



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham- Dimboola- Murtoa- Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

## BULLETIN



7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 23rd February 2020



### PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson

Parish Secretary:

Camille Del Castillo

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### 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

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

The PPC has agreed to resume Children's Liturgy at 10.30 Mass during the School terms. We will need two adults at each session. If you are able to help or helped in the past, please contact the Parish Office. Helpers need a WWC check, we can do that with you. Students over 18 can help. Rebecca Rowe will co-ordinate the Program



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday this week

Project Compassion Boxes and Sets of Envelopes are in the Church Foyers for you to take either.

### 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. 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.

### Stations of the Cross in Lent Fridays at 4pm in SMJ.

### PARENT MEETING

for the Sacrament of Reconciliation **this Monday February 24th at 7pm in the Parish Centre.**

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Dates:

Monday March 16th either 5pm or 7pm

Thursday March 19th either at 5pm or 7pm.

### WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 25 Feb	5.30pm	Jack & Joan Coffey anniv
Wednesday 26 Feb	9.30, 5.30	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
Thursday 27 Feb	9.30am	Sue Chalkley operation
Friday 28 Feb	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Anointing Mass Lutheran Home</b>
Saturday 29 Feb	10am	All whose deaths or birthdays fall on this day.

### 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



<b>Please Remember in Your Prayers</b>	
<b>RECENT DEATHS:</b> Ben Lesley (Adelaide, 40 yr old grandson of Noreen Kennedy), Nic Young	
<b>ANNIVERSARIES:</b> Beverley Mainwaring, Leslie Woodhead, Therese Pothiyittel, Thomas Karras, Jack & Joan Coffey	
<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 Manserra, Pat Craig, Sue Chalkley	
<b>Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 53821155</b>	
<b>Confessions Saturday after Mass (10.25)</b>	
<b>Saturday Morning Devotions:</b> Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20 Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church. 10am Mass	
<b>Next Sunday 1st Sunday of the Month</b> <b>1st Sunday of Lent - 1st March 2020</b>	
Horsham	Saturday - 6.30pm. Sunday 10.30am
Dimboola	Sunday Mass 8.30am. Nhill Mass 10am.
Murtoa	Sunday Mass 8.30am. Kaniva 11.30am
<b>Rosary, Litany of Mary, Divine Mercy Chaplet</b> <b>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	



**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.**

Our Parish rejoices as we welcome and prepare for Reception into the Fulness of the Church at Easter these our Candidates: Robbie Fry, Maryann and Julia Kardogeros, Maricel Mahmood, Lance and Lander Rosello,  
*Please pray for our candidates.*

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

They will attend the Rite of Election in Ballarat next Saturday with other Candidates from the Diocese

**DOBCEL Meeting.** The PPC, Finance Committee School Advisory Councils and Principals will meet with DOBCEL here in Horsham on Wednesday March 25th at 7pm. All issues regarding DOBCEL running our Schools from 2021 will be discussed

<b>ROSTERS</b>		
<b>22/23 Feb</b>	<b>Vigil 6.30pm</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<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 Dalgleish Andrea Cox Faye Wills
<b>Commentator</b>	Betty Heinrich	Shayne Keenan
<b>29Feb/1Mar</b>	<b>Vigil 6.30pm</b>	<b>Sunday 10.30am</b>
<b>Readers</b>	Kevin Dunn	<b>Mary Marshall</b>
<b>Commentator</b>	Anthony Amor	Bob Pritchett
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Geoff Simpson Simon Lynch Bernadette Trounce Bob Hayes Anne Newton Anthony Amor Sr Jacinta Rice	Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon Kingsley Dalgleish Karen Hill Anna Robertson Neville Strachan
<b>Projector</b>	Peter Gutteridge	Gabby Mills
<b>Musicians</b>	Chris Roberts	Combined Choir
<b>Welcomers</b>	Gavin Hynam Judy Bryan	Sharon Creasey Mary Dowsley
<b>Prayers</b>	John & Joan Parker	
<b>Church Cleaning &amp; Flower Arranging</b>	<b>1st March</b> Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker	<b>8th March</b> Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker

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

Rupanyup	\$	Murtoa	\$ 80.00
Horsham	\$ 886.00	Dimboola	\$ 59.00
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 1025.00</b>

**2nd Collection (Parish Account)**

Envelopes	\$ 2009.00	Loose	\$ 64.25
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 2073.25</b>

**Making Connections:** Go beyond the minimum this week and reach out in generosity to someone you may not ordinarily associate with. Offer friendship or material support to someone who may be seen as an outcast in our society.

