

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill



BULLETIN

1st Sunday of Lent - 18th February 2018



PRAYER FOR SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source and creator of all healing power. We entrust all who are sick to your loving care.

We pray your blessings upon those who care in their own homes, and those who work 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 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 their 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, to 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

Diocesan Liturgy Formation Day next Sunday February 25

There has been a change to the format of the day.

Bishop Paul will celebrate SMJ Mass at 10.30am.

Then we will gather in the Parish Centre, where Bishop Paul will have a session on Liturgy. There will be an opportunity for question time. Bishop Paul will bring Resources from the proposed workshops on Funeral, Sacraments, and Lectors, for us to take and ask questions on.

Timeline for the day:

10.30am Mass.
11.45am – 1.00pm session with Bishop Paul in the Parish Centre.
1pm - finishing with lunch.

Please let Anita know if you will be attending this day, and staying for lunch, for catering purposes.

All Parishioners are welcome to this Session with Bishop Paul

The Staffs of our Parish Schools SMJ, SBC, OLHC, will be commissioned for the year at 10.30 Mass on Sunday March 4th. There will be morning tea after Mass for us to meet the Staff.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday at 7pm in SMJ Church



We welcome Fr John this weekend. I am deeply grateful to John for being present to our Parish in my time away.

Anointing Mass this Thursday February 22nd at the Lutheran Home at 10.30am.

Liturgy Meeting this Thursday February 22 at 9.30am in the Meeting Room.

We welcome in Baptism to the Family of God



Phoebe & Connor Parish
the twin children of Joseph and Brooke

SBC Opening Mass is on Tuesday February 27th at 9.30am in SMJ Church. All families are welcome

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

Tuesday 20th Feb	5.30pm	
Wed 21st Feb	9.30am	St Peter Damian
Thursday 22nd Feb	10.30am	Anointing Mass at Lutheran. Chair of St Peter
Friday 23rd Feb	AWC 9.30	
Saturday 24th Feb	10.00am	Special Intentions

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: Jack Delahunty, Rosary Edwards.

ANNIVERSARIES: Joan and Jack Coffey

SICK: Corey Panozzo, Ruby Spasic, Kobe Davidson, Peter Kelly, Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Joy Flynn, Jean Ivess, Joan Glen, Judy Francisco, Xavier Reicha, Terry Turvey, Debbie Nolan, Lorraine Holland, Ken Dowsley, Peter Oakley, Jill & Christine Higginbottom, Maureen Ryan, 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 3rd Sunday of the Month
2nd Sunday in Lent 25th February 2018**

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

Dimboola **Sunday AWC 8.30am**

Natimuk **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. **Please Note: there will be no preparation during the month of March**

CHOIR PRACTICE 2nd Wednesday 6pm in the Church

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

• Our Schools appreciate your collecting Coles coupons, please place them in the box in SMJ Church foyer.

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Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God is a call to live out God's transformative dream of right relationship with one another and with our world. To accept this call requires a change of heart and mind and a new worldview based on living the kingdom of God. This is a challenge to be counter-cultural - to go 'against the flow' of the majority attitudes at times. It is certainly not an 'easy option' that we are called to live. Jesus' call to 'repent and believe' is a very appropriate call to begin the Lenten season.

ROSTERS

17/18 Feb	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
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Eucharistic Ministers	Tess Hayes Sr Tirsa Silvana Foster Anthony Amor Geoff Simposon Ann Hermans Lorraine Clancy	Bob Pritchett Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalgleish Sr Manuela Zita Cannane Alison McKinnon
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Commentator	Maree Plazzer	Andrea Cox
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24/25 Feb	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
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Readers	Betty Heinrich	Alison McKinnon
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Commentator	Anthony Amor	Anna Robertson
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Eucharistic Ministers	John Parker Sr Jacinta Rice Simon Lynch Micky Robarts Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer	Kingsley Dalgleish Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Anna Robertson Rosie Taylor Andrea Cox
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Projector	Anita Masiero	Gabby Mills
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Musicians	Chris Robarts	Teresa Bottoms
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Welcomers	Connie Besselaar Gavin Hynam	Mary Dowsley Nanette Freckleton
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Children's Liturgy	Emelia	
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Prayers	Lesley Price & Mary Dalgleish	
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Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	25th February Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker	4th March Pat O'Connor Win Stephens Barbara Connellan
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FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$	Murtoa	\$ 69.00
Horsham	\$ 780.00	Dimboola	\$ 173.00
Total			\$ 1022.00

