



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

## BULLETIN

### 2nd Sunday of Advent— 9th December 2018



#### 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  
Acting Principal: Michael Rowe  
Phone: 5382 3000  
  
St Brigid's College  
Principal: Peter Gutteridge  
Phone: 5382 3545  
  
Our Lady Help of Christians  
Principal: Cathy Grace  
Phone: 5385 2526

We welcome Fr Damien

### Ministry Rosters for SMJ Christmas Masses are in the Church Foyer

Please sign for a Ministry you can assist with at any of our Masses. Thank you

**Natimuk Nursing Home Mass** this Thursday Dec 13th at 4.15pm.

**From the Parish Council Meeting:** 1. Parish Gatherings for the Plenary Council from February 16th to 28th 2019. 2. A mini-renewal of our Parish Planned giving Program in mid 2019. 3. Baptistine Sisters offering a 3rd Sister for 6 months with us in 2019. 4. Child Safe protocols.

### Christmas Mass Times 2018

#### Horsham Monday December 24th:

7pm: Children's Christmas Story  
Carols 9.45pm with the Choir  
Christmas Mass 10.15pm.

#### Tuesday Dec 25th Christmas Day:

Horsham Mass 9am

#### Monday Dec 24th Christmas Eve:

Christmas Mass Murtoa 5pm.  
Christmas Mass Nhill 6pm  
Christmas Mass Dimboola 7.30pm

#### Advent Reconciliation Service

Monday December 17th at 7pm in SMJ Church. *Hymns, Prayers, Scripture, Examination of Conscience, individual absolution by Fr Peter and Fr John.*

#### End of the Year School Masses

**SBC End of Year Mass and Yr 12 Graduation** this Wednesday 12th Dec at 6pm in SMJ Church.

**SMJ End of Year Mass and Yr 6 Graduation** Tuesday 18th Dec at 12 noon in SMJ Church

**OLHC Murtoa End of Year Mass and Yr 6 Graduation** Tuesday 18th Dec at 6.30pm in St Mary's Church

**St Patrick's Nhill End of Year Mass and Yr 6 Graduation** Wednesday December 19th at 6pm

#### PRAYER for SICK and CARERS

Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source and creator of all healing power. We entrust the sick to your loving care. We pray your blessings upon those who do care in their own homes, those who work in hospitals, nursing homes, hospice care, palliative care. O God be the source of comfort to those in pain, be their hope in despair, sorrow, woundedness. Be 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 in need 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 with the sick in pain and sadness. Bless the **ministry** of those who take Holy Communion to the sick, elderly, and those in Homes and in Hospital.

**Rupanyup Mass 6.30** this Monday December 10th, at Sue Tylers.

#### Columban Calendars, Cards

Columban Calendars for 2019 in the Piety Stall at \$8 each.

Next Saturday Dec 15th at 6.30pm Mass we welcome **Jasmine Smith** from SBC, into the fulness of the Church with Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist. A cuppa in the Foyer after Mass

#### WEEKDAY MASSES: (Funeral Mass may replace weekday Masses)

Monday 10th Dec	10.30am	Funeral Mass for Alberto Luciani
Tuesday 11th Dec	5.30pm	John Coleman 1st anniversary
Wed 12th Dec	9.30am	Erin O'Connor anniv. Our Lady of Guadalupe
Thursday 13th Dec	9.30am	St Lucy. Jose Schapendonk anniversaries
Friday 14th Dec	9.30am	St John of the Cross
Saturday 15th Dec	10.00am	Holy Souls

#### 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:** Alberto Luciani, Stephen Baker

**ANNIVERSARIES:** John Coleman, Erin O'Connor, Agnes Quirk, Frank Finnigan, Pat Beks, Phillip White, Sr Marie Therese Fogarty

**SICK:** Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Joan Glen, Debbie Nolan, Ken Dowsley, Una Bartlett, Cathy Mintern, Fleur Armstrong, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Rosetta Cafarella, Betty Fitzgerald, Heather McPhee, Maurice Brennan, Sr Geraldine Stapleton, Rachel O'Connor, Maree Frew, Brian O'Loughlin

