



#### SOCIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY is next Sunday September 24th

This Year's Statement is titled:  
*"Everyone's Business: developing an inclusive and sustainable Economy"*.

The Bishops call for an economy that is founded on justice and offers dignity and inclusion to every person. Australia has had a long period of economic growth, but the benefits of this have not come to everyone.

Pope Francis calls for a world economy that places people at the very centre, and meets their basic needs.

**The Social Justice Statement will be available next Sunday**

#### Men's Group Tea at the RSL this Thursday September 21st at 6pm

All the men & boys are invited to a 'Boys Night In', gather at the RSL from 6pm for drinks and a meal. Guest speaker is Gerry Ballinger, an ex Wimmera Man, Postal worker & footballer. Should be a good fun entertaining night. Pay your own way. RSVP: Patrick Ellis 0428847455 or Garry Heinrich 0409523182 by 18<sup>th</sup> September please, for catering.

#### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL Meeting this Wednesday September 20th at 5.30pm

in the Meeting Room,  
The Agenda is to plan for the Baptistine Sisters arrival and presence with us, and the Parish Mission from October 28 to November 1st.

#### PRAYER FOR SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source and creator of all healing power. We entrust our sick brothers and sisters to your loving care. We pray your blessings upon all in their own homes, in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice care, palliative care. May You be their source of comfort when they experience pain. May You be their source of hope in moments of despair, woundedness and sorrow. May You be 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 your healing love.

Bless **caregivers**, as channels of your love, they are your very hands on 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 who are needful of their care. Give them courage to continue to serve when weakened by constant demands, and when they need your enduring help. Give them love and 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, and those in Homes and in Hospital.

#### PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson  
Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero  
10 Roberts Avenue, Horsham 3400  
PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402  
Phone: 5382 1155. Fax: 5382 3016  
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.

Fr John will be supplying for Fr Eric Bryant in Stawell for the next three weekends - September 24, October 1 & 8.

Please note changes in Country Mass/AWC times. Fr Damian will be in Horsham on October 7/8.



**St Brigid's College MISSION DAY**  
this Friday Sept 22  
**Mass in the College Gym at 11**

Fete activities in the College grounds after Mass

• SBC School Advisory Council this Wednesday at 7.



Today Sunday September 17th Fr Peter celebrates the Sacraments of Confirmation and

First Communion at Mass in Nhill  
Please pray for

Hanna Cannell, Mia Braybrook, Shae Setosta, Jayda Polkinghorne, Anthony Lee, Madalyn & Jessica Toet, Leeroy Grant, Gabrielle Hodges, and their families.

#### 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



#### WEEKDAY MASSES (A funeral Mass will replace a week-day Mass)

Tuesday 19th Sept	5.30pm		
Wednesday 20th Sept	<b>10.30</b>	<b>Jennifer Coutts Funeral</b>	St Andrew Kim
Thursday 21st Sept	9.30am	St Matthew	
Friday 22nd Sept	9.30am	St Padre Pio	
Saturday 23rd Sept	————	<b>No 10am Mass, no Confessions.</b>	

