



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham- Dimboola- Murtoa- Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

3rd Sunday of Lent - 15 March 2020



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
Parish Secretary:
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Diocesan Website:

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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



PROJECT COMPASSION

GO FURTHER TOGETHER

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

This week's Story:

Father of four, Barry, embodies resilience and strength. Growing up in a tough environment, he had to look inside himself to make the right choices for himself and his family. Barry, and others like him, were able to take part in a cultural healing program called Red Dust Healing. This program encourages participants to examine their own personal hurt and allows them to heal from within, addressing family and personal relationships and what may be life-long patterns of violence, abuse and neglect. Today, thanks to the Caritas support, he's an inspirational father to his four girls and a leader in his community.



We pray for our children who celebrate their First Sacrament of Reconciliation this week, either on Monday March 16th at 5pm or 7pm, or Thursday March 19th at 5pm or 7pm, in SMJ Church.

Easter Ministry Roster in SMJ Foyer - please sign for any Ministry you are able to assist with in Holy Week and Easter.

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. Photos of School and Parish land will be available for us to see what the Parish keeps and DOBCEL gets.

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 the Principals of our Ballarat Diocese Schools, and Parish Priests to Horsham this Wednesday and Thursday for Meetings. **Mass on Wednesday at 5.30 in SMJ Church, all welcome. Bishop Paul Bird will be the Celebrant.** The Priests of our Northern Zone will have a Meeting on Wednesday afternoon.

We welcome Fr John, thank you for your ministry.



We welcome to the Family of God in Baptism:

Saturday:

Kurt Jack, Bonie Brigid & Pippi Henrietta Phillips-Hay children of Marcus & Megan Phillips-Hay.

And Sunday:

Zara Obie Keegan child of Tyson and Shalee

WEEK-DAY MASSES:

Tuesday 17 Mar	9.30am	St Patrick. Clarice Hogan anniv.
Wednesday 18 Mar	9.30am	Rebecca Pilgrim ints.
Thursday 19 Mar	9.30am	St Joseph. Fr Paul Gardiner SJ anniv
Friday 20 Mar	10.30am	Anointing Mass Lutheran Home.
Saturday 21 Mar	10am	Harmony 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



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Recent Deaths: Robert Reichers (NY)

Anniversaries: Patricia Hayes, Harold Ballinger, Clarice Hogan

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, 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 4th Sunday of the Month
4th Sunday of Lent - 22nd March 2020

Horsham Saturday Mass 6.30pm. Sunday Mass 10.30am
 Dimboola Sunday Mass 8.30am. Nhill Mass 5pm.
 Murtoa **Sunday Mass 10.30am. Natimuk 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

Catholic Women's League Social Day this St Patrick's Day Tuesday 17th March. Morning Tea at Up Tempo Café, 6 Dimboola Rd. Horsham at 10.30am. All Welcome. RSVP by 15th March with Marina 5382 1047 or Frances 5382 1546.



Blessings and prayers and best wishes for all who celebrate St Patrick's Day. Thank you for our Irish heritage. Congratulations to St Patrick's Nhill. Fr Peter will celebrate Mass in St Patrick's Church 12nn Tuesday

MEN'S BREAKFAST this Thursday March 19th 7.30 to 8.30 in the Parish Centre. All men, their sons, single men are welcome. Free brekky, prayer, chat

Scrutinies: These are celebrated on the 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays during Lent for adults who are preparing to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. This weekend our catechumens, Robert Fry and Vince Rosello celebrate the 1st Scrutiny. Lent is a time when we are called to examine our minds and hearts and think about what we do and what we fail to do. Having Robbie & Vince in our midst is an inspiration and source of renewal for us on our own Lenten journey.

ROSTERS

14/15 Mar	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Eucharistic Ministers	Pat Glaubitz Maree Plazzer Cathy Taylor	Mary Dagleish Andrea Cox Fay Wills
Commentator	Betty Heinrich	Louise Kemp
21/22 Mar	Vigil 6.30pm	Sunday 10.30am
Readers	John Parker	Kingsley Dagleish
Commentator	Emelia Sudholz	Mary Marshall
Eucharistic Ministers	Micky Robarts Bob Hayes Geoff Simpson	Bob Pritchett Tim Lannen Alison McKinnon
Projector	Geoff Simpson	Gabby Mills
Musicians	Chris Robarts	Teresa Bottoms
Welcomers	Bill & Josie Phelan	Marina Manserra Zita Cannane
Prayers	Alison McKinnon & Anna Robertson	
Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging	2nd March Lynda Hutchinson Helene Bush Bernadette Delahunty	29th March Josie Phelan Pauline Irwin Joan Butler Margo Hogan

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

Rupanyup	\$ 100	Murtoa	\$ 68.00
Horsham	\$ 821.00	Dimboola	\$ 46.00
Total			\$ 1035.00

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

Envelopes	\$ 933.00	Loose	\$ 129.85
Total			\$ 1062.85

Making Connections: Who do you know who is thirsty for company, acceptance or affirmation? Seek to meet their needs

Marriage Tip: Are there any places in your heart where you have allowed resentment to grow or grudges to fester? Open these parts to God. Ask for His help to soften your heart and see your family through His eyes of love.

Daily Prayer: O God, you loved us while we were yet sinners; in Christ you come in search of us. We thirst for your grace. As once at Moses' hand in the desert, as once at Jacob's well with the Samaritan woman, so now make your gift of faith in all of us, a spring of living water, leaping up to eternal life.

A Vocation View: Only the Lord can give true living water, fullness of life. Our body cannot survive without water; our spirit cannot survive without living water. Now is the time to renew our lives in the waters and Spirit of Baptism.

3rd Sunday of Lent: When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

Catholics in China We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Bishop Paul Bird has appointed Fr Matthew Thomas (Swan Hill) as Parish Priest of Mildura and Sunraysia, Fr Anthony Nagothu (Edenhope) as Administrator of Robinvale and Ouyen Parishes, both effective from April 20th.



Harmony Day and Week begins on March 21. This is a day when we celebrate the core values of inclusiveness, respect for other cultures, tolerance, and diversity. Began in 1999, coincides with the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

COUNTRY MASS TIMES

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
5th April: Murtoa 8.30. Dimboola 8.30. Nhill 10am.

NEW REGULATIONS FOR HOLY COMMUNION, HOLY WATER AND SIGN OF PEACE AT MASS

As a result of the increased spread of **coronavirus** and what we know about its transmission, Dioceses around the world have temporarily altered certain practices in Mass to ensure the health and safety of parishioners.

With the wellbeing of all parishioners of our Diocese in mind - the following directives will be effective immediately to all in our Diocese:

- ◆ There will be no Communion from the Chalice.
- ◆ **Communion will be received in the hand and not on the tongue**, given that one of the easiest ways to transmit a virus is by saliva.
- ◆ At the Sign of Peace, parishioners will exchange peace with a smile or a bow, **not with any touch**.
- ◆ Eucharistic Ministers are to use hand sanitisers before the distribution of Holy Communion, **and are not to physically touch anyone in the act of blessing**.
- ◆ **Holy water fonts are to be removed**.

These directives are from the Australian Government Department of Health, that everyone practises good hygiene to protect against coronavirus infection, including "avoiding close contact with others, eg. touching".

Next week's Gospel: John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

As Jesus went along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He spat on the ground, made a paste with the spittle, put this over the eyes of the blind man and said to him, 'Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam' (a name that means 'sent'). So the blind man went off and washed himself, and came away with his sight restored. His neighbours and people who earlier had seen him begging said, 'Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'Yes, it is the same one.' Others said, 'No, he only looks like him.' The man himself said, 'I am the man.' They brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. It had been a sabbath day when Jesus made the paste and opened the man's eyes, so when the Pharisees asked him how he had come to see, he said, 'He put a paste on my eyes, and I washed, and I can see.' Then some of the Pharisees said, 'This man cannot be from God: he does not keep the sabbath.' Others said 'How could a sinner produce signs like this?' And there was disagreement among them. So they spoke to the blind man again, 'What have you to say about him yourself, now that he has opened your eyes?' 'He is a prophet', replied the man. 'Are you trying to teach us,' they replied 'and you a sinner through and through, since you were born!' And they drove him away. Jesus heard they had driven him away, and when he found him he said to him, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' 'Sir,' the man replied 'tell me who he is so that I may believe in him'. Jesus said, 'You are looking at him; he is speaking to you.' The man said, 'Lord, I believe', and worshipped him.

SMJ School. * Advisory Council Meeting this Tuesday at 7pm. * SMJ School Sports this Friday at Dudley Cornell Park. * All the best to Daisy Sudholz competing in the Australian Athletics Championships in Sydney next weekend.



Palms Australia: All trades and professions are being requested by communities abroad seeking to build the capacity of their organisations and skills of their people to develop self-reliance and sustainable solutions to poverty. Palms will provide you with thorough preparation and support. www.palms.org.au

LENTEN REGULATIONS 2020

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

◆ On Good Friday and on Holy Saturday until the Easter vigil, try to fast on these days.

Preparing our Parish to become the West Wimmera Ministry District, merging with Nhill, Warracknabeal and Hopetoun. Chris Robarts and I met with Fr Glynn Murphy of Warracknabeal to plan for this new Ministry District to begin in 2021. Chris and I will plan Meetings with each community in our Parish - Murtoa, Rupanyup, Natimuk, Dimboola - and with Nhill. These meetings will be in late April. All details of such a merger will be presented at these meetings, above all celebrating each community's rich pastoral and faith care. With DOBCEL 2021 will be a year of big changes for our Church. Dates next week.

SEDER MEAL Wednesday April 7th 7pm in Parish Centre. Sign up forms in the Foyers.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

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

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:**

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 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 & Tirsa.

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Tormented by thirst, the people complained against Moses. 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt?' they said. 'Was it so that I should die of thirst, my children too, and my cattle?' Moses appealed to the Lord. 'How am I to deal with this people?' he said. 'A little more and they will stone me!' The Lord said to Moses, 'Take with you some of the elders of Israel and move on to the forefront of the people; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the river, and go. I shall be standing before you there on the rock, at Horeb. You must strike the rock, and water will flow from it for the people to drink.' This is what Moses did, in the sight of the elders of Israel. The place was named Massah and Meribah because of the grumbling of the sons of Israel and because they put the Lord to the test by saying, 'Is the Lord with us, or not?'

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 94:1-2, 6-9

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Through our Lord Jesus Christ by faith we are judged righteous and at peace with God, since it is by faith and through Jesus that we have entered this state of grace in which we can boast about looking forward to God's glory. This hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given us. We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man - though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die - but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners.

Gospel Acclamation: cf John 4:42, 15

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
Lord, you are truly the Saviour of the world; give me

living water, that I may never thirst again.
Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

Gospel: John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' - Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied: 'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.' 'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.' 'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said: 'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know; for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come - in fact it is here already - when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah - that is, Christ - is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you, I am he.' Many Samaritans of that town believed in him on the strength of the woman's testimony when she said, 'He told me all I have ever done', so, when the Samaritans came up to him, they begged him to stay with them. He stayed for two days, and when he spoke to them many more came to believe; they said to the woman, 'Now we no longer believe because of what you told us; we have heard him ourselves and we know that he really is the saviour of the world.'

Gospel Reflection by Veronica Lawson RSM

Those privileged to act as catechists in the RCIA program over the Lenten period will be introducing candidates to some of our most treasured gospel stories. In 1963, Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy called for the restoration of certain early Church practices. The two main features of Lent, baptism and penance, were to be given greater emphasis in the liturgy and in liturgical catechesis. More use was to be made of the baptismal elements proper to the Lenten liturgy. Some features that were part of an earlier tradition were to be restored. In response to this call, John's stories of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus were moved from the weekday to the Sunday liturgy. Thus, three weeks into Lent, the liturgy invites us to take a faith journey in the company of a courageous outsider, an unnamed woman from a despised religious group. A woman of Samaria comes to draw water from the well of Jacob, Israel's great ancestor in faith. She belongs in a long line of women whose lot as women is to undertake the burdensome, often dangerous, daily toil of carrying water so that their families might simply survive. Jesus asks the woman for a drink and elicits a bewildered response. She responds, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" This response provides the opportunity for Jesus to move into an extended and constantly deepening exchange in which the woman proves herself a knowledgeable and worthy

dialogue partner. The pursuit of water, a key baptismal symbol in the gospel tradition, provides the catalyst for her journey to faith in Jesus as the Messiah/the Christos and her engagement in the mission of proclaiming the good news to her people. Commentators tend to focus on the woman's marital status, usually in negative terms. Because she is said to have had five husbands, many presume that she is a sinner: there is nothing in the text to support this position. Successive husbands may have died. Financial, religious or societal constraints may have functioned in her decision to remarry. The "husbands" may refer to the strange gods that claimed the allegiance of the Samaritans. There is no consensus on this among scholars. At the outset, the woman views Jesus simply as a Jew who breaks with established custom by asking her for water. She comes to accept him as the provider of living water. Jesus understands her life story and opens up the way for her to accept him as a prophet. She takes the risk of sharing her own convictions about the locus of worship and is gifted with new understanding and with Jesus' further self-disclosure. She leaves her water jar behind and brings others to faith in Jesus as Messiah and saviour of the world. She becomes both disciple and missionary prophet.

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