



Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham-Dimboola-Murtoa-Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

4th Sunday of Easter - 3rd May 2020



PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson
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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

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM CORONAVIRUS

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

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.

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.

Caritas Online Concert – May 9 - To view the concert, supporters will need to register at : livemusic2u.com/loungeroomsessions/.

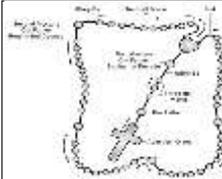


**ONLINE MASSES: (Eucharistic Group Facebook page)
Saturday Vigil Mass 6.30pm. Sunday Mass 10.30am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesday 10-11**

Tuesday 5th	5.30	Sr Veronica Carr, Michael Reinsma
Wednesday 6th	9.30	Walter Hudson, Nicholas Brophy
Thursday 7th	9.30	Michael Patrick Murphy, Mark Ellis
Friday 8th	9.30	Carolyn Claridge, Jack Purcell
Saturday 9th	10.00	Leo Bourke, Mother's Day weekend.

TERM 2 of the SCHOOL YEAR
As per Victorian 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.**

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 go online.



Pope Francis' Letter for May

The month of May is a time when the People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view. I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own situation. *The key to this is always simplicity. I have emailed to Parishioners the sets of Prayers Francis gives us.* Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and help us overcome this time of trial. *Pope Francis*



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Recent Deaths: Leo Bourke (Qld), Frances Lenaghan (Colac)

Anniversaries: Michael Reinsma, Sr Veronica Carr, Terence Keenan, Gerard Ryan, Walter Hudson, Nicholas Brophy, Joanne van de Ven, Michael Murphy

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 on Facebook, and would like to watch Mass at SMJ Church

online: A group page, set up by Sr Manuela, titled "**Eucharistic Group**", which Parishioners are free to join. 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.



Eucharistic Group
PROVIDES MASSUPDATES - 24 HOURS

Finances: Thank you for those who have dropped in envelopes or who have gone online to our BSB or CDF Accounts for Planned Giving Program, Presbytery, Project Compassion, and Easter Dues. 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: open Monday to Friday **8.30am to 12.30**

Collections:

Presbytery \$862.00

Planned Giving: \$3095.00

Project Compassion: \$980 (excluding credit card)

If you wish to give via our Parish BSB Account :

BSB: 083 680 Account: 515830337

REF: Your Envelope number/surname or put

"Presbytery" for the plate collection.

Making Connections: The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is very well-known. It denotes his individual and pastoral care for all the flock. John takes this a step further. Entry into the flock of God's people can only come through the gateway which is belief in Christ. Did you Know: The word 'pastoral' comes from the Latin for shepherd.

Marriage Tip: Take a trip down memory lane. Retell the story of your engagement and wedding day to each other or your kids. What was the craziest, funniest, most endearing part of these milestones for you?

Daily Prayer: Your promise of abundant life, O God, embraces all your children, those near and those far away. Protect the sheep of your flock from all who would destroy. Keep us safe in the fold of the one whose voice we know, the one who bore our sins on the cross and by whose wounds we have been healed, the Lord Jesus, the shepherd and guardian of our souls.

A Vocation View: This is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. "The harvest is great but the labourers are few. Pray to the Lord to send more labourers into the Harvest."

To help you pray Mass on 4th Sunday Easter Yr A Prayers of Intercession:

Celebrant: Gathered in the loving embrace of our Good Shepherd, Jesus is the one in whose wounds we have been healed, and who is the guardian of our souls.

For our Holy Father Pope Francis, may his wisdom and courage lead our Church and world through this time of crisis in the ways of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

For Pope Francis and the Church, that as we pray the Rosary of Mary in our homes during this month of May, through Christ, our broken and fearful world will be healed.

That Christ the Good Shepherd may bring hope, strength healing to all who suffer physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually in this pandemic.

May our priests and parish teams do all they can within the limits placed upon them to continue to reach out in ways possible to parishioners.

For all those in formation to priesthood and consecrated life: may our prayers and encouragement support them

For those who have died recently, Leo Bourke and Frances Lenaghan, those anniversaries occurring at this time: Michael Reinsma, Sr Veronica Carr, Terence Keenan, Gerard Ryan, Walter Hudson, Nicholas Brophy, Michael Murphy, Joanne van de Ven, Mark Ellis.

For priests, deacons and religious who are giving dedicated nursing and pastoral care to the sick at this time, that they may be an inspiration for young adults considering their vocation in life.

For the Church across the world on this Vocations Sunday, that in those places where priests and religious are sparse, the Holy Spirit will call forth new vocations.

For students and families, teachers, lecturers and staff in schools and universities, and education leaders, that they will work together with confidence and create safe and calm environments.

For those places where war and violence and religious persecution continues, that responding to the appeal of the United Nations, Pope Francis and other religious leaders, there may be a cease fire in every place, giving hope for peace.

Celebrant: Let us pray in the words which faith leaders offered in Jerusalem last week: God of the first and of the last, God of all Creatures, Lord of all generations, He arouses those who sleep and awakens those who slumber, He heals the sick, opens the eyes of the blind and raises those who are bowed down. We come before you with a bowed head, and with bent stature, and plead.

Until now, Your mercy has aided us and Your kindness has not abandoned us, therefore we plead and request before You to heal us, Lord and we will be healed, Save us and we will be saved, for You are our glory.

Entrance Antiphon: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

Collect: Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God.

Offertory: Grant, we pray, O Lord, that we may always find delight in these paschal mysteries, so that the renewal constantly at work within us may be the cause of our unending joy.

