



Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe



Michael & John's Parish

Horsham-Dimboola-Murtoa-Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

2nd Sunday of Easter - 19th April 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



**Jesus,
I Trust In You!**



**Divine
Mercy
Sunday
TODAY.**

**From
2pm to
3pm**

**this afternoon
we will have
Exposition of
the Blessed
Sacrament
on line in the Church.**

During this time we will have the Litany of Divine Mercy, the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

I will send the Litany and Chaplet as attachments with the Bulletin today.



All public Masses and 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.

As with the direction for Victoria all Church doors will be locked.

Fr Peter will celebrate Mass daily for all our intentions.

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

Our Parish Bulletin is online

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

For Funerals, we work with the Funeral Homes.

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 online on Saturday night at 6.30pm, Sunday 10.30 Tuesday 5.30

Wednesday at 9.30am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 10am to 11, Thursday and Friday Mass at 9.30am. Saturday 10.00am.

An Act of Spiritual Communion

At this time, we cannot receive you Lord Jesus sacramentally in the Eucharist. Help us to welcome you spiritually as we wait for the day when your saving sacrifice will be offered and the divine banquet will be spread in our churches once more You are the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof. But only say the word and my soul shall be healed. My Jesus, come to me. I long for you; Let me always be at one with you.

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

TERM 2 of the SCHOOL YEAR

As per regulations, students are to stay home FOR THEIR SCHOOLING, unless they are in Out of Home Care, deemed by the school to be otherwise vulnerable, or their parents/carers are essential workers

We ask parents/carers to please ensure your child/children undertake required study each day.

SBC students study at home, with support for VCE students through ZOOM.



THIS SATURDAY April 25th

This day marks the landing of Australian and New Zealand soldiers at Gallipoli during the Great War of 1914-1918. It is our national day of remembrance as we honour the courage and self-sacrifice of those who have served in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations. Our Mass recognises the sacrifice of those who died in all wars, and commends them to eternal life. We pray that the justice and peace which they sought to defend may dwell in all our lands.

Prayer Everlasting God, You sent your Son to die that we might live, grant eternal rest to those who gave themselves in service and sacrifice for their country.

Mass on Saturday at 10am online

We will remember them

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Recent Deaths: David McCluskey, Carmel McDonald, Betty Carracher (Warrnambool), Kathleen Hogan (Swan Hill) Mary Wyburn (Sydney, Noreen Kennedy's sister), Michael Bowden (Darwin), Heath Martin (Policeman)

Anniversaries: Fr Frank Madden, Pat Carey, Edward (Ted) Walsh, Ron Preuss, Ed Byrne, Danny Byrne,

Sick: Debbie Nolen, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen, Pat Craig, John McNamara, Elsie Thomas, Sr Tirsia Bale, Laurie Manserra,

Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 53821155

Livestreaming of Mass at SMJ Church:

For those who have Facebook, and would like to watch Mass at SMJ Church online:



Eucharistic Group >
PRIVATE GROUP · 21 MEMBERS

A group page, set up 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 see posts and receive updates.

Finances: A number of Parishioners have asked about paying Planned Giving money, giving to the Presbytery, Project Compassion, 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:

The Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: **8.30am to 12.30p**
Thank you for your support.

You can pay via our Parish BSB Account :

BSB: 083 680 Account: 515830337

REF: Envelope number/surname or Presbytery

Bottles of Blessed Easter Water will be outside the Church today Sunday, and in the Office. You can pray this prayer as you bless your homes.

Lord God, we rejoice this Easter with the hope of your saving life and love renewed in us. Bless our family and our home. May we live here in peace with you and with one another, with courtesy and respect in what we say and do. May we come and go through the doors of our home with your peace guiding our way. May we show care and hospitality to family, friends, and others who come here, and go forth as witnesses of your love and peace to all we meet. Keep us free from all harm or hurt in our daily life, work, and our isolation at home.

