

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

BULLETIN

New Year's Day- 1st January 2017
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, World Day of Peace



Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson rsm

The celebration of Mary as Mother of God has very ancient roots. Mary was venerated in the East from the early third Christian century as theotokos, a Greek term that means God-Bearer. This designation for Mary was affirmed by the Council of Ephesus in 431 CE. The subsequent Council of Chalcedon in 451 CE, in the face of arguments to the contrary, declared that Jesus was both fully human and fully divine, that Mary Mother of God is rightly called theotokos. At Christmas, the liturgy invites us to focus on Luke's story of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth and John's reflection on the Word made Flesh. Today's liturgy shifts the focus to Mary, through whose "yes" the mystery of the incarnation is realized. Today's Gospel takes up the Lukan account of the birth of Jesus. Mary has given birth to her son, wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger. An angel announced the good news to shepherds who are tending their flocks in the fields. The shepherds have listened to the proclamation of the angel and the heavenly host that joined the angel and set out in search of the child. They find Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger, just as the angel had told them. Shepherds become the proclaimers of the good news of salvation. A little later, we hear the story of the twelve year old Jesus going up to Jerusalem with his parents for Passover and staying behind in the temple, teaching the teachers. Mary and Joseph listen to his explanation about remaining "in his Father's house" or "being about his Father's business" though they fail to understand. Mary "his mother treasured all these things in her heart." Mary has to struggle to comprehend the ways of God in her life. She is presented as a grace-filled woman forever pondering the mysterious ways of God. We too are called to treasure "all these things" in our hearts and trust that their power will transform our lives even if we do not always understand.

New Year. Pope Francis reflects on 2016

This year we have lived was a special year: there was the Holy Year of Mercy. We also did our Jubilee together. This year the Lord had His mercy flow over us. And did all this grace end with the conclusion of the Jubilee? No! This grace is within us, because we make it fructify in our every day life, be it in the family, be it at work - everywhere. Christmas reminds us of this: "The grace of God appeared, which brings salvation to all men and teaches us to live in this world with sobriety, justice and mercy" (Tt 2: 1), says Paul. The "grace of God" "appeared" in Jesus. He is Love, the love of God incarnate, by the power of the Holy Spirit. And we have received this same Spirit in Baptism and in Confirmation, we must invoke Him every day, reawaken the action of the Spirit in us, "to live in this world with sobriety, justice and mercy." Dear brothers and sisters, while I thank you, I ask you to take my special greeting to the children and elderly of your families. They are so important - and a greeting accompanied by prayer to the sick. I express this wish for all: that your hearts be full of mercy, full of grace of the Jubilee that Jesus comes to rekindle in us. May the Lord bless you and may our Lady protect you. And, remember to pray for me before the Crib.

Extract from Pope Francis message of peace for World Peace Day 2017 "All of us want peace. Many people build it day by day through small gestures and acts; many are suffering, yet patiently persevere in their efforts to be peacemakers".[24] In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banish violence from our hearts, words and deeds, to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home. "Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. Everyone can be an artisan of peace". Right relationships in the covenant of God are the pathways of peace. The beginning of a New Year is a good time to reach out to others and to pray for God's blessing of peace for each other.

PARISH CONTACTS

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Thank you for your prayers, gifts and best wishes over this Holy Season - *Fr Peter, Fr John.*

Fr Peter will be at St Mary MacKillop Centre Sydney from January 3rd to 22nd. There he will pray for your intentions at St Mary's Tomb.

Fr John will live in the Presbytery over this time, and I thank him for his ministry.

May God bless you with peace, love, joy and hope in 2017.

Happy New Year to all. 2017 is the UN International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.



We welcome to the Family of God in Baptism:
 Riley Jack Huddleston son of Glenn & Gerlinda

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 3rd Jan	5.30pm
Wednesday 4th Jan	9.30am
Thursday 5th Jan	9.30am
Friday 6th Jan	9.30am
Saturday 7th Jan	10am

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

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$ 56.00	Murtoa	\$ 210.00
Horsham	\$ 2507.00	Dimboola	\$ 120.00
Total			\$ 2934.00

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 1612.00	Loose	\$ 110.80
Total			\$ 1722.80

Bishop's Christmas Appeal \$2080.10

Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Ed Briggs (Melb), Antonio Rossi (Melb), Sr Laserian csb (Melb), Kath Evans (Kincumber)

