



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham- Dimboola- Murtoa- Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

## BULLETIN



**4th Sunday - Presentation of the Lord - 2nd February 2020**

We pray for God's blessings on our School Year, for families, students, and our teachers as they teach and witness to our children in the ways of faith and in their education.

**Blessing and Commissioning of our School Staffs** at 10.30 Mass in SMJ Church next Sunday February 9th. A cup of tea after Mass in the Foyer to meet them

**Opening of the School Year Masses:**

**SMJ School** this Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon in SMJ Church.

**St Brigid's College** Monday February 17<sup>th</sup> at 9.30am in SMJ Church.

**OLHC Murtoa** Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon at the **School**.

**St Patrick's Nhill** Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the Church.

**Ash Wednesday** is February 26<sup>th</sup>.  
**Easter Sunday** is on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

First Term of the School Year ends on Friday March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Catholic Education Week Combined Schools Mass for SMJ, SBC, OLHC, Nhill on Monday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am in SMJ Church. Lunch for the Schools after.

**Parent Meeting Sacrament of Reconciliation** Wednesday Feb 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Parish Centre.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation Dates:**  
Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> either 5pm or 7pm  
Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> either 5pm or 7pm.

**First Communion and Confirmation Sacrament Masses in SMJ Church**

Saturday June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.  
Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am.  
Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm.  
Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 10.30am.

**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.

**CWL MONTHLY MEETING**

this Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at **10.30am** in the Meeting Room.

Fr Peter will be with SBC Year 12 on their Retreat at Hall's Gap this Wednesday to Friday. We pray for the Year 12's for a solid Retreat to give a firm foundation for their year ahead. SBC welcomed 46 Year 7's.

**SMJ School Family Pizza Night** this Thursday in the School grounds from **5.30**.

**PARISH CONTACTS**

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

10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400  
PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402  
Phone: 5382 1155.  
Fax: 5382 3016  
Email:

horsham@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
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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

Nhill: St Patrick's  
Principal: Kingsley Dalglish

**Friday February 7<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of St Alphonso Maria Fusco, the Founder of the Baptistine Sisters.**

You are invited to Mass at 5.30pm in the Church and to a shared tea in the Parish Centre after Mass with Sr Manuela. Please bring a slice or a salad.

Sr Tirsa's treatment for breast cancer in in the chemo stage, with further details to come later.

**WEEK-DAY MASSES:**

|                 |               |                                       |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 4 Feb   | 5.30pm        | Blessing of St Blasé. Stan Kerr anniv |
| Wednesday 5 Feb | 9.30am        | St Agatha. Lucy O'Toole, Audrey Walsh |
| Thursday 6 Feb  | AWC 9.30      | St Paul Miki and companions           |
| Friday 7 Feb    | <b>12noon</b> | <b>SMJ School Opening Mass</b>        |
| Saturday 8 Feb  | 10am          | Jim White 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



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| <b>Please Remember in Your Prayers</b>   |
| <b>RECENT DEATHS:</b> Frances Drum, Bryan Hogan (Corowa, brother of Barry & Therese, former Parishioner), Leonie Clarke  |
| <b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b> Stan Kerr, Audrey Walsh, David Kershaw, Jack O'Connor  |
| <b>SICK:</b> Brian Rice, Debbie Nolen, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen John McNamara, Elsie Thomas, Sr Tirsia Bale, Laurie Mansera   |
| <b>Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 53821155</b>  |
| <b>Confessions Saturday after Mass (10.25)</b>   |
| <b>Saturday Morning Devotions:<br/>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20<br/>Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church. 10am Mass</b>   |
| <b>Next Sunday 2nd Sunday of the Month<br/>5th Sunday of Ordinary Time - 9th February 2020</b>   |
| Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday 10.30am  |
| Nhill Sunday Mass 10am   |
| Dimboola Sunday Mass 8.30am  |
| Murtoa Sunday Mass 8.30am  |
| <b>Rosary, Litany of Mary, Divine Mercy Chaplet<br/>HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.</b>   |
| <b>Regular Activities in the Parish</b>  |
| <b>Craft Group</b> Mondays - Parish Meeting Room. BYO Craft Mornings - 9.30am to 11.30am. Evening - 7pm to 9pm.  |
| <b>Meditation Group:</b> Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2pm  |
| <b>CWL Meetings</b> 1st Tuesday of the Month: Upcoming meeting 4 February - <b>10.30am*</b> in Meeting Room. (until April)   |
| <b>Men's Group</b> Meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month in the Parish Centre. Contact Patrick 0428847455   |
| <b>St Vincent de Paul Conference.</b> Meets twice monthly. Available Monday & Friday 11am-12pm for assistance. Phone 53812371  |
| <b>BAPTISM PREPARATION.</b> For enrolment and appointment contact Parish Office 53821155.  |
| <b>CHOIR PRACTICE</b> Second Wednesday of the month, Church 6pm  |
| <b>Plenary Council Delegates from the Diocese of Ballarat.</b> Bishop Paul is inviting us to nominate delegates from our diocese for the sessions of the Australian Plenary Council to be held in 2020 and 2021. Bishop Paul's letter is available on the diocesan website: <a href="http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au">www.ballarat.catholic.org.au</a> Nominations need to reach Bishop Paul by Friday, February 7th, 2020.<br><b>Copies of the Letter are in our Foyers</b> |

