



St Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill



BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Advent - 24th December 2017



4TH SUNDAY @ Advent

JESSE TREE

The Jesse Tree is decorated with Advent symbols.

You are invited to place gifts under the tree for children

(please write age & gender),

and non-perishable food. 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 9.45pm. Mass 10.15pm.

Monday Dec 25: Horsham
Mass 9am

Sunday December 24th:
Christmas Mass Murtoa 5pm.
Christmas Mass Dimboola 7pm.
Christmas Mass Nhill 5pm

FROM FR. PETER

Fr Peter gives thanks to God for his successful heart bypass surgery, and expresses his sincere thanks to you all for your prayers, best wishes and care. He will spend Christmas and New Year with his sister Marie at Sunshine, where he will continue post-operative cardiac care. May God bless you all with every joy and peace this Christmas and new Year.

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.

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



We welcome Fr John and Fr Justin who will celebrate the Masses for the weekend and Christmas.

We thank them for their help during Fr Peter's absence.

Bishop's Christmas letter is now available in the foyer. Grab one today

New Year's Day Mass will be at 10am in the Horsham Church



We welcome in Baptism to the Family of God :
Svena Ruth Franciscu
Hettige Silva
daughter of Franciscu and Patna

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday 26th Dec	No Mass	
Wednesday 27th Dec	9.30am	Terry McManus Anniversary
Thursday 28th Dec	9.30am	Olive Tobin Anniversary
Friday 29th Dec	9.30am	Ivan Szczur Anniversary
Saturday 30th 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: Patrick Smith—brother of Gerry (Warrnambool)

ANNIVERSARIES: Olive Tobin, Dymp Sleeman, Terry McManus, Celina Ellis, Muriel Omant, Warren Strauss, Bob Wallis, Terry Wallis, Fr John Murphy

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

Emergency Care: Contact Betty 53826688

Each Saturday Morning:

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9am. Rosary 9.20am
Prayer of the Church 9.40. Mass 10am. Confessions 10.25**

**Next Sunday 5th Sunday of the Month
Feast of the Holy Family December 31st 2017**

Horsham **Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday - 10.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday AWC8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

**Rosary, Litany of Mary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
SMJ 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 will resume again on the 3rd Thursday in February at 7.30am. 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 beginning in 2018 in February. 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

Daily Prayer: Great and merciful God, from among this world's lowly and humble you choose your servants and call them to work with you to fulfil your loving plan of salvation. By the power of your Spirit, make your church fertile and fruitful, that, imitating the obedient faith of Mary, the church may welcome your word of life and so become the joyful mother of countless offspring, a great and holy posterity of children destined for undying life.

A Vocation View: Every person who has ever born a child, and every person who has freely vowed away this honour, helps in some mysterious way to bring Jesus Christ into this world again. Can you say: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord"?

Piety Stall: Columban Calendars \$8 and Christmas Cards

ROSTERS

23/24 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Eucharistic Ministers	Joan Parker Tess Hayes Sr Tirsa Silvanna Foster Anthony Amor Geoff Simpson Ann Hermans	Sr Manuela Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon Anna Robertson Kingsley Dalgleish Karen Hill Neville Strachan
Commentator	Maree Plazzer	Anthony Dowling
30/31 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Emelia Sudholz	Andrea Cox
Commentator	Tess Hayes	Michael Connellan
Eucharistic Ministers	Joan Parker Tess Hayes Sr Tirsa Silvanna Foster Anthony Amor Ann Hermans	Sr Manuela Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon Anna Robertson Kingsley Dalgleish Karen Hill Neville Strachan
Projector	Anita Masiero	Geoff Simpson
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Bill & Josie Phelan	Zita Cannane Mary Dalgleish
Prayers	Alison McKinnon & Anna Robertson	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	31st December Pat O'Connor Win Stephens Barbara Connellan	7th January 2018 Carolyn Boseley Gwen Antonucci Carmel O'Connor Anna Carberry

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 71.00
Horsham	\$ 859.00	Dimboola	\$ 52.00
Total			\$ 982.00

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 1564.00	Loose	\$ 70.00
Total			\$ 1634.00

Making Connections: Mary's perfect 'yes' to God's will establishes her as a model of discipleship. What are you called to say 'yes' to, to enable God to live within you? Like Mary, who called on her elderly kinswoman when she was in need, call on someone this week who may be in need of company or support.

Did you Know?: Points of interest and Catholic lore. From the time of the Exile in Babylon, Israel had longed for the Messiah to come. He was to be the anointed one of God and the prophets foretold that he would come from the House of David and be born in David's home town of Bethlehem. According to Luke's Gospel, Mary and Joseph live in Nazareth in the north and travel to Bethlehem to be counted in the census because Joseph is of David's line and must return to his 'home' country.

Sharing the Tradition: The Second Vatican Council emphasised Mary's role as the first disciple and model for all disciples. As such she is Mother of the Church and Mother of God. The title 'Mother of God' conveys one of the truths of Christianity: that Jesus Christ, Son of God is also the son of Mary, a human being. It expressed the mystery of the Incarnation where God became flesh and dwelt among us.