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 4531.00	Loose	\$ 52.40
Total			\$ 4583.40

Making Connections: How do you experience 'the wilderness' in your life? What are the 'wild beasts' for you in this place? Who or what looks after you? Did you know?: **Points of interest:** Lent lasts for forty days in imitation of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness. Each Lent all the baptised are expected to adopt the three Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving **Sharing the Tradition:** What is the meaning of 'penance'? Discuss appropriate expressions of 'penance' during Lent, including the possibility of 'taking on' rather than 'giving up'. **Living the Word:** The image of the desert evokes thoughts of confronting life in all its rawness. The starkness of the landscape of the Judean wilderness is overwhelming. Lent symbolically invites us into the desert, to reflect on what is really important and to live in closer union with God. **Marriage Tip:** Have fun, often. Go out on a date. Get away for a night alone. If you have kids, get a babysitter. You should date at least once a month; once a week is best. Don't expect a time slot for a date to fall out of the sky; you'll both have to be intentional about scheduling time alone. **Daily Prayer:** O God, the cross of Christ is traced on our foreheads, a sign of the mystery that seals our lives. Bring us through these forty days in the power of Christ's victory as at the font of living water we find new birth, the penitent find pardon, and all of us rejoice.

Country Mass Times:

Sunday Feb 25: Natimuk Mass 8.30. Murtoa 10.30
Dimboola Mass 8.30

Sunday Mar 4: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 8.30. Nhill 10am

Sunday Mar 12: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30am

Sunday Mar 19: Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30am

Sunday Mar 25 - Palm Sunday: Dimboola 8.30.

Natimuk 8.30. Nhill 10. Murtoa 8.30



1st Sunday of Lent - Janaki from Nepal

Janaki is a young entrepreneur from Nepal, who has turned her life around. Growing up in a world of poverty and disadvantage, coupled with a forced marriage at the age of twelve, she was in a very vulnerable position. Even more so when her husband died just two years into their marriage. With the help of a Caritas Australia supported program she is now running her own successful sewing business and has become an inspirational community leader.

Project Compassion Boxes and Sets of Envelopes are in Church foyers

“If you want peace, work for justice.” (Pope Paul VI)

This Tuesday 20th February is World Day of Social Justice. Social Justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

In the Foyers today is an article for you to take from Archbishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, on behalf of the Australian Church, in response to the Age article on the 'wealth of the Catholic Church in Australia'. Anthony points out the contribution the Church has made to all areas of Australian services and life, and has a lot of assets. He says 'it is misleading to lump these together as "the wealth of the Church" at the disposal of the Bishops. We, the Parishes own our Schools and Churches, with the hard work of you and our forebears down through the years. The Bishops do not own our Parish Assets. To compare the Church to big corporates fail for another reason; companies make money for their shareholders, the Church spends its resources on people and services. The Church was the first to back the national redress scheme for victims of abuse.

Please take the article and see what is the Church's position in our everyday life.

LENTEN REGULATIONS – 2018

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.

On all other Fridays, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled through any of the following:

(a) Prayer: Mass attendance; family prayer, a visit to the church, reading the Bible, making the Stations of the Cross, praying the rosary.

(b) Self-denial: not eating meat, not eating sweets or desserts, reduce time for TV or other entertainments.

(c) Helping others- taking the family to visit the elderly in old people's home or the lonely in the parish.

♦ Catholics should receive holy communion at least once a year, from Ash Wednesday and Trinity Sunday.

♦ Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. The law of fasting binds those who have completed their 18th year, until the beginning of their 60th year; the law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year.