**Marriage Tip:** Lent is approaching. Is there a bad habit that you would like to eliminate? Anything you wouldn't want to teach your children to do? Lent and your children can give you the motivation to let go of it. Ask your spouse for help.

**Daily Prayer:** Lift from our hearts the burden of hatred, and drive all resentment far from our lives; so that, loving not only our neighbours but even our enemies, we may, by your grace, be perfect, even as you are perfect.

**A Vocation View:** We read in Leviticus: "You must love your neighbour, as yourself!" Some are being called to love their neighbour as a priest or religious. Pray that many will answer the call to love.

**Funeral Mass for Leo Egan** this Monday February 24th at 10.30am at SMJ. Rosary tonight Sunday 6.30

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

## **COUNTRY MASS TIMES**

**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

## **Project Compassion Sunday**

The readings today anticipate the Lenten period. Lent invites us to reflect, pray, fast and give alms. In today's gospel, Jesus redefines who is our "neighbour," to include not only those with whom we are comfortable, but all of humanity – our global community. Jesus offers a radical approach to be with others – he invites us to go further, to go above and beyond what is required.

Caritas Australia's Project Compassion calls to go above and beyond in our almsgiving to bring joy and hope to others. In the weeks of Lent we will hear stories of people who participate in Caritas Australia supported programs. We will be inspired by the resilience of our sisters and brothers as they face the challenges of injustice, living in extreme poverty, impacted by many things.

Through our support of Project Compassion, we seek to stand in solidarity with our neighbours as a global community. In the season of Lent, consider where in our own lives do we need to go further in love and compassion?

We pray for our church community as we undertake prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent, that this time will create in us a heart of a true neighbour, recognising that all human beings have an inherent dignity which must always be upheld.

## **Green shoots bring healing and hope**

As Ash Wednesday approaches, may we take a moment to contemplate our intimate connectedness to all of creation, to all of humanity and to the land, writes Sr Monica Dutton, S.G.S., in their 'The Good Oil.' magazine "We are living in a time of ashes.

Accounts from those who experienced the full onslaught of the fires are of biblical proportions. Armageddon, apocalyptic, cataclysmic. So many recent devastating events unleashed across the globe involving the four elements of nature – earth, air, fire, water – demonstrate that we are powerless in the face of these phenomena. While we may choose to believe we control the world; and whatever personal views we might hold on climate change, fuel reduction, back burning, drought relief, and the politics of it all; these four natural elements contrive to remind us of our place on the planet. Rebuilding will be slow and painful. Losses to property, stock, machinery and business take years to recover. Losses of life, bushland, habitat and over a billion native animals are incalculable. This time of ashes we are living in touches us all. Ashes and dust. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. This time of fires followed by floods is a stark reminder of our own transience, and the transient nature of all creation. As Ash Wednesday approaches, may we take a moment to contemplate our intimate connectedness to all of creation, to all of humanity and to the land – and in particular, what this connectedness calls from us, and calls us to."

**Australian Catholics Autumn Edition  
in the Foyers today**

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

Today Sunday February 23rd at 11.30am  
in the **Church Meeting Room.**

Lesley Price. *Theme: Open to Conversion.*

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*

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.**

## **LENTEN REGULATIONS 2020**

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting and Abstinence from meat.**

On all other Fridays, the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled through any one of the following:  
(a) Prayer: for example, Mass attendance; family prayer, a visit to a church or chapel, reading the Bible, making the Stations of the Cross, praying the rosary.  
(b) Self-denial: for example, not eating meat, not eating sweets or desserts, reducing time for watching TV or other entertainments.

