



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

BULLETIN

1st Sunday of Advent — 1st December 2019



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
Parish Secretary: Camille Del Castillo
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

Christmas Crib Display

This Thursday December 5th to Sunday December 8th,

Fr Andrew Hayes, Fiona Tonkin and Kevin Linard bring to our Parish more than 300 nativity scenes in a stunning exhibition of Christmas Crib. There are figurines, cribs and mangers of all shapes, sizes, ages, histories. Many of the nativity scenes have fascinating stories behind them. One of the oldest items dates back to 1750, a sheep from Germany 254yrs.

The Display will be in Nhill on Tuesday 3rd.

The Crib Display is in the Horsham Parish Centre from Thursday 5th to Sunday December 8th.

Times of the Display in our Parish Centre:

Thursday Dec 5th, Friday Dec 6 School hours for Schools.

3.30 to 5pm Thursday, Friday: Open to the Public

Saturday Dec 7th: 11am to 8.30pm (closed during 6.30 Mass)

Sunday Dec 8th: 9.30am to 1pm. (closed during 10.30am Mass)

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, of hope in times of despair, woundedness, sorrow, their solace and inspiration when they are unable to lift their hearts, minds and voices to You in prayer. Bless them with courage and faith to place their trust in your healing touch and love.

Bless **caregivers**, as channels of your love, they are your hands on earth. Give them gentleness as they help the sick, give them respect for their dignity and value to You.

Give carers and helpers 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 elderly, sick, in Homes or in Hospital

Tonight SUNDAY December 1
Carols at Sawyer Park. Family activities, carols from 5.30, with food stalls etc.
Carols begin at 7.30pm.
If raining radio will give new location



We say farewell and thank you to

ANITA MASIERO

You have served our Parish as Secretary for 13 years. I was blessed to have you welcome me here in 2012, and your welcoming, smiling and efficiency as the face of our Parish to all who come into the Office, has made them and all of us feel at home. We, as your Parish, pray for a

blessed and safe and happy retirement with Ferdie.

We will have a fuller article in the Christmas edition of *The Fisherman*

CWL Christmas Raffle. Tickets sold at Masses this weekend and next weekend. \$1. 3 for \$2.

We welcome
Camille Del Castillo
as our new Parish Secretary.
Camille's hours are:
Monday and Tuesday :
8.30am to 12.30pm.
Wednesday, Thursday,
Friday: 8.30am to 3.30pm.

WEEKDAY MASSES: A Funeral Mass will replace weekday Mass

Tuesday 3rd Dec	5.30pm	St Francis Xavier.
Wednesday 4 Dec	9.30am	Anthony Hynes, Agnes Quirk, Kevin Doyle annivs
Thursday 5th Dec	9.30am	Holy Souls intentions Lina
Friday 6th Dec	9.30am	Kevin O'Connor anniv.
Saturday 7th Dec	10 am	St Ambrose. Special Intentions.

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: Betty FitzGerald, Geoff Handbury, Pat Davis (Ararat)

ANNIVERSARIES: Joyce Mackay, Kevin O'Connor, Stephen Baker, Kevin Doyle, Agnes Quirk, Anthony Hynes, Martin Ryan, Gerry Griffiths, Frank Lawson, Chris McMillan

SICK: Brian Rice, Carmel Cannard, Debbie Nolan, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen, John McNamara, Tom McLean

Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 5382 1155

Saturday Morning Devotions:

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20. Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church 9.35. Mass 10. CONFESSIONS: Saturday morning 10.25am.

**Next Sunday 2nd Sunday of the Month
2nd Sunday of Advent 8th December 2019**

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

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Nhill **Sunday Mass 10.00**

**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. For enrolment and appointment contact Parish Office 53821155.

CHOIR PRACTICE Second Wednesday in the Church 6pm.

Cleaning SMJ Church Saturday Dec 14th from 10.30am. Men, women, young people welcome. Please bring cleaning materials, buckets etc. We will have supplies

Candle of Remembrance will be given at Masses this weekend Saturday and Sunday in remembrance of our deceased loved ones

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has **Bob Pritchett and Jill McGinniken** are 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 and vulnerable adults in the Parish.

