

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

BULLETIN

Feast of the Holy Family - 30th December 2018



Have a happy, hopeful, peaceful, and blessed New Year. God be with you, keep you safe

PARISH CONTACTS

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Making Connections: Try to imagine the anxiety and fear that Mary and Joseph would have felt at being unable to find their son for three whole days! Reflect on your own experience of family life. Can you discern ways in which you came to experience God's love in your family? In what ways is the love of God for all his children reflected in the love shared by family members?

Daily Prayer: O God, Creator all-powerful, in your wisdom and love, your Son, begotten before the dawn of time, became in time a member of our human family. Give to parents the wisdom and wonder to see the mystery of your will unfold in the lives of their children. To daughters and sons give, with the increase of years, growth in your grace. Together may we treasure in our hearts the love you have lavished upon us in letting us be called your children.

Marriage Tip: Don't take down those decorations yet! The Christmas season has only just begun. Keep playing Christmas music and rejoicing with your family at our Savior's birth.

Vocational View: Unless your family loves you, nothing else makes sense. In your family your vocation can grow in wisdom, age and grace. Jesus was born into a human family, where all are models of steadfast and committed service to God.

Reflection on the Gospel-Feast of the Holy Family Yr C (Luke 2:41-52) - Veronica Lawson RSM. The time between Christmas and New Year is a good time to think about what family means. For many, it is a challenge to juggle the various family commitments. We do our best, and trust that everyone will understand the difficult choices that sometimes have to be made. It is now three years since the Synod on the Family in Rome. The Pope's concluding words of concern for "difficult cases and wounded families" show the Synod was "about bearing witness to everyone that, for the Church, the Gospel continues to be a vital source of eternal newness, against all those who would 'indoctrinate' it in dead stones to be hurled at others." The Pope's constant message is that the Church's "first duty is not to hand down condemnations or anathemas, but to proclaim God's mercy." Today's readings focus on family relationships. We are all "children of God" (1 Jn 3:1), to remember the love that God has "lavished on us". In the gospel reading, Luke presents the young Jesus coming with his parents from Nazareth to Jerusalem "as usual" for the great feast of Passover. He is twelve years of age, capable in that culture of making quite serious decisions for himself. He does just that, much to the consternation of his parents, who only become aware after a day's journey that he has remained in Jerusalem and has not joined the extended family group or synodia for the return journey to Nazareth. Mary and Joseph are not well pleased. They express their concern but fail to understand his response: he is primarily God's child and must follow God's call first and foremost. This does not preclude obedience to his parents. It does, however, foreshadow the pain involved in parenting this young man whose mission will take him along paths they would never have chosen for him. I expect this will sound familiar to parents of young adults. Mary lives in the reflective way we are all called to live, "storing all these things in her heart". Sometimes God's call to children is in tension with parents' wishes or hopes. Children are first of all "children of God". Much as we might want to, we cannot hold on to them. We try to understand their choices, we do everything we can to nurture their uniqueness, we pray that they too will grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God as responsible members of the Earth community

January 1st is World Day of Peace
The theme of the 52nd World Day of Peace, and the Pope's message, is **Good Politics at the Service of Peace**, and emphasises the responsibility of each one in politics. Political responsibility belongs to every citizen and, in particular, to those who have the mandate to protect and govern.

A Prayer for the New Year
Lord, You make all things new, You bring hope alive in our hearts, and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this New Year, for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in 2019, many will see the wonders of God and forever to praise Your glorious name. During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received - being children of God. As God's children, it is important that we express our love for others. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, and God loves them.

Today at 10.30 Mass we pray for **Trish Giles** who is joining the Carmelites at Kew on January 20th. **May God's blessing be upon Trish** and our prayers go with her on this new stage of her life.

Fr Peter will be Chaplain at Mary MacKillop Centre, Sydney until Jan 21. I will pray for you all at St Mary's Tomb.

Fr John will be here for weekends of Jan 5/6, 12/13, 19/20, and also say the 10am Mass on each Saturday morning.

Fr Bill Melican will celebrate Mass on Tuesday Jan 8th and 15th at 5.30p and on Wednesday Jan 9th and 16th at 9.30am. No weekday Masses on Thursday or Friday from Jan 3rd to 18th

Srs Tirsa and Manuela will be away until January 13th.

Mass New Year's Day Tuesday January 1st at 10am in SMY Church
No weekday Masses Wednesday to Friday this week, Saturday Mass 10am

WEEKDAY MASSES: (Funeral Mass may replace weekday Masses)

Tuesday 1st Jan	10.00am	New Year's Day. Motherhood of Mary
Saturday 5th Jan	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: Kath Murphy (Ballarat), Joseph Cuce

ANNIVERSARIES: Ron McIntyre, Maureen Feery, Jan Kusuak

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 Epiphany
1st Sunday of the Month 6th January 2019**

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

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday AWC 8.30am**

ROSTERS

5/6 January	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Anthony Amor	Anna Robertson
Commentator	John Parker	Michael Connellan
Eucharistic Ministers	Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker Maree Plazzer Micky Robarts Lorraine Clancy	Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dagleish Karen Hill
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Robert Sartori
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Bill & Josie Phelan	Nanette Freckleton Lyn Starr
Prayers	John and Joan Parker	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	6th January 2019 Pauline Barber Gwen Antonucci Carmel O'Connor Kate Hemon-Spasic	13th January Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley Judie Delahunty

FINANCE: CHRISTMAS MASSES:

1st Collection (Presbytery Account): \$2346.00

Collection for the Bishop's Christmas Appeal: \$2091.00

Fr Peter, Fr John, Sisters Jacinta, Tirsa, Manuela wish you the blessings and peace of a Happy New Year. Thank you for your prayers, best wishes, and gifts, and for your generosity to Collections

COUNTRY CENTRES MASS TIMES

January 6th: Murtoa Mass 8.30. Dimboola AWC 8.30

January 13th: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10

January 20: Murtoa AWC 9am. Dimboola Mass 8.30

January 27: Natimuk Mass 8.30. Murtoa Mass 8.30.

Dimboola Mass **12.15pm.** Nhill Mass 10am

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:

Hannah conceived and gave birth to a son, and called him Samuel 'since she said 'I asked the Lord for him.' When a year had gone by, the husband Elkanah went up again with all his family to offer the annual sacrifice to the Lord and to fulfil his vow. Hannah, however, did not go up, having said to her husband, 'Not before the child is weaned. Then I will bring him and present him before the Lord and he shall stay there for ever.' When she had weaned him, she took him up with her together with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the temple of the Lord at Shiloh; and the child was with them. They slaughtered the bull and the child's mother came to Eli. She said, 'If you please, my lord. As you live, my lord, I am the woman who stood here beside you, praying to the Lord. This is the child I prayed for, and the Lord granted me what I asked him. Now I make him over to the Lord for the whole of his life. He is made over to the Lord.' There she left him, for the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: 83

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord. How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God.

They are happy, who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise. They are happy, whose strength is in you; they walk with ever growing strength. O Lord, God of hosts, hear my prayer, give ear, O God of Jacob. Turn your eyes, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed.

How happy they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Jn 3 1-

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not

acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed, all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Alleluia Verse

Alleluia, alleluia. Open our heart, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Every year the parents of Jesus used to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing it. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him among their relations and acquaintances. When they failed to find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him everywhere. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions; and all those who heard him were astounded at his intelligence and his replies. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' he replied. 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to