

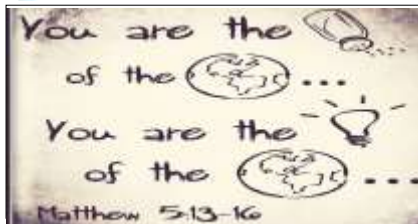


# St Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup

## BULLETIN

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 5th February 2017



**SBC Opening of the Year Mass** Thursday February 16th at 9.30am in SMJ Church.



**SMJ Opening of the Year Mass** Friday February 17th at 12 noon in SMJ Church

### 2017 Lent Program - *Up from the Waters*

The title of the 2017 resource is taken from the Gospel of Matthew (Year A): "When Jesus had been baptised, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'" (3:16)" The Lenten Gospels include the three fundamental texts for our baptismal journey to Easter:

the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well; Jesus healing the blind man and the washing in the pool of Siloam; and the raising and unbinding of Lazarus to new life.

We will have a list for people to join a Group at next weekend's Masses. The cost of the booklet will be \$8. A copy of the CD is provided.

Copies of the Woolongong Program on **Hope** will also be available for personal or Group use.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1st.

### **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.

### 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:  
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

### 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 Fr John this weekend.

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting on Thursday February 16th at 5.30pm.** Please have your Reports into Anita by Monday 13th.

**Living the Gospel - Be the Change.** Gandhi, leader of the Indian independence movement, is credited with saying, "You must be the change you want to see in the world." He sought a life free from tyranny and violence and led a movement of non-violent resistance, influenced by the teachings of Jesus' call for justice. To be the light of the world that shines in the sight of all is echoed in Gandhi's words

**Baptisms** We welcome to the family of God in Baptism

Olivia Grace Enright  
daughter of Mark & Sonia

Zoe Elisa Bond  
daughter of Russell and Jenna

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To the Good Samaritan Order who are celebrating their 160th Anniversary of being founded by Archbishop Polding (1st Bishop of Australia) this weekend.

### WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday Feb 7th	5.30pm	Andrew Taylor anniv
Wednesday Feb 8th	9.30am	St Josephine Bakhita
Thursday Feb 9th	9.30am	Fred Hollows anniv
Friday Feb 10th	AWC 9.30am	St Scholastica. Teresa Maher anniv
Saturday Feb 11th	10.00am	Our Lady of Lourdes

### 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:** Primo Da Ros

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bill Pollard snr, Andrew Taylor, Teresa Maher, Irene Gannon

**SICK:** Kobe Davidson, Ruby Spasic, Peter Kelly, Corey Panozzo, Brian Rice, Madeleine Cameron, John Coleman, Carmela Baviello, Peter Laskey, Lyn Cooper, Joy Flynn, Carmel Cannard, Frances Mitchell, Judy Francisco, Jill & Christie Higgenbottom, Michael De Jong, Heather McPhee, Lorrain Holland, Xavier Reicha, Bernie Ryan, Eileen & Bob Arnott, Joan White, Terry Turvey

**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**  
**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 12th February 2017**

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

**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.

Pope Francis has declared 8 February 2017 to be the **World Day of Prayer, Reflection and Action against Human Trafficking**. He chose this day because it is the feast day of **St Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of Sudan** and victims of slavery. Josephine was kidnapped as a child from Africa and sold into slavery in the Sudan and in Italy before being freed and becoming a Conossian Sister. The United Nations estimates that today one in every three victims of trafficking is a child. This week join ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans) and Australian Bishops on this day of prayer, reflection and action. Find out more about the campaign at <http://acrath.org.au/world-day-of-prayer/>

## ROSTERS

Feb 4/5	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	Bob Hayes Silvanna Foster Anthony Amor Lorraine Clancy Peter Gutteridge Rosie Taylor Maree Plazzer	Julie Antonoff Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Judy Reid Andrea Cox Kingsley Dalgleish
Feb 11/12	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Tess Hayes	Eileen McManus
<b>Commentator</b>	Anita Masiero	Anthony Dowling
<b>Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	John Parker Tess Hayes Ann Hermans Silvanna Foster Micky Robarts Joan Parker	Faye Wills Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalgleish Russell Reid Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon
<b>Projector</b>	Peter Gutteridge	Shayne Keenan
<b>Musicans</b>	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Bob & Tess Hayes	Denise Vallance Mary Brown
<b>Prayers</b>	Alison McKinnon & Anna Robertson	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>Feb 12th</b> Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney	<b>Feb 19th</b> Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker

### FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 63.00
Horsham	\$ 947.00	Dimboola	\$ 79.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 1089.00</b>

### 2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

*Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals*

Envelopes	\$ 1677.50	Loose	\$ 61.20
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 1738.70</b>

**Making Connections:** Identify one talent which you have and use it well and often this week. Let your light shine.

**Marriage Tip:** "Taking time to rest is not a waste of time." (Susan Vogt) Give yourself a break today or tomorrow – from kids, a chore, worries. It doesn't have to be long to refresh. Take your cue from God, our Creator, who rested on the seventh day.

**Daily Prayer:** Remove from our midst all false accusation and malicious speech, that our words may season the world with the flavour of the gospel. Let the light of your own justice so shine in our lives, that all may see our good works and give you the praise and glory.

**A Vocation View:** Jesus speaks on Vocations: "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before people so that they may see your goodness in your acts, giving praise to your heavenly Father."

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time** The Gospel today reminds us that our lives and our deeds must serve as examples to others, pointing the way to the Father. Not for our own benefit do we labor, but so that others may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

### **Country Mass Times**

February 12th: Dimboola 8.30am. Murtoa 10.30am  
February 19th: Dimboola 8.30am. Murtoa 10.30am  
February 26th: Dimboola 8.30am. Murtoa 10.30am  
Natimuk Mass 8.30am with Bishop Bird  
March 5th: Dimboola 8.30am. Murtoa 10.30am  
March 12th: Dimboola AWC 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 8.30

### **CWL Meeting this Tuesday 7th February at 10.33**

in the Parish Meeting Room. All Welcome.

**Please note change of time.**

### **Choir Practice this Wednesday 8th February.**

New members most welcome.

### **Royal Commission Final Hearings into the Catholic Church. A letter from Bishop Paul Bird on this.**

February 3, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
I write to you as we approach the final hearing involving the Catholic Church at the Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse. The hearing will be in Sydney from this Monday, February 6, for 3 weeks. For the victims and survivors, for the Catholic community and for our society as a whole, this may be a distressing time, as the Royal Commission reviews the evidence it has already received and seeks to understand how and why such crimes occurred. Over the next three weeks, evidence presented to the Royal Commission will be analysed, statistics about the extent of abuse will be made public, and the way forward will be explored. Some of our Bishops and other Catholic leaders will appear before the Commission. They will explain what the Church has been doing to change the old culture that allowed abuse to happen. They will speak about the new policies and codes of conduct that have been adopted to safeguard children. For our Diocese of Ballarat, we have provided the Royal Commission with a written account of the steps that we have taken in responding to those who have been hurt by abuse and the measures that we have put in place to promote the proper care of the children in our Church community. Deeply mindful of the hurt and pain caused by abuse, I once again offer my apology on behalf of the Catholic Church. I am sorry for the damage that has been done to the lives of victims of sexual abuse

Pope Francis has urged the whole Church to "find the courage needed to take all necessary measures and to protect in every way the lives of our children, so that such crimes may never be repeated "

May the hearings in these weeks help us to understand more fully how best to care for those who have suffered and how best to ensure the safety of children now and for the future. Throughout the coming weeks, I want to assure you of my thoughts and prayers. I encourage you to turn in prayer to the one who is always ready to listen: Jesus Christ, who brings healing and hope, who is with us day by day.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Paul Bird, Bishop of Ballarat

*+ Paul Bird*

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, to acknowledge and celebrate people who have died and who have been part of the story and history of our Parish, and of your family life. Parishioners will be invited to purchase a plaque with name/s and date/s of people. 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.

We are in the process of having a Wall made. A number of people have left details with Anita for a Plaque. You can do the same at any time.

#### **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*



**Men's Breakfast** Thursday February 16 7.30

**Lent begins with Ash** Wednesday March 1st.

### **SACRAMENT DATES for Children in 2017**

#### **Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation:**

Wednesday February 22nd at 6pm in the Parish Centre.

#### **First Reconciliation Times and Dates:**

Wednesday & Thursday March 22/23, either day at either 5pm or 7pm, in SMJ Church

#### **Parent Meeting for Confirmation and First**

**Communion:** Thursday April 20th at 6pm in the Parish Centre.

#### **Masses for Confirmation / First Communion:**

Saturday June 3rd 6.30 Mass.  
Sunday June 4th 10.30 Mass  
Saturday June 17th 6.30 Mass  
Sunday June 18th 10.30 Mass.  
Saturday June 24th at 6.30pm Mass.

