

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill



BULLETIN

1st Sunday of Advent - 3rd December 2017



First Sunday in Advent

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

Acting Principal: Cathy Grace

Phone: 5385 2526



JESSE TREE

The Jesses Tree will be decorated with Advent and Christmas symbols. You are invited to place gifts under the tree of non-perishable food and gifts for children (*please write age & gender*). St V de Paul will distribute these to needy families at Christmas
Thank you

Christmas Mass Times 2017

Horsham Sunday Dec 24th:

7pm: Children's Christmas Story

Carols 10pm. Mass 10.15pm.

Monday Dec 25: Horsham Mass 9am

Sunday December 24th:

Christmas Mass Murtoa 5pm.

Christmas Mass Dimboola 7pm.

Christmas Mass Nhill 5pm

Advent Reconciliation Service

Tuesday December 19th at 7pm in SMJ Church. Scripture, Prayer, Examination of Conscience, Hymns, 2 Priests for Individual Absolution.

Anointing and Reconciliation at

Dimboola and Murtoa Masses on Sunday December 17th.

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, their source of hope in moments of despair, sorrow, woundedness, 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 the sick, to respect their dignity and value 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.

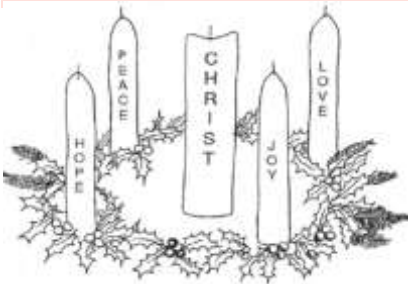
CWL Christmas Dinner

White Hart Hotel this Tuesday

5th December at 12 noon.

Cost \$20 per person. All welcome

CWL Mass in SMJ at 11am



Horsham at THE TOWN HALL TONIGHT Sunday,

6.30 for children, 8.30 for Adults

We congratulate Jess Wilson as Co-Compere of tonight's Carols.

Natimuk Nursing Home Friday December 15th at 7pm.

Maranatha - Come Lord Jesus

We welcome Fr John

There will be these Masses on Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th

Saturday Dec 23: Horsham 6.30pm

Sunday Dec 24: Horsham 10.30am

Sunday Dec 24: Natimuk 8.30am

Sunday Dec 24: Murtoa 10.30am



We welcome SMJ School

today as they lead our

Ministries at 10.30 Mass

Anointing Mass in SMJ Church this Thursday December 7th at 2pm.

All welcome.

Cuppa in the Parish Centre after Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday 5th Dec **5.30** For Noreen O'Connor's deceased sister, Fran

Wednesday 6 Dec 9.30 Kevin O'Connor anniv.

Thursday 7th **2pm Anointing Mass**

Friday 8th Dec 9.30 Immaculate Conception

Saturday 9th Dec 10am

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: James Soulsby (father of Peter)

ANNIVERSARIES: Kevin O'Connor, Anthony Hynes, Veronica Poer, Frank Lawson,

SICK: Corey Panozzo, Ruby Spasic, Kobe Davidson, Peter Kelly, Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Joy Flynn, John Coleman, Joan Glen, Judy Francisco, Xavier Reicha, Jean Ivess, Terry Turvey, Debbie Nolan, Lorrain Holland, Jill & Christine Higginbottom, Maureen Ryan, Ken Dowsley, Peter Oakley, Felicity Taylor, Fleur Armstrong, Heather McPhee, Rachel O'Connor, Maurice Brennan

Emergency Care: Contact Betty 53826688

Confessions on Saturday after 10am Mass (10.25)

Each Saturday Morning:

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20
Rosary 9.30. Prayer of the Church 9.40. Mass 10am**

**Next Sunday 2nd Sunday of the Month
Second Sunday of Advent. December 10th 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 Craft - Gold Coin Donation. Contact Anita at Parish Office

Meditation Group: Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm.

CWL Meetings 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm. Meeting Room.

Men's Group Meeting will be at the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Parish Centre. Contact Patrick 0428847455

St Vincent de Paul Conference. Meets twice monthly. Available Monday & Friday 11am-12pm for assistance. Phone 53812371

BAPTISM PREPARATION. 3rd Thursday of month at 7.30pm. For appointment contact Parish Office 53821155.

CHOIR PRACTICE 2nd Wednesday 6pm in the Church

Affordable Counselling from Centacare Ballarat, for families, individuals. **Free Call** 1300 303 988 for appointment

The Advent / Christmas Edition of our Parish Magazine "The Fisherman". We welcome articles, photos, items of interest from your families. Please have any of these into Anita by Friday December 15th. Thank you.