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| <b>Sunday 2nd February 'The Presentation of the Lord':</b> This feast is traditionally known as Candlemas when candles for use throughout the year are blessed, to enlighten the world - we pray that we too may be a light in the dark places of our world. You are invited to bring your candles to be blessed next          |
| <b>Lenten Program 2020:</b> In this year's program ' <i>Grace</i> ' we are called to open our hearts and minds to the fullness of life in God and allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit. The program begins in the first week of Lent.<br><b>Booklets will be on sale before Lent, \$5 ea, for Groups or Individual use.</b> |

| <b>ROSTERS</b>                                       |   |  |          |
|--|---|--|----------|
| 1/2 Feb  | Vigil 6.30pm  | Sunday 10.30am   |          |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                         | Peter Gutteridge<br>Anthony Amor<br>Sr Jacinta Rice<br>Bernadette Trounce<br>Joan Parker<br>Lorraine Clancy   | Andrea Cox<br>Faye Wills<br>Bob Pritchett<br>Tim Lannen<br>Alison McKinnon<br>Kingsley Dalgleish<br>Karen Hill         |          |
| <b>Commentator</b>                                   | Kevin Dunn  | Shayne Keenan  |          |
| 8/9 Feb  | Vigil 6.30pm  | Sunday 10.30am   |          |
| <b>Readers</b>                                       | Anthony Amor  | Bob Pritchett  |          |
| <b>Commentator</b>                                   | Peter Gutteridge  | Angela Murphy  |          |
| <b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>                         | Pat Glaubitz<br>Maree Plazzer<br>Cathy Taylor<br>Micky Roberts<br>John Parker<br>Geoff Simpson<br>Simon Lynch | Anna Robertson<br>Neville Strachan<br>Lynda Hutchinson<br>Rosie Taylor<br>Zita Cannane<br>Mary Dalgleish<br>Andrea Cox |          |
| <b>Projector</b>                                     | Peter Gutteridge  | Gabby Mills  |          |
| <b>Musicians</b>                                     | Filipino Choir  | Male Choir   |          |
| <b>Welcomers</b>                                     | Gary Coutts<br>Pat Strachan   | Denise Vallance<br>Helene Bush   |          |
| <b>Prayers</b>                                       | Lesley Price  |  |          |
| <b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>        | <b>9th February</b><br>Josie Phelan<br>Pauline Irwin<br>Joan Butle<br>Margo Hogan                             | <b>16th February</b><br>Anna Robertson<br>Jenny Clarke<br>Bernie Lakin<br>Rhonda Tursi                                 |          |
| <b>FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):</b> |   |  |          |
| Natimuk  | \$ 42.00  | Murtoa   | \$ 50.00 |
| Horsham  | \$ 890.00   | Dimboola   | \$ 63.00 |
| <b>Total</b>   |   | <b>\$ 1045.00</b>  |          |
| <b>2nd Collection (Parish Account)</b>               |   |  |          |
| Envelopes  | \$ 1206.00  | Loose  | \$ 83.25 |
| Credit Card  | \$  | Direct Debit   | \$       |
| <b>Total</b>   |   | <b>\$ 1289.25</b>  |          |

**Marriage Tip:** Husbands and wives united in love are a great gift to the world! Consider those things that divide you and your spouse: old grudges or disagreements. Ask the Holy Spirit for the gift of unity.

