

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup



BULLETIN

1st Sunday of Advent -27th November 2016



Advent

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

Celebrating 140 years

Sr Jacinta offers us sessions on Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si (Praise be..)* about the environment. Process: *talk, discussion, reflective prayer.*

5th Session

this Wednesday

Wednesday 30th November
7.30 - 9pm

Breathing in communion with Nature. Creative activities
Contemplating Mercy

In the Meeting Room

Please let Anita 53821155 know if you are attending, for purposes of print outs.

PARISH ADVENT / CHRISTMAS DIARY

Advent Reflection Groups have begun

Anyone who would like to belong to a group, please contact Sr Jacinta 0414 337 807. Booklets \$5 each, good for private use

Advent River Walk is on Tuesday

December 13th at 7am beginning from the Bennett Road Carpark. Walk to the Weir for prayer and breakfast. All welcome.

The Jesse Tree will be decorated at each Advent Mass, with the Jesse Tree Symbols.

Jesse Tree Gifts You are invited to bring gifts for children - please write gender and age on the outside, and non-perishable food, for the St Vincent de Paul to distribute.

The White Christmas Tree will be in the Foyer from the Third Sunday of Advent, to which you can add the "The Remembering Family Who Are not With Us at Christmas" names. Tags will be in the Foyer.

Christmas Anointing Mass on Thursday December 8th at 2pm in SMJ Church.

Cuppa after Mass.

Anointing and Reconciliation at

Dimboola 8.30 and Murtoa 10.30 Mass on Sunday December 11th.

Advent Reconciliation Service Tuesday

Dec 22nd at 7pm at SMJ Church. Two priests present.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Horsham: Christmas Eve

Children's Mass 7pm

Christmas Eve Mass with Choir 10.15p

Murtoa: Christmas Eve Mass 6.30pm.

Dimboola: Christmas Eve Mass 8.30p

Horsham: Christmas Day Mass 9.00am

Natimuk: Christmas Day Mass 8.30am

Advent has a two-fold purpose:

To prepare for Christmas when Christ's birth is remembered. To repent and change. To await Christ's second coming at the end of time

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.

Remembrance Candles

Today you are invited to take a blessed Candle from Mass, and to light it at home in remembrance of your loved ones who have died.

The Book of Remembrance will be put away on Thursday as we keep these names in our hearts and remember all who have died, commending them to the love and mercy of our God in heaven.

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday Nov 29th	5.30pm	
Wednesday Nov 30th	9.30am	St Andrew, Apostle. Noreen Ellis int.
Thursday Dec 1st	9.30am	Kevin Doyle anniv
Friday Dec 2nd	9.30am	
Saturday Dec 3rd	10.00am	St Francis Xavier

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: Veronica May, Leo Ryan (Adelaide), Bill McCarthy (Shepparton)

ANNIVERSARIES: Betty Campesato, John Lloyd, Kevin Doyle

SICK: Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Peter Kelly, Fred Webb, Corey Panozzo, Brian Rice, Teresa White, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Lyn Cooper, Joy Flynn, Carmel Cannard, Jill & Christie Higgenbottom, Roma Magee, Frances Mitchell, Judy Francisco, Michael De Jong, Heather McPhee, Lorraine Holland, Xavier Reicha, Shannon Spencer, Bernie Ryan

Emergency Care: Contact Betty 53826688

Confessions Saturday 10.25

Saturday Morning Devotions:
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20.
Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church 9.35. Mass 10.

Next Sunday - 1st Sunday of the Month
2nd Sunday of Advent - 4th December 2016

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

Craft Group Every Monday - Parish Meeting Room
Mornings - 9.30am to 11.30am. Evening - 7pm to 9pm. BYO
Craft - Gold Coin Donation. Contact Anita in the Office

Meditation Group in Church Meeting Room Tuesdays
2.00pm. Contact Sr Jacinta 0414 337 807

CWL Meetings 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm. 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 held on the 3rd Thursday of
the month at 7.30pm. Contact the Parish Office 53821155,

Piety Stall in the Church has gifts for Baptism,
Confirmation, Eucharist, cards, medals etc., Peru crosses.

CHOIR PRACTICE 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm.

Affordable Counselling, by Centacare Ballarat, for families
individuals, **Free call 1300 303 988** to make an appointment.

Advent is the season of new beginnings. A new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and it beckons to us with images of hope. It is the season of the impossible becoming possible. In the scriptures we read of the dry, barren wilderness bursting into bloom; of broken hearts healing; of a barren woman and a young virgin both conceiving children. It is the season of longing and light. Week by week, candles are lit on the Advent wreath signifying our longing for the light of Christ, as the time of his birth draws near. Yet Advent heralds more than longing for the light of Christ, as the time of his birth draws near. It paves our celebrating Christ as God-with-us, God in human flesh. This is a profound mystery at the heart of our faith, and it is the cause of our joy, hope, peace and reason to change at Christmas.

ROSTERS

Nov 26/27	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Joan Parker Ann Hermans Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce Simon Lynch	Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Judy Reid Karen Hill Neville Strachan Kingsley Dalglish
Dec 3/4	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Les Butler	Louise Kemp
Commentator	Tess Hayes	Bob Pritchett
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Maree Plazzer John Parker Tess Hayes Ann Newton Silvanna Foster Anthony Amor Lorraine Clancy	Julie Antonoff Andrea Cox Faye Wills Cate Rigby Mary Marshall Tim Lannen Mary Dalglish
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Alison McKinnon
Musicians	Christ Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Lorraine Clancy Pat Strachan	Mary Dowsley Nanette Freckleton
Children's Liturgy		Angela Stephens
Prayers	Mary Brown & Anita Masiero	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	4th December Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney	11th December Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 104.00
Horsham	\$ 912.00	Dimboola	\$ 66.00
Total			\$ 1082.00

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 3941.00	Loose	\$ 63.05
Direct Debit	\$	Credit Card	\$
Total			\$ 4004.05

Making Connections: Be alert and watchful for the needs of others this week and be ready to respond to those needs. Rejoice in the unexpected.

Marriage Tip: Do you find yourself comparing your marriage or family life to others around you? Gratitude is the best remedy against jealousy.

Daily Prayer: Merciful and faithful God, you sent your only-begotten Son, the teacher of truth and the font of reconciliation, to gather the warring nations of earth into the peace of your everlasting reign. Stir within us the spirit of joyful expectation, that, leaving behind the night, we may run to greet your day as it draws near, and gladly welcome your Christ whenever he reveals himself.

A Vocation View: In our materialistic society, someone must stand up to speak for our spiritual heritage. Could that be you?

Advent: Let us ponder what is in our minds and hearts when we say "Come Lord Jesus!"

First Sunday of Advent: The Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are, and they strive to live in readiness for His coming.

Country Mass Times in November

December 4: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30
December 11: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30
December 18: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30
Christmas Day Dec 25: Natimuk 8.30am. Horsham 9am

Day Craft Group will be having their Christmas Luncheon on Monday 12th December at 12 noon at the Sports and Community Club. All Welcome. Please RSVP to Mary Walsh on 53826429

CWL Christmas luncheon



Ladies are invited to join the CWL members for their Christmas Luncheon at the Commercial Hotel, Tuesday 6th December at 12 noon. Price \$18. RSVP to Joan Whiley 5381 2411 or Frances Plazzer 5382 1546 by 3rd December

CWL Christmas Raffle

1st Prize - Hamper from CCI Insurance
2nd Prize - Christmas Cake. 3rd Prize - 2 bottles of wine
\$1 per ticket, to be sold at Masses till 18th December

The Season of Advent



The Meaning of Advent Candles

As a Christian tradition, the wreath holds the four Advent candles. The candles represent Jesus coming as the light in darkness. One candle is lit each Sunday until all four candles are lit. As Christmas draws nearer, each candle brings a little more light into the darkness. Each of the candles represents an aspect of preparation during the season of Advent:

1. The Candle of Hope - Colour: Purple

Purple is the primary color associated with Advent. Within the Catholic Church it symbolizes penance, preparation, and sacrifice. During the first week of Advent, we look forward to Jesus' coming with hope.