ANNIVERSARIES: Bridget Jackman, Dan Byrne, Romano Radollovi, Silvio Sartori

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, Lorrain Holland, Xavier Reicha, Bernie Ryan

Emergency Care: Coordinator Betty 5382 6688

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
The Epiphany of our Lord - 8th January**

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday - 10.30am

Dimboola **Sunday AWC 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

**Rosary, Litany of Mary, Divine Mercy Chaplet
HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.**

ROSTERS

Dec 31/Jan 1	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Anne Newton Silvana Foster Anthony Amor Lorraine Clancy Micky Robarts John Parker Maree Plazzer	Noreen O'Connor Kingsley Dagleish Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Judy Reid Andrea Cox
Jan 7/8	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Paige Butler	Bob Pritchett
Commentator	John Parker	Louise Kemp
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Peter Gutteridge Joan Parker Ann Hermans Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce	Julie Antonoff Faye Wills Cate Rigby Mary Marshall Tim Lannen Mary Dagleish Russell Reid
Projector	Shayne Keenan	Alison McKinnon
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Men's Choir
Welcomers	Judy Bryan Gary Coutts	Mary Uebergang Beth Johnson

The Christmas Season ends next Sunday, feast of the Epiphany. Ordinary Time Yr A Sundays begin Jan 15 (2nd Sunday) Weekdays Yr 1 begin Jan 10

Church Cleaning and Flowers: Jan 8th: Pauline Barber, Pat Williams, Louise Guest, Kate Herson-Spasic **Jan 15:** Lucille Pekin, Pauline Breen, Sue Chalkley, Judie Delahunty

COUNTRY CENTRES MASS TIMES

8th Jan - Dimboola AWC 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 8.30am
15th Jan - Dimboola Mass 8.30am. Murtoa AWC 8.30am
22nd Jan - Natimuk Mass 8.30. Dimboola AWC 8.30am.
Murtoa Mass AWC 9am
29th Jan - Dimboola Mass 8.30. Murtoa Mass 10.30

1st Reading: Numbers 6:22-
The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 'Say this to Aaron and his sons: "This is how you are to bless the sons of Israel. You shall say to them: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace." This is how they are to call down my name on the sons of Israel, and I will bless them.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 66:2
May God bless us in his mercy.

God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your saving help.

Let the nations be glad and exult for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples. you guide the nations on earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him.

May God bless us in his mercy.

2nd Reading: Galatians 4:4-7
When the appointed time came, God sent his Son, born

of a woman, born a subject of the Law, to redeem the subjects of the Law and to enable us to be adopted as sons. The proof that you are sons is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts: the Spirit that cries, 'Abba, Father,' and it is this that makes you a son, you are not a slave any more; and if God has made you son, then he has made you heir.

Acclamation: Hebrews 1:1-2
Alleluia, alleluia!

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; now he speaks to us through his Son. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21

The shepherds hurried away to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds had to say. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was exactly as they had been told. When the eighth day came and the child was to be circumcised, they gave him the name Jesus, the name the angel had given him before his conception.

Roadworks on Urquhart St/ McLachlan St Roundabout

The road around the Roundabout will be closed to all cars from Tuesday January 9th from 8am to 5pm on Friday January 13th. For those wanting to enter the Church **come up from McPherson Street** or enter the carpark behind the Church in Roberts Avenue. Works will continue on weekdays 7am to 5pm up to January 25th.

Making Connections: Mary is honoured as the model of discipleship for the Church and for all believers. This week, be very conscious of responding to situations and to peoples as a faithful disciple of Jesus. Each time you feel you have acted as a disciple should, say a brief prayer of thanks to Mary.

Marriage Tip: Relax and enjoy each other's company.

Daily Prayer: God of peace, whose providence guides the changing seasons of every year and of all our lives; in the fullness of time, you fashioned in the Virgin Mother Mary a dwelling place for your Word made flesh among us. Bless with the joy of your Holy Spirit the first day of this new year, that through all days allotted to us, we may, like Mary, rejoice in grace and embrace your will. Bless and keep, in this new year, all who cry out to you "Abba!" Make your face to shine on all who have been adopted in Mary's Son. Lift up your countenance, and in the power of you Spirit, give us peace.

A Vocation View: Mary, Mother of the Priest Jesus, is Mother to all Priests and Religious. Pray to Mary, ask her guidance in all our vocations, work and activities in life in 2017.