



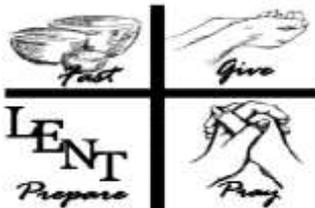
Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham- Dimboola- Murtoa- Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN



1st Sunday of Lent - 1 March 2020



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson

Parish Secretary:

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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

We welcome back Fr John, we pray you had a great time with your family, John, we thank you for your ministry with us.

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



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

This week's Story: SHIRLEY FROM THE PHILIPPINES

Shirley, 36, is an indigenous Manide woman living in a remote province of the Philippines. She is a mother of four and the sole breadwinner of the family, as her husband is sick.

Shirley was struggling to support the whole family and keep her children in school. Indigenous minorities in the Philippines face regular discrimination and disadvantage, limiting their access to education, employment and healthcare. Thanks to Caritas Australia, Shirley's life has transformed. She is now leading her community to take a stand against discrimination, improve health and education, and pave the way for a better future. Unequal access to health services means that many indigenous children and families cannot access basic medical care. Preventable diseases - tuberculosis, dengue fever, measles - are common among their community, and there is a high maternal and new-born mortality rate. Shirley trained to become an indigenous health worker and a leader in her community. The program has also helped Shirley's children with school fees, uniforms and supplies. There's still a long way to go to fight for better employment opportunities for the Manide tribe, to reduce discrimination, but together they'll get there.



We welcome

to the Family of God in Baptism today:

Bobbi Eden Murray,

child of Carol & Daniel

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.

World Day of Prayer prepared by the women of Zimbabwe

All welcome at:

Natimuk - Uniting Church, 10am on Friday 6th March.

Guest speaker Sr Manuela Cabigas will talk about the Church in the Philippines.

Horsham - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 10am, Friday 6th March

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 3 Mar	10.30am	Funeral Mass for Ivy McGrath
Wednesday 4 Mar	9.30am	SMJ Andrew's Yr 5/6 attend. Paul Couch ann.
Thursday 5 Mar	9.30am	Liz & Phil Dwyer, Vin Mugavin, Jim Moloney
Friday 6 Mar	9.30am	Autumn Ember Day. Month Mass Arcangela Aucello
Saturday 7 Mar	10am	Col Bigham,

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: Ivy McGrath, Geoff Daffy
Anniversaries: Col Bigham, Jim Moloney, Vin Mugavin, Paul Couch,
Sick: Brian Rice, Debbie Nolen, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen, John McNamara, Elsie Thomas, Sr Tirsa Bale, Laurie Manserra, Pat Craig, Sue Chalkley, Fr Eric Bryant.
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 2nd Sunday of the Month 2nd Sunday of Lent - 8th March 2020
Horsham Saturday Mass 6.30pm. Sunday Mass 10.30am Dimboola Sunday Mass 8.30am. 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 at Easter these our Candidates: Robbie Fry, Maryann and Julia Kardogeros, Maricel Mahmood, Vince, Lance & Lander Rosello
Please pray for our candidates.

First Sacrament of Reconciliation Dates:
Monday March 16th either 5pm or 7pm.
Thursday March 19th either at 5pm or 7pm.

DOBCEL Meeting.
The PPC, Finance Committee School Advisory Councils and Principals will meet with DOBCEL in Horsham on Wednesday March 25th at 7pm in SMJ Parish Centre
DOBCEL means Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited, set up by the Bishop, to run our Schools from 2021 in accordance with new Government protocols. All issues will be discussed

