



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

BULLETIN

3rd Sunday in Lent - 28th February 2016



Third Sunday of Lent

Lent



In this 3rd week of our Lenten journey, the readings assure us of the love and mercy of God, but tell us not to be complacent. The Gospel calls us to be alert, to dig deep into our lives, ready to enjoy the blessings of Easter.



When Pope Francis announced the Year of Mercy, one of the special events he proposed was **24 Hours for the Lord** throughout the world
Friday March 4th to Saturday March 5th.

Our Timetable:

Friday 4th: Mass 9am.
World Day of Prayer 10am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
5pm to 7pm.

Rosary 5pm.
Evening Prayer of the Church 5.30pm
Angelus 6pm. Confessions 6.30.
Stations of the Cross 7pm.

Saturday March 5th:
Exposition 9am. Rosary 9.20.
Morning Prayer of the Church 9.40.
Mass 10am. Confessions 10.25.

This special 24 Hours for the Lord will provide an occasion for us to draw nearer to Christ. It will be a time to experience the mercy of God in our own lives and a time to grow in mercy ourselves, so that we might be more and more merciful to each person we meet as God our Father is merciful to us. May this 24 Hours for the Lord bring blessings on us all.
Yours in Christ *Paul Bird Bishop of Ballarat*

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.

Fr Peter joins the Priests of the Diocese for our Annual Retreat this week at Halls Gap.

Retired Bishop David Walker will lead the Retreat. Please pray for our Priests at this time, as we pray for you and our Diocese.

World Day of Prayer
this Friday March 4th at 10am
in SMJ Church.

Service prepared by the people of Cuba
Our CWL lead the Service with other Churches involved.
All welcome. Cuppa after.

PARISH CONTACTS

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

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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 Masses with us this weekend.

The Liturgical Program for Holy Week in our Parish is in the Foyers today.

CWL Meeting this Tuesday at 10.30 in the Meeting Room.

No Computer tonight, Saturday, no one available. We seek more people to do the computer for both Saturday and Sunday. A great ministry, training given, please see Fr Peter or Anita if you can help.

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 1st March **No Mass**

Wednesday 2nd March **LLA 9.30**

Thursday 3rd March **9.30am**

Friday 4th March **9am** World Day of Prayer at 10am.

Saturday 5th March 10.00am Eileen Carroll anniv.

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: Bernadette Moran - Qld (mother of Nanette Freckleton)	
ANNIVERSARIES: Thomas Ballinger, John Faux, Edward Jackman, Antonia Chincarini Snr., Vin Liston	
SICK: Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Bill Kennedy, Corey Panozzo, Renee Kerr, Brian Rice, Susan Finnigan, Stephen Sherman, Helen Brennan, , Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Lyn Cooper, Jill and Christie Higgenbottom, Roma Magee, Joy Flynn, Peter Kelly, Rodney Clarke, Fred Webb.	
Emergency Care: Contact Betty 53826688	
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 4th Sunday of Lent - 6th March	
Horsham	Saturday - 6.30pm Sunday - 10.30am
Dimboola	Sunday Mass 8.30am
Murtoa	Sunday Mass 8.30am
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	
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 . Phone appt 1300 303 988 or contact the Parish Office	
BAPTISM PREPARATION EVENINGS 3rd Thursday of each Month at 7.30pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Forms to be filled in with the Parish Office prior. Contact is the Parish Office 53821155.	
Piety Stall in the Church has gifts for Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, cards, medals etc., lovely Peru crosses.	
CHOIR PRACTICE 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.	
Next Sunday March 5th is CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY. We welcome the Season of Autumn this Tuesday, and pray for rain to fall in time for cropping. Blessings to all.	

ROSTERS		
Feb 27/28	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Maree Plazzer Maureen Ervin John Parker Micky Robarts Marie McMillan Tess Hayes Anne Newton	Mary Dalglish Zita Cannane Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Neville Strachan Kingsley Dalglish
March 5/6	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Geordie Butler	Bob Pritchett
Commentator	John Parker	Alison McKinnon
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Silvana Foster Lorraine Clancy Sr Jacinta Rice Peter Gutteridge Anthony Amor Joan Parker Ann Hermans	Lesley Lannen Karen Hill Lynda Hutchinson Shirley Hoffmann Rosie Taylor Andrea Cox Faye Wills
Projector	Anita Masiero	Julie Antonoff
Children's Liturgy		Kelly Trebicki
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Teresa Bottoms
Welcomers	Bill & Josie Phelan	Nanette Freckleton Denise Vallance
Prayers	John & Joan Parker	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	6th March Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhonda Tursi	13th March Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney
FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)		
Natimuk	\$	Murtoa \$ 155.00
Horsham	\$ 932.00	Dimboola \$ 98.00
Total		\$ 1185.00
2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)-Wk 14 <i>(Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals)</i>		
Envelopes	\$ 1539.00	Loose \$ 48.40
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit \$
Total		\$ 1587.40
Making Connections: Attend carefully this week to cultivating your own relationship with God. Try to bring out the best in someone else as well.		
Marriage Tip: Pope Francis called the family the "the first and most important school of mercy." In what ways can you teach mercy in your family?		
Daily Prayer: O God, you loved us while we were yet sinners; in Christ you come in search of us. We thirst for your grace. Grant your people the gift of the Spirit, that we may learn to profess our faith with courage and conviction and announce with joy the wonders of your saving love.		
A Vocation View: Each Lent should bring us closer to our God. There is no failure, except that of no longer trying. You can still follow Jesus more closely. "Throughout the history of humanity, God will always be the One who is present, close, provident, holy, merciful, forgiver. I see clearly that the thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; it needs nearness, proximity." – Pope Francis.		