CHRIST IS RISEN. ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN INDEED

To help you pray Mass on 2nd Sunday Easter Yr A Prayers of Intercession

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, the risen Jesus who greets his fearful disciples with the blessing of peace is the one acclaimed as Lord and God by Thomas.

May the leadership of the Church hold us all together in faithful prayer: Pope Francis, bishop of Rome and Pope of the Church, Paul our Bishop, all of us God's people Christ, hear us. **Christ, graciously hear us.**

May our leaders in government at the Federal, State and Local levels, have a concern for the common good and ensure that everyone in Australia is cared for 'according to what each one needs'. Christ, hear us.

May those who work to help others during this Corona-virus Pandemic, medical, nursing and pastoral services, staff in supermarket and other food outlets, delivery drivers, farmers and dairy producers, Police, Military, Ambulance drivers, and Emergency Services - be respected by us all in a spirit of deep gratitude.

May those who struggle with their Christian faith, and those who search for a faith, find in the experience of the apostle Thomas, the grace to discover the risen Jesus through family and household prayer, the reading of the Scriptures, and by serving the poor and needy. May all who live in critical situations during this pandemic in war zones and refugee camps and in places of poverty with limited medical services, where there is religious persecution, and in prisons and detention centres, not be forgotten by the nations of the world.

May all of our sick in hospitals, in nursing homes and in their own homes, the frail aged and those with chronic illness or disability, and those cut off from families at this time, know that they too are our concern, held up to God in prayer. Christ, hear us.

May all who have died at this time, David McCluskey, Carmel McDonald, Kathleen Hogan, Betty Carracher, and Mary Wyburn, supported by families and friends, know the blessed company of Mary and the Saints, praising the risen Jesus, the heavenly Father and the Divine Spirit. We remember those whose anniversaries occur at this time, Fr Frank Madden, Pat Carey, Ed and Danny Byrne, Edward (Ted) Walsh, Ron Preuss. Celebrant: Father, with St Thomas we acclaim Jesus as our Lord and God, and as we give thanks for every blessing received, in this time of concern and anxiety we will put all our trust in Jesus.

Making Connections: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That is addressed to you! How will you nourish that belief in the future?

Marriage Tip: Would your spouse describe you as a good listener? If you're not sure, humbly seek out their opinion, and be willing to grow.

Daily Prayer: In your great mercy, O God, you have given us new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who gathers us into community, stands among us and gives us peace. Day by day, increase in us this Easter faith, and add to our number, that, believing in Jesus, whom we have never seen, we may confess him as our Lord and our God, and loving him, whom we cannot see, we may rejoice to share with others the pardon and peace he bestows.



A Vocation View: It is only through people like you that others will be able to say: "We have seen the Lord." With the resurrection to empower you and with the love of Jesus for you, you too can inspire others who have not seen to believe.

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.

<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.

<http://www.mfyah.com/video.html> or <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat: Mass livestreamed daily at 11.30am can be viewed on Patrick's Cathedral facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/patricks.cathedral.9>

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 online: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au under "News & 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 feel free to contact our Parish Office at 5382 1155, 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

"God is always in the darkness. That is where Easter begins. There is a blessing even in this strangest of Easters. In the midst of this crisis. Easter calls us to discover that blessing. This Easter is the same as every Easter before and to come, summoning us to touch God in the darkness and allow God to turn our darkness, the darkness of this crisis, into the light that never ends."

Making Connections: 'Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' That is addressed to you! How will you nourish that belief in the future?

Marriage Tip: Would your spouse describe you as a good listener? If you're not sure, humbly seek out their opinion, and be willing to grow.

Daily Prayer: In your great mercy, O God, you have given us new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who gathers us into community, stands among us and gives us peace. Day by day, increase in us this Easter faith, and add to our number, that, believing in Jesus, whom we have never seen, we may confess him as our Lord and our God, and loving him, whom we cannot see, we may rejoice to share with others the pardon and peace he bestows.

