

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

BULLETIN

4th Sunday Easter - 17th April 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.
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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 to the
 Family of God in
 Baptism:
 Saturday



Chloe Jayne Tuohey
 daughter of Shane & Olivia
 and
 Sunday
 Rose Hazel Annie Boland
 daughter of Richard & Tori

MASS COUNT will begin at **ALL MASSES** on the weekend of 30th April/1st May and will run for the **FOUR weekends of May.**

Faith opens a "window" to the presence of the working of **the Spirit**. It shows us that, like happiness, holiness is always tied to the **little gestures**. "Whoever gives you a cup of water in my name will not go unrewarded", says Jesus (cf. Mk 9:41). These **little gestures** are those we learn at home, in the family; they get lost amid all the other things we do, yet they make each day different. They are the **quiet things** done by **mothers and grandmothers**, by **fathers and grandfathers**, by **children**. They are **little signs** of tenderness, affection and compassion. Like the warm supper we look forward to at night, the early lunch awaiting someone who gets up early to go to work. **Homely gestures**. Like a blessing before we go to bed, or a hug after we return from a hard day's work. Love is shown by **little things**, by attention to **small daily signs which make us feel at home**. **Faith** grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our **families**, our **homes**, are true domestic churches. **They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to become faith.**

Jesus tells us not to hold back these **little miracles**. Instead, he wants us to encourage them, to **spread them**. He asks us to go through life, our everyday life, encouraging all these little signs of love as **signs of his** own living and **active presence** in our world.

- Pope Francis

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.

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Monday 18th April	1.00pm	Ann Kerr Memorial Mass
Tuesday 19th April	5.30pm	Annie Gillard Ann
Wednesday 20th April	9.30am	
Thursday 21st April	9.30am	
Friday 22nd April	10.30am	Lutheran Home
Saturday 24th April	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: Graham Ryan—Edenhope
ANNIVERSARIES: Shirley McDonald, Pat Carey, Jack Slater, Anne O'Gready, Annie Gillard, Rosina Radolovi
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, Fred Webb,
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 4th Sunday of the Month 5th Sunday of Easter—24th April 2016
Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm Sunday - 10.30am
Natimuk Sunday Mass 8.30am
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
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.

Free counselling, support offered by Centacare Ballarat for families, individuals affected by the drought and other issues **Free call 1300 303 988** to make an appointment. Centacare can visit your home; they use our Parish Interview Room. Totally confidential, there is much Government money available, so don't hesitate to ring this number, times arranged to suit you and your needs. Support open to any family member.

ROSTERS			
April 16/17	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am	
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	John Parker Sr Jacinta Rice Marie McMillan Tess Hayes Anne Newton Silvanna Foster Lorraine Clancy	Noreen O'Connor Neville Strachan Kingsley Dalglish Alison McKinnon Karen Hill Lynda Hutchinson Shirley Hoffmann	
April 23/24	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am	
Readers	Kevin Dunn	Angela Murphy	
Commentator	Les Butler	Anthony Dowling	
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Sr Jacinta Rice Peter Gutteridge Joan Parker Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce	Rosie Taylor Andrea Cox Faye Wills Cate Rigby Russell Reid Mary Marshall Tim Lannen	
Projector	Shayne Keenan	Gabby Mills	
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Teresa Bottoms	
Welcomers	Gavin Hynam Garry Coutts	Angela Stephens Mary Dalglish	
Prayers	Darryl & Maree Wren		
Children's Liturgy		Emelia Sudholz	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	24th April Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley Judie Delahunty	1st May Lynda Hutchinson Silvanna Foster Helene Bush Mary Ward	
FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)			
Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 68.00
Horsham	\$ 1074.00	Dimboola	\$
Total			\$ 1142.00
2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)-Wk 22			
<i>Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals</i>			
Envelopes	\$ 2064.00	Loose	\$ 59.10
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
Total			\$ 2123.10
Project Compassion (to date): \$3646.00			Thank you

Making Connections: Attend very carefully to the needs of those people who are in your care this week.

Marriage Tip: When conflicts arise, use open-ended questions that allow your spouse to voice his/her feelings and opinions honestly. Avoid asking questions in a demanding tone.