Country Mass Times in February/March:

March 6th: Dimboola 8.30. **Murtoa 8.30**
March 13th: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30
March 20th: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30
Easter Saturday: Murtoa 7.30pm
Easter Sunday: Natimuk 8.30am. Dimboola 8.30am



The Sacrament of First Reconciliation for SMJ Children will be celebrated at these times:

Wednesday March 9th at 5pm.
Thursday March 10th at 5 and 7pm.
Wednesday March 16th at 5pm.
Please pray for the children and their families in this time of preparation.



Generational poverty has led to many challenges in Dominic's community in Papua New Guinea, including gender inequality, alcohol abuse and violence. Since receiving training in the Caritas Australia supported Community Conversations program, Dominic has learnt communication and problem solving skills to lead his community towards a more peaceful, prosperous future. **Please donate to Project Compassion and help empower communities in Papua New Guinea to lead their own development and create more harmonious futures.**

CATERING LADIES MEETING on Wednesday 9th March at 2pm in the Parish Meeting Room

All ladies who work in the kitchen to help with funeral catering are invited to the meeting, and ladies who may be able to help at different times with the Catering, to discuss some proposed changes to our arrangements.

We keep victims, survivors, families affected by the Royal Commission in our thoughts and prayers, those involved and those looking on with sadness. We pray for Cardinal Pell and his witness this week from Rome. We pray for justice for all

Prayer for 3rd Sunday of Lent: Loving Father, so many times I turn away from you and always you welcome me back. Your mercy and love gives me confidence. Thank you for the invitation to share, fast and pray so that you can form a new heart within me. Your powerful compassion for my weaknesses leads me to ask for mercy and await with great hope the Easter joy you share with us.

We pray for and celebrate with, Bill and Ivy McGrath and their family, as they commemorate the 100th anniversary of the marriage of Bill's parents, Tom and Eileen McGrath.

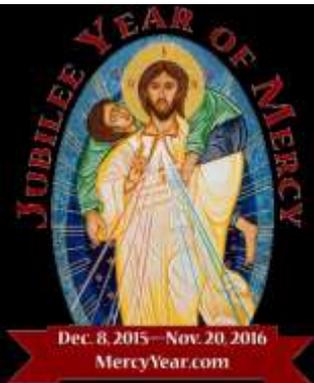


Mercy listens - with interest and concern - then smiles, and reaches out her hand."

Sr Veronica Lawson will come to Horsham on Thursday March 17th from 7pm to 9pm (new time) to lead us in a Reflection Day on the Year of Mercy.
Copies of her book will be on sale at Piety Stall

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.



Pope Francis' Year of Mercy Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you see Him. Show us your face and we shall be saved. Send your Spirit, and consecrate every one of us with the Spirit's anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy, may be a year of grace from the Lord, and we your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor. Let your Church be your visible face in the world. We ask this of you, God of mercy and forgiveness, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy.
We pray this prayer at the end of the Intercessions

Gospel Reflection 3rd Lent—Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Today's gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about a non-productive fig tree and a faithful "gardener God". The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus and used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point. With respect to the first example, Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty. Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful and no more deserving of death than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong. So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way"? The answer seems to lie in the constant need for self-reflection and the missed opportunity for conversion or reconciliation in the case of sudden and unexpected death. Jesus is telling his listeners, "Don't be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the gospel while you are alive and well". The Greek verb "to repent" literally means "to think again" - to expand one's vision or one's horizons, to think beyond the narrow confines of one's own interests and one's own world. It is a call to take seriously the message of God's reign which embraces the whole human race. The parable of the non-productive fig tree in the vineyard approaches the same topic from another angle. The owner of the vineyard wants to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit after three years. From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree? The faithful or constant gardener is like the compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit, if the owner will relent. At this mid-point in our Lenten journey in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to nurturing our lives according to the Gospel.

1st Reading: Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow.' Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for all

generations to come.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 6-8.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6. 10

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain:

some of them did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful that he does not fall.

Acclamation: Matthew 4:17

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down."

Next Week's Gospel: Luke 15:1-3. 11-

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man,' they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses

and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the

elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about, "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening." The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."