



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup

BULLETIN

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19th February 2017



**SBC Opening of the Year
this Friday February 24th
at 9.30am in SMJ Church .**

**We welcome the Staff Members of SBC,
SMJ School and OLHC School for their
Blessing and Commissioning TODAY**

Staff Prayer

As Staff in our School communities we serve, we are called to work together, to create learning environments, to actively support the wellbeing of students and fellow staff, and to teach and to live Catholic education for all in our Schools. It requires that we use our personal gifts and collective resources responsibly and generously, as we grow as Jesus' disciples, and help our children to know His Good News, and live his Gospel. We commit ourselves to furthering the educational and pastoral work of the Parish as part of the evangelising mission of the Church.

We pledge ourselves to partnership of the school, the homes of the students, and the Parish, and to work to implement "Awakenings", the Religious Education Curriculum of our Diocese.

Fr Peter: Do you recognise the trust that is placed in you by the parents and parishioners of SMJ Parish to develop the faith of the children under your care and help nurture them in the life of the Church? **Staff: I do**

Prayer response of Parishioners

May almighty God bless and keep you forever. Grant you peace, and give you courage in every endeavour, to lift up your eyes, minds and hearts to see God's face, and be God's grace of blessing to our children, as you teach and guide them this year .

A cuppa after Mass for us to meet Staff

PRAYER for SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source of all healing power. We pray for 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, of hope in moments of despair, sorrow and woundedness, their inspiration and solace when they are unable to lift their hearts, minds and voices to You in prayer. Bless them with the courage and faith to place their trust in your healing touch and love. Bless **caregivers**, to be channels of your tender love, for they are your hands on this earth. Give them gentleness as they help those who are sick, to 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.

Sacraments Program 2017

**Parent Meeting for
First Reconciliation this
Wednesday February 22nd
at 6pm in the Parish Centre.**

Families with a child in Year 3 or above whose child has not made their First Reconciliation are invited to this Meeting. Enrolment Forms and Preparation Books will be given out.

**First Reconciliation Times
and Dates:** Wednesday & Thursday March 22/23, either day at either 5pm or 7pm.

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.

**Anointing Mass this Friday
February 24th at 10.30am at
the Lutheran Home.**

**SMJ School Combined
School Advisory Council
Meeting and Community 4
Meeting this Tuesday 21st in
the School at 7.30. All welcome**

*All the best to SBC for their
Swimming Sports on Tuesday.*

*We pray for our Priests who
are doing their Retreat at Halls
Gap this week. Fr Peter did
his Retreat at Mary MacKillop
Place in January .*

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday Feb 21st	5.30pm	St Peter Damian
Wednesday Feb 22nd	9.30am	Mary Scanlon (died in Ireland)
Thursday Feb 23rd	9.30am	St Polycarp
Friday Feb 24th	9.30am	SBC Opening School Year Mass
Saturday Feb 25th	10.00am	Joan and Jack Coffey annivs

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: Clarrie Keenan (brother of Eileen), Brian Tobin, Ivan Heinrich (Stawell, brother in Law of Liz Ryan), Pat McDonnell, Sr Rosalie SJG.

ANNIVERSARIES: Tony Uytdehaag, Joan and Jack Coffey

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

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 - 4th Sunday of the Month
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 26th February 2017

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday - 10.30am

Natimuk **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

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

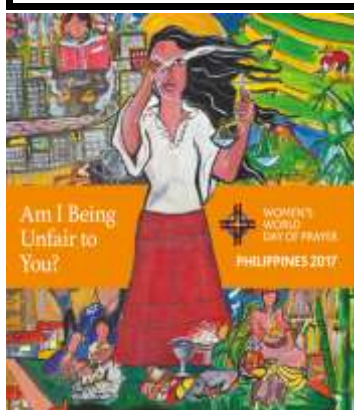
St Vincent de Paul Conference. Meets twice monthly. Available
 Monday & Friday 11am-12pm, for assistance. Phone 5381 2371

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.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Friday March 3rd.

Natimuk: Our Catholic Community lead the Service at the Uniting Church. Gather 9.30 for morning tea, the Service begins at 10.

