



St Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk - Rupanyup

BULLETIN

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 15th January 2017



PARISH CONTACTS

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Roadworks on Urquhart St/ McLachlan St Roundabout

The Roundabout will be closed to all cars daily from 7am to 5pm. 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.

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Anita is away until January 23
Teresa Plazzer is in the Office Tuesday to Friday from 9.30 to 12.30.
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We thank Fr John for being with us while Fr Peter is in Sydney. Fr Peter is praying for all of our intentions at St Mary's Tomb.
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Today January 15th is World Day of Migrants, Refugees, and the birthday of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 17th Jan	5.30pm	St Anthony
Wednesday 18th Jan	9.30am	
Thursday 19th Jan	9.30am	
Friday 20th Jan	9.30am	
Saturday 21st Jan	10am	St Agnes

Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson
To provide a reference for someone is a serious responsibility as well as a privilege because, more often than not, a good deal depends on the testimony one provides. John the Baptist took it upon himself to be a referee for Jesus. His testimony reverberates across the centuries, offering an introduction to Jesus, year in year out, for those who seek to understand this Jewish prophet and teacher who was and is more than a prophet or teacher.

John wants his disciples to understand that the whole purpose of his water baptism is that Jesus "might be revealed" to God's people. He wants them to know that Jesus is "of God". He is the "lamb of God", the "chosen one of God". He is the one on whom God's Spirit descends and remains. Jesus comes before the Baptist and so ranks before him.

Is the author of this gospel using the character of the Baptist as a vehicle for his particular Christology or presentation of Jesus? That's what many scholars think, although some of the images in the Baptist's testimony are firmly grounded in Jewish tradition and could well come from a prophetic figure like John the Baptist. Maybe the answer to the question is "yes, but not exclusively".

Whether the images have their origin with John the Baptist or John the gospel

writer, we might reasonably wonder what it means to say that Jesus is "God's lamb". Does the expression refer to the Passover lamb whose blood signifies liberation or deliverance? The imagery in John's gospel relating to the death of Jesus might point in this direction. Is "God's lamb" the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 who takes on the sins of the many? Is it an image of the lamb that God provides for Abraham's sacrifice (Genesis 22)? Is it evoking the apocalyptic lamb of Jewish literature of the time, the powerful conquering lamb that destroys evil in the world? Is it intended to suggest vulnerability as in the prophecy of Jeremiah 11:19 ("I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter"). There is never a simple explanation when it comes to John's gospel, but it seems to me that the symbol of strength in vulnerability has potential for understanding the characterization of Jesus in this gospel. The Lamb of God of John 1:29 "takes away" the sinful condition of the world. Twenty-one centuries down the track there is still violence and hunger and exploitation on a massive scale. The work of the one strong enough to risk vulnerability so that others may have life, the work of God's Lamb, is never done. Witness to that is part of the gift that Pope Francis is offering to the world: despite opposition, even among those closest to him, he never wavers in his response

COUNTRY MASS TIMES

22nd January - Natimuk Mass 8.30am.

Dimboola AWC 8.30am

Murtoa AWC 9am.

29th January -

Dimboola AWC 8.30am.

Murtoa Mass 8.30am

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$73.50
Horsham	\$940.00	Dimboola	\$

Total \$

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$2072.00	Loose	\$112.10
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$

Total \$2184.10

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: Rita Higgins (Mother of Marita Liston, Ararat), Maria Laurea (Sydney)

ANNIVERSARIES: Alex Pekin, Angela Kennedy, Jean Slater, Cheryl Hicks, Margaret Brownlee, Rafaele Macchia, Jack Panozzo, Cath Liston

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

Emergency Care: 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 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time
4th Sunday of the Month - 22nd January

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm
 Sunday - 10.30am

Natimuk **Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday AWC 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday AWC 9am**

Rosary, Litany of Mary, Divine Mercy Chaplet

HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.

ROSTERS

Jan 14/15	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer John Parker Tess Hayes Ann Hermans Silvanna Foster Peter Gutteridge	Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Julie Antonoff Karen Hill
Jan 21/22	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Anthony Amor	Emelia Sudholz
Commentator	Paige Butler	Dianne Noy
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Anthony Amor Lorraine Clancy Micky Robarts Rosie Taylor Sr Jacinta Rice Simon Lynch Joan Parker	Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Judy Reid Andrea Cox Kingsley Dagleish Faye Wills Cate Rigby
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Gabby Mills
Welcomers	Pat Williams Joan Whiley	Alistair Castle Sharon Creasey

Church Cleaning and Flowers:

Jan 22nd: Lynda Hutchinson, Silvanna Foster, Helene Bush
Jan 29th Josie Phelan, Pauline Irwin, Joan Butler, Mary Dowsley, Margo Hogan

1st Reading: Isaiah 49:3. 5-6

The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength. And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him: 'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 39:2

Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

I waited, I waited for the Lord and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I.

In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart.

Your justice I have proclaimed in the great

assembly. My lips I have not you see the Spirit come down sealed; you know it, O Lord. and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians

I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

Acclamation: John 1:14. 12
 Alleluia, alleluia! The Word of God became flesh and dwelt among us. He enabled those who accepted him to become children of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:29-34

Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom

Making Connections: Like John, give witness to Christ this week. Share something of your search for faith with another.
Marriage Tip: What makes a happy marriage? Many things of course, but one glue that helps a lot of couples is being able to laugh when things go wrong. Is there a blunder that happened in your past that you're now able to laugh about?

Daily Prayer: God of all nations, in Christ, the paschal lamb and light of the world, you have formed a covenant people, gathering together from every time and place all who call in the name of the Lord Jesus. Confirm in us the grace of our baptism, that the Spirit may descend afresh upon each of us; remain with us to transform every aspect of our lives into a living of the gospel.
A Vocation View: Isaiah's vocation was to be a light to the nations. Nations and neighbourhoods need missionaries - lay, clergy and religious. Listen to the call!

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No Men's Group in January. First meeting February 16th.
 "To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must first put the family in order; to put the family in order, we must first cultivate our personal life; we must first set our hearts right."