



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

## BULLETIN



4th Sunday of Advent — 22nd December 2019

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Luke 1:42



**To the Jesse Tree please bring gifts for children (please put age and gender) and non-perishable food which will be given to children and needy.**

### Christmas Masses



### 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 7.30  
**Horsham:**  
 Christmas Day Mass 9.00am.

### 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.

### 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

### Individual Confession Times:

Monday: Mass 9.30 then Confessions.  
 Tuesday: Mass 9.30 then Confessions.

### Greenery and Flowers for Christmas

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

### Advent Reconciliation Service

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

### Christmas Mass Collections:

**1st Collection for the Parish and Priests** after the Creed  
**2nd Collection: Bishop's Christmas Appeal** at the Offertory

### Bishop's Christmas Appeal

will be a **second collection** at our Christmas Masses, or please leave money for the appeal in an envelope marked "Christmas Appeal", put on collection plate.

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.

### WEEKDAY MASSES:

<b>Monday 23rd Dec Mass 9.30.</b> Agnes Hudson, Jan Goldson annivs		
Tuesday 24th Dec	<b>9.30am</b>	Fr John Murphy anniv. Brian Curran decd.
Wednesday 25th Dec		<b>Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord</b>
Thursday 26th Dec	<b>No Mass</b>	<b>Boxing Day &amp; St. Stephen</b>
Friday 27th Dec	<b>5.30pm</b>	St John
Saturday 28th Dec	10 am	The Holy Innocents. Joe Clancy anniv



### 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:** Gerard Conlan, Brian Curran

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Agnes Hudson, Antonious Kardogeros, Bob Wallis, Eugene Gillard, Terry McManus, Terry Wallis, Celina Ellis, Patrick Smith, Fr John Murphy, Jan Goldson, Ronald Mark Edgar, Ronald Leslie Edgar

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

**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 5th Sunday of the Month  
Feast of the Holy Family 29th December 2019**

Murtoa **Sunday 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday 8.30am**

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.

Congratulations to VCE students on their results, prayer and blessings for your decisions for the future.

**Plenary Council.** Bishop Paul invites us to nominate delegates from our Diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Copies of the Bishops letter are available on the notice board or via the Diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au). Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by Friday, February 7th.

**Child Safety Standards.** Ss Michael & John Parish has **Bob Pritchett and Jill McGinniken** 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 & Tirsia.

## ROSTERS

21/22 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer Peter Gutteridge Micky Roberts Cathy Taylor	Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalglish Andrea Cox Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen
<b>Commentator</b>	Kevin Dunn	Anna Robertson
28/29 Dec	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Gary Heinrich	Michael Conellan
<b>Commentator</b>	Betty Heinrich	Kingsley Dalglish
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	John Parke Simon Lynch Bob Hayes Anne Newton Sr Tirsia Bale Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice	Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill Anna Robertson Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor
<b>Projector</b>	Peter Gutteridge	Shayne Keenan
<b>Musicians</b>		Filipino Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Pat Strachan Joan Whiley	Sharon Creasey Mary Dowsley
<b>Prayers</b>	Alison McKinnon & Anna Robertson	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>29th December</b> Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhonda Tursi	<b>5th January</b> Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney
<b>FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):</b>		
Rupanyup	\$	Murtoa \$ 95.00
Horsham	\$ 915.00	Dimboola \$ 42.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1052.00</b>
<b>2nd Collection (Parish Account)</b>		
Envelopes	\$ 3410.00	Loose \$ 113.15
Credit Card	\$ 3309.17	Direct Debit \$ 1409.67
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 8241.99</b>

**Making Connections:** Try to be intuitive to God's voice this week. What is being communicated to you now in your life?

**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:** Higher than the heavens, O Lord our God, and deeper than the nether world is your steadfast mercy and unwearied love, revealed in the child we call Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, until the end of time. Make us as obedient as Mary in embracing the mystery of your will, as unafraid as Joseph in welcoming the unfolding of your purpose. May the promise of the gospel embrace us all.

**A Vocation View:** Vocations from God are not always clear. Not all of us are like Joseph who had an angel appear to him saying: "Take Mary as your wife, and fear not."