Horsham: Service is at the Salvation Army at 10.30am

Rupanyup: Service at the Hall at 10am

ROSTERS

Feb 18/19	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bob Hayes Bernadette Trounce Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer John Parker	Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Julie Antonoff Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson
Feb 25/26	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Anita Masiero	Alison McKinnon
Commentator	Sr Jacinta Rice	Anthony Dowling
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Tess Hayes Ann Hermans Silvanna Foster Rosie Taylor Anthony Amor Lorraine Clancy Micky Robarts	Judy Reid Andrea Cox Kingsley Dalgleish Faye Wills Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalgleish
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Julie Antonoff
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Teresa Bottoms
Welcomers	Garry & Betty Heinrich	Mary Uebergang Beth Johnson
Prayers	John & Joan Parker	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	26th Feb Pat O'Connor Win Stephens Barbara Connellan Kath Atkins	5th March Carolyn Boseley Gwen Antonucci Carmel O'Connor Anna Carberry

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$ 31.00	Murtoa	\$ 109.00
Horsham	\$ 997.00	Dimboola	\$ 64.00
Total			\$ 1201.00

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals

Envelopes	\$ 2037.00	Loose	\$ 89.00
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
Total			\$ 2126.00

Making Connections: Go beyond the minimum this week and reach out in generosity to someone you may not ordinarily associate with. Offer friendship or material support to someone who may be seen as an outcast in our society.

Marriage Tip: What's your spouse's favorite treat? See if you guessed right. Now you've got an idea for a little way to show love; it's just a matter of when you surprise your beloved with it.

Daily Prayer: Lift from our hearts the burden of hatred, and drive all resentment far from our lives; so that, loving not only our neighbours but even our enemies, we may, by your grace, be perfect, even as you are perfect.

A Vocation View: We read in Leviticus: "You must love your neighbour, as yourself!" Some are being called to love their neighbour as a priest or religious. Pray that many will answer the call to love.

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time: In today's first reading, the Israelites are urged to love their neighbours as themselves. In the Gospel Jesus spells out how we are to do that - to give generously to those who ask of us and not to turn our backs on those who seek to borrow.

"May we Love one Another, so that all may experience a Sense of Belonging"

Country Mass Times

February 26th: Dimboola 8.30am. Murtoa 10.30am
Natimuk Mass 8.30am.

March 5th: Dimboola 8.30am. **Murtoa 8.30am**

March 12th: Dimboola AWC 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 8.30

March 19th: Dimboola Mass 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 10.30

March 26th: Natimuk Mass 8.30. Dimboola 8.30.
Murtoa 10.30

2017 Lent Program -

**Up from the Waters - Brisbane Program.
Hope - Woollongong Program**

Both Resources are based on
the Gospel of Matthew (Year A):

**Please sign the list in the Foyer today to join a
Discussion Group
or for an individual book**

The cost of the booklet will be \$8.
A copy of the CD is provided.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 1st



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

You cannot spell Ch_rh without u.

You cannot spell Ad_It without u.

You cannot spell Yo_th without u.

You cannot spell S_ccess without u.

You cannot spell S_nday Mass without u.

You cannot spell Comm_nity without u.

The Community and Church needs u. **THANK U**

From the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting:

Sr Jacinta wrote to the Parish Council to say she is retiring from the Council, from Adult Faith Leadership roles, as Facilitator and Resources person with Faith Programs and Retreats, from co-ordinating Music in the Parish, and from the Liturgy Committee. Jacinta will continue with her Liturgical Ministries and conducting the Choir twice a month. The Parish Council acknowledges Jacinta's wonderful contribution to our Parish over her years with us, and expresses our heartfelt thanks. We will have an appropriate acknowledgement of Jacinta's role in the Parish, and that of the Brigidines, in the near future.

The Parish Council is conducting a review of the four dimensions of our current Parish plan - Liturgy and Worship, Pastoral Care, Parish Education and Parish Administration - to update the plan to keep abreast of Parish and life today.

Bishop Paul Bird has applied for visas for the Baptistine Sisters. We await further information.

A report on the statistics from the Royal Commission are in the Foyer for you to take.

Parish Council Members: Chris Robarts, Lesley Price, Alison McKinnon, Garry Heinrich, Bob Pritchett, Mary Marshall, Andrea Cox, Peter Gutteridge, Gary Typuszak, Joan Lane-Storey, Margaret Lingham, Daryl Wren, Fr Peter, Anita Masiero

O God, thank you for a great harvest, may prices improve.

