



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill



BULLETIN

2nd Sunday of Lent - 25th 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 TODAY Sunday February 25

We welcome Bishop Paul Bird to celebrate SMJ 10.30 Mass.

We are invited to gather in the Parish Centre after 10.30 Mass, 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 to ask questions. 1pm the Session finishes with lunch.

All Parishioners are welcome to this Session with Bishop Paul

 **STATIONS OF THE CROSS Friday at 5pm in SMJ Church**

World Day of Prayer this Friday March 2nd

U.C Horsham at 10am.
Natimuk U.C. at 10am.
Dimboola Catholic Ch at 10.
 The host country is Suriname, in northern South America, and the theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good!" All are welcome to attend.

We welcome the Autumn Season with March 1st. We pray for the Autumn rains to fall to bring life to our soil in preparation for the sowing of seed.

The Staffs of our Parish Schools SMJ, SBC, OLHC, will be Commissioned for the School Year at 10.30 Mass next Sunday March 4th. There will be Morning Tea after Mass for us to meet the Staff.

♦ The Autumn edition of Australian Catholics is in the Church Foyers today, for your taking

From the Liturgy Meeting

• Holy Week Liturgies were planned. We seek more **adult Parishioners to participate in the Washing of the Feet Ceremony at Holy Thursday Mass.** When the Roster is placed in the Church please offer yourself.



SBC Opening Mass
 this Tuesday Febru 27th at 9.30am in SMJ Church. All families are welcome

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

Tuesday 27th Feb	9.30am	SBC Opening Mass
Wed 28th Feb	9.30am	Therese Pothiyittel anniv.
Thursday Mar 1st	11am	Funeral Mass for Peter Oakley
Friday Mar 2nd	9.30am	
Saturday Mar 3rd	10.00am	

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: Peter Oakley, Gavin Sproule, Marj Challman (Wangaratta, sister of Leo Egan)

ANNIVERSARIES: Therese Pothiyittel, Thomas Karras, Edward Jackman

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

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 1st Sunday of the Month
3rd Sunday in Lent 4th March 2018**

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

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Nhill **Sunday Mass 10.00am**

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

**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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Plenary Council - Towards 2020 A Plenary Council provides an occasion for the whole Church to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to our Church. The previous Plenary Council was held in Australia in 1937. **The official launch for Towards 2020 will be on Pentecost Sunday May 20th. From 21st April to 7th May, 12 Redemptorist Priests will lead a 'mini mission' throughout the Diocese - with 4 of them in the Northern Zone.** The hope is that all Catholics, active and disaffected in any way, will take the opportunity to help plan and have a say in the future of our Australian Church. This is an open consultation 'everything about and in the Church is on the table'!

ROSTERS

24/25 Feb	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Eucharistic Ministers	John Parker Sr Jacinta Rice Simon Lynch Micky Robarts Cathy Taylor Pat Glaubitz	Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Anna Robertson Rosie Taylor
Commentator	Anthony Amor	Anna Robertson
3/4 Mar	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Maree Plazzer	Kingsley Dalglish
Commentator	John Parker	Alison McKinnon
Eucharistic Ministers	Bernadette Trounce Ann Hermans Anne Newton Bob Hayes Joan Parker Tess Hayes	Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalglish Sr Manuela
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Gabby Mills
Musicians	Phillipino Choir	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Garry & Betty	Angela Stephens
Children's Liturgy		Jo
Prayers	Darryl & Maree Wren	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	4th March Pat O'Connor Win Stephens Barbara Connellan	11th March Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley
FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):		
Natimuk	\$	Murtoa \$ 119.00
Horsham	\$ 941.00	Dimboola \$ 33.00
Total		\$ 1060.00
2nd Collection (Parish Account)		
Envelopes	\$ 1192.00	Loose \$ 20.00
Credit Cards	\$ 2630.83	
Total		\$ 3842.83

Making Connections: 'It is wonderful for us to be here.' O God, you have commanded us to listen to your beloved son. Be pleased to nourish us inwardly by your word.

Did you Know?: Points of interest and Catholic lore. The three disciples who witness Jesus' glory are the same three who will witness his agony on the Mount of Olives on the night before he died. Jesus is joined by Elijah and Moses today. They represent the Prophets and the Law, major sections of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Sharing the Tradition: Christians believe that Christ is the definitive revelation of God. Our clearest insight into the mystery of God and our strongest hope for union with God is Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

Marriage Tip: What is the greatest temptation to your marriage? Overwork? Inattentiveness? Sports? Technology? Warranty about finances, the kids, security? Face it together.

Daily Prayer: God of Abraham and of Jesus, on the holy mountain you have provided a lamb for the atonement of our sin, an intercessor to plead for your people, a beloved Son, transfigured, as the pledge of our salvation. It is good for us to be here! Let us listen to your Son and bear witness in the world to that love from which nothing can separate us.