Our Parish seeks to always be a child safe Parish

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 & Tirsa, Anita Masiero (Sec)

ROSTERS

30 Nov/1Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am	
Eucharistic Ministers	Peter Gutteridge Sr Tirsa Bale Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy	Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dagleish Karen Hill Anna Robertson	
Commentator	Sr Jacinta Rice	Anna Robertson	
7/8 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am	
Readers	Peter Gutteridge	Bob Pritchett	
Commentator	Anthony Amor	Michael Connellan	
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer Peter Gutteridge Micky Robarts Cathy Taylor John Parker Geoff Simpson	Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Andrea Cox Faye Wills Bob Pritchett	
Projector	Anita Masiero	Gabby Mills	
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Male Choir	
Welcomers	Bill & Josie Phelan	Denise Vallance Helene Bush	
Prayers	John & Joan Parker		
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	8th December Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley Judie Delahunty	15th December Lynda Hutchinson Helene Bush Bernadette Delahunty	
FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):			
Natimuk	\$ 21.00	Murtoa	\$ 130.00
Horsham	\$ 808.00	Dimboola	\$ 71.00
Total		\$ 1030.00	
2nd Collection (Parish Account)			
Envelopes	\$ 1322.00	Loose	\$ 129.80
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
Total		\$ 1451.80	

Making Connections: Be alert and watchful for the needs of others this week and be ready to respond to those needs. Rejoice in the unexpected.

Marriage Tip: Do you find yourself comparing your marriage or family life to others around you? Gratitude is the best remedy against jealousy.

Daily Prayer: Merciful and faithful God, you sent your only-begotten Son, the teacher of truth and the font of reconciliation, to gather the warring nations of earth into the peace of your everlasting reign. Stir within us the spirit of joyful expectation, that, leaving behind the night, we may run to greet your day as it draws near, and gladly welcome your Christ whenever he reveals himself.

A Vocation View: In our materialistic society, someone must stand up to speak for our spiritual heritage. Could that be you?

Advent: Let us ponder what is in our minds and hearts when we say "Come Lord Jesus!"

First Sunday of Advent: The Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are, and they strive to live in readiness for His coming.

Betty FitzGerald Funeral Monday Dec 9th 11am in SMJ Church, cuppa, then to Harrow for burial at 3pm.

Christmas Ministry Roster in the Foyer today. Please sign for a Ministry at any Mass you attend.

Country Mass Times:

Dec 8th: Murtoa 8.30am. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am
Dec 15th: Murtoa 8.30am. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am
Dec 22: Natimuk 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Murtoa 10.30am
Nhill 5pm.
Dec 29: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am



Donation envelopes are available from the Piety Stall. Food donations are welcome for hampers. Our JESSE TREE gifts will go to Vinnies.

Advent is the season of new beginnings. A new liturgical year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and it beckons to us with images of hope. It is the season of the impossible becoming possible. In the scriptures we read of the dry, barren wilderness bursting into bloom; of broken hearts healing; of a barren woman and a young virgin both conceiving children. Candles are lit on the Advent wreath signifying our longing for the light of Christ, as the time of his birth draws near. Advent heralds more than longing for the light of Christ. It paves our celebrating Christ as God-with-us, God in human flesh. This is the heart of our faith, and it is the cause of our joy, hope, peace, the reason for the Season to change our ways, to celebrate Christmas.

We will welcome to our Parish from December 17th to 21st

Mother Rosaria Di Iorio,

the Mother General of the world wide Baptistine Sisters. We rejoice with Srs Tirsa and Manuela in having Mother with us. Her schedule takes her from here to the Philippines for the Congregation Assembly. We will have opportunities to meet Mother Rosaria.

Columban Calendars & Cards. Columban Calendars for 2020 are available in the Piety Stall at \$8. each. Christmas cards are also available at \$3.50 for a packet of eight.



End of the Year School Masses:

SBC Years 7 to 11: Wednesday December 11th at 1.30pm in the Church.

SMJ School: Tuesday December 17th 12 noon.

OLHC Murtoa: Tuesday December 17th 6.30pm in St Mary's Church Murtoa.

St Patrick's Nhill: Wednesday December 18th at 6pm in St Patrick's Church.

School SAC Advisory Meetings

SMJ Tuesday 6pm AGM. OLHC Tuesday 6.30pm
Nhill AGM 7pm. PPC 6pm. Fr Peter attends these

SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

We are inviting more Parishioners to become Special Ministers. If you attend Mass and over 14, you are eligible. Please inform the Office or see Fr Peter or Srs Tirsa and Manuela if you are interested. We will have Training for you.

Christmas Crib Display

From Tuesday December 3 to Sunday December 8th, Fr Andrew Hayes, Fiona Tonkin and Kevin Linard will bring to our Parish more than 300 nativity scenes in a stunning exhibition. There are figurines, cribs and mangers of all shapes, sizes, ages and histories, and many of the nativity scenes have fascinating stories behind them. One of the oldest items dates back to 1750, a sheep from Germany 254yrs.

The Display will be in Nhill on Tuesday 3rd, and in the Horsham Parish Centre from Thursday 5th to Sunday December 8th. There is a Poster in the Foyer on the Display with times for viewing.

Our Schools will attend the Display.

