

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham- Dimboola- Murtoa- Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

Palm Sunday - 5th April 2020



PARISH CONTACTS

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SCHOOLS

Ss Michael & John Primary

Principal: Andrea Cox

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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

Channel 7 to broadcast St Mary's Cathedral Easter services

Catholics around Australia will be able to watch Easter services live on national television from St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. The network will stream The Lord's Passion at 3pm on Good Friday and Easter Sunday Mass from 10.30am across the country on Channel 7 and on Prime 7 in regional areas, and live-streamed on 7plus. Both liturgies will be broadcast commercial free and in their entirety, recognizing the importance to Catholics in the commemoration of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter Sunday Mass.

Those wanting to view the liturgies online can visit <https://7plus.com.au/> online.

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.

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 public 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.



Daylight Saving Ends TONIGHT Sunday 5th.

Turn your clocks BACK one hour before we go to bed tonight, Saturday.

To help us celebrate Holy Week and Easter we have put on the email addresses we have these Liturgies for you to celebrate at home. If we do not have your email address please forward it to horsham@ballarat.catholic.org.au and we will include you in our mail outs.

I recommend these Prayer leaflets to you for your use at home. Regrettably, we are not even allowed to invite you to come to the Church to pick up Blessed Palms this Palm Sunday or Blessed Holy Water bottles on Easter Sunday. These will be available once we are told you can come to get them, otherwise, please pray at home as I will pray for you in Mass each day. If you wish to be part of our Mass each day, and you have Facebook, please link into Eucharistic Group to come on line.

I will celebrate Mass on Saturday night at 6.30pm, Sunday 10.30am, Monday 10am, Tuesday & Wednesday 9.30am, Holy Thursday 5pm, Holy Saturday 6.30pm Easter Sunday 10.30. These all will be on Eucharistic Group on Facebook. Don't forget to turn your clocks **BACK ONE HOUR THIS SATURDAY NIGHT BEFORE YOU GO TO BED**, Daylight Saving finishes. Take care. Fr Peter.

The rapidly changing situation of Covid-19, on the recommendation of health and safety people, it is not advisable to have people come to the church or parish site even individually.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Recent Deaths:

Anniversaries: Peter Heenan, Rosaria Zarlenga

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

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



Dominic, 47 is a former teacher and father of six from Papua New Guinea. In 2016, he became involved with the Caritas Australia's Safe House and Family Anonymous programs and turned a difficult life and an unhappy relationship around. The program provides gender-based violence prevention training, counselling services and safe accommodation for women and children survivors of violence. Now a community trainer, he works with other men to help them to change their behaviour and build more harmonious family lives. Dominic and his wife, Christophylda say that their relationship has been transformed – and their family life is now harmonious, happy and safe.

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

To help you pray Mass on Palm Sunday Yr A Prayer of the Faithful

Response: God of Life, hear our prayer

For the Church: may we be of loving service to one another at all times.

For the work of Caritas through Project Compassion: may our generous support help needy communities become self-sufficient.

For world leaders: may their strategies to contain the spread of COVID-19 come to fruition.

For medical researchers: may there soon be a breakthrough in the development of a vaccine.

For our community: may we be responsible in our actions so that we do not endanger the health of others.

We pray For those who died recently and for all those whose anniversaries are around this time. We also hold in our hearts the many who have died as the result of COVID-19: may they rest in God's healing presence.

We pray for those who have died recently, and for those who are grieving because of the death of dear ones, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time Peter Heenan, Rosaria Zarlenga.

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

May Mary and Joseph and all the saints pray for us that we may have health of body and peace of heart and a spirit of kindness to one another.

Blessing of the Palms

Dear brothers and sisters, since the beginning of Lent until now we have prepared our hearts by penance and charitable works. Today we herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, his Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem. With all faith and devotion, let us commemorate the Lord's entry into the city for our salvation, following in his footsteps, so that, being made by his grace partakers of the Cross, we may have a share also in his Resurrection and in his life.

Almighty ever-living God, bless + these branches that we, who rejoice to follow Christ the King, may reach the eternal Jerusalem through him.

Making Connections: Like Simon of Cyrene in today's gospel, help someone carry their cross this week Did you Know: The narrative of the Passion of Jesus - the arrest, trial, crucifixion, death - are the earliest strands to be written down as the gospels.

Marriage Tip: Pope Francis asked married couples: "How are things when it comes to joy at home? Is there joy in your family?" How would you answer the Pope? He said that true joy "comes from a profound harmony between persons."