<b>Please Remember in Your Prayers</b>	
<b>RECENT DEATHS:</b> Basil Jeffreys (Qld), Jennifer Coutts,	
<b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b> Fr Peter Claridge, Don Spence, Mark Hennessy, Jack Ivess, Lorraine Preuss, Sr Barbara May csb,	
<b>SICK:</b> Corey Panozzo, Ruby Spasic, Kobe Davidson, Peter Kelly, Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Joy Flynn, John Coleman, Joan Glen, Lynn Cooper, Francis Mitchell, Judy Francisco, Xavier Reicha, Jean Ivess, Gemma Bronkhorst, Jill & Christine Higginbottom, Lorrain Holland, Terry Turvey, Maureen Ryan, Ken Dowsley, Peter Oakley, Felicity Taylor, Fleur Armstrong, Heather McPhee, Debbie Nolan, Una Bartlett.	
<b>Emergency Care: Contact Betty 53826688</b>	
<b>Confessions on Saturday after 10am Mass (10.25)</b>	
<b>Each Saturday Morning:</b> <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20</b> <b>Rosary 9.30. Prayer of the Church 9.40. Mass 10am</b>	
<b>Next Sunday 4th Sunday of the Month</b> <b>25th Sunday in Ordinary Time 24th September 2017</b>	
Horsham	Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday - 10.30am
Dimboola	<b>Sunday AWC 8.30am</b>
Natimuk	<b>Sunday Mass 8.30am</b>
Murtoa	<b>Sunday AWC 9.00am</b>
<b>Rosary, Litany of Mary &amp; Divine Mercy Chaplet</b> <b>HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.</b>	
<b>Regular Activities in the Parish</b>	
<b>Mother's Prayer Group</b> Fortnightly Every Wednesday 2.00pm Church Meeting Room Contact Marina 5382 1047	
<b>Craft Group</b> Every Monday - Parish Meeting Room Mornings - 9.30am to 11.30am. Evening - 7pm to 9pm. BYO Craft - Gold Coin Donation. Contact Anita at Parish Office	
<b>Meditation Group:</b> Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm.	
<b>CWL Meetings</b> 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm. Meeting Room.	
<b>Men's Group</b> Meeting will be at the RSL on Thursday 21st September at 6pm. Contact Patrick 0428847455	
<b>St Vincent de Paul Conference.</b> Meets twice monthly. Available Monday & Friday 11am-2pm for assistance. Phone 53812371	
<b>BAPTISM PREPARATION.</b> 3rd Thursday of month at 7.30pm. For appointment contact Parish Office 53821155.	
<b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b> 2nd Wednesday 6pm in the Church	
<b>Church Piety Stall.</b> Gifts for all Sacraments, cards, medals	
<b>Affordable Counselling</b> from Centacare Ballarat, for families, individuals. <b>Free Call</b> 1300 303 988 for appointment	

<b>PARISH DATES:</b>	
<b>Parish Mission with Fr Richard Leonard SJ</b> from October 28th to November 1st. Theme: <i>Living a contemporary Church life of faith, hope, love.</i>	
<b>Parish Appreciation Dinner for Sr Jacinta</b> Sunday November 19th at Coughlin Park at 12nn.	
<b>Sunday November 12th:</b> SMJ School Spring Fete	
<b>Diocesan Liturgy Formation Day:</b> Sunday 18th February 2018 with Bishop Paul Bird and others.	
<b>Sacrament Masses:</b> Murtoa Sunday October 15th.	

<b>ROSTERS</b>		
16/17 Sept	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Bernadette Trounce Maree Plazzer Bob Hayes John Parker Tess Hayes	Kaye Wills Kingsley Dalgleish Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalgleish Russell Reid Zita Cannane
<b>Commentator</b>	Garry Heinrich	Anthony Dowling
23/24 Sept	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Betty Heinrich	Anna Robertson
<b>Commentator</b>	Peter Gutteridge	Michael Connellan
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Peter Gutteridge Silvanna Foster Anthony Amor Ann Hermans Lorraine Clancy Micky Roberts Rosie Taylor	Alison McKinnon Anna Robertson Bob Pritchett Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Judy Reid
<b>Projector</b>	Geoff Simpson	Shayne Keenan
<b>Musicians</b>	Embedded Music	Teresa Bottoms
<b>Welcomers</b>	Bob & Tess Hayes	Alistair Castle Sharon Creasey
<b>Prayers</b>	Mary Brown & Anita Masiero	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>24th September</b> Pauline Barber Pat Williams Louise Guest Kate Herson-Spasic	<b>1st October</b> Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley Judie Delahunty
<b>FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):</b>		
Natimuk	\$	Murtoa \$ 103.00
Horsham	\$ 854.00	Dimboola \$ 66.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1023.00</b>
<b>2nd Collection (Parish Account)</b>		
Envelopes	\$ 2083.00	Loose \$ 67.70
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit \$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 2150.70</b>

**Making Connections:** In the Our Father, we ask for God's forgiveness and pledge to forgive those who wrong us.

**Living The Word:** The boundless mercy and compassion of God is freely given when we ask for it. If we are forgiven, we should also forgive others. God's household, the Church, is where, above all, we should experience this forgiveness.