Lenten Discussion Groups

Using the Wollongong Program "Surrender"

Eileen McManus on Thursdays after Mass at 10am

Lesley Price starting Wednesday 14th at 7.30pm

Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in being a part of either group or run your own group. There are 30 in other Groups.

70 Parishioners are either in a Group or studying the Program individually - wonderful!
Lenten Books \$10 each if you wish to do it alone.

NATIMUK MEN'S HEALTH NIGHT

Sponsored by the Natimuk Men's Shed

this Thursday 22nd February

at The Pavilion, Natimuk Showgrounds.

Begins at 7pm with a BBQ tea

- Main speaker will be Stuart Willder, a Men's Health Nurse Practitioner
- Guest speaker will be **David Parkin**, former AFL coach and an advocate for men's health and fitness.
- Michelle Barber, a Community District Nurse, will be available to conduct blood pressure testing. **All men and youth welcome.**
- RSVP by 16/2/18 to Robert Niehus (0407 484 472)

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has Bob Pritchett as our Safeguarding Officer. We have a **Child Safety Policy** for the safety and wellbeing of children in our care. A **Child Safety Code of Conduct** exists for all who work with children in the Parish. Our Parish will always be child safe.

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

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

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

God spoke to Noah and his sons, 'See, I establish my Covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; also with every living creature to be found with you, birds, cattle and every wild beast with you: everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I establish my Covenant with you: nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood. There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again.' God said, 'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you and every living creature with you for all generations: I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth. When I gather the clouds over the earth and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the Covenant between myself and you and every living creature of every kind. And so the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all things of flesh.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24:4-9

Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour. Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Christ himself, innocent though he was, died once for sins, died for the guilty, to lead us to God. In the body he was put to death, in the spirit he was raised to life, and, in the spirit, he went to preach to the spirits in prison. Now it was long ago, when Noah was still building that ark which saved only a small group of eight people 'by water', and when God was still waiting patiently, that these spirits refused to believe. That water is a type of the baptism which saves you now, and

which is not the washing off of physical dirt but a pledge made to God from a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has entered heaven and is at God's right hand, now that he has made the angels and Dominations and Powers his subjects.

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: Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him. After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

Gospel Reflection: 1st Sunday of Lent: Veronica Lawson RSM

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 to consider how we might respond to the pain of the world and of its inhabitants. It is a time for personal as well as group reflection, a time for entering into "the wilderness" and for grappling with the mysteries of life. It is a time of preparation for Easter when we will renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the greatest mysteries of our faith. The gospel reading invites us to reflect on Jesus' forty-day experience in "the wilderness". Jesus is said to be "filled with the Holy Spirit" and, like so many human beings 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 original Greek term than is "tempted"]. Forty is a symbolic 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. The wilderness of Judah, with its unique desert flora and fauna, its wadis and waterholes, is ever so real. At the same time it functions symbolically in the narrative. 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" (Deuteronomy 8:2). Jesus now passes the tests that Israel failed in the

wilderness. Jesus is "with the wild beasts". This terse statement recalls the prophet Isaiah's vision of a future time of reconciliation and harmony when "the wolf will lie down with the lamb" (Isaiah 11:6-9). Jesus is presented as the one who ushers in that age of peace and healing of division. God's agents care for him in his time of testing: "angels minister to him". In this context, Jesus announces the coming of God's empire or reign. His message is to "repent" or to "think beyond" in a way that might turn lives around in God's direction, and to "believe the good news" that he is set to proclaim in word and action. At a time of growing divide between the mega-rich and the desperately poor, we might look back to our symbolic tradition and forward to ways of bringing good news to those mostly deeply affected by the inequities in our world.

Next Sunday's Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the

Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus. As they came down the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean

Happy Chinese New Year
It is the year of the Dog. We thank God for our pet dogs, farm dogs and greyhounds.
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Priests' Retreat
The annual Diocesan Priests' Retreat is this week at Hall's Gap. Father Peter will attend the Priests Dinner on Monday, but not the Retreat. Please pray for our Priests.

