

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

BULLETIN

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time –24th February 2019




OLHC Murtoa Opening Mass
at 12nn this Tuesday February 26th
in St Mary's Church.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation
for Grade 3 and above children

Parent Information Night
this Tuesday February 26th
at 7pm in the Parish Centre

Enrolment Forms for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation, plus Children's booklets for Reconciliation, will be at this Meeting.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for the Children will be celebrated on
Wednesday March 27th: 5pm to 6pm
Thursday March 28th:
5pm to 6pm, 7pm to 8pm.

Eucharist and Confirmation Masses June 15 & 16, 22 & 23.

PRAYER FOR SICK and CARERS
Compassionate and ever-loving God, You are the source and creator of all healing power. We entrust our sick to your loving care.
We pray your blessings upon all in their own homes, 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 solace and inspiration when they are unable to lift their hearts, minds and voices to You in prayer. Bless them all with the courage and faith to place their trust in your healing touch and 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 and value to You.
Give them patience and courage as they manage their time, to best serve those who are needful of their care, 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, on 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

We welcome Fr John

CATERING MEETING
A meeting of all involved in Funeral Catering this **Wednesday February 27 in the Church Meeting Room at 2pm.**
Re: Changes already made to roster. Please try to attend, there are no positions to be filled.
Thank you. Betty Heinrich

The Diocesan RCIA Rite of Election is at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat next Saturday March 2nd at 12.30pm.



World Day of Prayer this Friday March 1.
at the Seventh Day Adventist Church at 10am
Theme - *Slovenia "Come – Everything is Ready"*

- + Murtoa St Mary's Church at 10am.
- + Dimboola Uniting Church at 10am
- + Natimuk Lutheran Church at 10am
- + Rupanyup Uniting Church at 7pm


We welcome in Baptism to the Family of God :
Quinten Hugo Pawsey Brodrick
son of Carl and Amber
and
Matilda Grace Salter
daughter of Jeramy and Ebonie

Australian Catholics Autumn Edition in the Foyers today.

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday 26th Feb	5.30pm	Mass for Bruno & Carmela Colossimo
Wednesday 27th Feb	9.30am	SMJ Yr 4 attend 9.30 Mass
Thursday 28th Feb	9.30am	Therese Pothiyittel, Thomas Karras annivs.
Friday 1st March	9am	Autumn begins. World Day of Prayer
Saturday 2nd March	10am	

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:

ANNIVERSARIES: Beverley Mainwaring, Col Bigham, Leslie Woodhead, Therese Pothiyettel,

SICK: Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Debbie Nolan, Ken Dowsley, Una Bartlett, Fleur Armstrong, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Rosetta Cafarella, Betty Fitzgerald, Heather McPhee, Maurice Brennan, Rachel O'Connor, Sr Geraldine Stapleton, John McNamara, Garry Isbel,

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 1st Sunday of the Month
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time 3rd March 2018**

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

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Nhill **Sunday Mass 10.00am**

Kaniva **Sunday Mass 11.30am**

**Rosary, Litany of Mary & Divine Mercy Chaplet
HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.**

Regular Activities in the Parish

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.

CHOIR PRACTICE 2nd Wednesday 6pm in the Church

Affordable Counselling from Centacare Ballarat, for families, individuals. **Free Call** 1300 303 988 for appointment

From our Parish Council Meeting: 11 attended.

1. **Protocols:** Any function or event in the name of our Parish, Schools or Committees, must have a Risk Analysis undertaken before the event. Forms are available from the Office or our Schools.

2. **Plenary Council:** 40 people attended gatherings.

3. **Baptistine Sisters:** Subject to her visa, Sister Florentina from the Philippines will arrive in our Parish in March, and will be here for 3 months.

4. **Finance:** We will plan a Parish based renewal of our Programme before June.

It is a Government Law, that anyone assisting with a Ministry or activity where children are present in the Church, Parish or Schools, must have a Working With Children Check, and this must be registered with our Office. Please see Anita in the Office for inquiries.

ROSTERS

23/24 Feb	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Eucharistic Ministers	Sr Tirsa Bale Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz	Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalglish Andrea Cox
Commentator	Anthony Amor	Shayne Keenan
2/3 March	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Betty Heinrich	Eileen McManus
Commentator	Maree Plazzer	Alison McKinnon
Eucharistic Ministers	Simon Lynch Maree Plazzer Micky Robarts Tess Hayes Geoff Simpson Cathy Taylor John Parker	Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill
Projector	Peter Gutteridge	Gabby Mills
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
Welcomers	Garry & Betty Heinrich	Mary Ueberganc Alistair Castle
Prayers	John and Joan Parker	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	3rd March Pauline Barber Gwen Antonucci Carmel O'Connor Kate Hermon-Spasic	10th March Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley Judie Delahunty

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Rupanyup	\$ 80.00	Murtoa	\$ 142.00
Horsham	\$ 803.00	Dimboola	\$ 84.00
Total		\$ 1109.00	

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 3643.00	Loose	\$ 35.55
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
Total		\$ 3678.55	

Making Connections: Respond in a practical way to one of the commands of Jesus in this gospel - pray for those who treat you badly; be compassionate to someone, or forgive someone who has wronged you. The gospel contains the most challenging of all the Christian commandments and probably the most difficult to keep: love your enemies and do good to those that hurt you.

