



# St Michael & John's Parish

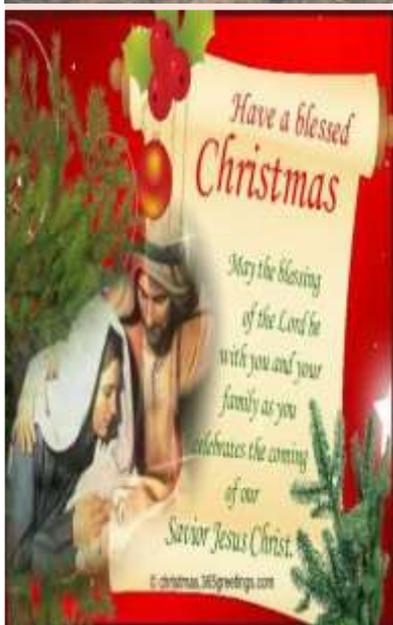
Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup



## BULLETIN



### CHRISTMAS DAY - December 25th 2016



#### **Bishop Paul Bird's Christmas Message**

Christmas is a feast for everyone – the young and the old and all those in between. The gospel account of the first Christmas tells of a heavenly messenger appearing to shepherds and sharing news that was meant for all. "I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord". The news was good news of great joy for all the people. It was indeed news of great joy for children and we see later in the gospel story that children gave a lead in welcoming Jesus. So much so that Jesus urged all his followers to become like children in being open to his teaching. Yet the news was meant for people of all ages. People in the middle years might be represented by the shepherds. Those who lived in the fields and kept watch over their flocks by night would have included some in the prime of life – with the health and strength to cope with the rigours of the outdoors and the demands of looking after the flocks. As people celebrate Christmas nowadays, they often make it a feast for family gatherings, an occasion when the young and the old and the in-between spend time together. The little ones can bring their energy and excitement, the parents can share their joy in their children and the grandparents' hearts can rejoice to see their children and grandchildren. All the generations together can celebrate the feast of Christ's birth. Sometimes people also invite others to join their family celebration. It might be an elderly person who lives alone. When people make room for others at the table, Christmas is all the more as it should be – a feast of the Saviour who came to gather together the scattered children of God. May this Christmas continue to bring the blessings that come

with gathering as a family – young and old together. And may the spirit of Christmas stay with us throughout the year. May we come together often, sharing our gifts, from the youngest to the oldest. *Bishop Paul Bird.*

#### **Christmas Reflection -Sr Veronica Lawson**

The readings for the Christmas liturgies vary from celebration to celebration. The child Jesus is identified as Messiah or Christos (the anointed of God) and descendant of Israel's ancestors, Abraham and David. His name is symbolic of the salvation or liberation he will bring for "his people". At this time of Earth's distress, we are conscious of our need to be saved from our "sins" which include our capacity to destroy God's world for selfish gain. Luke tells us that Jesus was born into the world of the Roman Empire during the reign of Caesar Augustus. In his lifetime, Augustus was acclaimed by the people as saviour of the world, son of God, and bringer of peace, albeit by violent means. Luke's communities at the end of the first century would have known the achievements and reputation of Caesar Augustus. These early Christians would have recognised in Luke's story of the birth of Jesus a very deliberate attempt to proclaim Jesus, rather than Caesar Augustus, as the face of God, as saviour of the world, and as bringer of the good news of peace. Luke is a master storyteller. He weaves, from Israel's sacred history and from what he knows about Jesus' origins, a wonderful tapestry of life and hope for the world, a tapestry that unites the heavenly, the human, and the animal world in one great act of praise. The peace of Christ is the deep peace of non-violence and reconciliation. It is the peace that satisfies the longing of our hearts. The Word enfleshed among us, brings home to us the nature of the birth of the child Emmanuel, God-with-us.

#### **COLLECTIONS AT CHRISTMAS MASSES.**

- \* **The 1st Collection for the Parish and Priests.**
- \* **The 2nd Collection for the Bishop's Annual Christmas Appeal.** Your generosity in the past has helped our Diocese support missions in the north, New Guinea, Pacific and Asia  
*Thank You.*

- **Christmas Dues** Envelopes in the Foyer. The Dues support our retired priests and needy parishes. Please leave envelope on Collection or at the Office.
- \* We welcome and thank Fr John.
- \* Feast of the Holy Family Friday 30th. Mass 9.30am.

Next Sunday January 1st: Feast of the Motherhood of Mary, and World Day of Peace.

\* Thank you for your generosity to Jarhyn Martin last Sunday. His talk raised \$600.

\* We wish you a joyous and peaceful time. May you have the spirit of Christmas Peace. The gladness of Christmas Hope. The heart of Christmas love.

Welcome home to family members and to our visitors over the holidays. Have a wonderful time. Safe travelling and happy time for those going away, & safe return.

Our Parish Magazine **The Fisherman** is in the Foyers. It contains our thanks to all for their ministries and involvement in Parish and community life in 2016. We are deeply grateful for your time, talent and generosity .

