



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

BULLETIN



3rd Sunday of Advent — 15th December 2019



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 Dalgleish
Phone: 53911575

We welcome Fr John and thank him for his ministry

Christmas Edition of our Parish Magazine *The Fisherman* will be in our Foyers next weekend.

Greenery and Flowers for Christmas

Our Flower Ladies welcome donations of greenery and flowers. Please leave these in the Church on Monday December 23rd.

PARISH ADVENT / CHRISTMAS DIARY

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-perishable food which will be given to children and needy.

Advent Reconciliation Service
Monday December 23rd at 7pm in SMJ Church. *Hymns, Prayers, Scripture, Examination of Conscience, Individual Absolution with 2 Priests*

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Horsham: Christmas Eve
Children's Mass 7pm.
Christmas Eve Mass 10.15.
Carols with the Choir from 9.45

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

Bishop's Christmas Appeal will be a second collection at our Christmas Masses, or leave money for the appeal in an envelope marked "Christmas Appeal"

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

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
Thomas John Amor
son of Justin and Louise

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

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



WEEKDAY MASSES: A Funeral Mass will replace weekday Mass

Tuesday 17th Dec	12nn	SMJ School End of Year Mass
Wednesday 18th Dec	9.30am	Holy Souls
Thursday 19th Dec	5.30pm	Erin O'Connor anniv.
Friday 20th Dec	9.30am	Holy Souls
Saturday 21st Dec	10 am	Holy Souls

Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Michael Farrell, Danny Robarts (Colac, Chris's brother), Joan Cook (Nhill),

ANNIVERSARIES: Warren Strauss, Erin O'Connor, Jose Lawson, Iwan Szczur, Preston Hynam

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 4th Sunday of the Month
4th Sunday of Advent 22nd December 2019**

Horsham **Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday - 10.30am**
Natimuk **Sunday 8.30am**
Murtoa **Sunday 8.30am**
Dimboola **Sunday 11.30am**
Nhill **Sunday 10.00am**

**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.

Ladies Craft Group — Christmas Break up:
After craft at **12pm this Monday 16th December** at
the Royal Hotel. Rides available; please contact
Pauline at 0429811240.

Catholic Women's League (CWL) Raffle:

Congratulations to our winners: *1st Prize:* Kath Robertson
2nd Prize: Pauline Breen. *3rd Prize:* Joan Whiley

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has
Bob Pritchett and Jill McGinnisken are our Parish
Safeguarding Officers. 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, Joan Lane-
Storey, Srs Manuela & Tirsa.

ROSTERS

14/15 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Eucharistic Ministers	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
Commentator	Maree Plazzer	Alison McKinnon
21/22 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Kevin Dunn	Mary Marshall
Commentator	Kevin Dunn	Anna Robertson
Eucharistic Ministers	Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer Peter Gutteridge Micky Robarts Cathy Taylor	Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalgleish Andrea Cox Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen
Projector	Geoff Simpson	Robert Sartori
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Teresa Bottoms
Welcomers	Gary & Betty Heinrich	Mary Dalgleish Alistair Castle
Prayers	Darryl & Maree Wren	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	22nd December Josie Phelan Pauline Irwin Joan Butler Margo Hogan	29th December Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhonda Tursi
FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):		
Rupanyup	\$ 90.10	Murtoa \$ 73.00
Horsham	\$ 961.00	Dimboola \$ 31.00
Total		\$ 1155.10
2nd Collection (Parish Account)		
Envelopes	\$ 2849.00	Loose \$ 797.55
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit \$
Total		\$ 3646.55

Making Connections: This week, find ways to be 'good news' to others, especially those who are sick or alienated or marginalised.

Marriage Tip: "Children benefit from our 'presence' more than our 'presents'" During this Advent, ponder the tone that time with your spouse, children, and extended family will take during the upcoming Christmas season. "The spirituality of family love is made up of thousands of small but real gestures."

Daily Prayer: Sustain us, O God, on our Advent journey as we go forth to welcome the One who is to come; and make haste to help us as we seek to understand what we went out to see in the Advent wilderness: your patience nurturing your saving purpose to fulfilment, your power in Jesus making all things new.

A Vocation View: "As your models in suffering hardships and in patience, friend, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord." A vocation is responding to the call of God.

3rd Sunday of Advent "You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand." J 5:8
Patience is another one of those things many of us struggle with. We want things to go according to our plan and our schedule. Any change brings anxiety and fear. Through daily prayer we better align ourselves with God's will and His plan, which is far better than anything we can come up with on our own.

Funeral Prayers for Mick Farrell Monday 10am in SMJ

Country Mass Times:

Dec 22: Natimuk 8.30. Dimboola 11.30. Murtoa 8.30am Nhill 10am.

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 is set up in the Foyer. You can write the names of *“Remembering Family Who Are not With Us at Christmas”* on the green tags and attach them to the Tree. Tags are 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 Cribs display,

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



Our Lady Help of Christians Primary School Murtoa. Job Vacancies - **Teacher and Library Technician** Job Descriptions available in foyer.

Applications close: Wednesday 18th December, at 4pm

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 this week.

SMJ School: Tuesday December 17th 12 noon.

OLHC Murtoa: Tuesday December 17h 6.30pm in **OLHC School Multi Purpose Room** Murtoa.

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

MEN’S GROUP CHRISTMAS DINNER

in the front room of White Hart Hotel at 6:30pm **THIS Thursday 19th December.**

All men and sons invited.

Please **RSVP to Patrick on 0428 847 445.**

The Mens group breakfast meetings will recommence on the 3rd Thursday of February.

