



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup



BULLETIN

2nd Sunday of Advent –3rd December 2016



Advent

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero
10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400
PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402
Ph:5382 1155. Fax: 53823016
Email:
horsham@ballarat.catholic.org.au
Diocesan Website:
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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 to the family of God in Baptism

Oskar Thomas Koenig
son of Joshua & Sallie

We welcome Fr John this weekend

Rupanyup Home Mass this Thursday Dec 8th at 6.30pm at Sue Tyler's.

Coughlin Park Board Meeting this Wednesday December 7th at 7.30pm at Coughlin Park Board Room

PARISH ADVENT / CHRISTMAS DIARY

Advent River Walk

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

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.

Anointing and Reconciliation at Dimboola 8.30 Mass and Murtoa 10.30 Mass, next Sunday December 11th.

Advent Reconciliation Service Tuesday December 20th at 7pm at SMJ Church. Two priests present.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Horsham: Christmas Eve Saturday 24
Children's Mass 7pm
Christmas Mass with Choir 10.15

Murtoa: Christmas Eve Mass 6.30pm.

Dimboola: Christmas Eve Mass 8.30p

Horsham: Christmas Day Mass 9.00am

Natimuk: Christmas Day Mass 8.30am

CHRISTMAS MASSES MINISTRIES

In the Foyer please sign the Sheet for any Ministry you can assist us with at the Christmas Mass you attend. Thank you

PRAYER for SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source of all healing power. We pray that your blessings and care be upon all those in their own homes, in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice, palliative care. May You be their source of comfort in times of pain, their source of hope in moments of despair, woundedness and sorrow, 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 love. Bless those who are **caregivers**, as channels of your tender love, for they are your 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, in Homes and in the Hospital.

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

Cuppa after Mass in the Parish Centre. If you need a ride please ring Anita 53821155. CWL Ladies two plates please for Afternoon Tea.

"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."

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 6h Dec	5.30pm	Kevin O'Connor 1st anniversary
Wednesday 7th Dec	9.30am	St Ambrose. Frances Plazzer Holy Souls
Thursday 8th Dec	2pm	Immaculate Conception
Friday 9th Dec	9.30am	Mary Lawson Holy Souls
Saturday 10th Dec	10.00am	Noreen Kennedy Holy Souls

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: Margaret Winfield

ANNIVERSARIES: Nell O'Donoghue, Anthony Hynes, Frank Lawson, Rosemarie Thistlethwaite, Kevin O'Connor, Giacomo Panozzo, Bev Khan

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

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 - 2nd Sunday of the Month
3rd Sunday of Advent - 11th December 2016

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm Sunday - 10.30am

Rupanyup **Thursday Dec 8th 6.30pm at Sue Tyler's**

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.

Peace is the fruit of union with God. Like the tribes of Israel who went on pilgrimage to the temple in Jerusalem, we also need to make pilgrimage to God. We must journey away from self-centered preoccupations to God. We can so easily get caught up in the affairs of life and forget God. We journey to God, the wonderful message of Advent is that God journeys to us first. We marvel at the God who came to us a babe at Bethlehem, who is among us now in word and sacrament and community, and who will come again in glory at the end of time. On that day the peace of God, which we experience partially now, will envelope us fully.

ROSTERS

Dec 3/4	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
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
Dec 10/11	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	John Parker	Kingsley Dalglish
Commentator	Maree Plazzer	Mary Marshall
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Micky Robarts Rosie Taylor Sr Jacinta Rice Peter Gutteridge Joan Parker Ann Hermans Cathy Taylor	Lynda Hutchinson Judy Reid Andrea Cox Kingsley Dalglish Faye Wills Cate Rigby Anna Robertson
Projector	Anita Masiero	Shayne Keenan
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Men's Choir
Welcomers	Bob & Tess Hayes	Angela Stephens Lyn Starr
Children's Liturgy		Letitia Dowling
Prayers	John & Joan Parker	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	11th December Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker	18th December Pat O'Connor Win Stephens Barbara Connellan Kath Atkins

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$ 36.00	Murtoa	\$ 144.00
Horsham	\$ 894.00	Dimboola	\$ 48.00
Total			\$ 1122.00

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 2790.00	Loose	\$ 112.40
Direct Debit	\$	Credit Card	\$
Total			\$ 2902.40

Making Connections: Withdraw a little this week from the hectic celebrations of Christmas cheer and concentrate instead on waiting and prayerfully preparing for what is to come. Give thought to the real meaning of Christmas and contemplate what the 'advent' of Christ meant to the world.

