



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

BULLETIN

Feast of the Baptism of our Lord - 10th January 2016



The Liturgical Season of Christmas concludes today with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. We sang our Christmas Carols in this post Christmas period. The Crib and the Tree are put away and the Sanctuary decorations are taken down. We return to the Ordinary Time in the Church's Year this week. The Weekday Readings at Mass are from Year 2, and the Sunday Readings are from Year C. This week is Week 1. Next Sunday January 17th is Week 2.

PARISH CONTACTS

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Marriage Tip: How can you as a family help the poor, especially those in your own community? At the least, remember in your prayers today those who are struggling to meet their basic needs.

Daily Prayer: Father of great and everlasting glory, by the power of your Holy Spirit you have consecrated your Word made flesh and have established this Christ, our Saviour, as the Light of the world and your covenant of peace for all the peoples.

A Vocation View: Come on, continue your Baptism by baptising others in the Holy Spirit and fire. "You are my beloved child," says the Lord!

We welcome Fr John who is in our Parish whilst Fr Peter is away in Sydney.

Gospel Reflection

—*Veronica Lawson rsm*

Today's feast marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Over the Christmas season, the liturgy invited us to reflect on and to experience the various comings of Christ in our world and to open ourselves to the action of God's grace at work in our encounters with the living Christ. The readings from Luke's gospel have taken us from the birth of Jesus to the story of his personal decision at age twelve to remain in God's house, the Jerusalem Temple, listening to the teachers of the Law and astonishing them with his answers to their questions.

Now, as an adult and along with "all the people", Jesus receives John's water baptism. The crowds are wondering if John the Baptiser is the Christ or Messiah, God's anointed one. John points the people away from himself and towards Jesus who "will baptise ...with the Holy Spirit and fire". Did Jesus also engage in a ministry of baptising the people "for the forgiveness of sins" or is John's reference to Jesus' activity of baptising with the Holy Spirit and fire a metaphor for the distinctive features of his

future gospel ministry? In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke's second volume, the presence of the Holy Spirit is marked by tongues of fire. Fire is a powerful symbol that functions as a threat on the one hand and as a source of energy and light on the other.

Jesus is God's Chosen One, the Beloved, on whom God's Spirit rests. In light of the first reading from Isaiah 42, the voice of God in the baptism scene commissions Jesus to bring forth justice, sensitively and without fanfare; to be a light to the peoples; to open the eyes of the blind and to set the captives free. Those baptised into Christ through the ages are baptised "with the Holy Spirit and fire" and are called to the same mission as Jesus and the same sensitive approach to the mission. The fire in our hearts sometimes flickers in the face of life's challenges. We are sometimes guilty of crushing "the bruised reed" or extinguishing the flickering flame of hope. As we move into Ordinary Time with its often extraordinary demands, we might think about stirring the embers and fanning the flame of God's love so that justice might prevail in our world and for our planet - justice without violence, if not without pain.

CHOIR PRACTICE—Wednesday 3rd February at 6pm

COUNTRY CENTRES MASS TIMES

17th Jan—
 Dimboola Mass 8.30am
 Murtoa Mass 10.30am
24th Jan—
 Dimboola Mass 8.30am
 Natimuk Mass 8.30am
 Murtoa Mass 10.30am
31st Jan—
 Dimboola LLA 8.30am
 Murtoa Mass 8.30am

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$		Murtoa	\$ 104.00
Horsham	\$	1037.00	Dimboola	\$
Total			\$ 1141.00	

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account) - Wk 8 (Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals)

Envelopes	\$	1358.00	Loose	\$ 62.15
Credit Card	\$	2672.50	Direct Debit	\$ 2177.67
Total			\$ 6270.32	

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 12th Jan	5.30pm	Mass
Wednesday 13th Jan	9.30am	
Thursday 14th Jan	9.30am	
Friday 15th Jan	9.30am	
Saturday 16th Jan	10am	

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: Maureen Eddison OAM (St Kilda), Eugenia Boyko (Ballarat)

ANNIVERSARIES: Peter Connellan, Jean Slater, Jeremy Sleep, Dot Haeusler, Kathleen McCallum, Cath Liston, Jack Feery, Christine Ryan, Anne O'Neill

SICK: Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Bill Kennedy, Corey Panozzo, Renee Kerr, Brian Rice, Susan Finnigan, Stephen Sherman, Helen Brennan, Eileen Finnigan, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Lyn Cooper, Jill and Christie Higgenbottom, Roma Magee, Joy Flynn.

Emergency Care: 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
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time—17th January**

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.**

ROSTERS

January 9/10	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Joan Parker Ann Hermans Chris Velthuis Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes B. Trounce	Neville Strachan Kingsley Dalglish Lesley Lannen Karen Hill Rosie Taylor Lynda Hutchinson Shirley Hoffmann
January 16/17	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Kevin Dunn	Anthony Dowling
Commentator	Garry Heinrich	Shayne Keenan
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer Maureen Ervin John Parker Sr Jacinta Rice Marie McMillan Tess Hayes	Andrea Cox Faye Wills Cate Rigby Russell Reid Mary Marshall Tim Lannen Mary Dalglish
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Gabby Mills
Musicians	Chris Robarts	
Welcomers	Lorraine Clancy Bob Hayes	Beth Johnson Judy Bryan
Prayers	Alison McKinnon & Anna Robertson	

Church Cleaning and Flowers:

Jan 17th: Pat O'Connor, Win Stephens, Barbara Connellan, Kath Atkins. **Jan 24th:** Carolyn Boseley, Carmel O'Connor, Gwen Antonucci, Anna Carberry, Pauline Hinch

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

'Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Responsorial Psalm

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe!
You stretch our the heavens
like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants. How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill.

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the

face of the earth.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

Acclamation: Luke 3:16

Alleluia, alleluia!
John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16. 21-22

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.' Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'