



You have learnt how it was said to our ancestors; but I say this to you...

# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham- Dimboola- Murtoa- Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

## BULLETIN



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 16th February 2020

**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 26th.**

**Project Compassion Boxes and Sets of Envelopes are in the Church Foyers this weekend for you to take a box or envelopes.**

**Ash Wednesday Mass Times:**

**Tuesday February 25th:**

Horsham 5.30

Dimboola 6.45 with tea after and a Plenary Council Session.

**Wednesday February 26th:**

Horsham 9.30am

Murtoa at OLHC School at 11am.

SBC Liturgy 12.20 in the Gymnasium

St Patrick's Nhill 2pm in the Church

Horsham 5.30pm.

*Ashes will be blessed and given at all Masses and Liturgy.*

**Lenten Discussion Groups**

There is a list in SMJ Foyer if you wish to lead a Group or be part of a Group for the Lenten Program.

Please write your name, phone or email address, and your preferred time and place.

The Program will begin after next Sunday.

Booklets are \$5 each.

Individual persons can do the program also.

*We are using the Wollongong Program called **Grace**.*

**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 Fr Tom Brophy from Ballarat, thank you Tom for being with us this weekend

**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting this Thursday**

February 20th at 5pm. Please have any Reports into Camille by this Tuesday.

**Finance Meeting this Wednesday has been deferred**

**Men's Breakfast**

**this** Thursday February 20th 7.30 to 8.30am in Parish Centre Prayer, chat.

All men and sons are welcome

**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

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

Nhill: St Patrick's

Principal: Kingsley Dalgleish

**Opening of the School Year Masses:**

**St Brigid's College** this Monday February 17th at 9.30am in SMJ Church.

**OLHC Murtoa** this Thursday February 20th at 10am at St Mary's Church.

**St Patrick's Nhill** today Sunday February 16th at 10am in the Church.

**Natimuk Nursing Home Mass** this Thursday 20th, 4pm

**WEEK-DAY MASSES:**

Tuesday 18 Feb **No Mass**

Wednesday 19 Feb 9.30 Tony Uytdehaag anniv.

Thursday 20 Feb **9am** Dorothy Shalders anniv

Friday 21 Feb 9.30 Brian O'Loughlin anniv

Saturday 22 Feb 10am Feast of The Chair of St Peter

**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:** Carmel Johnson, Leo Egan  
**ANNIVERSARIES:** Brian O'Loughlin, Jessie Garwood, Brian Tobin, Tony Uytdehaag, Peter Oakley, Keiran Watt  
**SICK:** 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 Manserra Pat Craig

**Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 53821155**

**Confessions Saturday after Mass (10.25)**

**Saturday Morning Devotions:**  
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20**  
**Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church. 10am Mass**

**Next Sunday 4th Sunday of the Month**  
**7th Sunday of Ordinary Time - 23rd February 2020**

Horsham Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday 10.30am  
 Natimuk Sunday Mass 8.30am  
 Dimboola Sunday Mass 11.30am. Nhill Mass 10am.  
 Murtoa Sunday Mass 8.30am

**Rosary, Litany of Mary, Divine Mercy Chaplet**  
**HORSHAM Wednesdays at 4.30pm. All welcome.**

**Regular Activities in the Parish**

**Craft Group** Mondays - Parish Meeting Room. BYO Craft Mornings - 9.30am to 11.30am. Evening - 7pm to 9pm.

**Meditation Group:** Church Meeting Room Tuesdays 2pm

**CWL Meetings** 1st Tuesday of the Month: Upcoming meeting 4 February - **10.30am\*** in Meeting Room. (until April)

**Men's Group** Meeting on 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 of the month, Church 6pm

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.**

Our Parish rejoices as we welcome and prepare for Reception into the Fulness of the Church these our Candidates:

Robbie Fry, Maryann and Julia Kardogeros, Maricel Mahmood, Lance Rosello, Lander Rosello.