Living the Word: God does not always act in grand or expected ways, nor does God manipulate human response. God simply invites collaboration and we, like Mary, must respond freely.

Marriage Tip: As we wait for Christmas, it's a good time to develop the virtue of patience. Focus on being patient today, especially with your family members. Offer up the frustrations that come from things not going the way you had planned.

Country Mass Times:

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

Sunday Dec 31: Murtoa Mass 8.30
Dimboola AWC 8.30

New Year's Day: Horsham 10am

January 7th: Dimboola Mass 8.30
Murtoa AWC 9.00am

COLLECTIONS AT OUR CHRISTMAS MASSES.

The 1st Collection is for the support of our Priests and Parish.

The 2nd Collection is the Bishop's Annual Christmas Appeal. Your generosity in the past has helped our Diocese support missions in the north, New Guinea, Pacific, Philippines Typhoon recovery

Christmas Dues Envelopes support our retired priests and needy parishes. *You can place these on the Collection plate*

Thank you for your support and generosity



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.

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.

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

COUGHLIN PARK BOWLS CLUB

New Years Eve Cabaret
Community Centre
31st December 2017
8pm

\$15 per head with light supper
Entertainment by Tony and
Cynthia Lawrence.
Contact Judy Bryan on
0408 824 890 for numbers.

GREENERY AND FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS

Teresa Bottoms has once again agreed to do the flowers for Christmas.

If you are able to donate any greenery and white agapanthus could you please leave them at the back of the church (in a bucket of water) by **TODAY Sunday 24th December.**
Thanking you in advance.

CHRISTMAS MINISTRY FOR 2017

Family Mass—7pm

SMJ Children

Projector: Gabby Mills

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Parker, Noreen O'Connor, Cate Rigby, Sr Manuela, Micky Robarts, Anna Robertson, Karen Hill

Music: Chris Robarts

10.15pm Mass with Carols 9.45am

Commentator: Kingsley Dalglish

Reader: Eileen McManus

Projector: Anita Masiero

Eucharistic Ministers: Lorraine Clancy, Bob Pritchett, Bob & Tess Hayes, Maree Plazzer, Mary Dalglish, Cath Taylor, Kingsley Dalglish, Neville Strachan

Gospel Procession: Dalglish Family

Christmas Day Mass—9am

Projector: Shayne Keenan

Commentator: Bob Pritchett

Reader: Louise Kemp

Eucharistic Ministers: Tim Lannen, Lynda Hutchinson, Sr Tirsa, Sr Jacinta, Sr Manuela, Lesley Lannen



**HAPPY 90TH
BIRTHDAY** to
Audrey Merrett for
December 22nd. May all
God's blessing be on you.

Notice sheets & rosters

Over January please be aware of any vacancies to rostered ministries. If you are there and can help, please do so. It would be greatly appreciated.

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, Cathy Grace, Anita Masiero (Sec)

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: 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

Once David had settled into his house and the Lord had given him rest from all the enemies surrounding him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, 'Look, I am living in a house of cedar while the ark of God dwells in a tent.' Nathan said to the king, 'Go and do all that is in your mind, for the Lord is with you.' But that very night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: 'Go and tell my servant David, "Thus the Lord speaks: Are you the man to build me a house to dwell in? I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be leader of my people Israel; I have been with you on all your expeditions; I have cut off all your enemies before you. I will give you fame as great as the fame of the greatest on earth. I will provide a place for my people Israel; I will plant them there and they shall dwell in that place and never be disturbed again; nor shall the wicked continue to oppress them as they did, in the days when I appointed judges over my people Israel; I will give them rest from all their enemies. The Lord will make you great; the Lord will make you a House. And when your days are ended and you are laid to rest with your ancestors, I will preserve the offspring of your body after you and make his sovereignty secure. I will be a father to him and he a son to me. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever.'"

Resp Psalm: Ps 88:2-5. 27. 29

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens.

'I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: I will establish your dynasty for ever and set up your throne through all ages.'

He will say to me: 'You are my father, my God, the rock who saves me.' I will keep my love for him always; for him my covenant shall endure.

For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Glory to him who is able to give you the strength to live according to the Good News I preach, and in which I proclaim Jesus Christ, the revelation of a mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere to bring them to the obedience of faith. This is only what scripture has predicted, and it is all part of the way the eternal God wants things to be. He alone is wisdom; give glory therefore to him through Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Acclamation Luke 1:38

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. He went in and said to her, 'Rejoice, so highly favoured! The Lord is with you.' She was deeply disturbed by these words and asked herself what this greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, 'Mary, do not be afraid; you have won God's favour. Listen! You are to conceive and bear a son, and you must name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David; he will rule over the House of Jacob for ever and his reign will have no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?' 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you' the angel answered 'and the power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God. Know this too: your kinswoman Elizabeth has, in her old age, herself conceived a son, and she whom people called barren is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible to God.' 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary 'let what you have said be done to me.' And the angel left her.

Next Week's Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the

Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret

thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.