy and John the Baptist's announcement of the "Good News" of the one who is to come.

There are ethical demands in the time of waiting. Three times John is asked, "What must we do?" In line with Luke's emphasis on the universality of God's

saving power, the responses are directed to "all the people". Those with even minimal food (something to eat) and clothing (two tunics) are told to share. Tax agents, caught up in a system notoriously open to abuse, are to be honest. Soldiers are given three directives that provide some insight into the way the military was perceived: no extortion, no blackmail, and no complaints about wages. The third directive probably derives from the fact that soldiers were better off financially than most others. It is in no sense a prohibition on demands for just wages. John situates himself in relation to Jesus, the anointed agent of God's liberation. John's portrait presents someone more fiery than the Lukan Jesus turns out to be. It is more like a self-portrait, especially in light of the context that has John addressing the crowds who flock to him as a "brood of vipers" or "children of snakes" (Luke 3:7). In contrast with John's water-baptism "for the forgiveness of sins",

Jesus will "baptise" with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire, as we well know in this dry land of ours, is a challenging symbol, both friend and foe. In the first-century Manual of Discipline from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action. John, who may have been a member of the Qumran community, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We know our own ongoing need for a

"baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by doing what we must: sharing our goods and treating others with dignity, justice and forgiveness.



Next Week's Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your

womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'



Pope Francis opens the Jubilee Door of Mercy in Rome on December 8th. *To pass through the Holy Door is to discover the infinite mercy of the Father who welcomes us all and goes out to meet each of us.*