Our prayers are for those who died in the NZ Volcano disaster and for the injured, conscious that their injuries are of a most serious and painful nature. We cannot begin to imagine the grief and distress that they and their families and friends have



Thank YOU

Volunteering provides opportunities for people, to concretely impact their own lives and play a constructive role in their communities by volunteering their time and skills. Through volunteerism, communities around the world experience strengthened solidarity and inclusion.

Contrary to what some may think, I always give thanks to you, our Parishioners, for your time, talent and generosity, to the life and ministries of our Parish and to wider community activities. May God bless you in all you do. We thank you most sincerely.

As we come to the end of the year, we acknowledge the life of our Parish and its ministries and outreach, and our Schools, highlight the importance of we who are SMJ Parish, who are seeking to do what Pope Francis says that a Parish is called to do.

In his Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel* he says “The Parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God’s word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, for proclamation, for charitable outreach, for worship, prayer, celebration. In all its activities the Parish encourages and trains its members to be evangelizers. It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.”

At the end of the School Year, we thank our Schools and Staff for their guidance in faith and Education to the children in their care. Thank you to families for your support to our Schools.

Thank you Peter, Andrea, Cathy and Kingsley Dalglish for your leadership.

We pray for a safe and blessed holiday for all.

We farewell our graduating Yr 12 and Yr 6 students.

We congratulate the VCE Students on their exam results, may these results lead our students to use their strengths for their future journey.

Have a safe, blessed and happy Christmas and blessings of peace and hope for 2020.



Today is **Gaudete Sunday** a day of joy and rejoicing. Isaiah paints a picture of regeneration. As we move deeper and deeper into the reality of God’s presence

in our midst, we discover life’s meaning and purpose. John the Baptist sets the way for us, the herald of the coming of Jesus. John says even the least in the kingdom of God is far greater than he is. Know your greatness!!! John serves as a model of patience in suffering, hope in struggle, joy in love and care for each other. May we heed his call to change our ways, make straight our paths, as we welcome Christ this Christmas.

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6. 10.

Let the wilderness and the dry-lands exult, let the wasteland rejoice and bloom, let it bring forth flowers like the jonquil, let it rejoice and sing for joy. The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it, the splendour of Carmel and Sharon; they shall see the glory of the Lord, the splendour of our God. Strengthen all weary hands, steady all trembling knees and say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy, for those the Lord has ransomed shall return. They will come to Zion shouting for joy, everlasting joy on their faces; joy and gladness will go with them and sorrow and lament be ended.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10

Lord, come and save us.

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age.

Lord, come and save us.

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Be patient, brothers, until the Lord's coming. Think of a farmer: how patiently he waits for the precious fruit of the ground until it has had the autumn rains and the spring rains! You too have to be patient; do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon. Do not make complaints against one another, brothers, so as not to be brought to judgement yourselves; the Judge is already to be seen waiting at the gates. For your example, brothers, in submitting with patience, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor. Alleluia.

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.'

Gospel Reflection – 3rd Sunday of Advent. Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

The third Sunday of Advent used to be called Gaudete (be joyful) Sunday. It provided a mid-term break within a period of austerity or penance in preparation for Christmas. Advent is no longer celebrated as a penitential period, but rather as a reflective time of expectation and hope. The invitation to rejoice nonetheless remains part of the Advent liturgy: it is certainly present in the first reading: "the desert shall rejoice and bloom ..." (Isaiah 35:1-6, 10). Today's gospel passage is full of questions. John sends his disciples to Jesus with a question: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Jesus responds by directing them to the evidence: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are

raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." He adds a comment about those who take no offence at him: they are blessed. He then turns to the crowds with a series of rhetorical questions about their motivation for going out to John in the desert. His words to the crowds conclude with an identification of John as God's prophet and messenger, his own precursor. He pays an extraordinary tribute to John, but leaves the reader puzzling about the final statement: the least in the kingdom is greater than John. John's imprisonment is a sobering reminder of what can happen to those who are faithful to their mission. As Matthew's Jesus will attest, John is no reed shaken by the wind. This could well be a subtle reference to Herod Antipas' choice of the reed as a symbol on the coins commemorating the founding of Tiberias. Herod has arrested and imprisoned John and later will have

him put to death on specious grounds. John is not a fickle reed like Herod, but steadfast and strong. The reader knows that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah or God's Anointed One. John is checking it out. He clearly has contact with disciples whom he sends to Jesus with the question about his identity. Is Advent over or not? The answer to John's question is to be found in what they hear and see. The restorative and healing activity of Jesus is realising the Messianic dream of the prophet Isaiah. In a sense, Advent never ends: those who struggle from violence and attacks and drought and fires can attest to this, We pray: "Strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees" in the face of such challenges. The Christ, the Anointed of God, lives on in the community and the community is called to bring the saving power of God, the joy of the Gospel, to a troubled world.

Next Week's Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

This is how Jesus Christ came to be born. His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph; but before they came to live together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a man of honour and wanting to spare her publicity, decided to divorce her informally. He had made up his mind to do this when the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, and said 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son and you must name him Jesus, because he is the one who is to save his people from their sins.' Now all this took

place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us". When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.

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Next Sunday Dec 22nd we celebrate the Filipino Christmas with Mass at 5pm in the Church and tea in the Parish Centre after



Tonight, Saturday, we welcome into the RCIA Program

Maryann, Venetia, Julia Kardogeros and Maricel Mahmood.

Sr Manuela and Lesley Price are preparing them for full reception into the Church at Easter.

Please pray for our candidates

Children's Christmas Story at the 7pm Mass on Christmas Eve.

Thank you to families for helping us with your children. We will have a meeting and practice in the Church this Monday at 3pm.