

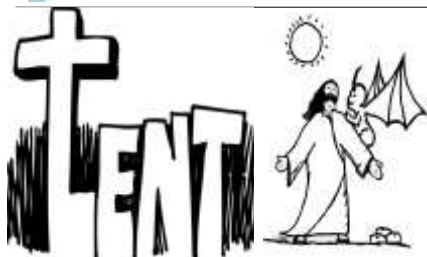


Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham - Dimboola - Murtoa - Natimuk Rupanyup

BULLETIN

1st Sunday of Lent - 5th March 2017



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.

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



Project Compassion Boxes and Sets of Envelopes are available in our Churches

65 parishioners are in Lenten Groups or reflecting with a book at home. *Well done*

We welcome Fr John this weekend.

Natimuk Nursing Home
Mass this Thursday 9th at 4.15pm. All welcome

SBC Year 8 Mass in SMJ Church this Thursday March 9th at 2pm. All welcome.

Funeral Prayer Services:
Tuesday 10.30 for Beverley Manwaring.

Wednesday 10.30 for Les Woodhead.

We are in urgent need of **Computer Operators**

at both 6.30pm and 10.30am

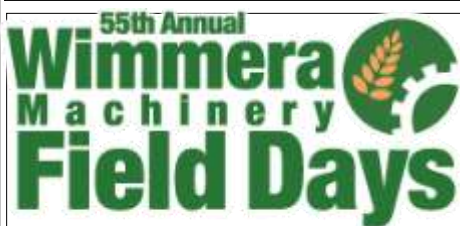
Masses at SMJ Masses. Anita will train you, it is a ministry open to any age. Please contact the Anita in the Office 53821155 or see Fr Peter. *Thank you.*

SMJ School Fete Planning Community 4 Meeting this Tuesday March 7th in the Senior School Area at 7.30.



LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Wednesday at 5pm
in SMJ Church



7,8,9 MARCH 2017

We pray for a successful and safe Field Days this week, and we welcome all visitors.

In your Church foyer today is the Autumn edition of **Australian Catholics**, please take a copy.

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday Mar 7th	5.30pm	Doris Barlow
Wednesday Mar 8th	9.15am	Funeral Prayers at 10.30am. St John of God
Thursday Mar 9th	9.30am	Damien Doyle anniv. St Frances of Rome
Friday Mar 10th	9.30am	
Saturday Mar 11th	10.00am	

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: Beverley Manwaring, Les Woodhead, Doris Barlow (Rushworth-sister of Marion Sharry), John Nolan

ANNIVERSARIES: Veronica Delahunty, Dan Carey, Damien Doyle, Vin Mugavin

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, 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 - 2nd Sunday of the Month
2nd Sunday of Lent - 12th March 2017**

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.**

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.

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has appointed Bob Pritchettas our Safeguarding Officer. We have a **Child Safety Policy** to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in our care. A **Child Safety Code of Conduct** has been adopted for all who work with children in the Parish.

It starts at home 'The peace of Christ is about showing each other how to make peace at home, the way we reconcile with one another after an argument, the way we handle difficult situations, the way we keep our cool in congested traffic, etc. Large-scale changes start with small changes in our lives.

160 Years ago on Monday 6th March the first Mercy Sisters arrived in Melbourne from Perth. Their leader was Sister Ursula Frayne.

ROSTERS

March 4/5	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Simon Lynch Joan Parker Peter Gutteridge Sr Jacinta Rice Anne Newton Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz	Russell Reid Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Noreen O'Connor Julie Antonoff
March 11/12	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Kevin Dunn	Kingsley Dalglish
Commentator	Betty Heinrich	Bob Pritchett
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Bob Hayes Silvanna Foster Anthony Amor Lorraine Clancy Ann Hermans Rosie Taylor Maree Plazzer	Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Judy Reid Andrea Cox Kingsley Dalglish Faye Wills
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Shayne Keenan
Musicans	Chris Robarts	Men's Choir
Welcomers	Judie & Hugh Delahunty	Alistair Castle Sharon Creasey
Prayers	Darryl and Maree Wren	
Children's Liturgy		Sharon Creasey
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	12th March Pauline Barber Pat Williams Louise Guest Kate Herson-Spasic	19th March Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley Judie Delahunty

FINANCE: 1st Collection - Plate (Presbytery Acct)

Natimuk	\$ 67.00	Murtoa	\$ 110.00
Horsham	\$ 816.00	Dimboola	\$ 74.00
Total			\$ 1067.00

2nd Collection - Green Bag (Parish Account)

Credit Card and Direct Debit figures are monthly totals

Envelopes	\$ 1431.00	Loose	\$ 77.50
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$ 750.00
Total			\$ 2258.50

Making Connections: What are the temptations you experience? How is the balance in your life? How much energy do you expend in looking after your physical and material domain as opposed to your mental and spiritual domain?

Marriage Tip: Is there a bad habit that you would like to eliminate? Anything you wouldn't want to teach your children to do? Lent and your children can give you the motivation to let go of it. Ask your spouse for help.

Daily Prayer: Because you formed us from the dust, you know well how deeply sin has scarred our human nature. Strengthen us, then, as we set out on the lenten journey. Make us victorious with Christ over the deceptions of the tempter, so we may come at length in the joy of the Holy Spirit to the celebration of the Lord's glorious Passover.

