

Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham-Dimboola-Murtoa-Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

BULLETIN

5th Sunday of Easter - 10th May 2020



PARISH CONTACTS

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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

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.

Our Parish Bulletin is online

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

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

For Funerals, we work with the Funeral Homes.

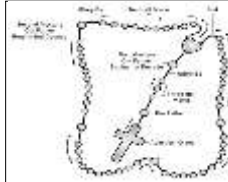
Thursday May 14th is an Interreligious Day of Prayer to End the Pandemic

Pope Francis and the Vatican Higher Committee of Human Fraternity (established in 2019 to undertake the complex challenges facing communities of all faiths, with an approach of openness, learning and dialogue) have called the Church to join an international interreligious day of prayer and fasting to end the pandemic, this Thursday May 14. Vatican committee said, "While recognizing the role of science in fighting the disease, we seek refuge in God, our Creator, as we face such a severe crisis ... Each one, from wherever they are and according to the teachings of their religion, faith, or sect, should implore God to lift this pandemic off the entire world, to rescue us all from this adversity".

I include Prayers, Scripture, Reflections for this Day with today's Bulletin on line

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.* 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* I keep you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly.



Loving God, we thank you for our mothers, grandmothers, special friends. We thank you for their qualities - love, care, patience, kindness, concern, understanding. We thank you for all they mean to our families. We pray for mums who have died, those who have lost their husband or a child, and for those mums who have no contact with their spouses, children or grand children, bless and ease worry from her mind and place peace in her heart. Bless the creative work of her hands, let her thoughtfulness be met with gratitude. May times of pain show her love and care and may she know that as she loves her children, she too is loved.



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

Tuesday 12th	5.30pm	Joseph Murphy anniv.
Wednesday 13	9.30am	Our Lady of Fatima
Thursday 14th	9.30am	St Matthias, Ray Ellis anniv.
Friday 15th	9.30am	UN Family Day. UN Nurses Day.
Saturday 16th	10am	



Please Remember in Your Prayers

Recent Deaths: Pat Logan (mother of Richard Logan), Peter Jewell, Gwenneth Winchcomb (Finnigan) Colac, Mick Finnigan's mother), Clarence Donald Chaston (Cecilia McDonald's father)

Anniversaries: Pat Purcell, Joseph Murphy, Ray Ellis,

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, Heather Healy

Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 53821155

Livestreaming of Mass at SMJ Church:

For those on Facebook, who 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

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: \$371.00

PG - Envelopes: \$2565.00

PG - Direct Debit: \$3245.00

Loose: \$208.00

THANK YOU

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 Father's house of which Jesus speaks here, refers to that spiritual state of being in which we will live knowing God as we are already known so intimately by Him. It is Jesus who grants access to this 'house' or state of being. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life for those who believe. In what ways do you feel 'at home' in the Father's house? Allow your own home and its various rooms to remind you of your Father's house this week. Be hospitable and open the doors of your home to someone in need of company.

Marriage Tip: Is the Internet robbing you of couple time? Sure, it saves time and answers a lot of questions, but it can also be an addiction. If your spouse complains about it, it's a problem. Decide on mutually agreeable limits.

Daily Prayer: Do not let our hearts be troubled but fill our lives in deeds of service. Make us follow Jesus with joy, the way, the truth, and the life. Then shall we come to you through the One who is our Passover and our peace.

To help you pray Mass on 5th Sunday Easter Yr A Entrance Antiphon

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Collect Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, You constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that we Who you were pleased to make new in Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected in this sacrifice have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Preface (The Eucharistic Prayer)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. He never ceases to offer himself for us but defends us and ever pleads our cause before you: he is the sacrificial Victim who dies no more, the Lamb, once slain, who lives for ever. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise with the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory:

Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in them, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life.

Prayers of Intercession: Sunday 10th May. Mothers' Day Celebrant: St Peter spoke of our dignity as Christians:

a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation., a people set apart. United in those gifts, we pray:

For the Church under the leadership of Francis our Pope that with Christ as our cornerstone, we may praise God who called us out of the darkness into his wonderful light, for our Australian Bishops meeting in isolation this week.

We pray for all mothers as we celebrate Mothers' Day, that in these anxious times they may enjoy the respect of their families and be a source of calm, peace, faith and hope for their families and for others. Christ, hear us.

We pray for priests and religious that like Stephen and the others chosen by the disciples in Jerusalem, they will be full of wisdom, faith and the Holy Spirit, and grow in holiness. Christ, hear us.

We pray for those whose employment has ceased during this Covid-19 pandemic, remembering today those who work in the arts – musicians, singers, actors, technicians and other assistants – along with casual workers and people on temporary visas unable to access government support, that they will soon receive the assistance which they need. Christ, hear us.

We pray for protection from Covid-19 for our Indigenous communities, those in refugee camps, in the poor and cramped neighborhoods in South America, Africa, Asia, for migrant workers, and crews of ships and liners

We pray for our departed mothers along with those who have died isolated from their families, that those who mourn their deaths will have faith and hope as Jesus has prepared for our deceased loved ones a place of joy in the Father's house. We pray for Gwenneth Finnigan, Pat Logan, Peter Jewell, Clarence Chaston who died recently, and Pat Purcell, Joseph Murphy, Ray Ellis whose anniversaries occur at this time. Christ, hear us.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, our Way, our Truth and our Life, sacrificed and risen, enfold our world in your tender embrace, give us the grace to be tender to one another, for you live and reign, for ever and ever.

