

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk -
Rupanyup - Nhill



BULLETIN

5th Sunday of Lent – 7th April 2019



HOLY WEEK CEREMONIES

Passion Sunday next Sunday:
Gather outside our Churches for blessing and the Procession of Palms. We read Luke's Passion.

Monday April 15th: Mass of the Oils at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat 6.30.

Tuesday April 16th: Anointing Mass with newly blessed Oils **2pm in SMJ**

Tuesday April 16th:
Lenten Reconciliation Service at 7pm in SMJ. Frs Peter & John for individual Absolution.

Wednesday April 17th: Seder Meal in the Parish Centre at 7pm.

Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper April 18th at 7.30pm
Procession of Oils, Washing of Feet, Procession to the Altar of Repose in the Church. Adoration until 10pm.

Good Friday Ceremony of the Lord's Passion: 3pm. Nhill 3pm
John's Passion, Adoration of the Cross Collection for Holy Places, Holy Communion.

Easter Vigil and Mass of the Resurrection at 7.30pm.
Gather outside Church for blessing of the Fire and Easter Candle, Procession, Sung Exultet, Blessing of Easter Water. Bottles of Blessed Easter Water given at each Mass.

Easter Sunday Masses April 21st:
Horsham 10.30am. Murtoa 8.30am.
Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am

WEEKDAY MASSES:

Tuesday 9th	5.30pm	Agnes Hudson
Wednesday 10	9.30am	Tom & Noreen O'Connor
Thursday 11	9.30am	Holy Souls
Friday 12th	9.30am	Rosaria Zarlenga anniv
Saturday 13	10am	Audrey Bottoms anniv.

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 in pain, their source of hope in times 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 with the courage and faith to place their trust in your healing touch and 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.

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson

Parish Secretary: Anita Masiero

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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

Holy Week Timetable in the Foyers today.



5th Week of Lent. Bangladesh

Salma was 18, pregnant and fearful for her life and that of her unborn child, when she featured in Project Compassion 2013. In Bangladesh, maternal and infant mortality rates are tragically high. Salma was very sick and in distress, she sought the help of a midwife trained by Caritas' Safe Motherhood Program. Six years on, she's now a healthy mother of two strong, happy children. Salma is committed to giving her children the education they need to provide them with the future she hoped for.



*Once you carry
your own water,
you will learn
the value of every
drop.*

Please Remember in Your Prayers	
RECENT DEATHS:	
ANNIVERSARIES: Rosaria Zarlenga, David Owens, Audrey Bottoms	
SICK: Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Debbie Nolan, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Una Bartlett, Betty Fitzgerald, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, 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 2nd Sunday of the Month Passion Sunday. 14th April 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 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	

Ss Michael and John Parish
FAITH ON TAP this Monday April 8th
in the Beer Garden at the Vic Hotel.
Come for a meal at 7pm, then Fr John Corrigan talk.
We talk things faith and theology, to help us live as a Christian in our society.
Contact James & Ema-Lee Rowe 0431053345
All over 18yo are welcome

CWL Easter Raffle at Masses. \$1 a ticket or 3 for \$2
CWL Ladies a plate please for Arvo Tea on April 16
CWL 90 years celebration on Sunday October 13th

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			
6/7 April	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am	
Eucharistic Ministers	Maree Plazzer Micky Robarts Tess Hayes Geoff Simpson Cathy Taylor John Parker Simon Lynch	Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalglish Andrea Cox	
Commentator	Garry Heinrich	Kingsley Dalglish	
13/14 April	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am	
Readers	Garry Heinrich	Louise Kemp	
Commentator	Kevin Dunn	Bob Pritchett	
Eucharistic Ministers	Bob Hayes Anne Newton Sr Tirsia Bale Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker	Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Cate Rigby Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill	
Projector	Anita Masiero	Shayne Keenan	
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir	
Welcomers	Bill & Josie Phelan	Alistair Castle Sharon Creasey	
Prayers	Darryl & Maree Wren		
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	14th April Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker	21st April Pat O'Connor Win Stephens Barbara Connellan	
FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):			
Natimuk	\$ 25.00	Murtoa	\$ 60.00
Horsham	\$ 827.00	Dimboola	\$ 68.00
Total			\$ 980.00
2nd Collection (Parish Account)			
Envelopes	\$ 1690.00	Loose	\$ 163.30
Credit Card	\$ 2760.83	Direct Debit	\$ 400.00
Total			\$ 5014.13

Making Connections: Have you ever been hasty in your judgement and condemnation of others? Is there someone who is on the outer to whom you can offer support this week? Did You Know?: Pilgrims who came to Jerusalem for the great festivals and who could not find lodging in the city often stayed the night on the Mount of Olives, just outside the city gates. On the Mount of Olives is a garden area called Gethsemane, which means 'oil press' in Hebrew. The Mount of Olives offered a spectacular view across to the temple. Life
Symbols and Images: The question posed to Jesus by the Pharisees was meant to trick him. If he condoned her stoning, the act would break Roman law; if he refused to condone it, he would be holding religious law in contempt. In his response, God, in Jesus, is offering a new way. He does not condemn the sinner but invites her to leave her past behind and begin again. The imagery of forgiveness is consistent throughout the Lenten readings.
Daily Prayer: As once in the vision, O God, your prophet summoned the spirit so that dry bones stood up alive, and as once you Son stood fearless at death's door calling Lazarus to come forth alive, raise us up with Christ from death of sin, that all of us, may be unbound and set free.
Marriage Tip: Thank your spouse for the lifelong journey he or she chose to take with you – just because.
Vocational View: Lent is six weeks of being serious about forgiveness and knowing we are loved. Who will step forward to tell of God's great love for us?

Country Mass Times:

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
May 5: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10. Kaniva 11.30



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

LENTEN REGULATIONS

**Good Friday is a day of Fast and Abstinence
from meat for all 14yo to 60yo**

Lent is a penitential season of prayer, self-denial and helping others, as the whole Church prepares for Easter

♦ Catholics are obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year, between Ash Wed and Trinity Sunday

Greenery for Easter and Donations of Flowers for Easter

The ladies are looking for greenery to use for the Easter flowers, and donations of flowers. If you are able to help could you please bring greenery and flowers to the Church by **Wednesday 17th April.**

Thanking you in anticipation

Seder Meal

Wednesday April 17th at 7pm in the Parish Centre

The Meal commemorates the Passover Meal that leads to the Institution of the Eucharist.

\$8 a person, \$30 family.

If you haven't booked please let Anita know on Monday at the Office or ring 53821155.

Booklets provided for all to participate



Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to **Tom and Noreen O'Connor** on their 60th Wedding Anniversary on April 4th.

** Happy 99th birthday today, April 7th, to **Viv McGennisken**, prayers and best wishes.

Fr John Pothiyittel celebrates the 40th anniversary of his Ordination on Tuesday April 16th. We pray for, congratulate and thank John for his Ministry among us. We will have an appropriate celebration of his anniversary at a later date.

We pray for a safe and blessed School holidays, and safe travelling for those going away.

Parent Information Night for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist on Tuesday April 30th at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

Daylight Saving ends this Weekend.
Before you go to bed tonight, Saturday,
turn your clocks back one hour

Throughout the season of Lent we have reflected on God making a covenant with Abraham, leading the people of Israel out of their bondage, promising them a new way of life based on the love, mercy, compassion Jesus won for us. These gifts exceed the authority of the old law, which Paul today is "rubbish" compared with knowing and being united in Christ. Life with Christ transforms us from people who are caught up in sin to people who are forgiven. In today's Gospel Jesus knew the challenge before him. The people were like a lynch mob with the woman before him, so his words 'let he who is without sin cast the first stone'. May we hear this challenge today and stop any destructive things in word or deed against others, so that we too, like the woman today, can be free to follow where Jesus calls us.

Easter Ecumenical Service at Rabl Park Murtoa on Easter Sunday April 21st at 7am. All welcome
This Service will lead into the 8.30 Mass at Murtoa.

Rupanyup Mass this Wednesday at Will and Magda's home 6.30pm

Natimuk Nursing Home Mass this Thursday 11th at 4.15pm

Project Compassion Boxes and Envelopes: please return to any Mass over Easter or to Holy Thursday Mass.

Good Friday Collection for Holy Places - to help preserve Our Lord's sites in the Holy Land - **envelopes are in the Foyers.**

Easter Dues Envelopes - for retired Priests and needy Parishes - **in the Foyer today.**

Thank you to our Monday Night Craft Group and other helpers for making our Palm Sunday Crosses which are blessed and taken next week

"In everyone there is a zone of solitude that no human intimacy can fill: it is there that God encounters us ... in the depth of our being, we discover the Risen Christ."