Sharing the Tradition: Some of the public apologies made by the church over recent years for past wrongs for situations of injustice or abuse within the church itself or for cooperating with the removal of indigenous children from their families. It is important that we recognise that sometimes the church, as a divine institution, but one that is also limited by human frailty in its actions; historical circumstances must seek to redress situations of injustice or hurt in order to move forward in a way more in tune with God's plan for the world.

Daily Prayer: Unconditional is your love for us, O God, in Jesus, the Teacher who befriended sinners, the Savior who died praying for executioners. For us in the image of this Jesus, slow to judge and swift to forgive, a people compassionate and generous.

Marriage Tip: "In the Our Father prayer we say, 'Give us this day our daily bread.' Married couples may also learn to pray, 'Give us this day our daily love.'" - Pope Francis

Vocational View: Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you, and realize that God is always working in you.

Country Mass Times:

March 3: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am.
Kaniva 11.30am

March 10: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am.
March 17th: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am.
March 24: Natimuk 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30.

Plenary Council 2020 -

Listening and Dialogue Encounters

We had 40 people participate in our Gatherings this week, very healthy and vibrant discussions. These submissions have been submitted.

You have until March 6th to make your own personal submissions, via the website:

www.plenarycouncil.org.au

Information Cards are available in the Foyer, and more information on the Diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au.

All of us are invited to reflect on the question: "What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?"

Questions for individuals or groups:

1. What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?
2. What questions do you have about the future of the Church for the Plenary Council to consider in 2020?
3. Do you have a story of your experience of faith, or the Church you would like to share?

Priests' Retreat The annual retreat for priests of the Ballarat Diocese from Monday to Friday this week at Hall's Gap. Fr Peter did his Retreat in Sydney in January. I join the Priests & Bishop for Dinner on Monday

Ash Wednesday Masses

Tuesday 5th: Horsham 5.30.
Dimboola **6.30pm**.

Wednesday March 6th:

Horsham 9.30am. Nhill 11am
SBC Liturgy 12.20 in Gym.
Murtoa: 2pm. Horsham 5.30pm
Ashes blessed and given at each Mass and SBC Liturgy.

Project Compassion

Sets of Envelopes and Boxes will be in the Foyers next weekend.

** We have 62 people studying and praying the Lenten Program.*



Fr Peter attends School Advisory Council Meetings in Nhill on Wednesday at 7, and Murtoa Thursday at 6p Local Churches' Ministers Meeting Thursday at 4pm

Fr Richard Leonard SJ will lead our Parish in a Mission from November 23rd to 27th this year.

Our Horsham CWL celebrates 90 years in 2019.

**** We congratulate Noreen Ellis on her 95th birthday today Sunday. Prayers and best wishes.**

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

for helping on a Sunday Morning after Mass with the Cuppa.

It is on a roster basis. For further information see one of the helpers after Mass or Shayne Keenan

Our Parishes are the Heartbeat of the Church!

At the heart of our parishes is our connection as people of faith. As a lead into our Plenary Council Gatherings, we ask you to reflect on the importance of faith in your life. Is your faith the foundation of who you are? Does it drive the way you choose to live your life? We also ask you to re-affirm the importance of Sunday Mass – the celebration of the Eucharist - it is not a private or anonymous experience. The communal celebration of the Eucharist at Sunday Mass provides essential nourishment for our journey through life. Pope Francis said: *"The Eucharist is the summit of God's saving action: the Lord Jesus, by becoming bread broken for us, pours upon us all of His mercy and His love, so as to renew our hearts, our lives, and our way of relating with Him and with each other. From this Sacrament of love...flows every authentic journey of faith, of communion, and of witness."*

We ask you to commit to growing in faith – to take the opportunities available in your parish to develop a mature understanding of our faith. Join us on the journey... All of us have been in situations when someone has made a negative comment or joke about God or our Catholic faith. How did you respond? Did you stay silent or pretend to go along with the crowd because you didn't want to cause waves and then, later, you felt bad? Know that God is with you all the time, the Holy Spirit will put the right words in your mouth. Let us all pray for the strength and courage to proclaim and live our faith, especially during uncomfortable situations.

North Queensland Flood Relief Week *this week*

AuctionsPlus North Queensland Flood relief Charity Auction will commence at 1pm on Monday Feb 25th and run until 12pm Friday March 1st. If you have something to donate, please nominate it to AuctionsPlus prior to 12pm on Monday Feb 25th. All proceeds will be donated to flood victims. So jump on board if you can! Phone Emily on 02 9262 4222 to donate items or for more information.

Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Chris Robarts (Chair), Peter Gutteridge, Andrea Cox, Fr Peter, Lesley Price, Alison McKinnon, Daryl Wren, Bob Pritchett, Garry Heinrich, Cathy Grace, Margaret Lingham, Joan Lane-Storey, Srs Manuela & Tirsia, Anita Masiero (Sec)

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has Bob Pritchett as our Safeguarding Officer. We have a **Child Safety Policy** to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in our care. A **Child Safety Code of Conduct** has been adopted for all who work with children in the Parish. Our Parish seeks to always be a child safe Parish

First Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-1

Saul set off and went down to the wilderness of Ziph, accompanied by three thousand men chosen from Israel to search for David in the wilderness of Ziph. So in the dark David and Abishai made their way towards the force, where they found Saul asleep inside the camp, his spear stuck in the ground beside his head, with Abner and the troops lying round him. Then Abishai said to David, 'Today God has put your enemy in your power; so now let me pin him to the ground with his own spear. Just one stroke! I will not need to strike him twice.' David answered Abishai, 'Do not kill him, for who can lift his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?' David took the spear and the pitcher of water from beside Saul's head, and they made off. No one saw, no one knew, no one woke up; they were all asleep, for a deep sleep from the Lord had fallen on them. David crossed to the other side and halted on the top of the mountain a long way off; there was a wide space between them. David then called out, 'Here is the king's spear. Let one of the soldiers come across and take it. The Lord repays everyone for his uprightness and loyalty. Today the Lord put you in my power, but I would not raise my hand against the Lord's anointed.'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10,
The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My

soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.

It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repays us according to our faults.

As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:45-

The first man, Adam, as scripture says, became a living soul; but the last Adam has become a life-giving spirit. That is, first the one with the soul, not the spirit, and after that, the one with the spirit. The first man, being from the earth, is earthly by nature; the second man is from heaven. As this earthly man was, so are we on earth; and as the heavenly man is, so are we in heaven. And we, who have been modelled on the earthly man, will be modelled on the heavenly man.

Gospel Acclamation: John 13:34

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment; love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I say this to you who are listening: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly. To the man who slaps you on one cheek, present the other cheek too; to the man who takes your cloak from you, do not refuse your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and do not ask for your property back from the man who robs you. Treat others as you would like them to treat you. If you love those who love you, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what thanks can you expect? For even sinners do that much. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what thanks can you expect? Even sinners lend to sinners to get back the same amount. Instead, love your enemies and do good, and lend without any hope of return. You will have a great reward, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. 'Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.'

**Gospel Reflection – 7th Sunday Yr C
Veronica Lawson rsm**

To hear and respond to the heart of the message that follows, namely to love your enemies and to do good to those who hate you, calls for an extraordinary expansiveness of spirit, only possible for those who are totally open to the power of God's Spirit working in their lives. It is not easy to love one's enemy particularly when the enemy, the one subtly undermining or manipulating you, comes in the guise of friend. Yet, even in the face of subtle enmity, the message is clear: do not respond in kind, respond instead with love, compassion and unreserved forgiveness. It is also important to rise above the pettiness of the other and refuse to be a victim. To the one who takes away your coat, you offer your shirt as well. In this way, the real power remains with the one who is too expansive to retaliate. The members

of Luke's late first century communities, were well acquainted with the Jewish traditions that informed their faith, even if many were not themselves Jewish. The Jewish Christians in the community as well as the "God-fearers" who accepted Jesus of Nazareth as Saviour and Christos or Messiah had been introduced to the God of steadfast love (*æsed*) and compassion (*raæamim*). They believed that God was concerned about justice in the legal system (*mishpat*) and right relationship (*sedeqah*) between people and nations, ready to forgive those who turn away from injustice, wrongdoing. The songs and prayers of the Jewish heritage reminded them constantly of the compassionate ways of God in their history and in their personal lives. When the Lukan Jesus tells these people to be merciful or compassionate as God is compassionate, they know what he means. They also know the cost of

compassion in situations where retaliation is the more spontaneous instinct. God-like compassion is the stance required of Christian disciples in the face of opposition and hatred, even the opposition that comes in the guise of friendship. Compassion, forgiveness and love of enemies are rare commodities in international politics and in the resolution of global conflicts as well as in personal relationships. The major trouble spots on our globe witness to constant retaliation and face-saving measures that harden positions and division. Hatred, fuelled by injustice, is begetting violence in many parts of the world. The only way to break the cycles of violence that perpetuate death and destruction is God-like compassion that requires we, as nations and as individuals, let go of past hurts, examine held opinions, see the world from the perspective of those we mistrust and work for peace grounded in love.

Next Sunday's Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples, 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can

you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound

fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'