

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill



BULLETIN



4th Sunday of Lent - 11th March 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.

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

Parish Seder Meal

to commemorate the Passover of the Lord
Wednesday March 28th at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

The meal is \$8 a person.

Please fill in the sheet in the Foyer, and please indicate if you can bring a salad or a dessert. Leave it at the Office. Thank you

◆ Men's Breakfast this Thursday

March 15th 7.30am to 8.30am in the Parish Centre. Fathers and sons, single men are all welcome.

HOLY WEEK begins with Passion Sunday March 25

◆ At Palm Sunday Masses we gather outside the Church for the blessing and procession of the Palms.

◆ **Mass of the Oils** at St Patrick's Cathedral Monday March 26 at 6.30pm.

◆ **Anointing Mass** with the newly blessed Oils on Tuesday March 27 at 2pm. Cuppa in Parish Centre after Mass


◆ **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper with the Washing of Feet** at 7.30pm, with Adoration after Mass.

◆ **Good Friday Ceremony of the Lord's Passion** at 3pm.

◆ **Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection** at 7.30

We welcome visitors for all the activities in our District this long weekend. Safety and joy to you all


Rosters for HOLY WEEK and Easter are in the Foyer. Please sign for a Ministry you can assist with during Holy Week. We seek more adults for the Washing of Feet on Holy Thursday

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

We welcome Fr Damian today

◆ **Mass at Natimuk Nursing Home this Thursday March 15 at 4.15pm**

◆ **Rupanyup Home Mass this Tuesday March 13 at 6.30pm at Sue Tyler's home.**

 We welcome in Baptism to the Family of God:
Oliver Sebastian Jose
son of Stuart and Majella

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

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 13th Mar | AWC 9.30 | |
| Wednesday 14th | 9.30am | Col Bigham Funeral Mass at 2pm |
| Thursday Mar 15th | 9.30am | Pope Francis 5th anniv of Election |
| Friday Mar 16th | 9.30am | Relay for Life intentions |
| Saturday Mar 17th | 10.00am | St Patrick |

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: Fr Peter McGrath C.P, founder of the Passionist Family Groups.

ANNIVERSARIES: Alice Moloney, Bert Grigg, Phyllis Eckell

SICK: Corey Panozzo, Ruby Spasic, Kobe Davidson, Peter Kelly, Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Joy Flynn, Jean Ivess Joan Glen, Debbie Nolan, Lorrain Holland, Ken Dowsley, Jill & Christine Higginbottom, Maureen Ryan, Fleur Armstrong, Heather McPhee, Rachel O'Connor, Maurice Brennan, Daryl Dreher, Chris Velthuis, Felicity Taylor, Una Bartlet

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
5th Sunday in Lent 18th March 2018**

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. **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.

Plenary Council - Towards 2020. 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. ALL Catholics, active, and disaffected in any way, are invited to help plan and have a say in the future of our Australian Church.

♦ If you are between 16 and 29 you are invited to participate in a Pre-Synod meeting. A summary will then be presented to Pope Francis. The closing date to sign up to the Facebook group is 16th March. The questions to be asked during the Pre-Synod meeting will be available on the Facebook group this Monday. To sign up : <https://www.facebook.com/groups/pre.synodal/>

ROSTERS

| 10/11 Mar | Vigil 6.30pm | Sunday 10.30am |
|---|--|---|
| Eucharistic Ministers | John Parker Bernadette Trounce Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer Cathy Taylor Sr Jacinta Rice Sr Tirsa | Anna Robertson Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Andrea Cox |
| Commentator | John Parker | Alison McKinnon |
| 17/18 Mar | Vigil 6.30pm | Sunday 10.30am |
| Readers | Emelia Sudholz | Angela Murphy |
| Commentator | Sr Jacinta Rice | Kingsley Dalglish |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Bob Hayes Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz Geoff Simpson Anthony Amor Ann Hermans Anne Newton | Alison McKinnon Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Mary Dalglish Sr Manuela |
| Projector | Gerard Natividad | Shayne Keenan |
| Musicians | Filipino Choir | Combine Choir |
| Welcomers | Judy & Hugh Delahunty | Helene Bush Marina Manserra |
| Children's Liturgy | | Cass |
| Prayers | Mary Brown and Anita Masiero | |
| Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging | 18th March Lynda Hutchinson Helene Bush | 25th March Josie Phelan Pauline Irwin Joan Butler |

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|----------|-------------------|
| Natimuk | \$ | Murtoa | \$ 92.00 |
| Horsham | \$ 1063.00 | Dimboola | \$ 120.00 |
| Total | | | \$ 1275.00 |

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 2378.05 | Loose | \$ 81.20 |
| Credit Cards | \$ 3040.83 | Direct Debit | \$ 1876.67 |
| Total | | | \$ 7376.75 |

Making Connections: Light a candle each night this week as you pray. Proclaim God's truth and act for the light this week. Carry the light of the gospel wherever you go.

Points of interest on Catholic life. Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the ruling Council of the Jews, the Sanhedrin, He was attracted to the teaching of Jesus but was afraid to openly become a supporter so he came to see Jesus during the darkness of night. We meet Nicodemus again in John's Gospel when he brings myrrh and aloes to anoint the body of Jesus after the crucifixion (Jn 19:39). Nicodemus' journey to faith is complete as he acknowledges Jesus.

Marriage Tip: When children come along, it can be easy to focus all your attention on parenting. But don't let your kids take up all your time and neglect your spouse! Children benefit most from a strong marriage. Consider having an intentional time alone with your spouse.

Daily Prayer: O God, the author and source of all light, you gaze into the depths of our inmost hearts. Never permit the powers of darkness to hold your people captive, but open our eyes by the grace of your Spirit, that we may be able to look on your Son and see the One you sent to illuminate the world, so that, seeing, we may believe and worship Jesus.