A Vocation View: Lent is a season of renewal, of spiritual growth. These forty penitential days invite us to strive for our true calling. Let us all open our hearts to the Holy Spirit.

1st Sunday of Lent: What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clear heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

Country Mass Times

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
April 2nd: Dimboola Mass 8.30am. Murtoa Mass 10.30

2017 Lent Program -

Eileen McManus Group on Thursday mornings from 10am in the Church meeting room.

SBC Staff will meet each Thursday at 3.45.

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, selfdenial and helping others. In this way, the whole Church prepares for Easter.

CWL Meeting that was to be held this Tuesday 7th March has now been POSTPONED until Tuesday 14th March at 10.30am. All Welcome

1st Sunday of Lent: The Philippines story

Dinia's story is a story of healing, through her own skill and perseverance, and through support from a Caritas-Australia funded program. Living in the Philippines, she struggled daily with poverty in a country with many vulnerable communities. People living in rural and coastal areas have very little access to basic services. They face extreme weather events, environmental degradation and the effects of internal conflict and have little hope of a sustainable income. For Dinia, the untimely death of her husband meant an end to his small income and a greater struggle to feed and educate her children. She struggled alone, facing a future without hope, until her community encouraged her to participate in the Socio Pastoral Action Center Foundation program supported by Caritas The Program helped her develop diverse ways to gain a sustainable livelihood, continue to send her children to school and contribute to her community. Working together awakened Dinia's innate generosity and leadership qualities, learning about organic farming, managing livestock, and starting a small business. Now she has an integral role in her community, a sustainable livelihood, and a brighter future for her children. "My life is much better now. It is much easier," she says.

Please donate to Project Compassion and help people in rural areas of the Philippines develop their strengths and build better futures for their families and their neighbours.

Pope Francis: Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. Lent urgently calls us to conversion, to return to God "with all our hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows us his readiness to forgive. Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Central to everything is the word of God, which we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply in Lent as the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ, living in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour.



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_rch 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**

O God, in Autumn, bless our lands with good seasonal rain

SACRAMENT DATES for Children in 2017

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:

Sunday May 28th 10.30am Mass

Saturday June 3rd 6.30 Mass.

Sunday June 4th 10.30 Mass

Saturday June 17th 6.30 Mass

Sunday June 18th 10.30 Mass.

Confirmation and First Communion for Murtoa and Rupanyup will be on Sunday October 8th at 10.30 Mass at Murtoa.

Reconciliation will be celebrated in September



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY **MARCH 8th**

This day is a global celebration of the economic, political, social and spiritual achievements of women in the past, and the present.

The theme for 2017 is **#BeBold-**

ForChange a call to help forge a better working world - a more inclusive, gender equal world. 70% of the global poor are women and girls. Although women perform two-thirds of the world's work, they earn less than 10% of the world's wages, and lack access to education and other services.

We pray as our Church to seek ways for men and women to complement each other, to reflect our common dignity as children of God.

RELAY FOR LIFE

Friday 17th and Saturday 18th at Coughlan Park

We pray for all participating from our Parish and the wider community.

Your generous support is welcome.

Bishop Paul Bird has announced that Fr Alex Lim (coming from Elmore in the Bendigo Diocese, and originally from Cebu in the Philippines) will take up the care of the parishes of Warracknabeal and Hopetoun from May 1st. From the same time Horsham Parish will care for Nhill.

Dates for our Calendars:

Thursday April 29th: Fr Elio Capra will speak to our Sacrament Families from 5.30 to 6.30pm, and at 7.30 hold a Parish Meeting on the theme *Pope Francis's Approach and Vision for 21st century*

Sunday October 1st: Bishop Paul Bird and Diocesan Liturgical Committee to lead a Sacrament Formation Day in Horsham.

1st Reading: Genesis 2:7-9. 3:1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-6. 12-14.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more

and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.

A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

2nd Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift. The results of the gift also outweigh the results of one man's sin: for after one single fall came judgement with a verdict of condemnation, now after many falls comes grace with its verdict of acquittal. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought

condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Acclamation: Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson

Lent comes around each year and presents us with its usual challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts, and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into the "wilderness" and grappling with the mysteries of life, as well as a time of preparation for Easter. Today's liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus' forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is "filled with the Holy Spirit" and, like so many humans before and since, is "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness of life to be "tested" there. ["Tested" is a more accurate translation of the Greek than "tempted"] Forty is a significant number in Israel's

story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God. Explanations of its significance vary: a round number for long time; a time of testing or trial; totality or fullness. The wilderness is ever so real and at the same time symbolic. In Israel's story, it is the place of testing for God's people: "Remember the long way that your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness... testing you to know what was in your heart" (Deut 8:2). In Matthew's account, the "devil" is the "tester" or "tempter", the instrument of

God's testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus' relationship to God: "If you are the son of God..." The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status or self-aggrandisement. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. In other words, he chooses the way of God's empire or the empire "of the heavens" rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed "of God". Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or greed or status so that, like Jesus, we may be truly "of God".

Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,'

he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces,

overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'