*Please pray for our candidates.*

**We will have the Rite of Welcome for them next Saturday night February 23rd at 6.30pm Mass.**

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

**Parent Meeting for the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Wednesday February 19th at 7pm in the Parish Centre.**

Booklets and information given out then.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation Dates:**

Monday March 16th either 5pm or 7pm  
 Thursday March 19th wither at 5pm or 7pm.

**ROSTERS**

15/16 Feb	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Peter Gutteridge Bob Hayes Anne Newton Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice Bernadette Trounce	Faye Wills Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalglish Karen Hill Anna Robertson
<b>Commentator</b>	Maree Plazzer	Andrea Cox
22/23 Feb	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
<b>Readers</b>	Emelia Sudholz	Michal Conellan
<b>Commentator</b>	Betty Heinrich	Shayne Keenan
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer Cathy Taylor Micky Roberts John Parker	Neville Strachan Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalglish Andrea Cox Faye Wills
<b>Projector</b>	Geoff Simpson	Robert Sartori
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Roberts	Teresa Bottoms
<b>Welcomers</b>	Bob & Tess Hayes	Mary Dalglish Alistair Castle
<b>Prayers</b>	Alison McKinnon & Anna Robertson	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>23rd February</b> Helen Hunter Margaret Fischer Dianne Quinn Maureen McInerney	<b>1st March</b> Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker

**FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):**

Rupanyup	\$ 85.00	Murtoa	\$ 124.00
Horsham	\$ 893.00	Dimboola	\$ 48.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 1150.00</b>	

**2nd Collection (Parish Account)**

Envelopes	\$ 769.00	Loose	\$ 88.70
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 857.70</b>	

**Making Connections:** Identify one talent which you have and use it well and often this week. Let your light shine.

**Marriage Tip:** "Taking time to rest is not a waste of time." Give yourself a break today or tomorrow – from kids, a chore, worries. It doesn't have to be long to refresh.

**Daily Prayer:** Remove from our midst all false accusation and malicious speech, that our words may season the world with the flavour of the gospel. Let the light of your justice shine in our lives, that all may see our good works and give you praise

**A Vocation View:** Jesus speaks on Vocations: "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Your light must shine before people so that they may see your goodness in your acts, giving praise to your heavenly Father."

**Funeral Prayers for Carmel Johnson** this Wednesday February 19th at 1.30pm at SMJ.

**Funeral Mass for Leo Egan** on Monday February 24th at 10.30am at SMJ.

**World Day of Prayer Friday 6th March — 2020 for Zimbabwe.**

## COUNTRY MASS TIMES

**23rd Feb:** Natimuk 8.30. Murtoa 8.30. Nhill 10. Dimboola 11.30

**1st Mar:** Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10. Kaniva 11.30

**8th Mar:** Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am.

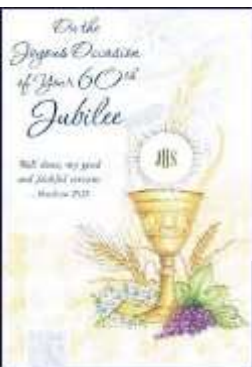
**15th Mar:** Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am.

**22nd Mar:** Natimuk 8.30. Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 11.30. Nhill 10

## ENCOURAGING A FAITH THAT WELLS FROM WITHIN

*Helping people form a mature Catholic faith that will sustain them in years to come is a key challenge of the upcoming Plenary Council, says Br Mark O'Connor FMS*

"People are led and only changed by insights. They must well up from within; they can never be imposed. Yes, we do have a beautiful treasure in our Catholic faith. The Spirit keeps teaching us through the Word of God; our profound Catholic tradition, especially the Sacraments and the "signs of the times". This treasure, however, cannot be just simply imposed by an external authority in a culture such as ours. People must now be encouraged to deepen the insights of the gift of faith. Faith always needs to well up from within. Only then can faith dialogue with the culture around it. That's what is at the heart of the coming Plenary Council and the journey of synodality. Helping people form such a mature adult Catholic faith, that will sustain them in the difficult but joyous decades ahead, is then a key challenge of the coming Plenary Council. For the voice of the laity must be given much greater recognition and legislated for in canon law. Since lay people – especially women – make up the majority of the Church, we urgently need to ensure there are practical structures to make their voices count at every level of our Church."