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

PROJECT COMPASSION: this year marks 50 years of Project Compassion and the Theme for the year is, "Learning More, Creating Change."

Project Compassion Boxes and Set of Envelopes available in our Churches next weekend Feb 25/26.

*'Be perfect as your Heavenly Father is perfect.'
Is Jesus advocating rather static fault-less-ness? Not very appealing! No, the Greek word is closer to the idea of a perfect wine - one that has matured and has reached its full potential. So, Our Lord is saying, 'Be a person who is everything you are capable of being.'*

Ash Wednesday Mass Times March 1st

Horsham: 9.30am, 5.30pm

Murtoa: 2pm at OLHC School

Dimboola: 6.30pm

Rupanyup: 7pm at Sue Tyler's.

SBC: Liturgy at 12.15 in the College Gym.

All welcome to these Masses or Liturgy. Ashes will be blessed and distributed at each Mass.

Burning of Palms for Ash Wednesday at SMJ School on Tuesday Feb 28th at 3pm.

APPARITION HILL - the Movie - this Friday February 24th at the Hamilton Cinema at 7.30

The Movie is about 7 strangers who investigate the Apparitions of Our Lady at Medjugorje.

Tickets \$20. Contact Chris Jansen 0407719530, or Ted Oliver 53722810, or see Fr Peter.

*"Stopping brings me to the 'now' of today".
Before turning on the computer, opening the door, getting into the car, answering the phone, stop, pause, breathe, be attentive to the moment, be mindful, and be at peace.*

1st Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2. 17-18

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy." "You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 8. 10

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west

so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it; if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Acclamation: 1 John 2:5

Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'

**Gospel Reflection – 7th Sunday Yr. A
Sr Veronica Lawson rsm**

Today's gospel is a continuation of Jesus' teaching on the sort of righteousness, the right relationship and justice, to which his followers are called in their living of the Law. The law of Moses (Exod 21:24, Lev 24:20 and Deut 19:21) included a law of retaliation designed to make punishment for wrongdoing to persons or property proportionate to the offence. It was quite enlightened legislation at the time. In a series of striking images, Jesus invites his followers to go far beyond the strict application of the law and to embrace a new way of thinking about and acting towards those who injure them/us. Relinquishing your right to compensation is one thing. Giving more of your property to one who has stolen from you is quite another. Do we take this teaching literally or do we simply

embrace the spirit of non-retaliation that seems to be at the heart of this teaching? A too-easy amnesty does not always bring justice. Last week's gospel reminded us that there is to be no place for uncontrolled anger or murderous thoughts in our hearts. Both that teaching and this seem to be about taking responsibility for how we live. Harboring anger can have disastrous consequences for oneself as well as for others. It tends to skew our capacity for right judgement. What happens to us may be beyond our control. What we do with what comes our way is for us to decide. Jesus makes it clear that we have choices in the face of life's struggles. The disciple is called to choose the way of assuming personal responsibility and refusing the way of retaliation. The final example in the list of six that Jesus offers in the Sermon on the Mount is the most confronting of all:

there are to be no limitations on love. Loving one's enemies is quite a challenge, on a personal as well as a global level. We learn the hard way that we cannot change others. We can only change our attitudes and approaches to them. Venerable Catherine McAuley, founder of the Mercies, wrote that her Sisters "never to let the sun go down on their anger". I used to wonder how they managed that. Over recent years I have found that praying quite deliberately for those who give us a hard time or cause us grief is by far the most effective way of retaining one's peace of mind and of expelling retaliatory thoughts. Gently bring these people to mind, breath in the loving kindness or chesed of God that suffuses the universe and of breathing it out for them, think of them in kindly ways and act towards them without rancour, even when the sentiments are not reciprocated.

Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 6:24-34

Jesus said to his disciples: 'No one can be the slave to two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money. 'That is why I am telling you not to worry about your life and what you are to eat, nor about your body and how you are to clothe it. Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! Look at the birds in the sky. They do not

sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much

more look after you, you men of little faith? So do not worry, do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" It is the pagans who set their hearts on all these things. Your heavenly Father knows you need them all. Set your hearts on his kingdom first, and on his righteousness, and all these other things will be given you as well. So do not worry about tomorrow: tomorrow, will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.'