



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

## BULLETIN



### Feast of the Holy Family - 27th December 2015



#### PARISH CONTACTS

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#### Gospel Reflection - Feast of Holy Family Sister Veronica Lawson.

The time between Christmas and New Year is often family time, a good time to think about what family means. For many, it is a challenge to juggle the various family commitments. We do our best, and trust that everyone will understand the difficult choices that sometimes have to be made. It is just over two months since the Synod on the Family was brought to a close. So much has happened globally since then that we are in danger of letting this significant event pass without due reflection. The Pope's concluding words of concern for "difficult cases and wounded families" merit our attention.

For Pope Francis, the Synod was "about bearing witness to everyone that, for the Church, the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would 'indoctrinate' it in dead stones to be hurled at others." The pope reasserted his constant message that the Church's "first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy." Today's readings invite us to focus on family relationships. At a very basic level, we are all "children of God" (1 John 3:1), invited to remember the love that God has "lavished on us". In the Gospel reading, Luke presents

the young Jesus coming with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem "as usual" for the great feast of Passover. He is twelve years of age, capable in that culture of making quite serious decisions for himself. He does just that, much to the consternation of his parents, who only become aware after a day's journey that he has remained in Jerusalem and not joined the extended family group or synodia for the return journey to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph are not well pleased. They express their concern but fail to understand his response: he is primarily God's child and must follow God's call first and foremost. This does not preclude obedience to his parents. It does, however, foreshadow the pain involved in parenting this young man whose mission will take him along paths they would never have chosen for him.

As Luke's story unfolds, Joseph fades from the picture. Mary lives in the reflective way we are all called to live, "storing all these things in her heart". Sometimes God's call to children is in tension with parents' wishes or hopes. Children are first of all "children of God". Much as we might want to, we cannot hold on to them. We try to understand their choices, we do everything we can to nurture their uniqueness, and we pray that they too will grow in wisdom and stature with God.



We welcome to the  
Family of God in Baptism

Saturday 26th:  
Lucynda & Wyatt Liston  
children of Peter & Tess

Sunday 27th:  
Hugh Michael McDonald  
son of Benjamin & Emma

#### THANK YOU

##### for these Ministries in 2015:

**Liturgy** - Readers, Music, Choir, Singers, Commentators, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Collectors, Computer, Offertory Procession, Welcomers, Children's Liturgy, Flowers, Cleaners, Church Linen, Sacristy, Cup of Tea, Piety Stall, Easter colours.

**Schools** - Sts Michael & John's - Principal Andrea Cox, St Brigid's - Peter Gutteridge, Our Lady Help of Christians - Principal Gary Typuszak, Chris Robarts - Consultant, all Teachers and Staffs, School Advisory Councils, Community 4 at SMJ, Parents and Friends, all helpers.

**Parish** - Parish Council, Finance,

Liturgy, Sacrament Program, Adult Faith Baptism Preparation, RCIA, Pastoral Care, Bereavement, Seder Meal, CWL, Catering, Men's Group, Prayer Groups, Meditation Groups, Craft Groups, Hospital Visitation, Cleaners, Counters, Communion to homes, Cheryl - flowers, Lenten Program, Spiritual Direction, Counselling, Brigidine Past Pupils, Maintenance, Grounds, Playgroup, Youth Group, The Fisherman, Vinnies Shop, St Vincent de Paul, Stewardship Program Team and Follow Up, those who help with putting letters, cards and planned giving into envelopes.

Our Indian, Filipino, African, Italian, and other ethnic communities,

**Country Centres:** Dimboola, Natimuk,

Murtoa, Rupanyup, **Coughlin Park** all User Groups, and Brendan Ryan for his leadership, **Christian Food Emergency Centre** and the wonderful volunteers **Special thanks** Fr John Pothiyittel, Fr Damian Heath, Anita in the Office, Sr Jacinta, Bob in the grounds, OH&S team, Michelle - Presbytery, Lyndel - Finance, Angela - Computer **Our Community:** your generous support to the prayerful and financial and practical challenges of maintaining our Parish buildings, supporting works of charity, sharing in Parish and Diocesan and Community commitments, supporting our Priests, and so many other causes. **Thank you** for your service.

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday Dec 29th: 5.30pm

Wednesday Dec 30th: 10.30am **Funeral Mass**  
Warren Strauss

Thursday Dec 31st: 9.15am  
10.30: **Funeral Prayers Dimboola**

Friday January 1st: 10am **New Year's Day**  
Motherhood of Mary, World Day of Peace.

Saturday Jan 2nd: 10am Sts Basil & Gregory



#### 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:** Warren Strauss, Antonio Kardogeros, Nicola Raneri (Switzerland - brother of Ida Lattanzio and Maria Cericola), Bernie Kelly (Colac),

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Dymp Sleeman, Eric Wood

**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, 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 1st Sunday of the Month**  
**Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord - 3rd January 2016**

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm

Sunday - 10.30am

Dimboola **Sunday LLA 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

**Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet Wednesday at 4.30pm.**

**ROSTERS**

Dec 26/27	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Bernadette Trounce Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer Maureen Ervin John Parker Sr Jacinta Rice Marie McMillan	Kingsley Dalgleish Lesley Lannen Karen Hill Lynda Hutchinson Shirley Hoffmann Andrea Cox Faye Wills
<b>January 2/3</b>	<b>Vigil 6.30pm</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<b>Readers</b>	John Foster	Michael Connellan
<b>Commentator</b>	Maree Plazzer	Dianne Noy
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Tess Hayes Anne Newton Silvana Foster Lorraine Clancy Micky Robarts Rosie Taylor Anthony Amor	Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalgleish Zita Cannane Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor
<b>Projector</b>	Peter Gutteridge	Julie Antonoff
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Pat Williams Connie Besselaar	Denise Vallance Mary Uebergang
<b>Prayers</b>	Lesley Price & Mary Dalgleish	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>3rd January</b> Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney	<b>10th January</b> Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker

**1st Reading: Sirach 3:2-6. 12**

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy; with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 127**

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

**2nd Reading: Colossians 3:**

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ

reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**Acclamation: Colossians 3:**

Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 2:41-52**

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth and lived under their authority. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. Jesus

**Last Sunday: 1st COLLECTION - Presbytery A/c. (Plate). Total: \$1147**  
**Horsham: \$924 Murtoa: \$97 Dimboola: \$81**

**2nd COLLECTION - Parish (Envelopes in Green Bag):**  
**Envelopes: \$2636 Loose: \$102.85 Total: \$2738.85**

Have a blessed, happy, hopefilled and peaceful 2016. We pray for rain in season, and God's blessing of mercy on us