- 2018 Foundation Parents Meeting 7.30pm in the School.
- **FOLLOW THE STARS** School Concert at Sawyer Park Thursday Dec 14th. BYO Tea 5.30, Concert 6.30
- Farewell Morning Tea for Judy Reid Monday Dec 18, 10am

Columban Calendars \$8 and Christmas Cards available in Piety Store.

ROSTERS

2/3 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 9.30am*
Eucharistic Ministers	Maree Plazzer Bob Hayes Joan Parker Tess Hayes Geoff Simpson Silvanna Foster Anthony Amor	Cate Rigby Bob Pritchett Volunteers
Commentator	Peter Gutteridge	SMJ
9/10 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Betty Heinrich	Kingsley Dalgleish
Commentator	Emelia Sudholz	Anna Robertson
Eucharistic Ministers	Geoff Simpson Ann Hermans Lorraine Clancy Micky Robarts Rosie Taylor Sr Jacinta Rice Simon Lynch	Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalgleish Russell Reid Zita Cannane Judy Reid Andrea Cox
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Shayne Keenan
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Men's Choir
Welcomers	Judie & Hugh Delahunty	Helen Bush Marina Manserra
Children's Liturgy		Jo
Prayers	Joan & John Parker	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	10th December Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhonda Tursi	17th December Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney
FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):		
Natimuk	\$ 25.00	Murtoa \$ 114.00
Horsham	\$ 979.00	Dimboola \$ 39.00
Total		\$ 1157.00
2nd Collection (Parish Account)		
Envelopes	\$ 1559.00	Loose \$ 77.90
Total		\$ 1636.50

Making Connections: Waiting is the dominant symbolic activity for Advent. It is difficult for modern humans to spend time waiting. We are so used to technology making things happen almost instantly and tend to become frustrated at being made to wait. But the waiting of Advent is an active waiting, not a frittering away of time. It is a waiting spent in preparation and reflection. **Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!** This invocation of Christ is one of the most ancient prayers of the Church. It conveys the sense of urgency felt by the first believers and their hope for a swift union with Christ. It is a fine short prayer to use often during Advent. **Advent is** a 4 week season of preparation for Christmas. During this time we reflect on the coming of Christ into human history as a small baby, the coming of Christ at the end of time and the coming of Christ into our own lives each day. Thus Advent has a past, present and future dimension. **Marriage Tip:** Can social media harm your marriage? Set clear boundaries when it comes to using technology in your home. Instead, make time for quality time with your spouse. **Daily Prayer:** Keep us faithful to building your kingdom, alert to your presence in those around us, and blameless in our witness until the dawning of the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was, is and who is to come. **A Vocation View:** It's Advent; almost Christmas! A Season of dreams come true. Be on guard. The Lord may call you to follow Him.

Country Mass Times:

Sunday Dec 10: Dimboola 8.30.
Murtoa 10.30am
Sunday Dec 17: Dimboola 8.30am
Murtoa 10.30am
Sunday Dec 24: Natimuk 8.30
Murtoa 10.30

Christmas Eve Sunday Dec 24th: Murtoa 5pm. Nhill 5pm Dimboola 7pm

Sunday Dec 31: Dimboola 8.30
Murtoa 8.30. Nhill 10am
New Year's Day: Horsham 10am



The Year of Youth

The Australian Bishops will celebrate the Liturgical year of 2018, beginning today, the first Sunday of Advent, as a national Year of Youth

The Year of Youth theme is Open New Horizons for Spreading Joy, Anointed and Sent.

How might we celebrate locally? Year of Youth information is on the Ballarat Diocese website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/Youth and Young Adult pages, or email youth@ballarat.catholic.org.au

The Year of Youth aims:

- To prayerfully discern the vision for ministry with young people,
- Authentic, personal engagement in the challenges and successes in young people's lives;
- acknowledging the Holy Spirit at work in the lives of young people, and young people acting upon the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church;
- upholding the dignity of young people, ensuring a safe environment from physical, emotional and spiritual harm. The Year of Youth is focused on local renewal and engagement.

If interested please see Fr Peter. More information visit:

ADVENT PROGRAM 2017

- Eileen McManus Advent program in the Church meeting room each Monday at 10am
Contact Eileen on 5382 4745
 - **Lesley Price** will run a group on an evening. Contact Lesley on 0408 369 487.
 - **Sr Jacinta** will run a Group too.
- If you wish to do the Program at home you can collect a booklet from the parish office at \$5 per



Jesse Tree Appeal

St Vincent de Paul Society Jesse Tree Christmas Appeal 2017 will again be distributing Christmas hampers to those less fortunate than most of us. Over the years as a Parish you have been extremely generous when we have sought your assistance. Last Christmas over 130 families and individuals received hampers/gifts as a result of your generosity. **The Vinnies Shop is in urgent need of volunteers to help in the Shop and with clothing sorting etc. If you can help please phone Heather or Pat at the Shop, 5382 4003, or just call in. You will need a Working with Children's card.**



The Immaculate Conception means that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain – that is what "immaculate" means: without stain. Original sin is the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings

DID YOU ATTEND ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE



IN THE 60's, 70's, 80's, 90's, '00's?