Prayerful best wishes and congratulations to BEV and JACK MAGEE on their 60th Wedding Anniversary last Thursday February 13th.

Congratulations to Coughlin Park Ladies Division 1 Bowls making the Grand Final of the midweek Pennant.

**Stewardship Program - Census.** As we commence another year, this may be an opportunity to consider joining this Program, enabling the Parish to be of service to our faith community. You can join the Program through the envelope system or by direct debit or credit card. For further information please contact the Parish Office. Have you changed address? Do you have a mobile number? Do you have an email address? We are currently updating our Census so it would be appreciated if you advise the Parish Office of any change.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Married couples, come and learn how to keep/rekindle the passion in your relationship and how to keep your love growing! The weekend is based around Catholic values but couples of all faiths are welcome. Next weekend is on 17–19 April in Melbourne; Other weekends 17-19 July and 13-15 November. Starts 7pm on Friday. Ends 5pm Sunday. Accommodation and all meals provided. Information: Phone Mercy & James 0409 183 676 or website wwme.org.au email: vicbookings@wwme.org.au



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

**Today** Sunday February 16th at 11.30 in the **Church Meeting Room.** Sr Jacinta.  
*Theme: Missionary and Evangelising.*

Tuesday February **25th at 10.30am** in the Parish Meeting Room. Fr Peter.  
*Theme: Joyful, Hopeful and Servant Community.*

Tuesday February 25th at Dimboola. Mass at 6.45pm, Tea then Discussion Group. Fr Peter.  
*Theme: Joyful, Hopeful and Servant Community*

Sunday February 23rd at 11.30am in the **Church Meeting Room.** Lesley Price.  
*Theme: Open to Conversion.*

Thursday February 27th at 7pm in the Parish Meeting Room. Sr Jacinta.  
*Theme: Open to Conversion.*

Sunday March 1st at 11.30am in the **Church Meeting Room.** Sr Jacinta.  
*Theme: Inclusive, Synodal and Participatory.*

**All Parishioners are welcome to attend any or all of these Sessions. There will be materials for all to help us participate.**

**CLERGY RETREAT THIS WEEK:** Please pray for the bishop and priests of our diocese who gather this week at Halls Gap for the annual Retreat. Fr Peter did his Retreat in Sydney in January.

Children's Liturgy and its renewed format will be on the Agenda at the Parish Council Meeting this Thursday. As also the renewal of our Parish Planned Giving (Stewardship) Program. Always on the Agenda are Parish Child Safe protocols.



*Thank you to all who are involved in liturgical ministries, Parish Groups, who volunteer time and talents to these and to community organizations*



Celebrating 100 years of the Brigidine Sisters in our Parish. Long weekend in June 6th to 8th.

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

**First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20**

If you wish, you can keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power. He has set fire and water before you; put out your hand to whichever you prefer. Man has life and death before him; whichever a man likes better will be given him. For vast is the wisdom of the Lord; he is almighty and all-seeing. His eyes are on those who fear him, he notes every action of man. He never commanded anyone to be godless, he has given no one permission to sin.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34**

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!  
They are happy whose life is blameless, who follow God's law! They are happy those who do his will, seeking him with all their hearts. You have laid down your precepts to be obeyed with care. May my footsteps be firm to obey your statutes. Bless your servant and I shall live and obey your word. Open my eyes that I may consider the wonders of you law. Teach me the demands of your statutes and I will keep them to the end. Train me to observe your law, to keep it with my heart.

Happy are they who follow the law of the Lord!

