



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

## BULLETIN



### 4th Sunday in Lent - 6th March 2016



#### PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson  
Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero  
10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400  
PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402  
Phone: 5382 1155.  
Fax: 5382 3016  
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.



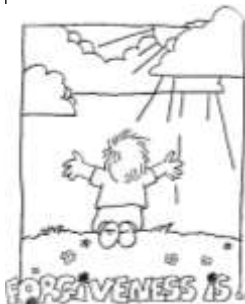
#### Rosters for Holy Week Ceremonies in SMJ Church are in the Foyer today.

If you are able to assist with the Ministries for Passion Saturday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, please sign your name on the sheet for that Mass or Ceremony, or please contact Anita at the Office.

*Today's Gospel: We see the gift of the totality of the father's welcome and the reinstatement of his son as a full member of the family. He healed his lost son through his love and generosity. The story conveys an eloquent image of what God the Father is like: how he is waiting for us 'to go back home' and to be received into his loving arms. It's a love extended to every member of the human family. To love our neighbour is no longer an option for us. If we understand who God is and who we are, we must allow God's love to flow through us to others – not just in words but effective action.*

#### Catering Ladies Meeting at 2pm this Wednesday March 9th in the 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 proposed changes to our arrangements.



**The Sacrament of First Reconciliation** for our Year 3 Children will be celebrated this Wednesday March 9th at 5pm, and this Thursday March 10th at 5pm and 7pm, in SMJ Church.

and Thursday March 10th at 5pm.  
*Please pray for the children and their families in their preparation for and in the celebration of this Sacrament*

#### 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.

#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday at 7pm.



Welcome to the Family of God in Baptism:  
**Adeline Lily Salter**  
daughter of Jeramy & Ebonie

SMJ Years 5 & 6 will attend the 9.30am Mass this Thursday 10th.

SMJ School will lead the Ministries at Passion Sunday Mass in SMJ Church, with roles in the Passion of Luke.

#### WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 7th March	5.30pm	Vin Mugavin, Damien Doyle annivs
Wednesday 8th March	9.30am	St John of God. <b>World Day of Women</b>
Thursday 9th March	9.30am	St Frances of Rome. Mass Natimuk at <b>4pm</b>
Friday 10th March	9.30am	Beryl Dillon recent death.
Saturday 11th March	10.00am	

#### 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:** Margo Ward, Jack O'Connor (Shepparton Beryl Dillon (Wycheproof), Tommy Simpson (Springbank)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Pino Sordello, Leo Op de Coul, Dan Carey Alice Moloney, Damien Doyle, Fr John Shanley, Alex Wren, Vin Mugavin, Jim Moloney

**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 2nd Sunday of the Month**  
**5th Sunday of Lent - 13th March**

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.**

**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.

Free counselling, support offered by Centacare Ballarat for  
 families, individuals affected by the drought and other issues  
**Free call 130303988** to make an appointment. Centacare  
 can visit your home; they use our Parish Interview Room.  
 Totally confidential, there is much Government money avail-  
 able, so don't hesitate to ring this number, times arranged to  
 suit you and your needs. Support open to any family  
 member.

**ROSTERS**

March 5/6	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	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
<b>March 12/13</b>	<b>Vigil 6.30pm</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<b>Readers</b>	Kevin Dunn	Andrea Cox
<b>Commentator</b>	Micky Robarts	Anna Robertson
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Chris Velthuis Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer	Cate Rigby Russell Reid Mary Marshall Tim Lannen Mary Dalglish Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon
<b>Projector</b>	Peter Gutteridge	Gabby Mills
<b>Children's Liturgy</b>		Letitia Dowling
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Robarts	Men's Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Joan Whiley Lorraine Clancy	Mary Uebergang Alistair Castle
<b>Prayers</b>	Lesley Price & Mary Dalglish	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>13th March</b> Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney	<b>20th March</b> Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker
<b>FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)</b>		
Natimuk	\$ 36.00	Murtoa \$ 92.00
Horsham	\$ 936.00	Dimboola \$ 63.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1127.00</b>
<b>2nd Colle Green Bag Envelopes Wk 17</b>		
Envelopes	\$ 2258.00	Loose \$ 342.95
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit \$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 2600.95</b>