ROSTERS		
29 Feb/1 Mar	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Eucharistic Ministers	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
Commentator	Anthony Amor	Bob Pritchett
7/8 Mar	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	Garry Heinrich	Michael Connellan
Commentator	Maree Plazzer	Dianne Noy
Eucharistic Ministers	Peter Gutteridge Joan Parker Lorraine Clancy Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer Cathy Taylor Micky Robarts	Lynda Hutchinson Rosie Taylor Zita Cannane Mary Dalgleish Andrea Cox Faye Wills Bob Pritchett
Projector	Geoff Simpson	Shayne Keenan
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Men's Choir
Welcomers	Judie & Hugh Delahunty	Nanette Freckleton Lyn Starr
Prayers	Lesley Price	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	8th March Zita Cannane Mary Lawson Lorraine Clancy Veronica Barker	15th March Lucille Pekin Pauline Breen Sue Chalkley Judie Delahunty

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Natimuk	\$ 50.50	Murtoa	\$ 75.00
Horsham	\$ 845.00	Dimboola	\$ 40.00
Total			\$ 1010.50

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 1027.00	Loose	\$ 165.85
Credit Card	\$	Direct Debit	\$
Total			\$ 1187.85

Making Connections: What temptations do you experience? How is the balance in your life? How much energy do you expend in looking after your physical and material domain as opposed to your mental and spiritual domain?

Marriage Tip: 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: Because you formed us from the dust, you know well how deeply sin has scarred our human nature. Strengthen us, then, as we set out on the lenten journey. Make us victorious with Christ over the deceptions of the tempter, so we may come at length in the joy of the Holy Spirit to the celebration of the Lord's glorious Passover.

A Vocation View: Lent is a season of renewal, of spiritual growth. These forty penitential days invite us to strive for our true calling. Let us all open our hearts to the Holy Spirit.

1st Sunday of Lent: What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clear heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

COUNTRY MASS TIMES

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 10.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 5

29 Mar: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am. Kaniva 11.30

Pope Francis: Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. Lent calls us to conversion, to return to God "with all our hearts" (Joel 2:12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord.

Pope Francis has a surprisingly modern suggestion, asking us to "disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel," for Lent, can be a time to turn off the television and open the Bible. Keep the chatter to a minimum and connect with and hear the word of God. The internet makes this difficult, as it can amplify the "offensive and harmful words" people throw around, creating an environment that is "polluted by too much verbal violence." If you find yourself furiously typing angry comments into YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit or whatever your preferred platform to spew is, consider taking a moment to pause. For us, Lent is a period of abstinence, fasting, repentance and reflection, and it is common to give up something for the 40-days. Typical sacrifices include excessive spending, unhealthy foods or bad habits, but Pope Francis suggests holding your tongue, or in this case, fingers, could be a good option.

Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, he patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, he shows his readiness to forgive. Lent is a favorable season for deepening our spiritual life through fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Central to everything is the word of God, which we are invited to hear and ponder more deeply, to renew our encounter with Christ, live in his word, in the sacraments and in our neighbour.

The Lord, who overcame the deceptions of the Tempter in today's Gospel, shows us the path we must take. Let us pray for one another that the Holy Spirit lead us on a journey of conversion, that we can rediscover the gift of God's word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, serve Christ in each other's needs, and experience and share to the full, the joy of Easter.

Finance Committee Meeting Wednesday March 11th at 12 noon in the Meeting Room.



This week March 3, 4, 5.
Welcome to visitors and all the best to the organisers for a successful and safe time for all.



Palms Australia: All trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and the skills of their people. They're not asking for money or gifts that contribute to degrading dependence. Your assistance will help to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms Australia will provide you with thorough preparation and support. www.palms.org.au or talk to Roger on 0422472567, or email palms@palms.org.au

Plenary Council Sessions on the Themes of Listening and Discerning.

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

All Parishioners are welcome to attend this Session. There will be materials for 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.

St Vincent de Paul Lenten Appeal

We can add to our Lent by donating each week the food suggested for the weekends below. In this way we support Vinnies and the Emergency Food Centre. **You are asked to contribute the following goods on the named weekends:**

7-8 March: Spaghetti/Baked Beans

14-15 March: Tinned Fruit

21-22 March: Pasta/Past Sauce

28-29 March: Tea/Coffee

4-5 April: Tinned Soup

or any other food you can afford. Thank you



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 & Tirsia.

Frist Reading: Genesis 2,7-9, 3,1-7

The Lord God fashioned man of dust from the soil. Then he breathed into his nostrils a breath of life, and thus man became a living being. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden which is in the east, and there he put the man he had fashioned. The Lord God caused to spring up from the soil every kind of tree, enticing to look at and good to eat, with the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden. The serpent was the most subtle of all the wild beasts that the Lord God had made. It asked the woman, 'Did God really say you were not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?' The woman answered the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden. But of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden God said, "You must not eat it, nor touch it, under pain of death".' Then the serpent said to the woman, 'No! You will not die! God knows in fact that on the day you eat it your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil.' The woman saw that the tree was good to eat and pleasing to the eye, and that it was desirable for the knowledge that it could give. So she took some of its fruit and ate it. She gave some also to her husband who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they realised that they were naked. So they sewed fig-leaves together to make themselves loin-cloths.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 50

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.
 Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. My offences truly I know them; my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Reflection 1st Sunday of Lent. Veronica Lawson RSM

Lent is a time of preparation for Easter. It is also a time to enter into the "wilderness" and grapple with the mysteries of life in Christ. It presents us with a challenge to take stock of our lives, to see more clearly what is in our hearts and to discover what might be calling us out of our comfort zones. Today's liturgy invites us to reflect on Jesus' forty-day experience in the wilderness. Jesus is "filled with the Holy Spirit" and, like so many humans before and since, is "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness of life to be "tested" there. ["Tested" is a more accurate translation of than is "tempted"]. Forty is a significant number in Israel's story: the great flood lasts forty days and forty nights; Moses spends forty days and forty nights on the mountain of God; Israel wanders for forty years in the wilderness; King David reigns for forty years; the prophet Elijah travels forty days and forty nights in the wilderness on his way to the mountain of God. Explanations of its significance vary: a round number suggesting a long period of time; a time of testing or trial; totality or fullness. In Israel's story, the wilderness is the place

Next week's Gospel Matthew 17,1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. There in their presence he was transfigured; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became as white as the light. Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them; they were talking with him. Then Peter spoke to Jesus. 'Lord,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud covered them with shadow, and from the cloud there came a voice

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading: Romans 5, 12-

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. If it is certain that death reigned over everyone as the consequence of one man's fall, it is even more certain that one man, Jesus Christ, will cause everyone to reign in life who receives the free gift that he does not deserve, of being made righteous. Again, as one man's fall brought condemnation on everyone, so the good act of one man brings everyone life and makes them justified. As by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.

Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 4:4

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory
 No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory

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.

of testing for God's people. In Matthew's account, the "devil" is the "tester", the instrument of God's testing. In each instance, the test is expressed in terms of Jesus' relationship to God: "If you are the son of God...." The Matthean Jesus passes the tests that the people of Israel have failed in the wilderness of Sinai. He refuses the way of special favour from God, the way of status. He is prepared to suffer whatever it takes to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. Jesus chooses the way of God's empire rather than the brutality of the Roman Empire. Jesus demonstrates that he is indeed "of God". This testing in the wilderness foreshadows later events in the gospel such as Peter's attempt at Caesarea Philippi to deflect Jesus from his mission and the bystanders' challenge in 27:40 to prove he is "son of God" by coming down from the cross. Being "of God" right now has to do with the way we relate to all of Earth's human and its resources, the value and the respect we show for life through our responsible use of these. Lent calls us to reject the path of domination or greed or status so that, like Jesus, we may truly be "of God".

which said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; he enjoys my favour. Listen to him'. When they heard this, the disciples fell on their faces, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up and touched them. 'Stand up,' he said 'do not be afraid.' And when they raised their eyes they saw no one but only Jesus. As they came down from the mountain Jesus gave them this order. 'Tell no one about the vision until the Son of Man has risen from the dead.'

RELAY FOR LIFE

Friday and Saturday March 13 & 14 Coughlin Park