Daily Prayer: O God, the fountain of joy and of peace, into the hands of your risen Son you have entrusted the destinies of peoples and of nations. Sustain us with the power of your Spirit, that, amid the unceasing changes of life in this world, we may never become separated from Christ our Good Shepherd, who guides us to springs of life-giving water.

A Vocation View: On this World Day of Prayer for Vocations, pray for yourself. Pray to know if God is calling YOU to be a Priest, Sister or Brother. Pray!

Country Mass Times in April:

April 24th: Natimuk 8.30 Dimboola 8.30 Murtoa 10.30
May 1st: Dimboola LLA 8.30 Murtoa Mass **8.30**

Urgently Required

We are looking for ladies who are interested in being a part of the Church Cleaning and Flower Arranging team.

You will go on a rotating roster system, which means that you will be on approximately every 10 weeks in a group of 3 or more ladies.

For further information and/or to put your name down contact Lynda Hutchinson on 0407 340 412

Mercy Associates Pilgrimage

The Mercy Associates invite you to join them on a Pilgrimage to the Academy of Mary Immaculate, Nicholson Street, Fitzroy - the first Sisters of Mercy establishment in Victoria - on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. On this Pilgrimage we will travel, reflect, pray and talk together on mercy and compassion in our lives and the world today. Catherine McAuley was the founder of the Sisters of Mercy and Ursula Frayne was one of Catherine's early companions in Dublin. Ursula led a group of Sisters to Australia and established works of mercy and compassion in Melbourne. We will visit Ursula's grave, memorial chapel and creation windows and have a tour of The Academy. A pre-pilgrimage Information Session will be held on Monday, April 11 from 2.00pm – 3.00pm in the Mercy Gathering Room, Gent Street, Ballarat (off Victoria Street). For further information please contact Ursula Diamond-Keith, email gudiamond-keith@live.com.au or ph. 0407717626 or Margaret McDonald, email nannymacca@gmail.com or ph. 53435315 or Rita Hayes rsm, email ritahayes@mercy.org.au or ph. 53313026.

Lutheran Home Anointing Mass will be held on Friday 22nd April at 10.30am

Project Compassion

Thank you to those who have donated towards the Caritas Australia's annual appeal, Project Compassion. Your gift, both prayer and financial giving, ensures the world's poorest and marginalized communities are supported through Caritas Australia's transforming and self-sustaining programs. If you have not already donated and wish to do so, could you please place your gift in a clearly marked envelope and place it on the collection plate next week so that the appeal can be finalised.



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.



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

Organ and French Horn Recital

Easter Joy at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 6-7pm.

St Joseph's Technical School, South Melbourne (closed 1988) - Reunion

Reunion of students, teachers and staff on Sunday, April 17, 2016 from 1.00pm – 4.00pm at the old school site in Park Street, South Melbourne. Families welcome. BBQ lunch and light refreshments provided. Enquiries and confirmation of attendance to Tony, ph. 95807344.

This Sunday is traditionally referred to as Good Shepherd Sunday. However, the readings for today focus more on the flock than on the shepherd. The overarching theme appears to be unity in diversity. Placing this theme within the context of the Easter season, we might refocus it slightly and suggest that today we celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord in communities of difference. Unity in diversity is first found in the divine union of the Trinity. All other models of unity flow from it. Both the first and the second readings depict communities made up of people from every nation, race, people and tongue, Jews and Gentile alike. This is precisely the makeup of most communities today. Parishes and religious groups that were born with a particular cultural identity have changed in complexion and composition. Despite the obvious differences, all are children of the one God, all are joined in their common confession of faith. Not everyone is happy with diversity. Some within the early community resented the success of Paul and Barnabas and they tried to turn the people against them. This sounds strangely familiar to us. Religious groups born out of struggle and hard work, that were lovingly nurtured and that grew strong, often resist what they perceived to be the invasion of foreigners. If these people could only take as their model the company of the blessed revealed in John's vision, they would see that those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb come from every nation and race and people and tongue.

