



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

## BULLETIN

### 3rd Sunday of Lent – 24th March 2019



**Project Compassion Sets of Envelopes and Boxes are in the Foyers** 

- We have 72 people studying and praying the Lenten Program.

**The Sacrament of First Reconciliation for Year 3's and older** will be celebrated this  
 Wednesday March 27th: 5pm to 6pm  
 Thursday March 28th: 5pm to 6pm, and 7pm to 8pm.  
*Please pray for the children and their families in their celebrations.*

**SMJ Catholic Church Family Catch-up today Sunday 11:45 at Botanical Gardens**  
 All Parish Families are invited for a BYO lunch catch-up after Mass, and the kids can play in the park.  
 Contact Rebekah Rowe 0434 913 189  
*This is a Parish sanctioned event*

**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  
 Principal: Cathy Grace  
 Phone: 5385 2526

We welcome Fr John

**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
**As Pope Francis said, "The future does have a name... and its name is hope."**  
**Peter's story from the Solomon Islands.** Peter goes to a boarding school in the Solomon Islands which has experienced water shortages for 60 years. Previously, students would have to walk kilometres each day in search of clean water, which was challenging for Peter with a disability. With Caritas' support, the school has created a new reliable water system. With more free time and fewer illnesses caused by dirty water, Peter and all children can fulfil their hope of focusing on their studies, providing them with brighter futures. **Lives change when we all give 100%.** Peter's mother passed away. His father arranged for Peter to stay with his aunt, then attend Aligegeo Secondary School. Caritas teamed up with the school to tackle the problem. CASI provided a 90 kilo-litre water tank, electric pump and technical advice.




 We welcome to the Family of God in Baptism today  
**Felix George Stephenson**  
 son of  
 Chloe and Geoffrey

**The Monday Night Craft Group** will be making **palm crosses** for **Passion Sunday**, this Monday 25th at 7pm in the Parish Centre. The Group will teach you, please bring your own scissors. Thank you

**WEEKDAY MASSES:**  
 Tuesday 26th 5.30pm  
 Wednesday 27 9.30am John Baviello, Kerry Hartigan annivs.  
 Thursday 28 9.30am Maggie Dowling, Jim Dowling annivs.  
 Friday 29th **10.30am Anointing Mass Lutheran Home**  
 Saturday 30 10am John and Hazel Cortesi annivs.



**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:** Leonie Dibdin, John Baviello, Kerry Hartigan, James and Hazel Cortesi, Marie White, Patrick O'Toole, Andrew Fahey, Maggie Dowling, Jim Dowling, St Oscar Romero

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

**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 5th Sunday of the Month**  
**4th Sunday in Lent 31st March 2019**

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

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **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

**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

## We have installed split system air conditioners in SMJ Church.

We thank the Italian Social Club for their donation towards this. The system converts to heating in winter. The cooling was effective at Thursday's funeral.

**Coughlin Park Management Committee Meeting** this Tuesday March 26 at **6.00 pm**. Please note the later starting time and the day Tuesday.

**The Season of Lent** is a time of prayer, self-denial and for helping others. In this way the whole Church prepares for Easter. On Fridays of Lent, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled through any of the following **Prayer:** Mass attendance; family prayer, visit to the church read the Bible, make the Stations of the Cross, pray the rosary. **Self-denial:** not eating meat, not eating sweets or desserts, reducing time for watching TV or other entertainments. **Helping others:** take the family to visit the elderly in old people's home or in the parish, visit the sick, the lonely.

## ROSTERS

23/24 March	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Geoff Simpson Cathy Taylor John Parker Simon Lynch Bob Hayes Anne Newton Sr Tirsia Bale	Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalglish Andrea Cox
<b>Commentator</b>	Micky Robarts	Les Butler
30/31 March	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Emelia Sudholz	Andrea Cox
<b>Commentator</b>	Sr Jacinta Rice	Michael Connellan
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz Peter Gutteridge	Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill
<b>Projector</b>	Geoff Simpson	Shayne Keenan
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Robarts	Filipino Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Judie and Hugh Delahunty	Marina Manserra Mary Uebergang
<b>Prayers</b>	John and Joan Parker	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>31st March</b> Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhonda Tursi	<b>7th April</b> Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney
<b>FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):</b>		
Rupanyup	\$	Murtoa \$ 82.00
Horsham	\$ 918.00	Dimboola \$ 90.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1090.00</b>
<b>2nd Collection (Parish Account)</b>		
Envelopes	\$ 1158.00	Loose \$ 78.75
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit \$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1236.75</b>

**Making Connections:** How 'fruitful' has your life been? What 'fruit' have you borne? Do you need a second chance to bear good fruit? Have you ever had an experience of needing to nurture someone or something for a long period before they 'produce fruit'? Were there failures along the way? What was it that eventually brought about the growth? Attend carefully this week to cultivating your own relationship with God. Try to bring out the best in someone else as well.