(c) Helping others- for example, taking the family to visit the elderly in old people's home or in the parish, visiting the sick or someone who is lonely.

- ◆ All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year should fast. (Canon 1252)
- ◆ All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday.
- ◆ On Good Friday and on Holy Saturday until the Easter vigil, try to fast on these days.



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 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 Roberts (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 & Tirsa.



**First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18**

The Lord spoke to Moses; he said: 'Speak to the whole community of the sons of Israel and say to them: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy." "You must not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. You must openly tell him, your neighbour, of his offence; this way you will not take a sin upon yourself. You must not exact vengeance, nor must you bear a grudge against the children of your people. You must love your neighbour as yourself. I am the Lord.'

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13**

The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins. As a father has compassion on his sons, the Lord has pity on those who fear him.

The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23**

Didn't you realise that you were God's temple and that the Spirit of God was living among you? If anybody should destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him, because the temple of God is sacred; and you are that temple. Make no mistake about it; if any one of you thinks of himself as wise, in the ordinary sense of the word, then he must learn to be a

fool before he really can be wise. Why? Because the wisdom of this world is foolishness to God. As scripture says: The Lord knows wise men's thoughts: he knows how useless they are; or again: God is not convinced by the arguments of the wise. So there is nothing to boast about in anything human: Paul, Apollos, Cephas, the world, life and death, the present and the future, are all your servants; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

**Gospel Acclamation: 1 John 2:5**

Alleluia, alleluia! Whoever keeps the word of Christ, grows perfect in the love of God. Alleluia!

**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.'

**Gospel Reflection Veronica Lawson rsm**

Today's gospel is a continuation of the Matthean Jesus' teaching on the sort of righteousness, the right relationship and justice, to which his followers are called in their living of the Law. The Law of Moses included a law of retaliation designed to make punishment for wrongdoing to persons or property proportionate to the offence (Exodus 21:24, Leviticus 24:20 and Deuteronomy 19:21). This was quite enlightened legislation at that time. In a series of striking images, Jesus invites his followers to go far beyond the strict application of the law and to embrace a new way of thinking about and acting towards those who injured them or us. Relinquishing your right to compensation is one thing. Giving more of your property to one who has stolen from you is quite another. Do we take this teaching literally or do we simply embrace the spirit of non-retaliation that seems to be at the heart of this teaching? A too-easy amnesty does not always bring justice. Last week's gospel reminded us that there is to be no place for uncontrolled anger or murderous thoughts in our hearts. Both that teaching and this seem to be about taking responsibility for how we live. Harboursing anger can have disastrous consequences for oneself as well as for others. It tends to become a state of being and skew our

capacity for right judgement. What happens to us may be beyond our control. What we do with what comes our way is for us to decide. Jesus makes it clear that we have choices in the face of life's struggles. The disciple is called to assume personal responsibility and to refuse the way of retaliation. The final example or antithesis in the list of six that Jesus offers in the Sermon on the Mount is the most confronting of all: there are to be no limitations on love. Loving one's enemies is quite a challenge, on a personal as well as a global level. We learn the hard way that we cannot change others. We can only change our attitudes and our approaches to those who harm us in any way. Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy, wrote that her sisters "never let the sun go down on their anger". Over recent years I have found that praying quite deliberately for those who give us a hard time or cause us grief is by far the most effective way of retaining my own peace of mind and of expelling retaliatory thoughts. For me, it is a matter of gently bringing these people to mind, of breathing in the loving kindness or chesed of God that suffuses the universe and of breathing it out to them. Such prayer enables me to think in kindly ways and act towards them without rancour, even when these sentiments are not reciprocated.

**Next week's Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which he was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But he replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' The devil then took him to the holy city and made him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking him to a very high mountain, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the

world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.' Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.' Then the devil left him, and angels appeared and looked after him.

**Sr Tirsa Bale's address:**

CSSJB Convent,  
9 Willow Street, Superville Subd.,  
1700 Paranaque City  
Philippines.

*"Stopping brings me to the 'now' of today".*  
*Before turning on the computer, opening the door, getting into the car, answering the phone, stop,*