**Making Connections:** Reach out with an invitation, a gesture or a word of forgiveness.

**Daily Prayer:** Forsaking your embrace, O God, we have wandered far from you and squandered the inheritance of our baptism. Father, we have sinned against heaven and before you; we are no longer worthy to be called your children. Restore us now with the embrace of your mercy and compassion, and grant that we who have been found by your grace, may gladly welcome to the table of your family all who long to find their way home.

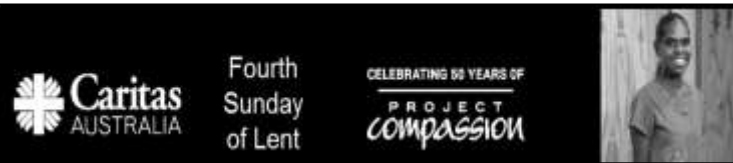
**4th Sunday of Lent:** The message in today's Parable is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.  
**Vocational View:** Jesus came to forgive. Since people continue to sin, we need people who will continue to forgive in Jesus' way. How about YOU?  
**Marriage Tip:** Did you resolve to pray more during Lent? End each evening by praying together, thanking God for your spouse and the blessings of the day.

## Country Mass Times in February/March:

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

We welcome the children and families from OLHC School as they lead the Ministries at Mass at **St Mary's Church Murtoa** today.

Fr Peter will celebrate the Sacraments of Anointing and Reconciliation at the end of the Masses at Dimboola and Murtoa next Sunday March 13th



First Australian Evangeline lives in a remote community that faces many ongoing challenges. She had a limited vision for her future until three years ago, when she started working at the Djilpin Arts Ghunmarn Culture Centre, a community-owned venture supported by Caritas Australia. Today Evangeline is flourishing, with new skills and a passion for the preservation and promotion of her Aboriginal culture. **Please donate to Project Compassion and help First Australians in remotecommunities to gain new skills and renewed passion to preserve and celebrate traditional culture.**

**Choir Practice** this Wednesday 9th March 6pm in the Church

⇒ **ANOINTING MASS** SMJ Church Tuesday March 23rd at 2pm  
⇒ **HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES TIMETABLE** in the Foyers

## International Women's Day – Tuesday March 8th Beatitudes for Women

Blessed is the woman of faith and hope.  
She will be a sign of the presence of God among us.  
Blessed is the woman of relationships.  
She will be a bond of unity and a sign of the fullness of God.  
Blessed is the woman who welcomes.  
She will be kindness, the sign of the love of God.  
Blessed is the woman of the Word.  
She will be a Word of God for others.  
Blessed is the woman of discernment.  
The wisdom of God will be her riches.  
Blessed is the woman of peace and reconciliation.  
The joy and strength of God will be hers.  
Blessed is the woman who journeys towards the fullness of Christ. She will live in the freedom and light of God.  
Blessed is the woman of prayer. She will live in communion with God and her sisters and brothers. Amen

⇒ Mass at Rupanyup at Tess & Chris O'Brien's this Wednesday March 9th at **7pm**. Please note later time  
⇒ Mass at Natimuk Nursing Home this Thursday 10th at **4pm**  
⇒ **Holy Week Oils Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Monday March 21st at 6.30pm. A gathering of our Diocesan Church.**

## ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

50 years on Swanston St. and the Loreto Sisters' leadership of the College (1918 - 2013). Mass at the Chapel Newman College Chapel, at 3 pm next Sunday, 13th March, followed by a Garden Party. RSVP for catering purposes to the College on 9349 9555 or secretary@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au