**Listen to the Migrants' Cries.** We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

**Every month with the Saints.** "Let us faithfully transmit to those who come after us the example of virtue we have received from those who have come before us."

**Pope Francis'** apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, is an inspired vision that he has for our Church. Francis speaks directly to each one of us, "to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord, who despite our imperfections offers us his closeness, his word and his strength, and gives meaning to our lives" (#121). In our life, we have the privileged opportunity to reach out to our communities and beyond, expressing the joy of the Gospel that "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you" (#164). For Francis sharing the faith is not an optional part of being Christian. "We know well that with Jesus' life becomes richer and that with him it is easier to find meaning in everything."

### **COUNTRY MASS TIMES**

**9th Feb:** Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am  
**16th Feb:** Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am  
**23rd Feb:** Natimuk 8.30. Murtoa 8.30. Nhill 10. Dimboola 11.30

### **Prayer for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

Almighty Father, eternal God, You created all things from nothing. On this day You fulfilled the petitions of Simeon. We humbly implore You, through the intercession of Mary, ever Virgin, to bless these candles for use in church at Mass and in people's homes during the year ahead. February 2nd (40 days after Christmas) is perceived as a Feast of Light because Simeon, in today's Gospel, refers to the Baby Jesus as "a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of God's people, Israel." Jesus is the Word, "a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower" and "the true light that enlightens everyone." As these candles burn with visible fire, may they dispel the darkness of night, fear, anxiety and distress, that our hearts, with the help of your grace, be enlightened by the invisible fire of the splendour of the Holy Spirit, and may be free from all blindness of sin. Open our minds and our hearts, that we may see what is pleasing to You and helpful to our salvation, and by the light of your Gospel be made worthy to reach the eternal light.

**With the Feast of St Blaise this Monday, patron Saint of ailments of eyes, ears, nose and throat, I will offer a blessing with a St Blaise Candle at Masses this weekend.**

### **Plenary Council Sessions on the Themes of Listening and Discerning.**

We will plan this week with times for the remaining three themes we need to discuss in Groups. These times will be on the Bulletin next weekend.

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting** on Thursday February 20th at 5pm.

**Men's Breakfast** first gathering Thursday Feb 20.

**Finance Meeting on Wednesday February 19th at 12 noon.**

**Planned Giving Program:** Thank you to parishioners who commit to our Program. It enables our Parish to be of service to our faith community. You may be new to the Parish or you may be a parent of a student at our Schools. As we commence another year, this may be an opportunity to consider joining. You can join the Program through the envelope system or by direct debit or credit card. If you need further information please contact Parish Office. **Our Committee has prepared a Brochure for our Schools and Parish. These will be in the Foyers next weekend.**

**Census:** Have you changed address? Do you have a mobile number? Do you have an email address? It would be appreciated if you could advise the Parish Office of any change of details

### **Pope Francis Homily on The Beatitudes this week:**

The Beatitudes should be a defining feature of a Christian's identity because they reveal the way that Jesus lived his life. The Beatitudes always bring joy; they are the way to joy. It will do us good to take the Gospel of Matthew, chapter five verses one to eleven, and read the Beatitudes -- perhaps a few more times during the week -- to understand this road so beautiful, so sure of the happiness that the Lord offers us. The Beatitudes should be considered "a Christian's identity card" because they reveal "the face of Jesus himself. There are eight Beatitudes. It would be nice to learn them by heart to repeat them, to have precisely in mind and heart, this law that Jesus gave us. The beatitudes are a message for all of humanity. It's hard not to be touched by these words of Jesus, and it is a just desire to want to understand them and to welcome them more fully. The Beatitudes bring one the true joy of being "blessed," which is different from worldly happiness. It is the Easter joy. In giving himself to us, God often chooses "unthinkable paths" that test our limits, bringing tears or defeat. It is the joy of one who "has the stigmata, but is alive, one who has died to himself and experienced the power of God. What does the word 'blessed' mean? The original Greek term *Makarios* does not indicate one who has a full belly or is doing well, but is a person who is in a condition of grace, who progresses in the grace of God. Jesus taught the Beatitudes as a part of his "Sermon on the Mount," adding that the mountain is an allusion to Sinai, where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. Jesus begins to teach a new law: to be poor, to be meek, to be merciful. These 'new commandments' are much more than norms. In fact, Jesus does not impose anything, but reveals the way of happiness.