A Vocation View: In baptism, we really become a new creation, fired with a new love, and aimed in a new direction - heaven. Let Jesus talk with you. Let Jesus challenge you.

Country Mass Times:

Sunday Mar 18: 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



Project Compassion Boxes and Sets of Envelopes are in Church foyers

Evangeline is strengthening Aboriginal culture while making a living and creating opportunities for her community. Featured in Project Compassion 2016, Evangeline went from seeking employment to being a Senior Artworker and an inspirational leader for youth. Her work at the non-profit Djilpin Arts Aboriginal Corporation has supported the



organisation's growth and it is now a major employer for young people in remote Northern Territory. Please donate to Project Compassion 2018 and help provide employment and training for First Australians, allowing them to remain on country and keep their culture alive, essential for a just future.

Parish and School SACRAMENT PROGRAM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Children's First Reconciliation times in SMJ Church:

Thursday April 26th at 5pm and 7pm.

Wednesday May 2nd at 5pm and 7pm

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

♦ Sacraments at Murtoa on Sunday Oct 14 at 10.30



Happy St Patrick's Day
next Saturday March 17th.



Today, the 4th Sunday of Lent, is called "Laetare Sunday" which means "Rejoice". Although we are in the middle of Lent we can enjoy the season in light of the joyous feast to come. Let the light and joy of Christ shine.

LENTEN PRAYER God of all peoples and nations, you accompany us on our Lenten journey. May we learn to walk your way of justice and compassion with all your people. We pray for all the people around the world who are most vulnerable to poverty and injustice. In this Year of Youth, bless young people that their efforts and generosity may build a better world. Bless our prayers, our fasting and our Lenten gifts to Project Compassion. May our hearts receive your grace as we work towards a just and renewed future at Easter

LENTEN REGULATIONS – 2018

Good Friday - A day of Fast and Abstinence from meat.

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others, as the whole Church prepares for Easter

- ♦ Catholics are obliged to receive holy communion at least once a year, between Ash Wed and Trinity Sunday
- ♦ 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 turned 14yo.

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.

Fr Peter will celebrate St Patrick's School Nhill Opening Mass this Friday 16th at 12noon.

Mass at Nhill Sunday 18th at 10am to celebrate St Pat's Day

GREENERY FOR EASTER FLOWERS and Donations of Flowers for Easter

The ladies are looking for greenery to use for the Easter flowers. If you are able to help could you please bring it to the back of the church in a bucket of water by **Wednesday**



Palms Australia

Volunteer with Palms Australia

Communities seek volunteers to mentor locals and build capacity and immerse themselves for skill exchange. If you have teaching, medical, business, admin or trade skills, share them with our global family! The Catholic Bishops Conference has agreed to support those who take up a global mission placement by providing a payment of \$2,500 for each year of mission Contact Christine at Palms on 02 9560 5333 or go to www.palms.org.au/volunteer/



Friday March 16 - Saturday Mar 17. at Coughlin Park.

Starting this Friday 16th March at 5.45pm Horsham and District currently have 33 teams, 477 participants and raised \$42,371 for a target of \$150,000. Come and share in this important event for our community. Walk, support stalls, plenty of food, water

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: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.' And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever

there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 136

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion; on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps.

For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy. 'Sing to us,' they said, 'one of Zion's songs.'

O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil? If I forget you, Jerusalem, let my right hand wither! O let my tongue cleave my mouth if I remember you not, if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace.

Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have

done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Acclamation: John 3:16

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ! God loved the world so much, he gave us his only Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 3, 14-21

Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. "And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that what may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

**Gospel Reflection - 4th Sunday Lent
Veronica Lawson rsm**

The gospel for today is the concluding section of Jesus' conversation with a Pharisee called Nicodemus, who comes to him "by night". It features a number of typically Johannine themes: eternal life, believing, seeing, God's love, salvation, judgment, light, darkness, world, truth. We need to keep asking: how is this word to be understood? In John, there is often much misunderstanding, this gives Jesus the opportunity to lead his hearers to a deeper understanding of his words. We operate out of a symbol system that belongs in a different time and a different place, hence the need to explore the traditions informing the stories. Today's reading evokes the Israelite tradition of the bronze serpent (Numbers 21:5-9);

the Israelites are unhappy with their lot in the desert. They complain about the food or lack of it. They blame both God and Moses. Their situation worsens with the outbreak of a plague of poisonous snakes. They interpret the plague as punishment for their sin of speaking against God. Moses intercedes with God, who instructs Moses to make an image of a fiery serpent and set it on a pole: anyone affected by snakebite has only to look upon the image to find life and healing. The bronze serpent is lifted up and those who "look upon it" find life. Life and death, seeing and believing in God's love and mercy are at the heart of the story of the bronze serpent. John taps into the memory of the emerging Christian community: just as the serpent was lifted up and the people found life, so will Jesus

be lifted up and those who believe in him will find life. In John's gospel, seeing is often equated with believing which leads to "life" and God's saving love for "the world". Most of the themes of love and being raised up in this passage have already been introduced in the prologue to the gospel. Here for the first time in the gospel, God's saving activity is expressed in terms of "love". God's love is explicitly related to the gift of Jesus, God's Son, for the salvation of the world. Salvation resides in acceptance of Jesus, judgment in the refusal to accept Jesus as the revelation of God. Later in this gospel (12:33), Jesus will again reference the bronze serpent story in an expansive embrace of all creation: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself."

Next Sunday's Gospel: John 12,20-30

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain

but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. "Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour. "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice

came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An Angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.