



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

## BULLETIN



**2nd Sunday of Advent — 8th December 2019**  
**Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary**



### Advent

#### 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

St Patrick's Nhill  
Principal: Kingsley Dalglish  
Phone: 53911575

### Christmas Crib Display

Fr Andrew Hayes, Fiona Tonkin and Kaye Paton bring to our Parish more than 500 nativity scenes, plus many other ancient symbols, 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.

### Times of the Display in our Parish Centre:

**tonight Saturday after Mass to 8.30pm**

**Sunday: 9.30am to 1pm.**

*(closed during 10.30am Mass)*

We thank Fr Andrew, Fiona and Kaye for bringing this wonderful display to us.

### 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



**We welcome into the family of God in Baptism today in Horsham**

Louis Arden Hendy  
son of Andrew and Carla

We welcome Fr Andrew Hayes with the Crib display, as our Celebrant for Horsham and Murtoa this weekend, together with Fiona Tonkin and Kaye Paton Fr Damian will come next year at a time to suit him.

### **Anointing Mass**

**this Tuesday December 10th at 2pm in SMJ Church.**

Cuppa in the Hall after CWL ladies, a plate please. CWL Raffle drawn at the cuppa.



**SBC Years 7-11 End of Year Mass this Wednesday 11th at 1.30pm in SMJ Church**

All families, parishioners are welcome.

### **Christmas Edition of our Parish Magazine *The Fisherman.***

*You are welcome to contribute articles, photos, poetry etc. Email or drop into the Parish Office by THIS Friday December 13*

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

**CWL Christmas Raffle.** Tickets sold at Masses this 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.

**Finance Meeting this Tuesday December 10th at 12 noon.**

### **WEEKDAY MASSES: A Funeral Mass will replace weekday Mass**

Tuesday 10th Dec	<b>2pm</b>	<b>ANOINTING MASS</b>
Wednesday 11th Dec	9.30am	Holy Souls
Thursday 12th Dec	<b>5.30pm</b>	Frank Lawson anniv. Plazzer and Rowe family int.
Friday 13th Dec	9.30am	St. Lucy. Holy Souls
Saturday 14th Dec	10 am	St John of the Cross. 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:** Sr Bride O'Bryan csb, Eila Punch (Roger's mother, Warrnambool).

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bryce Craig, John Coleman, John Lennon, Frank Finnigan, Pat Beks, Phillip White,

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

**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  
3rd Sunday of Advent 15th 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.

## ROSTERS

7/8Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	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
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Amor	Michael Connellan
14/15 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Emelia Sudholz	Kingsley Dalgleish
<b>Commentator</b>	Maree Plazzer	Alison McKinnon
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Simon Lynch Bob Hayes Anne Newton Sr Tirsa Bale Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce	Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalgleish Karen Hill Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson
<b>Projector</b>	Peter Gutteridge	Shayne Keenan
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Robarts	Combined Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Bill & Josie Phelan	Denise Vallance Helene Bush
<b>Prayers</b>	Lesley Price	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>15th December</b> Lynda Hutchinson Helene Bush Bernadette Delahunty	<b>22nd December</b> Josie Phelan Pauline Irwin Joan Butler Margo Hogan
<b>FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):</b>		
Natimuk	\$	Murtoa \$ 68.00
Horsham	\$ 947.00	Dimboola \$ 59.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1074.00</b>
<b>2nd Collection (Parish Account)</b>		
Envelopes	\$ 1215.00	Loose \$ 118.00
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit \$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1333.00</b>

**Making Connections:** Withdraw a little this week from the hectic celebrations of Christmas cheer and concentrate instead on waiting and prayerfully preparing for what is to come. Give thought to the real meaning of Christmas and contemplate what the 'advent' of Christ meant to the world.

**Marriage Tip:** Both husband and wife should try to renew their love day after day, and that is done through sacrifice, with smiles, and also with ingenuity.

**Daily Prayer:** Stir up within us, God of peace and mercy, a sincere desire for repentance, that, baptised with the Holy Spirit and enkindled by the fire of your love, we may bring to every circumstance and setting the justice, gentleness and peace that the incarnation of your Word has caused to sprout up and blossom upon the earth.

**A Vocation View:** Isaiah says: "The earth shall be filled with knowledge of the Lord." Who taught you knowledge of the Lord, and who are you teaching today?

**Second Sunday of Advent** "Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Do you bear good fruit for Christ? Or, do you spend your time, talent and treasure constantly acquiring more things. Our time, our talent and our treasure are gifts that God has given us. What we do with them is our gift back to God. What gifts do you plan to give to the Lord this Christmas

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

## Cleaning SMJ Church next Saturday December 14th

from 10.30am. Men, women, young people welcome. Please bring cleaning materials, buckets etc.

We will have cleaning supplies

**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.

**Country Mass Times:**

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.

**The White Christmas Tree** will be set up in the Foyer this week for the Third Sunday of Advent.

You can add the *“The Remembering Family Who Are not With Us at Christmas”* names to this Tree. Tags will be in the Foyer.



Pope Francis has written a beautiful letter on the significance of the Christmas Crib. In the light of our visit of Christmas Crib displays,

it speaks to us of the importance of our own Crib displays. **Copies of the Letter are in the Foyers.**

**10th December—International Human Rights Day** *“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home—so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world...Unless these rights have meaning there, they have li le meaning anywhere. Without concerted cilzen ac/on to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”* - Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being—regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion.

**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:**

**SMJ School:** Tuesday December 17th 12 noon.

**OLHC Murtoa:** Tuesday December 17h 6.30pm in St Mary’s Church Murtoa.

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

**SPECIAL MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

We are inviting more Parishioners to become Special Ministers. If you are 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.



**SMJ SCHOOL STUDENTS A Story of Christmas THIS THURSDAY December 12 at Sawyer Park Sound Shell BYO tea from 5.30pm**

**The Performance by the Students at 6.30. All families and Parishioners welcome.**



Today, Sunday, in Nhill, we welcome into the RCIA program Hanna Melicio and Harold Melicio. Hanna is being married in the Philippines in June and is being Baptised, and celebrates her Confirmation and First Communion, with Harold.

Sr Manuela and Lesley Price are welcoming into our RCIA Program, and preparing the following: Maryann, Venetia and Julia Kardogeros Maricel Mahmood *Please pray for our candidates*

**The Season of Advent**  
Today December 8th is the 2nd Sunday of Advent  
*Hope Joy Peace Love*  
**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** is 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-perishible food which will be given to children and the needy.

**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 11:1-10**

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (The fear of the Lord is his breath.) He does not judge by appearances, he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless; his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 12**

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.  
O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, that he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.  
In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails: He shall rule

from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.

For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.  
May his name be blessed for ever and endure like the sun. Every tribe shall be blessed in him, all nations bless his name.

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

**Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9**

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing your name.

**Gospel Acclamation: Luke 3:4, 6**

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all

people shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

**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.'

**Gospel Reflection – 2nd Sunday of Advent. Sr Veronica Lawson rsm**

Desertification of earth is becoming the norm in these troubled times, and wilderness or desert features powerfully in today's gospel reading. The desert is the biblical place of encounter with God, the place of beginnings and of testing. The voice of John the Baptizer is heard in the Judean desert. His food and clothing are desert-derived. John is identified as the one of whom Isaiah spoke, the voice crying out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way...." Ecologically, the Isaian image is confronting: preparing the way involves major earthworks that reconfigure the landscape, levelling the mountains and filling the valleys to create straight paths. Yet the way is never straight. John knows this. The preparation he calls for is ongoing metanoia or re-evaluating: keep on turning your lives around, keep

on expanding your horizons, for the kingdom of the heavens is "close at hand". The kingdom is both present and yet still approaching. Isaiah (11:1-10) provides content to the notion of kingdom or basileia: John is announcing the advent of God's long awaited empire of justice and right relationship. He offers a baptism of repentance (metanoia). John's baptism is a commitment to a renewed way of life. His ministry is hugely effective. It attracts "people of Jerusalem, all Judea and the region along the Jordan River." The arrival of two groups of religious authorities prompts a fierce response: "you brood of vipers". John has no patience with those who seek their own advantage. He challenges them with the striking image of the "more powerful one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit and fire" and will sort out those who refuse to turn their lives around (the chaff) from those who

listen to the call for metanoia (the wheat). The latter are "gathered in" while the former are burned "in a fire that never goes out". Fire is a multi-faceted image in the bible. Here it is used metaphorically for the judgment on the wicked. Fire, in this dry land, is a challenging symbol: it is both friend and foe. In the first-century Manual of Discipline from the Qumran community by the Dead Sea, water, refining by fire, and "a holy Spirit" are listed together as the instruments of God's saving and purifying action. John presents his own role as preparatory to that of Jesus, the Spirit-filled, powerful and enduring agent of God's refining and purifying work in the world. We recognise our own ongoing need for a "baptism" with the Holy Spirit and fire. We prepare the way by constantly expanding our vision and turning our lives around in the direction of God's reign of compassionate care.

**Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

John in his prison had heard what Christ was doing and he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?' Jesus answered, 'Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed

to the poor, and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.' As the messengers were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the people about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swaying in the breeze? No? Then what did you go out to see? A man wearing fine clothes? Oh no, those who wear fine clothes are to be found in palaces. Then what did you go out for? To see

a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and much more than a prophet: he is the one of whom scripture says: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way before you. I tell you solemnly, of all the children born of women, a greater than John the Baptist has never been seen; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he is.