



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham- Dimboola- Murtoa- Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill



BULLETIN

5th Sunday of Lent - 29th March 2020



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.

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 Dalglish

Holy Week At Home

Palm Sunday: Blessed palms available from the Parish Office on Monday 6th

Holy Week Prayer Sheets:

Liturgy Brisbane has prepared and shared prayer sheets to follow throughout Holy Week at home.

There are five pamphlets covering Palm Sunday, The End of Lent, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

Sets of these are available from the Parish Office for collection from Wednesday April 1st, and will be emailed to those on the Bulletin mailing list.

Please contact the parish office to have your address added to the mailing list. Paper copies of the Bulletin are available from the Parish Office on Monday.

From the Catholic Bishops of Victoria regarding the Coronavirus crisis.

All Masses and public Liturgies are cancelled 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 follow public safety provisions, and Governments in limiting indoor gatherings which applies to Churches and groups.

As with the direction for Victoria given by the Chief Health Officer, all Church doors will be locked until April 14th.

Fr Peter will celebrate Mass daily for all our intentions.

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

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

Our Parish Bulletin is online

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

For Funerals, we work with the Funeral Homes. Wedding please contact us

All non-essential activities at the Church and in the Parish Centre are cancelled until further notice.

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.

Finances: A number of Parishioners have contacted us about paying Planned Giving money, and giving something for the Presbytery account. In these difficult times, with so many not having an income, anything you can give is gratefully received. You can drop Envelopes or money into the Parish Office anytime when it is open: Monday & Tuesday: 8.30- 12.30. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8.30am to 3.30pm Thank you for your support, as we support you in prayer at this time.

You can pay via our Parish BSB Account :

BSB: 083 680 Account: 515830337
REF: Envelope number/surname or Presbytery

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Recent Deaths: Shirley Rankin (Dimboola), Brian Rice (Sr Jacinta's brother)

Anniversaries: Leonie Dibdin, Doreen Stowe, Patrick McLennan

Sick: 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: (N/A)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 9 to 9.20
Rosary 9.20. Prayer of the Church. 10am Mass

Weekend Masses suspended until further notice

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

Livestreaming of Mass at SMJ Church:

For those who have Facebook, and would like to watch Mass at SMJ Church broadcast online at real time...

A group page has been constructed by Sr Manuela, titled "Eucharistic Group", which Parishioners are free to join. Tap/click on the magnifying glass symbol at the top of your Facebook home page, type in "Eucharistic Group" into the search bar, tap the magnifying glass symbol again to search, and in the results you shall find one with the image above, tap into it and once loaded click 'Join' to be able to see posts and receive updates.



Eucharistic Group >
PRIVATE GROUP · 21 MEMBERS



Tawonga is a 10-year-old girl, living with a disability. She lives in a village in northern Malawi in a region plagued by food insecurity and poverty. For most of her life, her parents have struggled to put meals on the table. Tawonga often had to miss school because she was too sick from hunger. The family also faced discrimination in their community due to her disability. Since participating in a Caritas Australia supported program, Tawonga's life has transformed. Her family now grows enough food to provide three meals a day, ending the struggle of malnutrition, and helping her thrive at school.



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.*

To help you pray Mass on the 5th Sunday Lent Yr A

Introduction: 'Your brother will rise again,' said Jesus, 'the resurrection and the life' (John 11:25), to Martha (John 11:24) The glory of God is a human being fully alive,' said St Irenaeus

Penitential Rite: Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner: Lord, have mercy ...

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father: Christ, have mercy ...

Lord Jesus you raise the dead to new life, through your gift of the Holy Spirit: Lord, have mercy ...

Let us pray (for the courage to embrace the world with Jesus) Father, the love of your Son led him to accept the suffering of the cross, so that his sisters and brothers might rise to new ways of living. Change our selfishness into self-giving. Help us to embrace the human race with his generous love, and through the power of his life, death, and resurrection, to transform its darkness and pain into light and joy. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of the Faithful

We make our petitions to our merciful God, with trust in his power to deliver us from evil. We pray for the world. May the Lord speedily deliver it from the scourge of the COVID-19 Coronavirus. Lord, hear us ...

We pray for the Church. May it proclaim to everyone the good news of the eternal life won for us by Jesus Christ. Lord, hear us ...

We pray for our political leaders. May they respond to the needs of their people in the present crisis with wisdom, courage, and generosity. Lord, hear us ...

We pray for those caring for the sick and the dying, and for those caring for coronavirus patients. May they be blessed to persevere in their service despite difficulties. Lord, hear us ...

We pray for Shirley Rankin and Brian Rice who died recently, and for those who are grieving because of the death of dear ones, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Leonie Dibdin, Doreen Stowe, Patrick McLennan. Lord, hear us

We pray for all people of good will: May we treasure the beautiful but fragile gift of life. Lord, hear us.

We pray for safety and blessings for our Schools on these holidays. Lord hear us..

Making Connections: When Jesus calls forth Lazarus from death and the darkness of the tomb to new life, we have echoes of Christian belief in the power of baptism. The same symbolism is spoken of in the baptismal ceremony. When baptism is performed by full emersion, this symbolism is even more powerful. Did you know: Popular Jewish belief was that the soul hovered near the body for three days after death. The 'fourth day' indicates that Lazarus is well and truly passed away, thus making his resuscitation even more amazing.

Come forth alive, raise us up with Christ from the death of sin, that all of us, may be unbound and set free.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Our Parish rejoices as we prepare for Reception into the Fullness of the Church 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

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> or shalomworld.org/dailymass

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/>

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

Marriage Tip: Do you look into your spouse's heart? Do you let him/her look into yours? Cherish the opportunity to go beyond appearances with the one you love.

Diocesan Delegates for the Plenary Council in Adelaide in October are: Bishop Paul, Fr Kevin Moloney (Vicar General), Felicity Krobek (Cathedral), Marie Shaddock (Ouyen), plus Fr Kevin Lenehan (Catholic Theological College), Monsignor Glynn Murphy (Warracknabeal, representing the Military)

We pray for a safe and blessed School holidays

Teachers plan for students to have lessons online, as it is possible that the Government will extend this Easter holidays beyond Tuesday April 14th, the day Term 2 is due to start.

Thank you to our School Principals and Staff for their preparation of work for children to do at home over this extended crisis.

We pray for VCE students, and for families who have no work, whose lives are disrupted by the continuing coronavirus crisis.

LENTEN REGULATIONS 2020

◆ On Good Friday we abstain from meat, on Good Friday and on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil try to fast on these days.

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

Lenten Resources The Archdiocese of Melbourne website has a number of Lenten resources for use at home. To access the website, click on melbournecatholic.org.au and open Lenten Resources

For our Ballarat Diocese News

Our Diocesan Community Magazine and the Diocesan E-Newsletter, Staying connected to each other in our faith communities is now more important than ever. The latest edition of ODC and eNews are now available to read online at www.ballarat.catholic.org.au under "News and Events".



Daylight Saving Ends NEXT weekend at 3am on Sunday 5th April.

Turn your clocks back one hour before we go to bed next Saturday night.

A few of our fellow Parishioners are offering help with getting groceries, prescriptions/medications and other essential errands; to vulnerable members of our community, such as those who are sick and/or are elderly and homebound. If you require such assistance please ring or message **Courtney Ramsey at 0428 274 018.**

Pope Francis' Prayer of Intercession: For our sisters and brothers throughout the world who are denied their basic human rights. May we stand in solidarity as a global community, working courageously to promote justice and uphold the dignity of all people, especially in this time of coronavirus.