**Welcoming Prayer:** Lord, our God, source of all life, you reveal yourself in the depths of our being drawing us to share in your life and love. Bless each of us as we respond to your Spirit's invitation to open wide the doors to Christ. Make the doors of our hearts, our homes, and communities wide enough to receive all who need human love and fellowship, narrow enough to shut out envy, prejudice and pride. Let us hasten to welcome the stranger, and so welcome your Son. We make this prayer in his name, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

# 80

A very happy and blessed 80th birthday to GEOFF COUTTS of Murtoa

**Country Mass Times:**

Dec 29: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30am. Nhill 10am  
 Jan 5: Murtoa 8.30 Mass. Dimboola AWC 8.30am  
 Jan 12: Murtoa AWC 9am. Dimboola Mass 8.30am  
 Jan 19: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. **Kaniva Mass 10.30**  
 Jan 26: Natimuk Mass 8.30. Murtoa AWC 9am.  
 Dimboola AWC 8.30am.



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.

**Christmas Offerings**

It is a Catholic tradition to include in our Christmas gifts an offering that contributes to the support of our priests. Their annual stipend is drawn from the First Collections which needs “topping up” with your generous Christmas Offerings. (Envelopes can be returned by placing on either collection plate or to Parish Office.) Thank you for your generosity.

*We welcome our Children to Christmas Mass at 7pm for the Christmas Story. The children will practice for this on Monday at 10am in the Church.*

For many people Christmas is a hollow reminder that there is someone missing from the table, and no matter whether it's the first year or the 50th — that chair will always remain empty. Others may be estranged from their loved ones, unable to come together due to location and hurts. Others still may want to give their families gifts and festive food, but aren't able to afford them. There is a pressure from society to celebrate the holidays in the 'right way', and is often expensive. We are supposed to be happy during the holiday season. The reality is though, that Christmas is just like any other time of year, people who are suffering from grief, heartbreak, poverty Christmas won't change that for people, and to assume that it might is to take away from the importance of those issues. "Christmas does not exist in some magical space where our struggles cannot find us." We pray for all suffering in any way

**Columban Calendars** for 2020 in the Piety Stall at \$10

*God of hope, As we prepare for Christmas, help us to take the time to open our hearts to others and to new opportunities. To stop, listen and wait purposefully in your love, resisting the pressure to do more and buy more by living more simply and sustainably. May we recognize the talents you have given each of us and seek the opportunity to be a light to others: offering a message of hope. Amen*



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. Thank 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.

**Christmas Mass Rosters**

**Children's Mass:**  
**Projector:** Gabby Mills.  
**Readers:** Amelia Sudholz, Les & Geordie Butler  
**Special Ministers:** Sr Tirsa, Anne Newton, Anna Robertson, Les and Geordie Butler  
**Music:** Chris Roberts.  
**Vigil Mass 10.15pm:**  
**Projector:** Anita Masiero  
**Commentator and Reader:** Kingsley Dalgleish  
**Special Ministers:** Lorraine Clancy, Maree Plazzer Kingsley & Mary Dalgleish, Fay Wills, Karen Hill, Sr Manuela.  
**Offertory Procession:** Dalgleish's. **Music:** Choir  
**Christmas Day 9am:**  
**Projector:** Shayne Keenan **Reader:** Bob Pritchett  
**Special Ministers:** Tim Lannen, Bob Pritchett.

**SACRAMENT DATES for Children in 2020**

**Parent Meeting for First Reconciliation:** Wednesday February 19th 7pm in the Parish Centre.  
**First Reconciliation Times and Dates:** Wednesday & Thursday March 18/19, either day at either 5pm or 7pm.  
**Parent Meeting for Confirmation and First Communion:** Wednesday April 29th at 7pm in the Parish Centre.  
**Masses for Confirmation and First Communion:**  
 Saturday June 13th at 6.30 Mass.  
 Sunday June 14th at 10.30 Mass  
 Saturday June 20th at 6.30 Mass  
 Sunday June 21th at 10.30 Mass.



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

**First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14**

The Lord spoke to Ahaz and said, 'Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself coming either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above.' 'No,' Ahaz answered 'I will not put the Lord to the test.' Then Isaiah said: 'Listen now, House of David: are you not satisfied with trying the patience of men without trying the patience of my God, too? The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us".'