Times of Display in our Parish Centre:

Thursday Dec 5th, Friday Dec 6th:
School hours for Schools.
3.30 to 5pm each day : Open to the Public
Saturday Dec 7th: 11am to 8.30pm
(closed during 6.30 Mass)
Sunday Dec 8th: 9.30am to 1pm.
(closed during 10.30am Mass)

Today December 1st is the First Sunday of Advent



**PARISH
ADVENT /
CHRISTMAS
DIARY**



Advent Reflection Programme

Anyone who would like to belong to a group, please contact the Parish Office for a booklet. Booklets available also for individual use, \$5 each.

The Jesse Tree will be decorated at each Sunday Advent Mass, with Jesse Tree Symbols. To the Jesse Tree you are invited to bring gifts for children (please put age and gender) and non-perishable food which will be given to the needy.

Christmas Anointing Mass on Tuesday 10th December at 2pm in SMJ Church. Cuppa in the Hall after Mass. CWL Raffle drawn at the Cuppa.

Anointing and Reconciliation at Dimboola 8.30 on Dec 8th and Murtoa 8.30 Mass December 15.

Advent Reconciliation Service Monday Dec 23rd at 7pm at SMJ Church. Two priests present.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Horsham: Christmas Eve Children's Mass 7pm
Christmas Eve Mass with Choir 10.15pm

Murtoa: Christmas Eve Mass 5pm.
Nhill: Christmas Eve Mass 6pm.
Dimboola: Christmas Eve Mass 7.30pm.
Horsham: Christmas Day Mass 9.00am.

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem.' He will wield authority over the nations and adjudicate between many peoples; these will hammer their swords into ploughshares, their spears into sickles. Nation will not lift sword against nation, there will be no more training for war O House of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 121:1-2, 4-5, 6
Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.' And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord. For Israel's law it is, there to praise the Lord's name. There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray: 'Peace be to your homes! May peace reign in your walls, in your palaces, peace!'

For love of my brethren and friends I say: 'Peace upon you!' For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon - let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your

armour be the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel Acclamation: Ps 84:8

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, show us your mercy and love, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As it was in Noah's day, so will it be when the Son of Man comes. For in those days before the Flood people were eating, drinking, taking wives, taking husbands, right up to the day Noah went into the ark, and they suspected nothing till the Flood came and swept all away. It will be like this when the Son of Man comes. Then of two men in the fields one is taken, one left; of two women at the millstone grinding, one is taken, one left. 'So stay awake, because you do not know the day when your master is coming. You may be quite sure of this that if the householder had known at what time of the night the burglar would come, he would have stayed awake and would not have allowed anyone to break through the wall of his house. Therefore, you too must stand ready because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

Gospel Reflection – 1st Sunday of Advent. Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

"Where is the Life we have lost in living?" asks the Chorus in T. S. Eliot's *The Rock*. The Jesus of Matthew's gospel is implicitly asking the same question as Eliot's Chorus. He is making much the same observation as Henry David Thoreau, "Most [people] lead lives of quiet desperation and go to the grave with the song still in them." We are invited to find Life in our living and to sing the songs that are in us. We are to be agents of our own future rather than unthinking participants in the destruction of our planet. Right now, the human community is challenged in unprecedented ways to restore the life we have lost by living beyond our means and by destructively exploiting the riches of the Earth. As we begin a new liturgical year, Matthew's Jesus invites us to contemplate the ultimate realities even

as we attend to the demands of the present. He tells us to be "awake", to be "ready" all the time, not because death or the end of the world are around the corner, but because we need to recognise the multiple "advents" or arrivals of the Christ, the Human One, who calls us beyond self-absorption to Life. He reminds us that we are no different from our forebears who from earliest days have gone about their daily business without being sufficiently attentive to what really matters. In our times, we have allowed thieves to break in and plunder our planet, our common home, because thieves come in guises that we fail to recognise. They so often look just like us and do the things we do. It may be that we must first be attentive to our own ways of plundering the house that is home to all of God's creatures. We spend much of our time looking back. That has its place, since our

history informs our present and helps us in shaping our future, though all the while we know with Auden that '[t]he past is foreign country: they do things differently there'. Advent invites us to look forward rather than back and to dream gospel-inspired dreams that will enable creative change in our own lives and in the life of our planet. It invites us to be awake, to be ready for any eventuality. Dreams and visions have always been the precursors to effective and life-giving change. We need the grace to see visions and to dream dreams that make for justice and peace and that permit us to walk more freely in the light of God's ways. We seek the grace to "see" God's word as did Isaiah in the first reading (Isa 2:1-5). We need to put our energy into creating life-generating systems that enable us to move forward in the paths of gospel compassion and love.

Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees

coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and

gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

We welcome Fr John this weekend

CWL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
at the Royal Hotel, **this Tuesday**
December 3rd at 12pm. Cost \$20.00 per head. All Welcome

Christmas Edition of our Parish Magazine *The Fisherman*.
We seek your articles of interest, photos, poetry etc. Please have them into the Parish Office by Friday December 13th. Thank you