**Marriage Tip:** Do you show appreciation for the work your spouse does inside the home? Take a moment to say thanks for something he or she does on a regular basis, such as cooking, lawn care or laundry.

**Daily Prayer:** How many times, God Most High, we come seeking forgiveness, yet how often we refuse forgiveness to those who wrong us. Let the word of Jesus challenge our ways and drive anger far away from our hearts, so that we who so much need mercy ourselves may forgive our brothers and sisters from the heart, as often and as easily as we would have you forgive us.

**A Vocation View:** "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Make a stand for mercy, empathy, forgiveness and selflessness!

**24th Sunday:** "For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" Rom 14:8 This is the essence of stewardship, everything we have and are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives.

### Country Mass Times:

Sunday Sept 24: Natimuk Mass 8.30,  
Dimboola AWC 8.30. Murtoa AWC 9am  
Sunday Oct 1: Dimboola AWC 8.30. Murtoa 8.30.  
Sunday Oct 8: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 8.30. **Nhill 10.**  
Sunday Oct 15: Dimboola 8.30. **Murtoa 10.30.**  
Sunday Oct 22: Natimuk Mass 8.30.  
Dimboola AWC 8.30. Murtoa AWC 9.  
Sunday Oct 29: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 8.30. **Nhill 10.**

### Season of Creation

On September 1st Christian Churches around the world - Major Orthodox, Catholic, Anglican, Uniting, Protestant - came together to celebrate World day of Prayer for the Care of Creation and to start of the Season of Creation from Sept. 1st to Oct. 4th feast of St Francis of Assisi.

• On Friday September 29th we celebrate **National Police Memorial Day** with an Ecumenical Service in SMJ Church at 11am. Police and local Services will March from the Police Station to Urqhart Street and to the Church starting at 10.30am. All welcome to the March, Service and lunch in the Parish Centre afterward

• **Year of Youth 2018** A Year of Youth for Australia has been declared for 2018 by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference with the theme *Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy*. . The Year commences at the start of the new liturgical year on December 3, 2017 (the first Sunday of Advent) and concludes at the end of Ordinary Time in 2018 (November 25, Christ the King). Resources in support of the Year of Youth will be made available, convened by both the Ballarat Diocese and Catholic Education.

A Copy of the Statement on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation is in the Foyers today.

### The Baptistine Sisters

Sr Tirsa and Sr Manuela will arrive in Australia on September 24 with Sr Jesusita, and her vicar, Sr Rosita, they will stay in Ballarat a few days, and come to Horsham on October 1st. Srs Jesuita and Rosita will return to the Philippines on October 10th.

**Bishop Paul Bird will come to Horsham on Saturday October 7th for 10am Mass** where the Bishop will formerly establish their Community which will be named after their Founder "St. Alfonso Maria Fusco".

There will be **Morning Tea after Mass on Saturday morning October 7th** in the Parish Centre to welcome the Sisters, and a Cuppa in the Church after Saturday night and Sunday Masses, to welcome them.

*Please pray for them and us at this time*



**SMJ School Community 4  
Spring Festival on  
Sunday 12th November in  
the School Grounds from  
11am to 2pm.**

The Fundraising committee ask for your donations of cakes and slices (with a list of ingredients on them for people with allergies) - drop off on the day of the Fete. Plants and cuttings can be left at the school the week before the Festival

### Operation Christmas Child Boxes

This project helps bring a little joy and hope to children in need in the Asia-Pacific Area, with a gift-filled shoebox around Christmas each year. Shoebox items include something to wear, to love, something for school, something to play with and something for personal hygiene.

