



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Advent - 23rd December 2018



Fourth Sunday in Advent



Christmas Mass Times

Horsham Monday December 24th:

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

Tuesday Dec 25th Christmas Day:

9.00am: Horsham Christmas Mass

Monday Dec 24th Christmas Eve:

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

New Year's Day Mass: 10am SMJ

Next Sunday, November 30th, is the Feast of the Holy Family. At our 10.30 Mass we will pray a Prayer of Missioning for Trish Giles who is joining the Carmelite Community in Kew on January 20th. There will be a cuppa in the Foyer after Mass.

We welcome family members home for Christmas, and a warm welcome to all visitors to us. We pray for a safe and blessed holiday and travels for those going away over the holidays.

Thank you members of all ministries of SMJ Parish who have generously made contributions to the life of our parish over the past 12 months
Parish Office: Open Monday 24th to 12 Open Friday 28th and Monday 31st to 12.

Fr Peter, Srs Manuela, Tirsa, Jacinta with Anita wish all Parishioners and your families beyond, the blessings, joy and peace of Christmas and a very happy and blessed New Year.



CHRISTMAS IS THE CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS, THE SAVIOUR OF MANKIND

Reflection 4th Sunday of Advent Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

The gospel offers the story of the young pregnant woman, Miriam of Nazareth, travelling in haste from her home town of Nazareth to the hill country of Judaea, some 130 kilometres to the south, to be with an older woman who is also pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth. Mary enters "the house of Zechariah" who remains silent and in the background throughout. Elizabeth's contrasting openness to recognise and affirm the living presence of God in their midst. The two women embrace and, in their loving embrace, the Spirit-filled life gestating within Mary encounters and physically affects the life that is coming to birth in Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's words resound throughout the ages in the prayer we know as the Hail Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb...." Elizabeth recognises that Mary is blessed by God because she believed that God's promise to her would be fulfilled. Elizabeth gives expression to the faith that is to be embraced by all who accept that Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Mary of Nazareth, is the Holy One of God (Luke 1:35). The lives of both women have been transformed through the power of God's Spirit. The birth of their children will bring to birth unprecedented events in human history. Elizabeth's proclamation of the blessing of God on Mary is found daily on the lips of countless faith-filled Christians across the globe. It echoes the blessing prayer of Moses to the Israelites (Deuteronomy 28: 2-4): "May you be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. Blessed is the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock...." This ancient blessing recognizes the interconnection of all God's creation. We might make it our own blessing prayer for our world and its leaders. Advent is not a time of passive waiting. It is a time to ponder the various ways that God sustains life in its diverse forms. It is a time to become householders, like Elizabeth, who clear the paths and open our doors for the God of life to enter in.

Happy and blessed Christmas

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



PARISH CONTACTS

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We welcome Fr John

Bishop's Diocesan Christmas Appeal is a **2nd Collection** after Communion at all Christmas Masses. You can place money in an envelope marked "Bishop's Appeal", or put it on the Collection at other later Masses

Christmas Dues Envelopes to support our retired Priests and needy Parishes are in the Foyers. Please place these on the Collections.

Thank you in advance



Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to

Cassandra Dalglish and Matt Schilling on their wedding in Bendigo on December 22nd

The Christmas edition of our Parish Magazine **The Fisherman** is in the Foyers today

WEEKDAY MASSES: MASS MONDAY MORNING 24th 9.30am

Friday 28th Dec	9.30am	The Holy Innocents
Saturday 29th Dec	10.00am	St Thomas Beckett

Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Bruno Colosimo

ANNIVERSARIES: Bob Wallis, Fr John Murphy, Terry McManus, Muriel Omant, Juana Byarcal

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, John McNamara,

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: Feast of the Holy Family
5th Sunday of the Month 30th December 2018**

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

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 12.15pm**

Nhill **Sunday Mass 5.30pm**

ROSTERS

29/30 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Maree Plazzer	Anthony Dowling
Commentator	Betty Heinrich	Eileen McManus
Eucharistic Ministers	Cathy Taylor John Parker Simon Lynch Bob Hayes Anne Newton Peter Gutteridge Sr Tirsia Bale	Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalgleish Andrea Cox
Projector	Geoff Simpson	Robert Sartori
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Judy Bryan Pat Williams	Sharon Creasey Mary Dowsley
Prayers	Alison McKinnon & Anna Robertson	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	30th December Pat O'Connor Win Stephens Barbara Connellan	6th January 2019 Pauline Barber Gwen Antonucci Carmel O'Connor Kate Hernon-Spasic

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):
Horsham \$892, Murtoa \$78, Dimboola \$52 **Total \$1022.00**
2nd Collection: Envelopes \$2984. Loose \$ 102.05 Direct Debit \$480. **Total \$3566.05**

COUNTRY MASS TIMES:

January 6th: Murtoa Mass 8.30. Dimboola AWC 8.30
January 13th: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am
January 20: Murtoa AWC 9am. Dimboola Mass 8.30
January 27: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am

The Baptistine Sisters celebrate their Christmas Novena tonight Sunday with Mass at 5pm and a Filipino meal after.
Natimuk Nursing Home Carols tonight Sunday at 7pm.

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 child safe

First Reading: Micah 5:1- 4
The Lord says this: You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of old. The Lord is therefore going to abandon them till the time when she who is to give birth gives birth. Then the remnant of his brothers will come back to the sons of Israel. He will stand and feed his flock with the power of the Lord, with the majesty of the name of his God. They will live secure, for from then on he will extend his power to the ends of the land. He himself will be peace.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 79
Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne. O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see. Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted.

May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength. And we shall never forsake you again: give us life that we may call upon your name.

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5
This is what Christ said, on coming into the world: You

who wanted no sacrifice or oblation, prepared a body for me. You took no pleasure in holocausts or sacrifices for sin; then I said, just as I was commanded in the scroll of the book, 'God, here I am! I am coming to obey your will.' Notice that he says first: You did not want what the Law lays down as the things to be offered, that is: the sacrifices, the oblations, the holocausts and the sacrifices for sin, and you took no pleasure in them; and then he says: Here I am! I am coming to obey your will. He is abolishing the first to replace it with the second. And this will was for us to be made holy by the offering of his body made once and for all by Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Luke
Alleluia, alleluia! I am the servant of the Lord: may his will for me be done. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44
Mary set out at that time and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

Making Connections: 'You are most blessed.' Do you have a sense of how 'blessed' you are? Can you recognise the 'blessedness' of others? Mary undertakes a journey from Nazareth in Galilee, in the north of Israel, to the hill country of Judah in the south. This is an extraordinary journey for a young pregnant woman of her time to undertake alone! That makes her such a special figure. Her response to God's call is one we can all emulate. **Daily Prayer:** O God of hosts, O Shepherd of your people, you chose Mary, the humble daughter of Israel, to become the earthly dwelling-place of your incarnate Word. Stir up within your church such whole-hearted devotion to your saving purpose, that with Christ we may come into the world to do your will, and with Mary offer ourselves to you as an unceasing canticle of praise.
Marriage Tip: As parents, you and your spouse are the first teachers of your children. What have you taught them about how to love God, others? **Vocational View:** Pray: "I have come to do your will, O God"? Blessed are you who trust that the Lord's words to you would be fulfilled.