#### **Confirmation and First Communion for**

Murtoa and Rupanyup will be on Sunday October 8th at 10.30 Mass at Murtoa



*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 58:7-10**

Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, and shelter the homeless poor, clothe the man you see to be naked and turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn and your wound be quickly healed over. Your integrity will go before you and the glory of the Lord behind you. Cry, and the Lord will answer; call, and he will say, 'I am here.' If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry, and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness, and your shadows become like noon.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 111:4-9**

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

He is a light in the darkness for the upright: he is generous, merciful and just. The good man takes pity and lends, he conducts his affairs with honour.

The just man will never waver: he

will be remembered for ever. He has no fear of evil news; with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.

With a steadfast heart he will not fear; open-handed, he gives to the poor; his justice stands firm for ever. His head will be raised in glory.

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

**2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

When I came to you, brothers, it was not with any show of oratory or philosophy, but simply to tell you what God had guaranteed. During my stay with you, the only knowledge I claimed to have was about Jesus, and only about him as the crucified Christ. Far from relying on any power of my own, I came among you in great 'fear and trembling' and in my speeches and the sermons that I gave, there were none of the arguments that belong to philosophy; only a demonstration of the power of the Spirit. And I did this so that your faith should not depend on human philosophy but on

the power of God.

**Acclamation John 8:12**

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; the man who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

**Gospel Reflection – 5th Sunday Yr. A Sr Veronica Lawson rsm**

In today's gospel, Jesus addresses two short parables to his disciples in the presence of the crowds. The crowds as well as the disciples hear what he has to say. Parables were intended to tease their hearers, inviting them to see things differently or from a new perspective, to see themselves in a new light. One of the difficulties for us is that Jesus told these parables in early first century Palestine with its particular symbol system, while we hear them through the multiple layers of our own twenty-first century contexts and symbol systems. "Salt" and "light" have slightly different resonances in different contexts, as do "earth" and "world". Exploring those resonances or nuances can bring us to a deeper appreciation of the text. This short reflection allows for a focus only on "the salt of the earth" parable or metaphor. For Jesus' Palestinian audience, salt was used to preserve and

season food. It also functioned as a cleansing or purifying agent. It could only lose its savour if contaminated by additives. We can resonate with all of that. For some of the Jewish rabbis, salt signified wisdom: a "salted" disciple was a "wise" disciple. In some parts of the ancient world, as in Pakistan today, salt was used in dyeing processes as a way of intensifying as well as preserving the colour of fabrics. Farmers today are rightly concerned about high levels of salinity in overworked soil; not the case for first-century Palestinians. When we declare someone to be "the salt of the earth", we are generally referring to the sheer goodness of the person in question, her/his down-to-earth reliability, lack of pretentiousness and practical wisdom. To be salt of the earth is to season the earth community, to intensify its beauty, to be wise in one's judgments and just in all one's dealings. This parable, with its multi-layered symbolism, teases the mind.

In the original Greek, the emphasis is on the first word in the sentence. Jesus is telling his hearers, disciples and crowds, that they are the salt of the earth. They do not have to become the salt of the earth; they are the salt of the earth. In short, he is affirming their worth. In its literary context, that assertion contrasts Jesus' followers with those who might persecute them. It affirms their capacity to stand strong in the face of opposition, "for the sake of justice". If they allow themselves to be overwhelmed or their commitment to be shaken, then the "salt" will be contaminated and the "earth" cannot be seasoned. As we reflect on the diverse applications of salt and earth, give thanks to God for the gift of the material realities that underlie these metaphors.

**Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 5:20 -**

Jesus said to his disciples: I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. 'You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not kill; and if anyone does kill he must answer for it before the court. But I say this to you: anyone who is angry with his brother will answer for it before the court. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must not commit adultery. But I say this to you: if a man looks at a woman lustfully, he has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you:

do not swear at all. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

Sister Anne Gardiner Senior



Australian of the Year (Tiwi Islands):

**"I pray that all people in our wonderful Australia – regardless of language, culture, skin colour or religious belief – may stand tall as proud Australians."**

**Congratulations to David Grigg, named the Murtoa Citizen of the Year 2017, secretary of Murtoa Church Committee.**