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

We have a wisdom to offer those who have reached maturity: not a philosophy of our age, it is true, still less of the masters of our age, which are coming to their end. The hidden wisdom of God which we teach in our mysteries is the wisdom that God predestined to be for our glory before the ages began. It is a wisdom that none of the masters of this age have ever known, or they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory; we teach what scripture calls: the things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love him. These are the very things that God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

**Gospel Acclamation: cf Matthew 11:25**

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not imagine that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I have come not to abolish them but to complete them. I tell you solemnly, till heaven and earth disappear, not one dot, one little stroke, shall disappear from the Law until its purpose is achieved. Therefore, those who infringe even one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be considered the least in the kingdom of heaven; but those who keeps them and teach them will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. 'For I tell you, if your virtue goes no deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven. If you are bringing your offering to the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your offering there before the altar, go and be reconciled with your brother first, and then come back and present your offering. Come to terms with your opponent in good time while you are still on the way to the court with him, or he may hand you over to the judge and the judge to the officer, and you will be thrown into prison. If your right eye should cause you to sin, tear it out and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body thrown into hell. And if your right hand should cause you to sin, cut it off and throw it away; for it will do you less harm to lose one part of you than to have your whole body go to hell. 'Again, you have learnt how it was said to our ancestors: You must not break your oath, but must fulfil your oaths to the Lord. But I say this to you: do not swear at all, either by heaven, since that is God's throne; or by the earth, since that is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, since that is the city of the great king. Do not swear by your own head either, since you cannot turn a single hair white or black. All you need say is "Yes" if you mean yes, "No" if you mean no; anything more than this comes from the evil one.'

**Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson rsm**

Jesus was a faithful Jew who observed the Law handed down within Israel from generation to generation. Today's gospel is from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount in which Jesus, the faithful Jewish teacher, addresses his Jewish disciples and the Jewish crowds who gather to hear his words. The mission of Jesus is to fulfill the law, not to do away with it, and fulfilling the law is "righteousness". The Greek term for righteousness, *dikaionē*, translates both the Hebrew *sedeqah* meaning "right relationship" and *mishpat* meaning "justice". The righteousness of the official teachers of the Law, the scribes and Pharisees, their manner of relating to others and their notions of justice, are judged to be quite inadequate for those who are part of God's reign, the kingdom "of heaven" in Matthew's terminology. The righteousness of Jesus' followers is to "exceed" such minimalist interpretations and expressions of the Law. Jesus, authentic teacher and interpreter of the Law, offers six examples of the righteousness that "fulfils" the Law. Four of these examples are included in today's reading. What was heard "of old" is contrasted with what Jesus wants to say to

his hearers. In the first instance, they all know that the Law forbids murder. They may not have considered the connection between unrestrained anger or murderous thoughts and murder itself. In a series of cascading sentences, Jesus presents a charter for reconciliation and forgiveness. He reminds his audience that true worship demands a forgiving heart expressed in action. He includes a fairly pragmatic reason for settling out of court: you may actually find yourself in prison. There may be an implicit criticism here of the increasingly punitive legal system of the time, a reminder to us of the futility of incarceration for minor crimes. In an age of easy access to internet pornography, any form of sexual depravity is destructive of right relationship. Writing to the people of Corinth on this subject, Paul allows for exceptions, since "God has called us to peace". The fourth example is about swearing on oath. Righteousness calls for honesty and transparency in every day dealings. If the words we use are congruent with the intentions of our heart, we should not have to invoke God as a witness to the veracity of our claims.

**Next week's Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You have learnt how it was said: Eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But I say this to you: offer the wicked man no resistance. On the contrary, if anyone hits you on the right cheek, offer him the other as well; if a man takes you to law and would have your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone orders you to go one mile, go two miles with him. Give to anyone who asks, and if anyone wants to borrow, do not turn away. 'You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for

those who persecute you; in this way you will be sons of your Father in heaven, for he causes his sun to rise on bad men as well as good, and his rain to fall on honest and dishonest men alike. For if you love those who love you, what right have you to claim any credit? Even the tax collectors do as much, do they not? And if you save your greetings for your brothers, are you doing anything exceptional? Even the pagans do as much, do they not? You must therefore be perfect just as your heavenly Father is perfect.'