



Sts Michael & John's Parish

Dimboola – Horsham – Murtoa – Natimuk - Rupanyup - Nhill

BULLETIN



Feast of the Holy Family - 29th December 2019



Have a happy, hopeful, peaceful, and blessed New Year. God be with you, keep you safe and filled with hope

PARISH CONTACTS

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Making Connections: Try to imagine the anxiety and fear that Mary and Joseph would have felt at being unable to find their son for three whole days! Reflect on your own experience of family life. Can you discern ways in which you came to experience God's love in your family? In what ways is the love of God for all his children reflected in the love shared by family members?

Daily Prayer: O God, Creator all-powerful, in your wisdom and love, your Son, begotten before the dawn of time, became in time a member of our human family. Give to parents the wisdom and wonder to see the mystery of your will unfold in the lives of their children, with the increase of years, growth in your grace. Together may we treasure in our hearts the love you have lavished upon us in letting us be called your children.

Marriage Tip: Don't take down those decorations yet! Christmas season ends Jan 12. Keep playing Christmas music, rejoicing with family at our Savior's birth.

Vocational View: Jesus was born into a human family, where all are models of steadfast and committed service to God.

Reflection on the Gospel - Feast of the Holy Family Sr Veronica Lawson RSM.

Dreaming is an important part of life, both the dreaming we do at night and the "day dreaming" we engage in as we look to the future. In today's gospel story, Joseph is a dreamer who listens to his dreams and hears the voice of God directing him to go where he may not have chosen to go. The visit of the wise ones from the east has left him with some questions. Now the pieces begin to fall into place. In his dream, he becomes aware of the danger that is threatening the family. The new born child is at risk. Steps must be taken to protect the child and his mother. The desert road to Egypt had long been the place of refuge for Joseph's ancestors. It is still a place of refuge and asylum, away from the centre of international affairs. Although the gospel presents a patriarchal image of family with the husband as head of the household, there is no sense that family leadership resides in the exercise of power over others. It resides rather in constant vigilance and in care and protection of the most vulnerable. The reader of the gospel has already been told that Joseph is "just": he has acted with integrity and will continue to do so. The story-teller locates the story of this special family within Israel's bigger faith story. Centuries before, Israel (Jacob's family) had fled into Egypt in time of famine. Their descendants were later rescued from slavery in Egypt. This new-born child will also go down into Egypt for protection and be led out to safety through God's providence. There is no neat correspondence of character to character or event to event, simply allusions to the power of God at work in the great saving events in the lives of God's people. The reader is being prepared for the momentous destiny in store for the world through the agency of a child at risk. The child's mother receives little attention in the telling of this story. We may like to retell the story through the lens of her fears and hopes or through the lens of the fears and hopes of the millions of refugees and asylum seekers of our time. God is just as much at work in the lives of those who are threatened now as was the case in the life of the family we name as "holy". God worked through the agency of Mary and Joseph and other wisdom figures to protect the child. God works in our times through those who imagine or dream of a different future for the homeless and bereft. As we move into a new year, we need to protect them, families and our planet at risk.

January 1st is World Day of Peace The theme of the 2020 World Day of Peace, and the Pope's message, is **Peace as a Journey of Hope: Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion.**

A Prayer for the New Year
Lord, You make all things new,
You bring hope alive in our hearts, and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this New Year, for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in 2020, many will see the wonders of God and forever to praise Your glorious name. During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received is being children of God. As God's children, it is important that we express our love for others. Tell your spouse, children, family members and friends that you love them, care for and respect them and that God loves them.

Fr Peter will be Chaplain at Mary MacKillop Centre, Sydney until January 17. I will pray for you all at St Mary's Tomb.

Fr John will stay in the Presbytery for weekday Masses, Funerals and for weekends of Jan 4/5, 11/12, and will be with here with me on January 18/19.

Fr John will go to Kerala from Jan 20th and return to us for the last week of February. We pray for a safe and blessed time for John with his family.

Srs Tirsa is in the Philippines for the Baptistine Assembly from Dec 27 to Jan 6

Mass New Year's Day Wednesday January 1st at 10am in SMJ Church. May all men and women of our world experience a life of peace, justice and hope and develop fully the promise of life and love with Jesus dwelling in their heart.

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.



WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday Dec 30	10am	Funeral Prayers for Brian Curran
Tuesday Dec 31	9.30am	Thanksgiving for 2019
Wednesday 1st Jan	10.00am	New Year's Day. Motherhood of Mary
Thursday Jan 2nd	11am	Funeral Mass for Noreen Ellis
Friday Jan 3rd	9.30am	Fr Nambikkai celebrant
Saturday Jan 4th	10am	Fr Nambikkai celebrant

Please Remember in Your Prayers

RECENT DEATHS: Noreen Ellis, Brian Curran, Leopoldine Mimovich, Brian Mercovich, Maggie Stacey (15yo, Sea Lake)

ANNIVERSARIES: Chin Wan Lui, Dan Burns, Ron McIntyre, Jim McKinley, Michael Hudson, Naureen Feery

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 53821155

Saturday Devotions: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 9am. Rosary 9.20. Morning Prayer of the Church. Mass 10am. CONFESSIONS 10.25am

**Next Sunday: Feast of the Epiphany
1st Sunday of the Month 5th January 2020**

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

Murtoa **Sunday Mass 8.30am**

Dimboola **Sunday Mass 8.30am. Nhill Mass 10am.**

ROSTERS

4/5 January	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Sr Jacinta Rice	Anna Robertson
Commentator	Emelia Sudholz	Michael Conellan
Eucharistic Ministers	Geoff Simpson Bernadette Trounce Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer Micky Robarts	Zita Cannane Mary Dalgleish Andrea Cox Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon
Projector	Geoff Simpson	Robert Sartori
Welcomers	Bob & Tess Hayes	Nanette Freckleton Lyn Starr
Prayers	John and Joan Parker	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	5th January 2020 Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney	12th January Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker

Christmas Masses Collections

1st (Parish and Priests): \$ 3010.00

Bishop's Christmas Appeal: \$ 2897.00

Fr Peter, Fr John, Sisters Jacinta, Tirsa, Manuela and Camille wish you the blessings and peace of a Happy New Year. Thank you for your prayers, best wishes, gifts, for Christmas, and for your generosity to all our Collections.

COUNTRY CENTRES MASS TIMES

Jan 5: Murtoa 8.30 Mass. Dimboola Mass 8.30. Nhill 10am

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 8.30

Child Safety Standards:

Bob Pritchett & Jill McGinniken are our Parish Safe-guarding Officers. We have a **Child Safety Policy** for the safety and wellbeing of children in our care.

A **Child Safety Code of Conduct** exists for all who work with children in the Parish.

Our Parish seeks to always be a child safe Parish.

First Reading: Sirach 3:2-6,

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy; with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Responsorial Psalm:Ps 127

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways! By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper.

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord. May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

Happy are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

2nd Reading: Colos3:12-21

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always

be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, and the fullness of his message live within you. Alleluia!

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. In this way the words spoken through the prophets were to be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

Happy, blessed, peacefilled New Year to you all