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>



INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF FAMILIES
15 MAY 2020

Friday May 15th is International Day of Families

Although families all over the world have transformed greatly over the past decades in terms of their structure and as a result of global trends and demographic changes, the United Nations still recognises the family as the basic unit of society, and this Day promotes awareness of issues relating to families and to increase knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting them. <https://www.un.org/en/events/familyday/>



GOD DOES NOT SEND PLAGUES TO TEACH US THINGS, THOUGH WE CAN LEARN FROM THEM, FR. RICHARD LEONARD S.J.

"Everything in the Old Testament should be interpreted through the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. This matters when we come to understand the meaning of plagues and other natural disasters. For the peoples of the ancient world, if there was a flood, plague or pestilence then God was saying something through it. But in the Gospels Jesus never sends a plague, a natural disaster or turns anyone into a pillar of salt. If Jesus isn't into murderous retribution, nor, if we take him at his repeated word, is God the Father. Jesus is the incarnate correction to false views of how God works in the world. So, even though Covid-19's origins are yet to be finally established, they have a natural explanation, and the way the virus has spread has been in measure the result of poor human decisions. God has not sent the pandemic upon us".

Media Statement of Bishop Paul Bird 'The Ballarat Diocese is pleased that the sections of the final report of the Royal Commission released today are now publicly available and we will consider particularly the findings, which relate to Cardinal Pell's time as a priest and consultant of the Diocese of Ballarat. I acknowledge the past failings in governance in the Diocese that allowed the terrible abuse of so many children who were entitled to feel safe in their interactions with the church. The Diocese also acknowledges the tragic consequences of that abuse to those abused and their families. The Diocese responds to all allegations of abuse and concerns about the welfare of children by reporting the allegations and concerns to the authorities. The Diocese is also continuing to meet its legal and pastoral responsibilities to the victims of sexual abuse'. *Paul Bird Bishop of Ballarat*

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"

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 need assistance please contact our Parish Office at 53821155, or **Courtney Ramsey 0428 274 018**.

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.



Kindness is a language the blind can see and the deaf can hear.

2020 - is the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si'
Pope Francis invites you to celebrate Laudato Si'
Week from May 16-24. Go to <https://laudatosiweek.org/> for more information.

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 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 6:1-7

About this time, when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution their own widows were being overlooked. So the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples and addressed them, 'It would not be right for us to neglect the word of God so as to give out food; you, brothers, must select from among yourselves seven men of good reputation, filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will hand over this duty to them, and continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the service of the word.' The whole assembly approved of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of the Lord continued to spread: the number of disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased, and a large group of priests made their submission to the faith.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts. Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love. The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See

how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen and the man who rests his trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

Gospel Acclamation: John 14:6

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord; no one comes to the Father, except through me. Alleluia!

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.'

Gospel Reflection 5th Easter Yr A Veronica Lawson rsm:

"Take from my heart all painful anxiety" is a gospel inspired prayer. It is the prayer of Catherine McAuley, the first Sister of Mercy. Like Jesus, Catherine knew in her being that a troubled heart is an ever present possibility. When we don't have any serious concerns in the present, we are often anxious about the future. There is a difference, of course, between having concerns and having a troubled heart. The difference lies in how we deal with the inevitable problems and challenges that come our way. If ever there was a time in most of our lives when there are real concerns and potential for troubled hearts, it is right now as we deal with the global Coronavirus pandemic and its impact on so many aspects of life. Freedom from anxiety is the constant message of the gospels. "Do not let your hearts be troubled" is Jesus' word to his friends in John's gospel. The verb, here in passive mood ("be troubled"), is used of Jesus' spirit when he finds his friend Mary and her companions weeping over the death of Lazarus (11:33). It means literally to shake or to stir up. Jesus is really shaken by grief in that situation. As he faces his own death, he does not want his friends to be troubled of heart or spirit. He speaks here from his own experience. Jesus shows

the way to an untroubled heart: "Believe in God, believe also in me." The faith of the disciples is to be grounded in his care for them in the present and into the future: "I go to prepare a place for you... I will come again and will take you to myself". Jesus claims: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." The prologue to the Gospel, introduces the notion of the glorified Jesus as "full of grace and truth" and the bringer of "grace and truth" He is the life that is the light of all (1:4), the bread of life, the resurrection and the life. His claim to be "the way" was foreshadowed in the parable of the gate: "I am the gate for the sheep." If the disciples know Jesus, then they also know the way to God whom Jesus images in tender parental terms as "Father". If Philip does not believe in their mutual indwelling, then maybe he can believe on account of the "works" of Jesus, works that are also the works of God. Those who believe have the power to do these and even greater works. This seems extraordinary, but is really a matter of believing with untroubled hearts that the power comes from God. Let us not underestimate the power of prayer at this time of distress. Praying for those who put their lives at risk to protect others is a powerful means of dealing with troubled hearts.

Next Week's Gospel: John 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you for ever, that Spirit of truth whom the world can never receive since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I will not leave your orphans; I will come back to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will

understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, I shall love him and show myself to him.'

Enrolments for 2021 are now open for SMJ, OLHC, SBC, St Patrick's Nhill. Information Packs are available from each of the Schools or online.