## 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 by Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Parent-child conflict is part of life and every parent's dream is to be able to deal effectively and lovingly with children behaving badly, including adult or adolescent children. Unfailing forgiveness and arms open to welcome back wayward sons and daughters: that is the way proposed in today's gospel story. There is no room in the hearts of Jesus' critics for such forgiveness: upright law-abiding people should exclude "sinners" from their company. In a first-century Jewish context, it was easy enough to be a sinner. Whole groups of people, depending on their occupation, fell into that category simply because they failed to observe one or more of the 618 prescriptions of the law. Jesus' response to critics is the story of a parent both of whose sons lose their way for a time. One son finds his way back to the centre of family life and the support of the wider community while the other more law-abiding son seems to place himself outside the family circle, holding on to the resentment he feels at his brother's return. We need to fill in the gaps in the story: there may be daughters as well as sons; there is surely another parent, a mother who shares the heartache of her husband when their younger son requests his one-third share of the estate. To make such a request in this context is unthinkable: it is tantamount to wishing his parents were dead. To accede to such a request is likewise unthinkable, even shameful in that society. The head of a patriarchal household who acts thus stands to lose honour, status, and authority. [It is important to note that the older brother is not disadvantaged: he is assured of a two-thirds share according to the law as well as the ongoing love and support of his family, as his father makes clear]. When things turn out disastrously in the distant country, the younger man shows no real interest in a restored relationship with his family. Rather, he devises a plan that will put food in his empty belly—not a particularly lofty motive for returning home. He thinks up a speech about sharing the status of the family employees. Thanks to the expansive heart of an amazingly compassionate parent, he does not have to deliver the speech he has prepared, but is gathered into the heart of family and local community. That's how it needs to be with us. It is certainly how it is with our merciful God. We can abandon, even betray; our motives for returning home can be very mixed; we may even be like the unwelcoming older brother; but the God of mercy and compassion is always there for us.



**1st Reading: Joshua 5:9-12**

The Lord said to Joshua, 'Today I have taken the shame of Egypt away from you.' The Israelites pitched their camp at Gilgal and kept the Passover there on the fourteenth day of the month, at evening in the plain of Jericho. On the morrow of the Passover they tasted the produce of that country, unleavened bread and roasted ears of corn, that same day. From that time, from their first eating of the produce of that country, the manna stopped falling. And having manna no longer, the Israelites fed from that year onwards on what the land of Canaan yielded.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33:2-7**

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; In the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us praise his name. I sought the Lord and he answered me; from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed. This poor man called; the Lord heard him and rescued him from all his distress.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

**2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21**

For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation; the old creation has gone, and now the new one is here. It is all God's work. It was God who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the work of handing on this reconciliation. In other words, God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, not holding men's faults against

them, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God.

**Acclamation: Luke 15:18**

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ! I will rise and go to my Father and tell him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel: Luke 15:1-3. 11-32**

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."'

**Next Week's Gospel: John 8:1-11**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing

adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he

bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

**"The Loud Fence"** We note that an "unknown friend" has tied coloured ribbons to a pillar at SMJ Church. We acknowledge this initiative which joins our on-going prayer, support and care to known and unknown 'survivors', and their families. May they know the sincerity of the Church's response to the recent Royal Commission hearings in Ballarat, and from Rome. May the goodness and faith of so many families and people, in the Ballarat Diocese, not be extinguished by the evil that was done in the past.

- ⇒ **SMJ Advisory Council Meeting Tuesday 8th at 7.30pm**
- Holy Week Seder Meal Wednesday March 23rd 7pm**
- Enrolment forms in the Foyer today to get numbers for catering. Cost of the meal \$8, Family max \$30. Please return to Church or to the Parish Office.
- ⇒ **Sr Veronica Lawson will give a Reflection on the Year of Mercy, and her book "Blessings of Mercy" in the Parish Centre on Thursday March 17th from 7pm to 9pm.** Copies of her book here this week.