**Emergency Care: Contact Betty 53826688**

**Saturday Devotions: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9am. Rosary 9.20. Morning Prayer of the Church. Mass 10am. CONFESSIONS 10.25am**

**Next Sunday 3rd Sunday of Advent  
3rd Sunday of the Month 16th December 2018**

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

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Nhill **Sunday Mass 10am**

**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:** Mondays in the Meeting Room. Mornings 9.30 - 11.30 Evening - *Contact the Parish Office* - BYO Craft - Gold Coin .

**Meditation Group:** Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2.00pm.

**CWL Meetings** 1st Tuesday of Month 1.30pm. Meeting Room.

**Men's Group Breakfast** 3rd Thursday of the month in the Parish Centre, 7.30 to 8.30am Contact Patrick 0428847455

**St Vincent de Paul Conference.** Meets twice monthly. Available Monday & Friday 11am-12pm for assistance. Phone 53812371

**BAPTISM PREPARATION.** Contact Parish Office 53821155.

**CHOIR PRACTICE** 2nd Wednesday 6pm in the Church

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP 7pm to 8pm.** every Monday at 16 George St. Eileen McManus 5382 4745



The School is running a fund raiser for money to buy a bike for Ted Johnson. Ted is a double leg amputee  
**Donations can be left at the School or banked:**  
BSB: 063514  
Account: 10078438  
Name: SMJ  
Ref: Ten 4 Ted

The target is \$11,000

**December 10th is United Nations Human Rights Day. 70 years of** the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being – regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It is the most translated document in the world, in more than 500 languages.

**ROSTERS**

8/9 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz Tess Hayes Geoff Simpson Cathy Taylor John Parker Simon Lynch	Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalgleish Karen Hill
<b>Commentator</b>	Emelia Sudholz	Alison McKinnon
15/16 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	John Parker	Michael Connellan
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Amor	Anna Robertson
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Bob Hayes Anne Newton Peter Gutteridge Sr Tirsa Bale Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce	Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalgleish Andrea Cox
<b>Projector</b>	Geoff Simpson	Gabby Mills
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Connie Besselaar Gavin Hynam	Beth Johnson Zita Cannane
<b>Prayers</b>	Lesley Price & Mary Dalgleish	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>16th December</b> Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney	<b>23rd December</b> Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker

**FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):**

Natimuk:	\$	Murtoa	\$ 86.00
Horsham	\$ 829.00	Dimboola	\$ 48.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 963.00</b>

**2nd Collection (Parish Account)**

Envelopes	\$ 1778.00	Loose	\$ 114.80
Credit Card	\$ 3706.88	Direct Debit	\$ 1836.67
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 7436.35</b>

**Making Connections:** Are there hills and valleys in your life that need to be made straight in order to make it easier for the Lord to come to you? Who are the prophets of the modern age who call people back to fidelity to God's plan for the world? Choose this week, to concentrate on the waiting.

**Symbols and Images:** The Baptist's words call us to a new beginning. This time of preparation for the coming of the Lord of history at Christmas is a time for us to realign our road, to straighten our paths, to welcome the Christ child.

**Daily Prayer:** O God everlasting, fill in the valleys of our neglect; bring low our mountains of self-centeredness. Prepare in our hearts your way of righteousness and peace. Let our love become a harvest of goodness, which you will bring to completion for the day of Christ Jesus,.

**Marriage Tip:** Does your family have a plan for Advent this year? It's not too late – simple traditions like the Advent wreath help prepare hearts, homes, for the coming of Jesus.