Centenary Celebrations 2020. Please email us at 100@stbc.vic.edu.au with name, contact details, years you at SBC.



Children's Story at 7pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

We invite children to participate in this story. Please contact Alison McKinnon at SMJ School if your child can participate.

End of the Year School Masses and Graduations

St Brigid's College Tuesday December 12th at 6pm in SMJ Church.

OLHC School Murtoa Monday December 18th at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church Murtoa.

SMJ School Wednesday December 20th at 12 noon in SMJ Church.

St Patrick's School Nhill at 6pm Wednesday December 20th in St Patrick's Church.

Srs Manuela and Tirsia pray the Rosary in the Church each Thursday and Friday at 4pm. You are welcome to join them anytime



Today Sunday December 3rd is International Day for the Disabled.

We rejoice in the ability of those with a disability.



The Church honours this day to encourage a truly pastoral view that embraces our total community as the living Body of Christ. May we be a people of compassion and relationship, and be a sacred place where our gifts are acknowledged, received and celebrated;

There are no flowers in the Church in Advent



Fr Peter is having an angiogram this Friday Dec 8th at Footscray Private Hospital. Fr John will be with Fr Damian for Masses next weekend, December 9/10.

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Chris Robarts (Chair), Peter Gutteridge, Andrea Cox, Fr Peter, Lesley Price, Alison McKinnon, Daryl Wren, Bob Pritchett, Garry Heinrich, Marg Lingham, Joan Lane-Storey, Anita Masiero (Secre)

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has 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. Our Parish seeks to always be a child safe Parish

1st Reading Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

You, Lord, yourself are our Father, Our Redeemer is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down - at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours is like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 79:2-3. 15-16.

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved. O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see, Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your

teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Acclamation: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

Gospel Reflection – 1st Sunday of Advent. Veronica Lawson rsm.

"Eyes wide open" is the proper stance for gospel people. The little parable that is the gospel reading for this first Sunday of the new liturgical year forms the conclusion to Mark's so-called apocalyptic discourse. Apocalyptic literature emerged within Judaism in the context of crisis or persecution. It was intended to provide hope in the midst of disaster: God's coming can reverse the sufferings of the present. The Markan discourse is delivered as a farewell teaching to the inner circle of Jesus' disciples. The concluding verse indicates that it is intended for a wider audience, however: "what I say to you, I say to all..." Like Peter, James, and John, Christian disciples through the ages are invited to stay awake, to be on the lookout, to be alert. This cycle of the liturgical year begins and ends with Mark

13 and a focus on the end of the present order of things. It may seem strange to begin the year with such a reflection. Is Advent not a time of preparation for Christmas, for the coming of the Christ child into the world? Mark has no account of the birth of Jesus. His gospel begins with the immediate preparation for the adult ministry of Jesus. From the very outset, his interest is in the coming of God's reign of justice and compassion. That is, in fact, what Advent is about: living in hopeful expectation that God's dream for a transformed world might be realised. The parable of the watchful gatekeeper forms the conclusion to a farewell discourse that the Markan Jesus addresses to his disciples. The disciples are told to be alert and watchful through the four watches of the Roman night: in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, and at dawn. The parable thus foreshadows

aspects of Jesus' suffering that was to be compounded by the abandonment of his closest friends. Peter, James, and John will fall asleep in Gethsemane. The disciples will all disperse and Peter will deny him. We find our own experience mirrored in that of the disciples. It is easy to lose hope in the face of overwhelming violence and even to lose focus. Advent is about recognising our own tendency to be less than vigilant and even to turn away when our presence is most needed. It is about allowing the grace of God to take hold in our hearts, keeping us watchful for the sake of those on the edge and for the sake of a regenerated Earth. Most of us would agree that our Earth communities are in crisis. We need to be alert to causes as well as to consequences so that the cycles of violence might eventually be broken. Our gospel asks no less of us.

Next Week's Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not

fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

Advent is the season of new beginnings. A new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and it beckons to us with images of transformation and hope. It is the season of the impossible becoming possible. In the scriptures we read of the dry, barren wilderness bursting into bloom; of broken hearts healing; of a barren woman and a young virgin both conceiving children. It is the season of longing and light. Week by week, candles are lit on the

Advent wreath signifying our longing for the light of Christ, as the time of his birth draws near. Advent heralds more than Christ's birth. It paves our way toward celebrating Christ as God-with-us, Emmanuel, God in human flesh. This is a profound mystery at the heart of our faith, and it is the cause of our joy at Christmas



Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to Emilia Marchesini on her 90th

birthday on December 2nd.