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: Ezekiel 37:12-14

The Lord says this: I am going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this - it is the Lord who speaks.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 129

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice! O let your ear be attentive to the voice of my pleading. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive? But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word. My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. (Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.) Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

People who are interested only in unspiritual things can never be pleasing to God. Your interests, however, are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him. Though your body may be dead it is because of sin, but if Christ is in you then your spirit is life itself because you have been justified; if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

Gospel Acclamation: John 11:25, 26

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will not die for ever. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

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, the man you love is ill.' On receiving the message, Jesus said, 'This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified.' Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, yet when he heard that Lazarus was ill he stayed where he was for two more days before saying to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judaea.' The disciples said, 'Rabbi, it is not long since the Jews wanted to stone you; are you going back again?' Jesus replied: 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? A man can walk in the daytime without stumbling because he has the light of this

world to see by; but if he walks at night he stumbles, because there is no light to guide him.' He said that and then added, 'Our friend Lazarus is resting, I am going to wake him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he is able to rest he is sure to get better.' The phrase Jesus used referred to the death of Lazarus, but they thought that by 'rest' he meant 'sleep', so Jesus put it plainly, 'Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad I was not there because now you will believe. But let us go to him.' Then Thomas - known as the Twin - said to the other disciples, 'Let us go too, and die with him.' On arriving, Jesus found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days already. Bethany is only about two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to sympathise with them over their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus had come she went to meet him. Mary remained sitting in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'If you had been here, my brother would not have died, but I know that, even now, whatever you ask of God, he will grant you.' 'Your brother' said Jesus to her 'will rise again.' Martha said, 'I know he will rise again at the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said: 'I am the resurrection and the life. If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?'

'Yes, Lord,' she said 'I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world.' When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in a low voice, 'The Master is here and wants to see you.' Hearing this, Mary got up quickly and went to him. Jesus had not yet come into the village; he was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were in the house sympathising with Mary saw her get up so quickly and go out, they followed her, thinking that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Mary went to Jesus, and as soon as she saw him she threw herself at his feet, saying, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' At the sight of her tears, and those of the Jews who followed her, Jesus said in great distress, with a sigh that came straight from the heart, 'Where have you put him?' They said, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept; and the Jews said, 'See how much he loved him!' But there were some who remarked, 'He opened the eyes of the blind man, could he not have prevented this man's death?' Still sighing, Jesus reached the tomb: it was a cave with a stone to close the opening. Jesus said, 'Take the stone away.' Martha said to him, 'Lord, by now he will smell; this is the fourth day.' Jesus replied, 'Have I not told you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. Then Jesus lifted up his eyes and said: 'Father, I thank you for hearing my prayer. I knew indeed that you always hear me, but I speak for the sake of all these who stand round me, so that they may believe it was you who sent me.' When he had said this, he cried in a loud voice, 'Lazarus, here! Come out!' The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.' Many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary and had seen what he did believed in him.

Gospel Reflection Lent 5 Yr A- Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Sunday's readings touch into the most profound of mysteries, of life and death. To hold a new born child or to see the sick restored to health is to experience the wonder of life. Sudden death can bring unimagined grief and pain. The news this morning (March 23) tells us that 14,641 people have died from Coronavirus over the past two months. Some have died alone. With this pandemic comes an extraordinary outpouring of grief and fear. This comes in the wake of the bushfires and drought. Death brings tears, even anger. Little wonder that "life" becomes a metaphor for transformation, new beginnings or that "death" signifies deprivation and loss. Today's Gospel is about the death and restoration to life of Lazarus, "the one whom Jesus loved". It is the last of the seven "signs" in John's "book of signs" that reveal the "glory" of God. It is also the greatest of Jesus' signs. It functions as a catalyst for the events that lead to his death: "from that day on they planned to put him to death" (11:53). Jesus asserts "I am the

resurrection and the life", to invite assent to that revelation of his identity. It reveals the compassion and tender heart of Jesus who weeps at their grief. It reveals the goodness in the hearts of those "Jews" who share her grief and who come to faith in Jesus who raises the dead to life. Though the story revolves around the plight of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, with Jesus, who occupy centre stage, and into whose faith journey we are invited to enter. Martha and Mary are identified as "sisters" who live in Bethany. Are they blood "sisters" or sisters in their love of Jesus and the community around him, or both? A brief notice alerts the reader to the imminent death of Jesus: "Mary is the one who anointed Jesus with perfumed oil and wiped his feet with her tears". In John's gospel, irony and misunderstanding bring us, in the theatre of Christian life, to new levels of understanding and faith. In the face of this pandemic we are called, to play our part so that this illness may lead to greater love and even to "life".