**Exploring the Word:** God's infinite patience in dealing with our sinfulness and our failings, allows us to produce our best fruit. The theme of this gospel - God's forgiveness and care - will be taken up in the gospels of the next two weeks. Lent is a special time of preparation. In what ways can you cultivate your own garden of faith? cultivating, feeding and pruning our lives to make them fruitful and abundant. We will be judged on how fruitful our lives are.

**Daily Prayer:** O God, you loved us while we were yet sinners; in Christ you come in search of us. We thirst for your grace. Grant your people the gift of the Spirit, that we may learn to profess our faith with courage and conviction and announce with joy the wonders of your saving love.

**Marriage Tip:** Love is humble, and humility acknowledges that we are not perfect. Take the time to ask for forgiveness from your spouse if you have hurt him or her.

**Vocational View:** Each Lent should bring us closer to our God. There is no failure, except that of no longer trying. You can still follow Jesus more closely.

### Country Mass Times:

March 31: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am.  
April 7: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am.  
April 14: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am.  
April 21: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am.  
April 28: Natimuk Mass 8.30. Dimboola AWC 8.30.  
Murtoa AWC 9am



**Life in the Spirit Seminar every Saturday from 3-4pm in the Meeting Room.** All welcome. Contact Sr Tirsa 0498284711



On March 15th at Relay for Life, SMJ Parish was inaugurated into Horsham Relay for Life Hall of Fame, for the use the Parish gives to Relay of Coughlin Park. Trish Deleeuw received this award with me, well done to all who support in any way Relay for Life, and we will continue to support it and all charitable efforts in our city.



Margaret Lawson has been in Aged care at Eventide Stawell for 4 years. **Margaret is 90 next Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March** Address: Eventide Homes, 111 Patrick St, Stawell 3380. Margaret was an active member of our parish for many years. Please remember Margaret in your prayers on this happy occasion.

Harmony Day which began in 1999, is the same day of the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day is about inclusiveness respect and belonging for all, regardless of cultural, faith or linguistic background. Our world is in great need of harmony to respect others and the natural world. Racist extremist movements based on ideologies that seek to promote populist, nationalist agendas are spreading in various parts of the world, fuelling racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance, often targeting migrants and refugees and people of African descent. In its recent resolution of eliminating racism, the United Nations General Assembly reiterated that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and wellbeing of their societies. Any doctrine of racial superiority is false, morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous and must be rejected, together with theories that seek to divide peoples, faiths *Our Church suffers much vilification today, much of it justified through the inaction of Hierarchy to condemn and eliminate abuse. We will always stand with and walk with abuse survivors and their families. We stand firm in our faith and trust in our Church where Jesus' Gospel and values are lived and celebrated.*

**This Sunday we join our community in visiting the local Mosque in Stawell Road, to be in solidarity and prayer with them.**