**Vocational View:** Who, today, is willing to make ready the way of the Lord, to clear Him a straight path?

Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to Alexander Mehegan and Natasha Mietzel on their Marriage in SMJ Church on December 8th

### COUNTRY MASS TIMES:

Sunday Dec 16: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am  
Sunday Dec 23: Natimuk 8.30. Murtoa AWC 9am.  
Dimboola Mass 12.15.  
Sunday Dec 30: Murtoa Mass 8.30. Dimboola Mass 12.15.  
Nhill Mass 5.30



**SMJ School Concert & Tea** this Thursday December 13th at Sawyer Park. BYO Tea 5.30. *"The Christmas Story"* begins at 6.30 All Parishioners are welcome.



The Annual Vinnies Christmas Appeal invites your donations of cash, non-perishable food, toiletries, and gifts for the children. In the past year 180 families have been helped in many ways. Families experiencing homelessness, violence or living below the poverty line, mounting bills

make gift buying hard for them at Christmas.

**Your gifts for children (please mark age, gender) and non-perishable food can be left under the Jesse Tree, St VdP will distribute them.**

Vinnies thank parishioners, Schools, Young Vinnies Mini Vinnies for your wonderful support in 2018.

Shane Kennedy is the new President, thank you to Pat Strachan, and to all helpers at the Shop.

### ADVENT DISCUSSION GROUP

Each Wednesday at 10am in the Church Meeting Room. Contact Eileen McManus on 5382 4745 for further details.

**CWL RAFFLE WINNERS** 1st: Ed Pekin. 2nd: Trish Deleeuw. 3rd Prize: Katelyn Hughes. 4th Prize: Alma Moore



### HORSHAM BRIGIDINE CENTENARY IN 2020

Staff and friends of St Brigid's College, Ss Michael & John's School, Our Lady Help of

Christian Murtoa, have formed a Committee to plan for the Horsham Brigidine Centenary in 2020 - Celebrating 100 years of Education by the Brigidine Sisters in Horsham.

Celebrations are proposed for the long weekend in June 2020 and hope to bring back former students, teachers, staff and their families from the last ten decades, to come together, to reconnect, to celebrate. The June 2020 long weekend would give people extra time to catch up with past classmates and be more accommodating for those who travel long distances. The festivities would include each of the three schools being open for tours in Horsham and Murtoa.

If you would like to be updated on the Horsham Brigidine Centenary, please forward your name, the name of the school/s you attended (and years) with your contact details to [100@stbc.vic.edu.au](mailto:100@stbc.vic.edu.au)

*Everything is on the table*

**Plenary Council 2020**

*'Listen to what the Spirit is saying...'*



### Plenary Council 2020 – Listening and Dialogue Encounter Have your say – respond online

The Listening and Dialogue Encounter happens in many ways. Invite your friends and family to have a conversation about the future of the Church in Australia. "What do you think God is asking of us at this time?" Send your responses online. to [plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au](http://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au)

To promote our own prayerful thinking about our responses to the question – *what is the Holy Spirit asking of the Church in Australia?* - the Parish Council will provide opportunities for us to respond as a Parish from February 17th to 28th 2019, gatherings will be co-ordinated by the Adult Faith Group and Men's Group.

### ADVENT PLENARY PRAYER

Be still. Be still and know.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know that I am your God.

God of this Advent time, as we watch, wait, long and hope, encourage us in our efforts to listen humbly to each other.

Inspire in us the words to speak boldly with each other. Create within us a spirit of discernment.

Give us hopeful hearts as we continue our journey to the Plenary Council. We ask this in the name of Emmanuel - *God-with-us. Amen.*



### Child Safety Standards.

Bob Pritchett is our Parish 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 is always 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 Lingham, Cathy Grace, Joan Lane-Storey, Anita Masiero (Sec)

**First Reading—Baruch 5:1-9**

Jerusalem, take off your dress of sorrow and distress, put on the beauty of the glory of God for ever, wrap the cloak of the integrity of God around you, put the diadem of the glory of the Eternal on your head: since God means to show your splendour to every nation under heaven, since the name God gives you for ever will be, 'Peace through integrity, and honour through devotedness'. Arise, Jerusalem, stand on the heights and turn your eyes to the east: see your sons reassembled from west and east at the command of the Holy One, jubilant that God has remembered them. Though they left you on foot, with enemies for an escort, now God brings them back to you like royal princes carried back in glory. For God has decreed the flattening of each high mountain, of the everlasting hills, the filling of the valleys to make the ground level so that Israel can walk in safety under the glory of God. And the forests and every fragrant tree will provide shade for Israel at the command of God; for God will guide Israel in joy by the light of his glory with his mercy and integrity for escort.