Daily Prayer: As we near the end of Lent's forty-day journey, take our sin away by Christ's glorious passion, that we, who have so often denied and deserted the Lord, may not yield to despair but repent and renew our discipleship, so that when we proclaim the name of Jesus, every knee shall bend and every tongue proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord.

A Vocation View: Today's world is so filled with suffering, injustice, anger, depression and loneliness that it cries for people waving palm branches of hope and resurrection, proclaiming new life.

Palm Sunday "The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue, that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them," says Isaiah in today's first reading. The gifts God has given us are likewise given for the good of others. How am I using my gifts?

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/>

We have never experienced a Holy Week like this, but let's try to pray at home and to remember on Thursday the Institution of the Eucharist and the commandment of brotherly love; on Friday the saving death of Jesus and on Sunday the risen Lord and the empty tomb. And let's do our best to have (and to send wishes to our friends and family for) a Happy Easter.

Finances: A number of Parishioners have asked about paying Planned Giving money, giving to the Presbytery, Project Compassion, Good Friday Appeal, and Easter Dues, all so wonderfully supported in normal times. In these difficult times, with so many not having an income, anything you can give to any of these Collections, is gratefully received. You can drop Envelopes or money into the Parish Office anytime when it is open:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, this week:

8.30am to 12.30pm

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



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.

For our Ballarat Diocese E-Newsletter and ODC

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".

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.**

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

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

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 them 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.

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 & Tirsia.

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:8-9, 17-20, 23-24

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me? All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads. 'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.'

Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me. They tear holes in my hands and my feet. I can count every one of my bones.

They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe. O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me!

I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled. 'You who fear the Lord give

him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him, Israel's sons.'

My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Gospel Acclamation: Philippians 2:8-9

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory! Christ became obedient for us even to death, dying on the cross. Therefore God raised him on high and gave him a name above all other names. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 - 27:66

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Gospel Reflection Passion Sunday Yr A- Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

This year, we are invited to hear Matthew's passion narrative through the lens of a global community threatened by a virus. The prospect of untimely death for many is an ever present reality. Even more abhorrent to most of us is the ongoing practice of capital punishment, particularly when a just person is put to death for specious reasons or to political ends. That's what confronts us in today's gospel, although the gospel writers pay little attention to the details of the suffering and death of Jesus: they are more interested in the meaning of these events. The Romans execute Jesus outside Jerusalem when the city is filled with Jewish pilgrims, there for the Passover festival. For Jesus' friends and followers, every subsequent Passover is celebrated in the light of his death by crucifixion. They share their memories and reflect on the meaning of his death in the light of their sacred traditions. Every element of the Passover story, the ancient story of God's deliverance of their ancestors, resonates with echoes of the experience of Jesus who is now present to them in a new way. Little wonder, then, that the final events of Jesus' life were probably the first part of his story to be committed to writing. Though Matthew draws much of his material from Mark, he fashions the tradition into a new narrative and adds several distinctive features. "To fulfil all

righteousness" is Jesus' stated mission (3:15). He has declared "blessed" those who suffer for the sake of righteousness (justice or right relationship)" (5:10). He now embodies his own teaching as the just or righteous one, the one in right relationship with God. The prayer on his lips as he faces death (Psalm 22) is that of the suffering just Israelite who is utterly faithful to his mission and whose trust in God never fails. There are hints that Jesus' death is not the end, but is rather the inauguration of the new age of God's empire, a compassionate alternative to the brutality of Rome. In response to the high priest Caiaphas, Jesus points beyond death to his resurrected life "at the right hand of power...." Extraordinary signs follow his death: the tearing of the temple curtain; the trembling of the earth; the recognition by the Roman centurion and his companions that this man is of God; and finally, the opening of the graves and appearance of the dead in anticipation of the final resurrection. These signs offer the hope of reversal to all who have witnessed the events surrounding Jesus' death. They offer hope to the women who have followed him all the way from Galilee and "ministered to him". They offer hope to the male disciples who have deserted or denied him, to faithful disciples like Joseph of Arimathea, and even to his Roman executioners. They bring hope to us all at this time, especially to those who are putting their lives on the line for others.

Next week's Gospel Easter Sunday: Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke, and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples. "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples. And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings' he said. And the women came up to him and,

falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

Prayer for Spiritual Communion Pope Francis :

"My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart ... I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You."

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