### Gospel Reflection– 3rd Sunday Lent Yr C.

*Sr Veronica Lawson rsm.* Today's Gospel begins with two warnings about the need for repentance. It ends with a parable about an unproductive fig tree and a faithful "gardener God". The warnings include two examples of untimely deaths, one reported to Jesus and then used by him to illustrate the urgent need for repentance, the other reported by Jesus as a further illustration of his point. Jewish history recounts instances of Pilate's cruelty, but makes no mention of his execution of Galileans and the mingling of their blood with their sacrifices. Neither is there any other record of the collapse of the Siloam tower and the resultant death of eighteen people. Jesus insists that those killed are no more sinful and no more deserving of death than any of their fellow Galileans or Jerusalemites. They are certainly not being punished for their sins and those who make such a link between suffering and sin have got it all wrong. So why does Jesus twice assert, "If you do not repent you will all perish in the same way" or "you will all perish as they did"? The answer lies in the constant need for self-reflection and the missed opportunity for conversion or reconciliation. Jesus is telling his listeners, "Don't be caught unawares; turn your life around in the direction of the gospel while you are alive and well". The Greek verb "to repent" literally means to think again. In the context of Jesus' teaching, it is a call to take seriously the message of God's empire or reign which embraces the whole Earth community. The parable of the unproductive fig tree in the vineyard has the owner wanting to get rid of a fig tree that fails to bear fruit. From an economic perspective, his position is perfectly reasonable: why should a non-fruiting fig tree continue to sap the goodness of the soil? Why not go for more vines, more grapes, more wine, and forget about the fig tree? The faithful or constant gardener, on the other hand, is the compassionate God of Israel who cares about the soil itself and wants to give the fig tree another chance, to turn it around and assist it to bear fruit, if the owner will relent. At this mid-point in our Lenten journey, we might get in closer touch with our compassionate "gardener" God and open ourselves to a more expansive understanding of the pain of our world now.

**Lenten Calendar** An online calendar and free app is now available at [www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3lent](http://www.sydneycatholic.org/xt3lent) Each day of Lent there will be a new Lenten resource, a Lenten Challenge and daily Gospel reading at that site and you are invited to make use of it this year.

**Next Sunday March 31st, Srs Manuela & Tirsa, will lead a Lenten Recollection in SMJ Church from 3pm to 5pm. All are welcome.** There will be time for Individual Confession at this Service.

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

### Parish Pastoral Council Members:

Chris Roberts (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 & Tirsa, 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: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15**

Moses was looking after the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, priest of Midian. He led his flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in the shape of a flame of fire, coming from the middle of a bush. Moses looked; there was the bush blazing but it was not being burnt up. 'I must go and look at this strange sight,' Moses said 'and see why the bush is not burnt.' Now the Lord saw him go forward to look, and God called to him from the middle of the bush. 'Moses, Moses!' he said. 'Here I am,' he answered. 'Come no nearer,' he said. 'Take off your shoes, for the place on which you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,' he said 'the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this Moses covered his face, afraid to look at God. And the Lord said, 'I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt. I have heard their appeal to be free of their slave-drivers. Yes, I am well aware of their sufferings. I mean to deliver them out of the hands of the Egyptians and bring them up out of that land to a land rich and broad, a land where milk and honey flow. 'Then Moses said to God, 'I am to go, then, to the sons of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you." But if they ask me what his name is, what am I to tell them?' And God said to Moses, 'I Am who I Am. This' he added 'is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for all time; by this name I shall be invoked for

all generations to come.'

**Responsorial Psalm:Ps102:1-4, 6-8, 11**  
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 does deeds of justice gives judgement for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Second Reading: Corinthians 10:1-6,**

I want to remind you how our fathers were all guided by a cloud above them and how they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in this cloud and in this sea; all ate the same spiritual food and all drank the same spiritual drink, since they all drank from the spiritual rock that followed them as they went, and that rock was Christ. In spite of this, most of them failed to please God and their corpses littered the desert. These things all happened as warnings for us, not to have the wicked lusts for forbidden things that they had. You must never complain: some of them

did, and they were killed by the Destroyer. All this happened to them as a warning, and it was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age. The man who thinks he is safe must be careful he does not fall.

**Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:17**  
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ! Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices. At this he said to them, 'Do you suppose these Galileans who suffered like that were greater sinners than any other Galileans? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen on whom the tower at Siloam fell and killed them? Do you suppose that they were more guilty than all the other people living in Jerusalem? They were not, I tell you. No; but unless you repent you will all perish as they did.' He told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it but found none. He said to the man who looked after the vineyard, "Look here, for three years now I have been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and finding none. Cut it down: why should it be taking up the ground?" "Sir," the man replied "leave it one more year and give me time to dig round it and manure it: it may bear fruit next year; if not, then you can cut it down.'"

**Next Sunday's Gospel: Luke 15:1-3,11**

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man,' they said, 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them: 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later, the younger son got together everything he had and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery. When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no

longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate. 'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about, "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, his father came out to plead with him; but he

answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property - he and his women - you kill the calf we had been fattening." 'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.'"

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**Stations of the Cross:  
Fridays in Lent at 4.00pm  
in SMJ Church**

Third Sunday of



**SMJ School will lead our  
Ministries at SMJ Church 10.30  
Mass next Sunday March 31st**