**If you are able to help, boxes are available from the Piety Stall for 50c, along with a brochure containing the information you need.**

• We pray for SMJ Year 6 for safety and blessings on their annual Camp this week to Kyneton.

### Pastoral Letter from Bishop Paul Bird

*"Marriage according to Pope Francis"*.

Bishop Paul offers some reflections on marriage, drawing on the writings of Pope Francis, Copies of the letter available in the church foyer.

**SENIORS WEEK October 8 to 14.** Horsham launch Monday Oct 8, at 10am at Town Hall. Scones, cuppa.

We pray for a safe and restful School Holidays, as Term 3 finishes this Friday September 22nd.

We pray for VCE students to have a rest and in their studies and trial Exams over the holidays.



**BALLARAT CLERGY SUPPORT FUND  
ANNUAL APPEAL SICK/ RETIRED PRIESTS  
Envelopes in the Foyers.**

**A credit card facility is available.  
contributions over \$2.00 are tax-deductible**

You can leave your envelope on the Collection or at the Office. Thank you. Given to date: \$1035.00

### Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Chris Robarts (Chair), Mary Marshall, Peter Gutteridge, Andrea Cox, Fr Peter, Gary Typuszack, Alison McKinnon, Lesley Price, Daryl Wren, Bob Pritchett, Garry Heinrich, Joan Lane-Storey, Margaret Lingham. Anita Masiero (Secretary)

**Child Safety Standards.** Ss Michael & John Parish has appointed Bob Pritchett as 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. We have uploaded onto the **Parish Website the Code of Conduct** that complies with Child Safety Protocols, for Parish staff, volunteers, Parish Council, Liturgical Ministers, Children's Liturgy, contractors.

*Our Parish is committed to be a child safe community*

**1st Reading: Sirach 27:30 - 28:7**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, overlook the offence.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 102:1-4. 9-12**

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion. 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. His wrath will come to an end; he will

not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

**2nd Reading: Romans 14:7-9**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**Acclamation: John 13:34**

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who

owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

**Gospel Reflection – 24th Sunday  
Veronica Lawson rsm.**

While the opening verses of this Sunday's gospel reading have Jesus advocating endless forgiveness (not seven but seventy-seven times), the parable that follows is anything but consistent with this teaching and the teaching of Jesus in the gospel as a whole. How do we read today's story of a king who is prepared initially to forgive the debt that his slave has incurred, only to resort to torture when that slave fails to forgive his fellow slave? This story raises more problems than we can address in this short reflection: the unquestioning acceptance of slavery and the plight of slaves; the absolute power of the king over his subjects; the institution of debt slavery; the treatment of women and children; the collection of

crippling taxes to finance the power of the king; an unjust and cruel ruler as an image of the God of Israel; imaging God as a loving father who nonetheless acts in tyrannical ways. The parable encodes institutions and practices of the time that Jesus and/or the Matthean community seem to accept without question. Does this parable come from the lips of Jesus or from the Matthean community? It would be anachronistic to expect a critique of slavery from Jesus or from Matthew's community since the institution of slavery was simply taken for granted. It is totally out of character, however, for Jesus to image his "heavenly Father" as a merciless torturer. It may be that Jesus did in fact tell such a story in another context and that the Matthean author has rather arbitrarily linked the sayings on

forgiveness (forgiving 77 times and forgiving brothers and sisters from one's heart) with this story. It is conceivable that Jesus insisted on the consequences of refusing to forgive. While God is merciful and forgiving, disciples must not exploit God's capacity to forgive. Bad behaviour is not to be tolerated. It has its consequences and those who continually fail to forgive can expect to suffer the consequences of their actions. Whatever we make of the story of the less than forgiving king and the unforgiving slave, we might take on board Jesus' response to Peter's question. "How often should I forgive?" At the end of the gospel we see true forgiveness is "from the heart". In the bible the heart was the core of the person's being, the seat of cognition as well as of emotion. To forgive from the heart is to forgive with the whole being.

**Next Sundays Gospel: Matt 20:1-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men

standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men

who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'