Preface: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time of Easter above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic

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 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 allows the faithful to participate Mass for You at Home is broadcast on Eleven and Network Ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel on Foxtel daily. <http://www.mfyah.com/video.html> or <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>



Good Shepherd Sunday is World Day of Prayer for Vocations 2020:

The four key words for this year are; *pain, gratitude, encouragement, praise* Pope Francis encourages us, that despite the hardships and changes that have so far encountered; we can use this to strengthen our faith and find our

purpose. This celebration is appreciating those in our Parish ministries, our Priests as well as our brothers and sisters, who strive to aid, lead and connect with others in our community - we deliver our gratitude and hopes of others discovering as well as continuing to strengthen their interest in their chosen vocation. *"If we let ourselves be daunted by the responsibilities that await us or by the hardships in store for us, then we will soon turn away from the gaze of Jesus and, like Peter, we will begin to sink...despite our frailty and poverty, faith enables us to walk towards the Risen Lord and to weather every storm. "Every vocation is born of that gaze of love with which the Lord came to meet us, perhaps even at a time when our boat was being battered by the storm. We will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the gaze of God in our lives "Whenever fatigue or fear make us start to sink, Jesus holds out his hand to us. He gives us the enthusiasm we need to live our vocation with joy and fervour."*

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 contact **Courtney Ramsey at 0428 274 018.**

Bishop Paul Bird has appointed Fr James Kerr (currently Assistant in Mildura) to be the new Parish Priest of Holy Family Parish, Northeast Mallee (Swan Hill), to begin when the isolation is over.

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.

'We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realised that we are on the same boat., all of us fragile and disorientated, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat . . . are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying "We are perishing" (v.38), so we too have realised that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this...' - Pope Francis



Caritas Australia says THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2020.

www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

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 & Julia Kardogeros, Maricel Mahmood, Vince, Lance & Lander Rosello. *Please pray for our candidates.*

Child Safety Standards. Ss Michael & John Parish has **Bob Pritchett and Jill McGennissen** 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 2:14, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost Peter stood up with the eleven and addressed the crowd with a loud voice: 'The whole House of Israel can be certain that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ.' Hearing this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the apostles, 'What must we do, brothers?' 'You must repent,' Peter answered 'and every one of you must be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise that was made is for you and your children, and for all those who are far away, for all those whom the Lord our God will call to himself.' He spoke to them for a long time using many arguments, and he urged them, 'Save yourselves from this perverse generation.' They were convinced by his arguments, and they accepted what he said and were baptised. That very day about three thousand were added to their number.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22:1-6

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: 1 Peter 2:20-25

The merit, in the sight of God, is in bearing punishment

patiently when you are punished after doing your duty. This, in fact, is what you were called to do, because Christ suffered for you and left an example for you to follow the way he took. He had not done anything wrong, and there had been no perjury in his mouth. He was insulted and did not retaliate with insults; when he was tortured he made no threats but he put his trust in the righteous judge. He was bearing our faults in his own body on the cross, so that we might die to our faults and live for holiness; through his wounds you have been healed. You had gone astray like sheep but now you have come back to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Gospel Acclamation: John 10:14

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Jesus said: 'I tell you most solemnly, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold through the gate, but gets in some other way is a thief and brigand. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the flock; the gatekeeper lets him in, the sheep hear his voice, one by one he calls his own sheep and leads them out. When he has brought out his flock, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice. They never follow a stranger but run away from him: they do not recognise the voice of strangers.' Jesus told them this parable but they failed to understand what he meant by telling it to them. So Jesus spoke to them again: 'I tell you most solemnly, I am the gate of the sheepfold. All others who have come are thieves and brigands; but the sheep took no notice of them. I am the gate. Anyone who enters through me will be safe: he will go freely in and out and be sure of finding pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.'

Gospel Reflection by Sr Veronica Lawson rsm:

Sheep were domesticated in Palestine some eight thousand years ago. In biblical times, shepherds would lead their sheep out to graze by day and bring them by night to a communal enclosure or sheepfold, the entrance to which was guarded by a gatekeeper. Shepherds knew their sheep and their sheep knew them. Thieves would have to scale the wall of the enclosure and watch for the chance to get away with a few of the sheep. The loss of even a few sheep was a deeply personal loss for the shepherd and the shepherd's family. Furthermore, the personal relationship between sheep and shepherd made theft a traumatizing experience for the sheep. Little wonder that the biblical tradition is replete with ovine images. In John 10, Jesus directs a parabolic image of sheep and shepherds and thieves to the religious authorities of the previous chapter. They fail to understand, mainly because they are hostile and choose not to understand. While they claim to shepherd God's people, they do not even know them and have no capacity to lead them. Jesus is, by contrast, both shepherd and gate for the sheep: such are his identity

claims. The former claim becomes explicit later in the chapter when he states, "I am the good shepherd." It follows his twice repeated claim, "I am the gate". The "I am" in these claims echoes God's self-revelation to Moses in the burning bush. Jesus contrasts the access he provides as "the gate" with the unauthorized access gained by others "who have come before" him, namely the religious authorities. They gain access to the sheepfold on false pretences and lead God's flock into pastures that fail to satisfy. Jesus makes a claim about his mission: "I have come that they (the sheep) may have life and have it abundantly". This has a particular resonance at a time when so many lives are threatened by Coronavirus and when life has changed dramatically for the whole Earth community. Abundant life for all is our deepest desire and we must search to discover what that means in uncharted territory. As usual, the gospel text is multi-layered. The images pulsate with life and energy. They invite to vigilance on the one hand and hope on the other. They offer yet another way of celebrating Easter.

Next Week's Gospel: John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not

know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. 'I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

"Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing away. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing: God alone suffices." - St Teresa of Avila.