2. The Candle of Peace - Colour: Purple

During this second week of Advent, we reflect on our lives and work on becoming better-versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming.

3. The Candle of Joy - Colour: Pink

This third candle is pink, symbolizing anticipation and rejoicing. During the third week of Advent, we are filled with joy for the near arrival of Jesus on Christmas day.

4. The Candle of Love - Colour: Purple

During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16-17



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

**next Sunday
December 4th.
Children's
Carols 6.30pm,
Adult Carols from 8pm**

O God, we pray for a successful harvest for our farmers.

Ss Michael and John Parish Remembrance Wall

Our Parish plans a Remembrance Wall near to SMJ Church. In our 140th year, this Remembrance Wall will celebrate people who have died and who have been part of the story and history of our Parish. Parishioners will be invited to purchase a plaque with name/s and date/s of people. This is a way of remembering and acknowledging those who have gone before us. The Remembrance Wall will not be a wall of glorification, but a wall that reminds us of the faith, commitment and giving nature of our forbears and our loved ones.

A Plan of a wall is below.

The plaques can have whatever symbol you wish and wording you wish. The cost of a plaque is \$120.

This Memorial Wall has spaces for 252 plaques and is in the shape of a Book



30th Anniversary of Visit

Today the Catholic Church in Australia commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the 1986 visit of Pope Saint John Paul II to Australia. When the Pope addressed the people of South Australia at the lighting of the Advent candle for Peace he prayed that the Advent candle would prove to the whole of Australia and the entire world how much we love Christ and how much we desire peace. He prayed that we might find the strength to work for peace.

Advent Prayer Group meets 10am each Thursday in the Church Meeting Room

Why No Flowers During Advent ?

The Church's direction on the use of flowers in Seasons: "During Advent the floral decoration of the altar should be marked by a moderation suited to the character of the season, without expressing prematurely the full joy of the Nativity of the Lord". The Advent Wreath and Jesse Tree usually express this form of decoration.



Available NOW in the Piety Stall

- Columban Calendars \$9.
- St Vinnies Christmas Cards
- Daily Mass Book \$15
- Divine Mercy Calendars \$9



Thank you to all who are involved in liturgical ministries, Parish Groups, who volunteer time and talents to these and to community organizations

Finance Meeting this Thursday Dec 1st 12 noon.

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 121:1-2. 4-5.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David. For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!' For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good. Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acclamation: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Gospel Reflection -1st Sunday of Advent Yr A. Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

"Where is the Life we have lost in living?" asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot's The Rock. The Jesus of Matthew's gospel is implicitly asking much the same question. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, "Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them." We are invited to find Life in our living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the inevitable round of daily activities that have preoccupied humans from time immemorial. As we begin a new liturgical year, Matthew's Jesus invites us to contemplate the ultimate realities even as we attend to the demands of the present. He tells us to be "awake", to

be "ready" all the time, not because death or the end of the world are around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple "advents" or arrivals of Jesus Christ, who calls us beyond self-absorption to Life. He reminds us that we are no different from our forebears who from earliest days have gone about their daily business without being sufficiently attentive to what really matters. In our times, we have allowed thieves to break in and plunder our planet, our common home, because thieves come in disguises that we fail to recognise. They so often look just like us and do the things we do. It may be that we must first be attentive to our own ways of plundering the house that is home to all of God's creatures. We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place, since our history informs our present and helps us

in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that 'the past is foreign country: they do things differently there'. Advent invites us to look forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. It invites us to be awake, to be ready for any eventuality. Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-giving change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of God's ways. We seek the grace to "see" God's word as did the prophet Isaiah in the first reading (Isa 2:1-5). We need to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love.

Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees

and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will

clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

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"It is not possible to remain indifferent before the knowledge that human beings are brought and sold like goods!" Pope Francis

"From Mary we learn to surrender to God's will in all things. From Mary, we learn to trust even when all hope seems gone."

Wait in joyful hope, a Saviour will come, Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Wait in joyful hope, a Saviour will come.