



St Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

BULLETIN

Feast of the Holy Family—31st December 2017



New Year's Day Mass will be at 10am in the Horsham Church
The Baptism of our Lord Feast Day Mass will be on January 8th at 10am

We welcome Fr John

Making Connections: What holds families together is a commitment to love and serve each other in good times and bad. This is what allows families to grow in maturity and wisdom.

Did you Know?: Points of interest and Catholic lore. According to Jewish Law, after giving birth a woman had to undergo a purification which consisted of a ritual bathing and the offering of a sacrifice. The offering of turtle doves or pigeons was the offering of the poor. Also according to Jewish Law, the first born male child of a family was dedicated to God in acknowledgment that all life comes from God. Mary and Joseph were devout and observant Jews.

Sharing the Tradition: The feast of the Holy Family is a rather new feast in the Church's calendar. It was instituted by Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) at a time when the Industrial Revolution and other social forces were destructive of family life. The Catechism of the Catholic Church describes the Christian family as 'a communion of persons, a sign and image of the communion of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit' (§2205). It calls on society to support and strengthen families, but it notes that family ties are not absolute. For the Christian, following Jesus is always the first priority.

Marriage Tip: Don't put away your Christmas decorations yet! Remember that Christmas isn't just a day, but a whole season. So keep singing those Christmas carols and rejoicing in the birth of Our Lord.

Daily Prayer: O God, Give to parents the life giving fruitfulness of your own divine love. To daughters and sons give wisdom, godliness and grace. Make us all grow as your own Son did within the holy family to the praise and glory of your name.

A Vocation View: The Old Law said that every first born male shall be dedicated to the Lord. Is there a priest, deacon, brother, or sister from your family? Now is the time for families to encourage a vocation!

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 needy 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

The Office will be closed on Monday 1st January 2018 and re-open on Tuesday 2nd January 2018

God of Newness

At this time of year, you invite me to imitate both Mary and Joseph. You call me to listen carefully to dreams, strangers, intuitions and angels, You call me to ask questions with an open heart and mind, You call me to respond with courage and trust, You call me to bring the precious, fragile and delicate message of love to birth in the world. Amen.

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$ 32.00	Murtoa	\$ 292.00
Horsham	\$ 728.00	Dimboola	\$ 150.00
Total		\$ 1202.00	

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 2292.00	Loose	\$ 70.45
Total		\$ 2362.45	

Presbytery Christmas Collection \$ 1520.00

Bishops Christmas Appeal \$ 2538.05

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday 1st January	10.00am	New Year's Day
Tuesday 2nd Jan	5.30pm	Sts Basil & Gregory
Wed 3rd Jan	9.30am	
Thursday 4th Jan	9.30am	
Friday 5th Jan	9.30am	
Saturday 6th Jan	10am	

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.

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:

ANNIVERSARIES: Michael Ryan, Con Ryan

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 1st Sunday of the Month
Feast of the Epiphany January 7th 2018**

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

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday AWC 9.00am**

Country Mass Times:

Jan 7th: Dimboola Mass 8.30, Murtoa AWC 9am
Nhill Mass 5pm

Jan 14th:- Dimboola AWC 8.30, Murtoa Mass 8.30am

Jan 21st:- Dimboola Mass 8.30am, Murtoa AWC 9.00am
Nhill Mass 5pm

Jan 28th: - Dimboola AWC 8.30am, Murtoa AWC 9.00am
Natimuk: Mass 8.30am

ROSTERS

30/31 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Eucharistic Ministers	Joan Parker Tess Hayes Sr Tirsa Silvanna Foster Anthony Amor Ann Hermans	Sr Manuela Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon Anna Robertson Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill Neville Strachan
Commentator	Tess Hayes	Michael Connellan
6/7 Jan 2018	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Peter Gutteridge	Michael Connellan
Commentator	Sr Jacinta Rice	Andrea Cox
Eucharistic Ministers	Maree Plazzer Bernadette Trounce Ann Hermans Anne Newton Bob Hayes Joan Parker Tess Hayes	Mary Dalglish Sr Manuela Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon Anna Robertson Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill
Projector	Anita Masiero	Gabby Mills
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Men's Choir
Welcomers	Connie Besselaar Gavin Hynam	Mary Dowsley Nanette Freckleton
Prayers	Mary Brown & Anita Masiero	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	7th January 2018 Carolyn Boseley Gwen Antonucci Carmel O'Connor Anna Carberry	14th January 2018 Pauline Barber Pat Williams Louise Guest Kate Hermon-Spasic

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6. 21:1-3

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great'. 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless.' Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir'. And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood'. Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised her. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8. 11-12. 17-19

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

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.

Responsorial Psalm and Acclamation are on the overhead screen today