



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

## BULLETIN

### Baptism of the Lord - 13th January 2019



#### PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson  
Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero  
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#### 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

#### Gospel Reflection

—*Veronica Lawson rsm*

Today's feast marks the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. Over the Christmas season, the liturgy invited us to reflect on and to experience the various comings of Christ in our world and to open ourselves to the action of God's grace at work in our encounters with the living Christ. The readings from Luke's gospel have taken us from the birth of Jesus to the story of his personal decision at age twelve to remain in God's house, the Jerusalem Temple, listening to the teachers of the Law and astonishing them with his answers to their questions.

Now, as an adult and along with "all the people", Jesus receives John's water baptism. The crowds are wondering if John the Baptist is the Christ or Messiah, God's anointed one. John points the people away from himself and towards Jesus who "will baptise ... with the Holy Spirit and fire". Did Jesus also engage in a ministry of baptising the people "for the forgiveness of sins" or is John's reference to Jesus' activity of baptising with the Holy Spirit and fire a metaphor for the distinctive features of his

future gospel ministry? In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke's second volume, the presence of the Holy Spirit is marked by tongues of fire. Fire is a powerful symbol that functions as a threat on the one hand and as a source of energy and light on the other.

Jesus is God's Chosen One, the Beloved, on whom God's Spirit rests. In light of the first reading from Isaiah 42, the voice of God in the baptism scene commissions Jesus to bring forth justice, sensitively and without fanfare; to be a light to the peoples; to open the eyes of the blind and to set the captives free. Those baptised into Christ through the ages are baptised "with the Holy Spirit and fire" and are called to the same mission as Jesus and the same sensitive approach to the mission. The fire in our hearts sometimes flickers in the face of life's challenges. We are sometimes guilty of crushing "the bruised reed" or extinguishing the flickering flame of hope. As we move into Ordinary Time with its often extraordinary demands, we might think about stirring the embers and fanning the flame of God's love so that justice might prevail in our world and for our planet - justice without violence, if not without pain.

We welcome Fr John and Fr Damian who are with us this weekend.

We also welcome Fr Bill Melican who will be celebrating weekday masses

After the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord beginning on Monday 14th January we start Ordinary time. For weekday masses it is Week 1, Year 1 and for Sunday Masses it is Year C.

**Australia Day Mass** will be held on Saturday January 26th at 10am

#### 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.

**Marriage Tip:** How can you as a family help the poor, especially those in your own community? At the least, remember in your prayers today those who are struggling to meet their basic needs.

**Daily Prayer:** Father of great and everlasting glory, by the power of your Holy Spirit you have consecrated your Word made flesh and have established this Christ, our Saviour, as the Light of the world and your covenant of peace for all the peoples.

**A Vocation View:** Come on, continue your Baptism by baptising others in the Holy Spirit and fire. "You are my beloved child," says the Lord!

#### 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



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

|                   |         |                                       |
|-------------------|---------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 15th Jan  | 5.30pm  | With Fr Bill Melican Jock Panozzo Ann |
| Wed 16th Jan      | 9.30am  | With Fr Bill Melican                  |
| Friday 18th Jan   | 9.30am  | AWC                                   |
| Saturday 19th Jan | 10.00am | AWC                                   |

**Please Remember in Your Prayers**

**RECENT DEATHS:** Bernie Holland—Bendigo (Uncle of Teresa Bottoms), Margaret Lawson—Coleraine (sister of Mary Walsh)

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Rita Higgins, Cath Liston, Dan Byrne, Alex Pekin, Jean Slater, Raffaele Macchia

**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, Zander Fergusson, Alisa Swalwell

**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: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
3rd Sunday of the Month 20th January 2019**

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

Murtoa **Sunday AWC 9.00am**

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

**ROSTERS**

| 19/20 January                                 | Vigil 6.30pm  | Sunday 10.30am   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Readers</b>                                | Peter Gutteridge  | Andrea Cox   |
| <b>Commentator</b>                            | Sr Jacinta Rice   | Bob Pritchett  |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                  | Anne Newton<br>Geoff Simpson<br>Sr Tirsia Bale<br>Anthony Amor<br>Sr Jacinta Rice<br>Simon Lynch<br>Bob Hayes | Anna Robertson<br>Neville Strachan<br>Lynda Hutchinson<br>Rosie Taylor<br>Zita Cannane<br>Mary Dalgleish<br>Andrea Cox |
| <b>Projector</b>                              | Robert Sartori  | Shayne Keenan  |
| <b>Musicians</b>                              | Filipino Choir  | Filipino Choir   |
| <b>Welcomers</b>                              | Bob & Tess Hayes  | Marina Manserra<br>Mary Uebergang  |
| <b>Prayers</b>                                | Darryl & Maree Wren   |  |
| <b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b> | <b>20th January</b><br>Lynda Hutchinson<br>Helene Bush<br>Bernadette Delahunty                                | <b>27th January</b><br>Josie Phelan<br>Pauline Irwin<br>Joan Butler<br>Margo Hogan                                     |

**FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):**  
Horsham \$846.00. Murtoa \$ 94.00. Dimboola \$37.00  
**Total \$977.00**

**2nd Collection:** Envelopes \$1150.00 Loose \$ 67.25  
Direct Debit \$1662.67 Credit Card \$2250.83 **Total \$5130.75**

**COUNTRY CENTRES MASS TIMES**

January 20: Murtoa AWC 9am Dimboola Mass 8.30am

January 27: Natimuk Mass 8.30am

Murtoa Mass 8.30am

Nhill Mass 10am

**Dimboola Mass Saturday 26th 6pm.**

**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

**1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,** 'Console my people, console them,' says your God. 'Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.' A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low, let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, 'Here is your God.' Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

**Responsorial Psalm**

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

Lord God, how great you are, clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe!

You stretch our the heavens like a tent.

Above the rains you build your dwelling. You make the clouds your chariot, you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers and flashing fire your servants.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is full of your riches. There is the sea, vast and wide, with its moving swarms past counting, living things great and small.

All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. You give it, they gather it up: you open your hand, they have their fill.

You take back your spirit, they die, returning to the dust from which they came. You send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

Oh, bless the Lord, my soul!

**2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

God's grace has been revealed, and it has made salvation possible for the whole human race and taught us that what we have to do is to give up everything that does not lead to God, and all our worldly ambitions; we must be self restrained and live good and religious lives here in this present world, while we are waiting in hope for the blessing which will come with the Appearing of the glory of our great God and saviour Christ Jesus. He sacrificed himself for us in order to set us free from all wickedness and to purify a people so that it could be his very own and would have no ambition except to do good. When the kindness and love of God our saviour for mankind were revealed, it was not because he was concerned with any righteous actions we might have done ourselves; it was for no reason except his own compassion that he saved us, by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit which he has so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our saviour. He did this so that we should be justified by his grace, to become heirs looking forward to inheriting eternal life.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

John said: He who is to come is mightier than I; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-**

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.' Now when all the people had been baptised and while Jesus after his own baptism was at prayer, heaven opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily shape, like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'