#### **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, hope filled, always. Holy Spirit use me in my situation, for the good of others.

#### **WEEK-DAY MASSES**

Tuesday 27th	<b>No Mass</b>	St John, Apostle and Evangelist
Wednesday 28	<b>No Mass</b>	Holy Innocents
Thursday 29th	9.30am	Terry McManus 1st anniv 27/12
Friday 30th	9.30am	<b>HOLY FAMILY</b>
Saturday 31st	10.00am	Thanksgiving for the Year

#### **Parish Details**

**PP: Fr Peter Hudson.**  
**Secretary: Anita Masiero**  
**Phone: 53821155..**  
**Office closed Monday & Tuesday, open Wednesday 28th. Parish email: horsham @ ballarat.catholic.org.au**

## Please Remember in Your Prayers

### Recent Deaths:

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Celina Ellis, Olive Tobin, Dymp Sleeman, Terry McManus, Ron McIntyre, Anne O'Neill, Bernie Kelly, Fr John Murphy

**SICK:** Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Peter Kelly, Fred Webb, Corey Panozzo, Brian Rice, 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, Lorrain Holland, Xavier Reicha, Bernie Ryan

### 1st Sunday of the Month - New Years Day 1st January 2017

Horsham: Saturday 6.30pm. Sunday 10.30am.

Dimboola: Sunday Mass 10.30am

Murtoa: Sunday Mass 8.30am

### COUNTRY CENTRES MASS TIMES

**1st Jan**—Dimboola Mass 8.30am Murtoa Mass 10.30am

**8th Jan**—Dimboola AWC 8.30am Murtoa Mass 8.30am

**15th Jan**—Dimboola Mass 8.30am Murtoa AWC 8.30am

**22nd Jan**—Dimboola AWC 8.30am Murtoa Mass 8.30am

The Parish Council have recommended to me and Bishop Bird that we as a Parish **will accept the Baptistine Sisters to live in our Parish for three years.** Bishop Paul has worked a satisfactory financial arrangement between the Diocese and our Parish for this to work. More details later as the Bishop arranges Visas etc.

**Making Connections:** Give nourishment to others this week - not just food but a sense of their value to you.

**Marriage Tip:** Sometimes it can be frightening to embark upon a big change in life – a birth, a death, changing a job, or retirement. Call to mind a fear from the past or present. Share it in trust to be kept safe.

**Daily Prayer:** In this most gentle dawn, O good and most gracious God, we have hastened to behold the wonder that has taken place, for the goodness and loving kindness of our Savior has appeared. Give us words inspired to make known the mercy that has touched our lives, deeds loving to bear witness to the treasure you have bestowed, and hearts simple enough to ponder the mystery of your gracious and abiding love.

Through the Incarnation, the ordinary becomes transparent and reveals the extraordinary; the divine is known in the child Jesus. Humble of heart may we experience anew this wonder, behold it and embrace it. Jesus, born in history, reverse the orders of power, and empowers us all with his light, truth, hope and wisdom .

**SACRAMENT DATES for Children in 2017 Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation:** Wednesday February 22nd at 6pm in the Parish Centre. **First Reconciliation Times / Dates:** Wednesday & Thursday March 22/23, either day, either 5pm or 7pm. **Parent Meeting for Confirmation and First Communion:** Thursday April 20th at 6pm in the Parish Centre. **Masses for Confirmation and First Communion:** Saturday June 3rd 6.30 Mass. Sunday June 4th 10.30 Mass. Saturday June 17th 6.30. Sunday June 18th 10.30.



### 1st Reading Isaiah 9:1-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shone. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

### 2nd Reading Titus 2:11-14

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

### Gospel Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands, of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

### ROSTERS

Dec 31/Jan 1	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Sr Jacinta Rice	Mary Marshall
<b>Commentator</b>	Taylor Butler	Anna Robertson
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Anne Newton Silvanna Foster Anthony Amor Lorraine Clancy Micky Robarts John Parker Maree Plazzer	Noreen O'Connor Kingsley Dalgleish Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Judy Reid Andrea Cox
<b>Projector</b>	Peter Gutteridge	Julie Antonoff
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Garry & Betty Heinrich	Helene Bush, Marina Manserra



**Over the holidays, please offer your assistance for any Ministries at the Mass you attend. Thank you.**

**Church Cleaning and Flowers: Jan 1st:** Carolyn Boseley, Gwen Antonucci, Carmel O'Connor, Anna Carberry **Jan 8th:** Pauline Barber, Pat Williams, Louise Guest, Kate Hernon-Spasic

**FINANCE: 1st Collection:** Dimboola \$101. Horsham \$1004. Murtoa \$169. **Total: \$1274.00**  
**2nd Collection: Envelopes:** \$3710. **Loose:** \$98.90  
**Direct Debit: \$1015.00 Total: \$ 4823.90**

**God bless you all with a happy and joyful Christmas**