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 & 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: Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who made a way through the sea, a path in the great waters; who put chariots and horse in the field and a powerful army, which lay there never to rise again, snuffed out, put out like a wick: No need to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed, even now it comes to light; can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wilds. The wild beasts will honour me, jackals and ostriches, because I am putting water in the wilderness (rivers in the wild) to give my chosen people drink. The people I have formed for myself will sing my praises.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.

The heathens themselves said:

'What marvels the Lord worked for them!' What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land. Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.

They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing: they come back, they come back, full of song, carrying their sheaves.

The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I am no longer trying for perfection by my own efforts, the perfection that comes from the Law, but I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead. Not that I have become perfect yet: I have not yet won, but I am still running, trying to capture the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me. I can assure you my brothers, I am far from thinking that I have already won. All I can say is that I forget the past and I strain ahead for what is still to come; I am racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us upwards to receive in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Acclamation: Joel 2:12-13

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king

of endless glory! With all your heart turn to me, for I am tender and compassionate. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At daybreak he appeared in the Temple again; and as all the people came to him, he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and Pharisees brought a woman along who had been caught committing adultery; and making her stand there in full view of everybody, they said to Jesus, 'Master, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery, and Moses has ordered us in the Law to condemn women like this to death by stoning. What have you to say?' They asked him this as a test, looking for something to use against him. But Jesus bent down and started writing on the ground with his finger. As they persisted with their question, he looked up and said, 'If there is one of you who has not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Then he bent down and wrote on the ground again. When they heard this they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there. He looked up and said, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she replied. 'Neither do I condemn you,' said Jesus 'go away, and don't sin any more.'

Gospel Reflection – 5th Lent

Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Historian Gerda Lerner demonstrated that patriarchy emerged some 3000 years ago with the emergence of weapons of war and the consequent gender division of labour. By the first century CE, when the gospels were written, every woman in the Roman world knew what that she was the possession of a man, initially of her father, and then of her husband or successive husbands. Slaves, both men and women, were the property of and sexually available to the head of the patriarchal household. Even free women had fewer choices than men in regard to such matters as choice of life partners and social contact outside the family. In the context of Second Temple Judaism, a woman's sexual liaison with another man was a sin against her husband who was also her proprietor. Her

shame was of less consequence than her husband's loss of status and honour. We are told nothing of the precise circumstances of the woman said to be "taken in adultery". She could not have been "taken" alone: there is a man somewhere in the wings who is at least as guilty as the woman. But only the woman is "brought" to Jesus in the public arena, a spectacle for the assembled crowd. Ironically, the lawyers have little interest in the woman or her fate. Their interest is in Jesus. They want to test him and catch him out on his attitude to and enactment of the Mosaic law. Jesus is the one on trial in this public setting, and the woman is of little concern to them, only a means to a sinister end. They ask Jesus for a legal opinion on her case. Should she be stoned to death? Jesus does not dignify them with a response. Rather, he takes away their

power over the woman by bending down and writing with his finger on the ground. They keep asking him for a ruling. Jesus subverts their ploy by confronting them with their own sinfulness: "let the one without sin cast the first stone". They move off one by one and the woman is finally accorded the dignity of responding for herself. She is freed from the burden of condemnation. She can move forward with a strong sense of her worth and the knowledge that she matters in the scheme of things. As we bring today's gospel into dialogue with stories of violence against women, such as the horrifying stories of Yazidi women returning to their homes after years of captivity in Syria as the slaves of ISIS operatives, we might commit ourselves anew to the elimination of forms of discrimination against women, children, all families.

**Next Sunday's Gospel:
The Passion of Our Lord according
to Luke**

Booklets will be supplied

**Stations of the Cross:
this Friday at 4.00pm
in SMJ Church**

**Stations of the Cross in
Country Centres Good Friday:**

Natimuk: 10am gather at Lutheran Church, conclude at Nursing Home.

Rupanyup: gather at Catholic Church at 9am.

Dimboola: Gather in Lloyd Street at 3pm

Murtoa: St Mary's Church 3pm

Fr Damian is unable to come here in April and May due to some eye surgeries he is having. Fr John will be here on Passion Sunday, in May Fr John is helping in Stawell and will be on holidays from May 20 to June 20. I am arranging Priests for May.

Holy Week Ministries: please sign the sheet in the Foyer if you can help with any Ministry. Thank you