A Vocation View: It is only through people like you that others will be able to say: "We have seen the Lord." With the resurrection to empower you and with Jesus to lure you, you too can inspire others who have not seen to believe.

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.



Chrism Mass 2020. The Mass of the Oils has been postponed to Monday September 21st at 6.30pm at St Patrick's Cathedral
The most wonderful places to be in the world are: In someone's thoughts. Someone's prayers.



Caritas Australia says THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home please bring them to the Parish Office or visit www.caritas.org.au to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you empower the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty. Phone: **projectcompassion 1800 024 413**

Private Funeral Mass for Carmel McDonald

this Tuesday. Our prayers are with Neville and family.

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.



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

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: Acts 2:42-47

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. The many miracles and signs worked through the apostles made a deep impression on everyone. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed. They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.' Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.' Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.' I was thrust, thrust down and falling but the Lord was my helper.

The Lord is my strength and my song; he was my saviour. There are shouts of joy and victory in the tents of the just.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes. This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy has given us a new birth as his sons, by raising Jesus Christ from the dead, so that we have a sure hope and the promise of an inheritance that can never be spoilt or soiled and never fade away, because it is being kept for you in the heavens. Through your faith, God's power will guard you until the salvation which had been prepared is revealed at the end of time. This is a cause of great joy for you, even though you may for a short time have to bear being

plagued by all sorts of trials; so that, when Jesus Christ is revealed, your faith will have been tested and proved like gold - only it is more precious than gold, which is corruptible even though it bears testing by fire - and then you will have praise and glory and honour. You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation: John 20:29

Alleluia, alleluia! You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me; happy those who have not seen me, but still believe! Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again: 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord,' he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you,' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me, Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.' There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book.

These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.

Gospel Reflection by Sr Veronica Lawson rsm:

Not so long ago we used to speak of the Sundays "after" Easter; now speak of the Sundays "of" Easter. We now recognise that the liturgical readings and prayers for each Sunday between Easter and Pentecost invite us into different movements of the one great symphony of resurrection faith. Today's gospel tells of fear and joy and blessing. We bring our present experience of pandemic into dialogue with all of this. The first scene in today's gospel has the disciples hiding behind closed doors "for fear" of the Jewish leaders. As supporters of someone executed on a political charge, they had reason to be fearful. Jesus appears among them, offers a greeting of peace, and tells them that he has been sent by God, his "Father". They receive from him the gift of the Holy Spirit. He sends them in turn to bring peace and to mediate the forgiveness of God through the power of the Spirit. The story invites us as believers to place ourselves in the shoes of the earliest disciples. It invites us to be open to receive the gift of the Spirit, to emerge from behind the doors that close us in on ourselves and that prevent us from rising above the

fear of reprisals in the pursuit of justice and peace. The second and third scenes in today's gospel focus on Thomas who was not with the other disciples when Jesus first appeared in their midst. Thomas seems to trust only his own experience. We all know people like Thomas. They test our patience because they seem to lack imagination. They make big statements when they come around to understanding what everyone else has known for a while. If we think that those who hear in the first place are any better than Thomas, we note that the doors are still closed eight days later! The simple fact of knowing has not dispelled the fears. Even those who do believe and trust often need time to take the gospel message on board. All three readings this Sunday affirm those who believe without "seeing". As we celebrate Easter, we join with the global community in celebrating the 50th annual Earth Day this Wednesday, its theme is climate action. We have dispelled our fears, listened to the science on Coronavirus and taken courageous action. We pray for the same courageous action to save our planetary home.

Next week's Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Two of the disciples of Jesus were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking together about all that had happened. Now as they talked this over, Jesus himself came up and walked by their side; but something prevented them from recognising him. He said to them, 'What matters are you discussing as you walk along?' They stopped short, their faces downcast. Then one of them, called Cleopas answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.' 'What

things?' he asked. 'All about Jesus of Nazareth' they answered 'who proved he was a great prophet by the things he said and did in the sight of God and of the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified. Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have gone by since it all happened; and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they did not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive...