



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham- Dimboola- Murtoa- Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Lent - 22nd March 2020



PARISH CONTACTS

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

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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 Dalglish

No Saturday 6.30pm Vigil Mass and no Sunday 10.30 Mass until further notice.

Bulletins will be in the Church at weekends.

Bulletins are online
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au
select Horsham Parish, click on the yellow magnifying glass symbol and open Horsham below

No Holy Week or Easter Liturgies until further notice.

Blessed Palms will be in the Church on Passion Sunday.

No Seder Meal.

For Funerals, no Catering in our Hall.

**No Baptisms, Weddings
Public Meetings cancelled**



Caritas AUSTRALIA

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

From the Catholic Bishops of Victoria regarding the Coronavirus crisis.

Victoria's Catholic bishops have suspended Masses and public Liturgies until further notice.

We are dispensed from our Sunday Mass Obligation (canon law no. 1248). We encourage you to participate in personal and family prayer, reflect on the Scriptures, make a spiritual communion, or participate in a Mass online. **See the List of these on page 3 of our Bulletin.**

Please keep in regular contact with your family, neighbours and members of your parish communities as best you can. We encourage our priests to continue to celebrate Mass for the spiritual good of God's people, the intentions of the faithful and the alleviation of the present crisis.

Given the seriousness of the current pandemic, we recognise the need to follow public safety provisions. Government restriction limiting indoor gatherings to 100 people applies to Churches as well as other groups.

This does not rule out visits to Churches for personal prayer.

To encourage such visits, SMJ Church will be open each day 8am to 5pm, for people to come for quiet prayer at this stressful time .

There will be no publicly advertised Liturgies, but we the faithful are still able to gather for prayer in small groups, keeping a physical distance between each other, for example small gatherings for morning or evening prayer.

Fr Peter will celebrate Mass daily for all of our intentions.

Anointing of the Sick and Individual Confession, on request to Fr Peter.

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 trust in your healing touch. Bless **caregivers**, as channels of your love, they are your hands on earth. Give them gentleness, give them respect for the sick in 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, to love and understand, 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.

Cancelled due to recent notification of Church Closure until further notice - on 23 March 2020

For us to gather... Church this Wednesday March 25th, the Annunciation time, as appropriate... are put... as distancing... participants), it... for these... need with a... non-gregation... (0). The following... suggested, to celebrate... t: 9.00am... prayer of the... 9.30... s Mass. 10... our with Ex... Blessed S... Rosary. ...s of the ...: Angelus ...ning Prayer of ... welcome for any or all of these on Wednesday.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Recent Deaths: Brian Rice (Sr Jacinta's brother), Gwenda Weidemann

Anniversaries: Joy Flynn, James Cortesi, Hazel Cortesi, Charles Moore, Marie White, Patrick O'Toole, St Oscar Romero

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,

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

Weekend Masses suspended until further notice

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

From Uniting Wimmera phone 0488669055

For co-ordination of food and supplies for vulnerable members of the Community please contact jaimie.clarkson@vt.uniting.org Uniting Wimmera phone 0488669055

Father Peter invites families who would like a Home Mass at this time, to contact the Parish Office on 53821155 to make a time for this Mass with Fr Peter.

*The most wonderful places to be in the world are:
In someone's thoughts. Someone's prayers.
And in someone's heart.*



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Our Parish rejoices as we 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.

Their Reception will be celebrated when Masses resume

The Mass of the Oils which is usually celebrated in St Patrick's Cathedral in Ballarat on the Monday of Holy Week is unlikely to proceed this year for obvious reasons. We expect that the Holy Oils will be blessed in a small private ceremony and distributed later around the Diocese. **Locally, it seems likely that the familiar Easter ceremonies may also be abbreviated this year. But, we wait for further advice on Holy Week.**



Harmony Day on March 21st begins Harmony Week

It is a day in which Australians celebrate the core values of inclusiveness, respect for other cultures, tolerance, and diversity. It is a day that began in 1999 and coincides with the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



Thirty-two-year-old Sakun lives in a village in central east India. She developed polio as a child and has difficulty walking. After joining a Caritas Australia-funded program, Sakun has learned new skills and gained important mobility. She is more resilient, more confident and more independent.

In our Project Compassion story this week, we meet Sakun from India, a young woman living with a disability. As is the case in many countries, people like Sakun and her family are often 'out of sight' when it comes to receiving the support and care needed to participate in the life of the community. Through her participation in the Caritas Australia supported program Sakun's dignity is upheld as an equal member of the community, her voice is heard and respected. She has a means to earn an income and is now more independent with her new improved mobility. How can we use our freedom and courage, much like Jesus with the man born blind to act with justice and love to those who are excluded?

ROSTERS

| Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging | 29th March | 5th April |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| | Josie Phelan Pauline Irwin Joan Butler Margo Hogan | Anna Robertson Jenny Clarke Bernie Lakin Rhonda Tursi |

We thank you for your much valued and continued ministry in our Church.

FINANCE: 1st Collection (Presbytery Account):

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------|-------------------|
| Rupanyup | \$ | Murtoa | \$ 115.00 |
| Horsham | \$ 840.00 | Dimboola | \$ 45.00 |
| Total | | | \$ 1000.00 |

2nd Collection (Parish Account)

| | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-------|------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ 660.00 | Loose | \$ 85.25 |
| Total | | | \$ 745.25 |

Links to Mass online:

St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne: The 1.00pm Mass is streamed live daily (Mon-Fri) and is then available as a recording on-demand until one hour prior to the next Mass. Sunday Mass is available, with the 11.00am Mass live streamed and it is also available as a recording on-demand. Watch here <https://melbournecatholic.org.au/Mass>

Pope Francis' daily Mass: Pope Francis' daily Masses are available online through the Vatican's website and YouTube channel. Watch here <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope-francis/mass-casa-santa-marta.pagelist.html>

Mass for You at Home: This program has been allowing the faithful to participate in Mass from their homes for many years. Mass for You at Home is broadcast on Eleven and Network Ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel on Foxtel every day. Watch at <http://www.mfyah.com/video.html> or <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

Word on Fire: Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and founder of Word on Fire, Bishop Robert Barron has been using new media to evangelise for over a decade. Watch at <https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference have established a coronavirus page that has links to the latest advice on diocesan sites relevant to COVID-19 <https://www.catholic.org.au/coronavirus>

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. Leave these in the Church anytime

28-29 March: Tea/Coffee

4-5 April: Tinned Soup

or any other food you can afford. Thank you

We pray for a safe and blessed School holidays beginning this Friday March 27th.

Our Schools are daily monitoring CEO advice, and will act according to these.

OLHC Murtoa and St Patrick's Nhill will have pupil free days on Friday March 27th, for Teachers to plan for students to have lessons if the Government extends the Easter holidays beyond Tuesday April 14th, the day Term 2 is due to start.

We pray for VCE students, and families, whose lives are disrupted by the continuing coronavirus crisis.

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.

Our dearest Parishioners,

Please be advised that all public masses and gatherings in our Parish are to be cancelled or suspended until further notice or instruction from the Bishop.

There will be no Saturday Vigil Mass and no Sunday Masses in our Communities in adherence with Bishops' advice, starting from today.

To stay informed please feel free to visit our Diocesan Website - www.ballarat.catholic.org.au (once on the Website, click on the search box and look for Horsham in the list which pops up); and details regarding Masses, contacts, a copy of the latest bulletin, etc. shall be there.

We strongly encourage our parishioners to keep faith in these trying times, and participate in prayer for those affected by the virus, this global emergency and other calamities around the world. Please continue to celebrate good news and show and give strength, hope and kindness to others in this time of dread and isolation; whilst also taking best care of yourselves and loved ones.

The church shall stay open for those wanting to visit for personal prayer or silent reflection in these changing times, keeping in mind the precautionary measures and advice given to us by health professionals.

We shall try our best to keep in contact with any changes or news in the future...

Thank you for your concern, continued activity and support within our community. Best regards and take care,

Sincerely,

St Michael's and John's Parish Council.

The fourth Sunday of Lent is called Laetare Sunday

The Latin word means be joyful, when the Church takes a bit of a breather from Lenten practice in preparation for the Easter Celebrations.



Celebrating 100 years of the Brigidine Sisters in our Parish. **Cancelled** Long weekend in June

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.

Child Safety Standards. St 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

First Reading: Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

The Lord said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil and go. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen myself a king among his sons.' When Samuel arrived, he caught sight of Eliab and thought, 'Surely the Lord's anointed one stands there before him,' but the Lord said to Samuel, 'Take no notice of his appearance or his height for I have rejected him; God does not see as man sees; man looks at appearances but the Lord looks at the heart.' Jesse presented his seven sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' He then asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' He answered, 'There is still one left, the youngest; he is out looking after the sheep.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he comes.' Jesse had him sent for, a boy of fresh complexion, with fine eyes and pleasant bearing. The Lord said, 'Come, anoint him, for this is the one.' At this, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him where he stood with his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord seized on David and stayed with him from that day on.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
 The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
 Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

You were darkness once, but now you are light in the Lord; be like children of light, for the effects of the light are seen in complete goodness and right living and truth. Try to discover what the Lord wants of you, having nothing to do with the

futile works of darkness but exposing them by contrast. The things which are done in secret are things that people are ashamed even to speak of; but anything exposed by the light will be illuminated and anything illuminated turns into light. That is why it is said: Wake up from your sleep, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

Gospel Acclamation: John 8:12

Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!
 I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Glory to you, Word of God, Lord Jesus Christ!

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.

Gospel Reflection 4th Lent Yr A- Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Last week, we journeyed with the woman of Samaria from bewilderment to deep insight into Jesus' identity and mission and to a strong personal faith commitment. This week, we are invited on a faith journey with a man born blind and with the varying groups of participants in the drama. All have the opportunity of coming to faith.. Ironically, the blind come to see, both physically and spiritually, while those who are gifted with physical sight remain in spiritual darkness. In healing the man born blind, Jesus performs the sixth of eight powerful actions or "signs" in John's gospel that reveal God's power at work in Jesus and in the lives of those who seek life. The "signs" invite the reader/hearer/viewer to accept Jesus and his revelation of God and God's purposes. Time features significantly in the story. Jesus heals the blind beggar on the Sabbath. The Jerusalem authorities have already raised objections about Jesus' Sabbath healing activity (John 5). Once again they object that he is failing to observe the Sabbath. They label him a sinner. Ironically, in the final authoritative analysis, it is they who "remain in their sins". This story reminds us of the need to check our assumptions and, if necessary, to revise our thinking and action. It also reminds us to accept the fact that we can be wrong about

things we have always believed. It invites us to be open to seeing differently or from a new perspective. Jesus' disciples, the parents of the man born blind, his neighbours, the religious authorities all operate out of unchecked assumptions. They mostly come to the wrong conclusions. Only those willing to admit that they have it wrong have any chance of coming to faith. In the present political climate in my country, admitting that one "got it wrong" seems to be anathema. And yet, from a gospel perspective, it is a sign of real strength. In the common estimation, the man was blind, so he or his parents must have sinned. Not so, according to Jesus. From the perspective of the authorities, Jesus heals on the Sabbath and is therefore a sinner. Not so, from Jesus' point of view. The man was born blind and so needs others to speak for him. Not so, say his parents, he can speak for himself. He does speak for himself and quite eloquently, to the chagrin of the religious authorities. He presents them with the truth about Jesus but they refuse to accept the word of an outcast. Their reaction is violent: they drive him out. But Jesus goes in search of him and leads him to yet deeper levels of faith and understanding. You may like to read the story once more and put yourself in the place of the different characters. There is a little bit of each character in each of us.

Next week's Gospel: John 11:1-45

There was a man named Lazarus who lived in the village of Bethany with the two sisters, Mary and Martha, and he was ill. - It was the same Mary, the sister of the sick man Lazarus, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair. The sisters sent this message to Jesus, 'Lord,