**Monday January 27th marked International Holocaust Remembrance Day**, and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. Between 1940 and 1945, the Nazi regime murdered 1.1 million people in Auschwitz, many killed in the gas chambers immediately upon arrival at the camp. Six million Jews died in the Holocaust. "In the face of this huge tragedy, this atrocity, indifference is not admissible and memory is a must," Pope Francis said in his Angelus address. The pope invited each person to spend a moment in prayer and recollection with "each person saying in his own heart: 'never again, never again!'" "In our world, with its whirlwind of activity, we find it hard to pause, to look within and to listen in silence to the plea of suffering humanity." "If we lose our memory, we destroy our future. May the anniversary of the unspeakable cruelty that humanity learned of 75 years ago serve as a summons to pause, to be still and to remember. We need to do this, lest we become indifferent. It is troubling to see, in many parts of the world, an increase in selfishness and indifference, lack of concern for others and the attitude that says life is good as long as it is good for me, and when things go wrong, anger and malice are unleashed. Pope Francis

Congratulations to **Brian Storey** who was named the Murtoa Citizen of the Year at last Sunday's Australia Day ceremonies.

**First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

Thus says the Lord God: 'See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight- indeed, he is coming," says the Lord of hosts. 'But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:7-10**

Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!  
O gates, lift up your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is the king of glory? The Lord, the mighty, the valiant, the Lord, the valiant in war. O gates, lift high your heads; grow higher, ancient doors. Let him enter, the king of glory! Who is he, the king of glory? He, the Lord of armies, he is the king of glory.  
Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

**Second Reading: Hebrews 2:10-11,13-18**

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the source of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "Here am I, and the children whom God has given me." Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power

of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that Jesus did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**Gospel Acclamation: Luke 2:32**

Alleluia, alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people, Israel. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and he blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

**Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson rsm**

This year the Feast of the Presentation falls on a Sunday and takes precedence over the celebration of the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We might ask why this feast is of such importance in the liturgical calendar. Between the story of Jesus' birth and the beginning of his ministry, Luke inserts three stories. The first tells of Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day after his birth. The third story has Jesus teaching in the Jerusalem Temple at twelve years of age. He has come with his parents on pilgrimage to Jerusalem to celebrate the great feast of Passover. Luke notes that the family makes this pilgrimage from Nazareth in Galilee to Jerusalem every year. The second story, today's reading, has Mary and Joseph presenting their child in the Temple forty days after his birth, in observance of the Law of Moses (as prescribed in Leviticus 12:2-8). This Sunday marks the fortieth day since the celebration of Jesus' birth: it is not a moveable feast. All three stories locate Jesus and his parents

firmly within the tradition as law-observant, faithful Jews. Luke introduces into today's story two faith-filled wisdom figures, first a man, Simeon, and then a woman prophet, Anna. Both witness to the identity and future ministry of the child presented this day in the Temple. Their witness provides a microcosm of the gospel story. Simeon, guided by the Holy Spirit, comes into the Temple, takes the child in his arms and utters some of the most memorable words in the Christian scriptures. The child is to be God's saving presence in the world, a light to give revelation to the nations and glory to Israel. There are echoes in this proclamation of Isaiah 49:6 which speaks of God's servant bringing light to the nations and salvation to the ends of the earth. There is also an echo of Isaiah 46:13 where God is said to bring salvation to Jerusalem and glory to Israel. Simeon declares that this child is destined for the rising and the falling of many, that he will experience opposition and that his mother too will know deep sorrow.

**Next week's Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'



Centenary Year of the Brigidine Sisters in our Parish Celebrated on the Long Weekend in June June 6th to 8th.

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**Bushfire Appeal.** Thank you to you all who gave so generously to the collection last weekend to the appeal, organised by the Australian Bishops, and to be distributed by St Vincent de Paul. **Amount: \$2686.** *You can still leave money in an envelope marked "Appeal" and leave on Collection or at the Office.*