**Responsorial Psalm—Ps 125**

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

**Second Reading—Philippians 1:4-6, 8**

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy, remembering how you have helped to spread the Good News from the day you first heard it right up to the present. I am quite certain that the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished when the Day of Christ Jesus comes. God knows how much I miss you all, loving you as Christ Jesus loves you. My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your

knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best. This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare you for the Day of Christ, when you will reach the perfect goodness which Jesus Christ produces in us for the glory and praise of God.

**Gospel Acclamation—Luke 3:4, 6**

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**Gospel—Luke 3:1-6**

In the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar's reign, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the sayings of the prophet Isaiah: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, winding ways will be straightened and rough roads made smooth. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

**Gospel Reflection. 2nd Sunday of Advent Yr C- Veronica Lawson**

Pope Francis has called us to look into our hearts, to let go of all that is harsh or cruel and to bring the compassion and mercy of God to our troubled planetary home. At the International Conference marking the third anniversary of *Laudato Si'* (July 2018), he thanked the participants for coming together to hear "with their hearts the increasingly desperate cries of the earth and its poor." The Conference title, "Saving our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth" underscores the urgency of the call. Our courageous Pope is giving extraordinary leadership to the global community.

Like Luke, Pope Francis recognises that this message is for the whole world and not simply for the Church community. Luke situates his gospel drama on a national and international stage. He insists that religion is no private affair and that the story of the movement

around Jesus of Nazareth is no ordinary, everyday story. It is rather a story with momentous political and religious significance. Luke is strong on dramatic impact and less concerned about the facts. He situates events in the "pontificate of Annas and Caiaphas", implying that there were two high priests at the same time. In fact, Caiaphas succeeded his father-in-law Annas as high priest, even if the influence of the latter persisted into Caiaphas' time. Luke presents John the son of Zechariah as a prophet in the long line of prophets that culminates in the appearance of Jesus of Nazareth on the global stage. Jesus is the one who truly brings the salvation of our God. It is worth noting that prophecy in Luke is not reserved to the male characters. With the shift from private to public space in Luke 3, however, women prophets who featured prominently in the earlier chapters (Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna) now disappear from the narrative.

Luke 3:1-6 contains some of Luke's favourite themes: prophecy and its fulfilment; the word of God; reversal of expectations; conversion or repentance; proclaiming the good news; forgiveness of sins; salvation. As in Israel's past, the wilderness or desert is the locus of God's revelation. The prophet John calls on the people around the Jordan River to turn their hearts and their lives around, to accept "a baptism of conversion for the forgiveness of sins". Listen to the Isaiah citation "Prepare the way..." against the backdrop of the first reading from the prophet Baruch. God's way involves putting on the "cloak of integrity" or "robe of righteousness" and allowing God to provide an escort of mercy/works of mercy (ele?mosun?), integrity/right relationship (dikaion) If we take seriously the call to live the gospel, we shall surely search for ways to heal the broken relationships within our ailing planet.

**Next Week's Gospel: Luke 3:10-18**

When all the people asked John. 'What must we do?' he answered, 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.' There were tax collectors too who came for baptism, and these said to him, 'Master, what must we do?' He said to them, 'Exact no more than your rate.' Some soldiers asked him in their turn,

'What about us? What must we do?' He said to them, 'No intimidation! No extortion! Be content with your pay!' A feeling of expectancy had grown among the people, who were beginning to think that John might be the Christ, so John declared before them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandals; he will baptise you with the

Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.' As well as this, there were many other things he said to exhort the people and to announce the Good News to them.

**Articles for "The Fisherman" needed in the Office by Dec 17**