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:1-6**

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world and all its peoples. It is he who set it on the seas; on the waters he made it firm. Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? The man with clean hands and pure heart, who desires not worthless things. He shall receive blessings from the Lord and reward from the

God who saves him. Such are the men who seek him, seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory.

**Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**

From Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus who has been called to be an apostle, and specially chosen to preach the Good News that God promised long ago through his prophets in the scriptures. This news is about the Son of God, who, according to the human nature he took, was a descendant of David: it is about Jesus Christ our Lord who, in the order of the spirit, the spirit of holiness that was in him, was proclaimed Son of God in all his power through his resurrection from the dead. Through him we received grace and our apostolic mission to preach the obedience of faith to all pagan nations in honour of his name. You are one of these nations, and by his call belong to Jesus Christ. To you all, who are God's beloved in Rome, called to be saints, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace.

**Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 1:23**

Alleluia, alleluia! A virgin will give

birth to a son; his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us. Alleluia!

**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.

**Gospel Reflection – 4th Sunday of Advent. Sr Veronica Lawson rsm**

One of my friends asked me what I would like for Christmas. "Nothing", was my immediate response. "I just want to spend time with community and family and friends, especially those who would otherwise be alone". And that's what I'll be doing, simply "being with". Being-with others in joy or sorrow or in the humdrum of life is probably the best gift we can offer and the best gift we can receive. It is not always possible to be present in person and, thankfully, true friends know that "being-with" is not restricted to physical presence. There is a sense in which those we love are always with us and we are always with them, even when the demands of life and our work or ministry choices separate us geographically. Real friends are "with-us" even in our absence and "being-with" in spirit or in person is closely allied with "being-for". Today's gospel affirms "being

-with" as God's Christmas gift to us. The first chapter of Matthew's gospel tells us that the expected child Messiah or Christ-child is "God-with-us", Emmanuel. The gospel will conclude with the assurance of the resurrected Christ, "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt 28:20). As we celebrate the successive liturgical seasons in the coming year, we shall have the opportunity to enter into the gospel story of God-with-us and with all of creation, and to live out the pattern of the Christ story more fully in our lives. There is no angelic annunciation to Mary in Matthew's gospel, no embrace of an expectant mother. There is no inn or innkeeper, no shepherds or shepherds' fields. These are all features of Luke's tableau. Matthew brings different features and different characters to centre stage. Chief among Matthew's characters is Joseph who, like Joseph of old, receives God's revelation in a series

of dreams. The angelic announcement in today's gospel is to Joseph: he is not to be afraid, but is to accept the extraordinary ways of God which will bring salvation for God's people. Joseph trusts the word of God's messenger: he abandons his own plans and lives by faith in God. If we try to harmonise the different gospel accounts of the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, we may lose some of the wondrous mystery of the feast we celebrate. If, on the other hand, we attend to the awesome truth that God is with us, then we might be more attentive to how we are with one another. We may also come to acknowledge our presence or "being-with" as a precious Christmas gift. Those who distance themselves from the community of life run the risk of succumbing to fear and of losing the joy in living. Acceptance of the truth that God is with us drives out fear and draws us into the deepest mysteries of life.

**Next Week's Gospel: Matt 2:13-15, 19-23**

After the wise men had left, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you, and escape into Egypt, and stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and do away with him.' So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, left that night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod was dead. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I called my son out of Egypt. After Herod's death, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother with you and go back to the land of Israel, for those who wanted to kill the child are dead'. So Joseph got up and, taking the child and his mother with him, went

back to the land of Israel. But when he learnt that Archelaus had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judaea he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he left for the region of Galilee. There he settled in a town called Nazareth where the words of the prophets were to be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

**Christmas Edition of our Parish Magazine *The Fisherman* is in our Foyers this weekend.**

The Parish Office will be closed from Christmas Day, opening on Monday 30th.

Fr Peter, Sisters Jacinta, Tirsia, Manuela and Camille pray with you as we wish you all blessings for peace, joy and happiness at Christmas and a Happy New Year. May 2020 be a year of blessings and peace for you and your family. Safe travelling and holidays for those going away.