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1st Reading: Acts 13:14. 43-52

Paul and Barnabas carried on from Perga till they reached Antioch in Pisidia. Here they went to the synagogue on the sabbath and took their seats. When the meeting broke up, many Jews and devout converts joined Paul and Barnabas, and in their talks with them Paul and Barnabas urged them to remain faithful to the grace God has given them. The next sabbath almost the whole town assembled to hear the word of God. When they saw the crowds, the Jews, prompted by jealousy, used blasphemies and contradicted everything Paul said. Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly. 'We had to proclaim the word of God to you first, but since you have rejected it, since you do not think yourselves worthy of eternal life, we must turn to the pagans. For this is what the Lord commanded us to do when he said: I have made you a light for the nations, so that my salvation may reach the ends of the earth.' It made the pagans very happy to hear this and they thanked the Lord for his message; all who were destined for eternal life became believers. Thus the word of the Lord spread through the whole countryside. But the Jews worked upon some of the devout women of the upper classes and the leading men of the city and persuaded them to turn against

Paul and Barnabas and expel them from their territory. So they shook the dust from their feet in defiance and went off to Iconium; but the disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 99:1-3. 5

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing for joy.

Know that he, the Lord, is God. He made us, we belong to him, we are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Indeed, how good is the Lord, eternal his merciful love. He is faithful from age to age.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

2nd Reading: Revelation 7:9. 14-17

I, John, saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. One of the elders said

Gospel Reflection—4th Easter Yr C, Sr Veronica Lawson rsm .

One of the blessings of my life has been the opportunity to work in several different cultural contexts. My ministry has taken me twice to the Good Shepherd Centre in Angers in France. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd were founded in post-revolution France to shepherd God's people, especially young women at risk. Taking their inspiration from the gospel image of the Good Shepherd, they continue to shepherd God's people, including women who have been trafficked as sexual slaves. In recent years they have expanded their mission and, together with their associates and partners in ministry, have decided "to shepherd God's creation".

Good Shepherd foundress, Sr. Mary Euphrasia Pelletier, understood the ways of shepherds in mid-19th century rural France: "How, in fact, do good shepherds act?"

They forget themselves and often have to endure hunger and thirst. They are crushed by fatigue and dif-

iculties – no matter! They are happy if their sheep do not suffer and if they find those that are lost. What trouble they take to lead their sheep to good pastures! In summer they seek out places where there is water and shade; in winter they lead them to where the cold is less biting and the grass more abundant. If they notice poisonous plants near the little lambs they hasten to pull them up. Day and night they are on guard against wolves – they never completely relax." The same respectful stance is needed as we seek, like the Good Shepherd family, to care for our threatened Earth community. Strangely enough, for the earliest readers of John's gospel, the term "good shepherd" was a contradiction in terms. Most shepherds were known to trespass on the property of others in their search for feed. They thus broke the Jewish purity laws and were considered unclean. A positive image of the shepherd is nonetheless part of Israel's prophetic tradition. It is that tradition that the gospel evokes. Today's gospel has

to me, 'These are the people who have been through the great persecution, and because they have washed their robes white again in the blood of the Lamb, they now stand in front of God's throne and serve him day and night in his sanctuary; and the One who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. They will never hunger or thirst again; neither the sun nor scorching wind will ever plague them, because the Lamb who is at the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away all tears from their eyes.'

Acclamation: John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:27-30

Jesus said: 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost and no one will ever steal them from me. The Father who gave them to me is greater than anyone, and no one can steal from the Father. The Father and I are one.'

Jesus say: "The sheep that belong to me hear my voice...." Later in John's gospel, Mary Magdalene will hear Jesus' voice and recognise him when he calls her by name. She is one of Jesus' "own", one who knows his voice. Her faithful following of Jesus will find expression in her presence at the foot of the cross and her visit to the empty tomb.

Eternal life and the oneness of Jesus with God are also features of today's gospel. Jesus announces: "I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly." Eternal life is never-ending life. It is the inheritance of those who hear his voice. To hear is to follow through with action. That is the way of those inspired by Jesus, the Good Shepherd. It is the way of the Good Shepherd family and of all who hear the voice of the Shepherd.



Next Week's Gospel - John 13:31-35

When Judas had gone Jesus said: 'Now has the Son of Man been glorified, and in him God has been glorified. If God has been

glorified in him, God will in turn glorify him in himself, and will glorify him very soon. My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I

have loved you, you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples'.