Marriage Tip: "Both husband and wife should try to renew their love day after day, and that is done through sacrifice, with smiles, and also with ingenuity." – St. Josemaria Escriva

Daily Prayer: Stir up within us, O God of peace and mercy, a sincere desire for repentance, that, baptised with the Holy Spirit and enkindled by the fire of your love, we may bring to every circumstance and setting the justice, gentleness and peace that the incarnation of your Word has caused to sprout up and blossom upon the earth.

A Vocation View: Isaiah says: "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord." Who taught you knowledge of the Lord, and who are you teaching today?

Second Sunday of Advent "Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more things. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts do you plan to give to the Lord this Christmas

Country Mass Times in November

December 11: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30
December 18: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30
Christmas Eve 24th: Murtoa 6.30pm. Dimboola 8.30pm
Christmas Day Dec 25: Natimuk 8.30am. Horsham 9am

Day Craft Group Christmas Lunch on Monday 12th December at 12 noon at the Sports and Community Club. All Welcome. RSVP to Mary Walsh on 53826429

 **CWL Christmas luncheon this Tuesday** at the Commercial Hotel at 12 noon.

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

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

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. Each of the candles represents an aspect of

preparation during Advent. Week 2 Candle is:

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.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



tonight Sunday 4th
Children's Carols
5.30pm,
Adult Carols 7.30pm

End of the Year School Masses



St Brigid's College Mass
Tuesday December 13th at 6pm
in SMJ Church.
Graduation at end of Mass.



Ss Michael and John
School Mass Friday
December 16th at 12 noon
in SMJ Church. Year 6
graduate at the Mass.



Our Lady Help of
Christians Murtoa Mass
on Thursday December
15th at 6pm in St Mary's
Church. Yr 6 graduation.

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



ADVENT PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we come with thanksgiving for the lives You have given us, for the lives You have sustained through Word and Sacrament, for the lives You have redeemed through Jesus Christ. Send now Your Spirit to guide us as we pray in Advent. Come, Lord Jesus, come into our hearts, repair the brokenness caused by sin, heal the wounds of mind and spirit, comfort the sick and grieving, warm the cold-hearted, fill the lonely and empty. Come into our homes, make them grace places, places of forgiveness, of safety, of joy, peace, hope. Come to all hearts and homes, in every country and culture, with all the blessings of a holy, blessed and happy Christmas

80

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to **Bill McGrath** on his 80th birthday on December 3rd

Available NOW in the Piety Stall



- Columban Calendars \$9.
- St Vinnies Christmas Cards
- Daily Mass Book \$15
- Divine Mercy Calendars \$9
- Daily Diary with Mass Readings \$20

**GIVE HAPPY
LIVE HAPPY**

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

1st Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2. 7-8. 1
Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great

River to earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

2nd Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

Acclamation: Luke 3:4. 6

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

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.'

Gospel Reflection –2nd Sunday of Advent Yr A. Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

The wilderness or desert features powerfully in today's gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing. The voice of John the Baptizer is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert-derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way. . . ." Ecologically, the Isaian image is quite confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths. Yet the way is never straight and the metaphor must not be literalised. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing metanoia: keep on turning your

lives around, keep on expanding your horizons, for the kingdom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kingdom is both present and yet still approaching. The first reading provides content to the notion of kingdom or basileia: John is announcing the advent of God's long awaited empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (metanoia). John's baptism presupposes a commitment to a renewed way of life. His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judea and all the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who use their privileged positions to seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who

will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around (the chaff) from those who listen to the call for metanoia (the wheat). The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out". Fire is a multi-faceted biblical image here used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, as we well know in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is both friend and foe. Water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are the instruments of God's saving and purifying action. John, presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way for God's reign.

Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and

the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces.

Then what did you go out for? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.'