A Vocation View: If you need an example of a person responding to a vocational call, look at Abraham - called in old age to leave his country, father a child, then asked to sacrifice the child. What faith! Vocation is a risky response to a unique call from God

Country Mass Times:

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: **Murtoa Saturday 6.30**
Natimuk 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10.
Easter Sunday Apr 1: Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am.
Murtoa 8.30am



2nd Sunday of Lent - Rattanak from Cambodia

Rattanak is a skilled young barber, living an independent life in rural Cambodia. But it wasn't always that way. As a child he contracted polio and also became deaf. Like many people who are deaf or hard of hearing, Rattanak faced isolation, with a lack of opportunity to escape poverty. After joining the Deaf



Development Program run by Caritas Australia's partner, Maryknoll Cambodia, his life was transformed and he now supports his family

Project Compassion Boxes and Sets of Envelopes are in Church foyers

Parish based, School supported SACRAMENT PROGRAM TIMETABLE

For Year 3 Families and above

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Parent Information Meeting: Thursday March 8th in the Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

Children's First Reconciliation times:

Thursday April 26th at 5pm and 7pm in SMJ Church
Wednesday May 2nd at 5pm and 7pm in SMJ Church

Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist

Confirmation and Eucharist Parent Meeting:

Tuesday June 5th at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

Confirmation and Eucharist Mass Times:

Saturday August 11th at 6.30 Mass
Sunday August 12th at 10.30 Mass
Saturday August 18th at 6.30 Mass
Sunday August 19th at 10.30 Mass

- ◆ Families are asked to form Cluster Groups for each of the Sacrament Preparations.
- ◆ Information for each of the Sacraments will be given at the Parent Information Meetings.
- ◆ **We seek Parents and Parishioners who may wish to lead or assist at a Cluster Group. Please let Alison McKinnon or Fr Peter know if you can help in any way**
- ◆ Sacraments at Murtoa: Sunday Oct 14, 10.30 Mass

Articles for our Parish Magazine Easter Edition THE FISHERMAN

are now welcome. Articles of interest, including photos, on Parish, family, Church life, can be left at the Parish Office by March 23rd.

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 on Wednesday at 7.30pm

There are 30 people 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.

24 Hours for the Lord – Lenten Prayer

In his Lenten message for Pope Francis has invited each Diocese to have at least one Church open continuously for 24 hours for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday March 9th – Saturday March 10th. This will commence in the Cathedral at 11.00 am on Friday March 9th with the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

As part of your Lenten Fast you may wish to use THESE WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS :

- ◆ FAST FROM HURTING WORDS, SAY KIND WORDS.
- ◆ FAST FROM SADNESS, BE FILLED WITH GRATITUDE.
- ◆ FAST FROM ANGER AND BE FILLED WITH PATIENCE.
- ◆ FAST FROM PESSIMISM AND BE FILLED WITH HOPE.
- ◆ FAST FROM WORRIES AND HAVE TRUST IN GOD.
- ◆ FAST FROM COMPLAINTS, CONTEMPLATE SIMPLICITY
- ◆ FAST FROM PRESSURES AND BE PRAYERFUL.
- ◆ FAST FROM BITTERNESS AND FILL YOUR HEARTS WITH JOY.
- ◆ FAST FROM SELFISHNESS AND BE COMPASSIONATE.

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 22:1-2. 9-13. 15- God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.' When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood. Then he stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son. The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self - it is the Lord who speaks - because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth

shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 115-10. 15-19

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living. I trusted, even when I said: 'I am sorely afflicted.' O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds. A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name.

My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the living.

2nd Reading: Romans 8:31-34

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us - he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

Acclamation: cf Matthew 17:5

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! From the shining cloud, the Father's voice is heard: this is my beloved Son, hear him. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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.

Gospel Reflection: 2nd Sunday of Lent: Veronica Lawson RSM

The wilderness was the geographical and symbolic setting for last week's gospel. This week, the setting is a mountain. Wilderness and mountain remind us that God's Earth is the locus of mystery and grace, the place of encounter. The mountain, like the wilderness, links Mark's story of Jesus with the story of the Israelites. Moses' encounter with God on the mountain of Sinai was a defining moment in the life of the people: the Israelites entered into covenant with God at this mountain and received the Law that was to guide their lives as a people. The prophet Elijah returned to this mountain, experienced the presence of God in gentle breeze. In the gospel passage for today, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the

mountain and is "transfigured" in their presence. Elijah and Moses, the key prophetic figures of Israel, appear and enter into dialogue with Jesus, God's definitive prophet. The "transfiguration" seems to point to a time in Jesus' ministry when he accepts his likely fate: if he continues to challenge oppression and injustice, he is certain to encounter opposition, even death. He struggles with that realisation in the wilderness and comes to terms with what it involves on the mountain.

The voice of God reaffirms the identity of Jesus that was announced in the very first verse of the gospel and proclaimed at his baptism in the Jordan. It calls for a response from the disciples who have ascended the mountain in his company: "Listen to him". In the two scenes immediately before this one, Jesus has

spoken of the suffering that he and his followers will have to face. These words are crucial to an understanding, not only of Jesus, but of discipleship. They seem to fall on deaf ears. Peter wants to hold on to the experience of glory, to "make tents" and settle down. He prefers not to face the difficulties involved in fidelity to the mission. But that is not the way of discipleship. Like Jesus' companions, we too need the occasional glimpse of final victory. We need the courage and the good sense to follow through on the path that brings life, despite the pain. We can feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges facing us, by the opposition we sometimes experience. We have to "listen" to the invitation of Jesus and come to terms with the personal costs involved in a gospel way of life.

Next Sunday's Gospel: John 4:5-16. 19-26.

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink,

you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come

here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already—when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshiper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship