



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham-Dimboola-Murtoa-Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

## BULLETIN

### Ascension of the Lord - 24th May 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  
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 Principal: Cathy Grace  
 Phone: 5385 2526  
 Nhill: St Patrick's  
 Principal: Kingsley Dalglish

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

  
**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**  
**May 24-31st**

For those who receive the Bulletin online I send, as another attachment, a Book of Prayers and Reflections for us to pray at home for Christian Unity.

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

**We can allow 10 people to attend Weekday Masses and 10 at each of our 6.30 and 10.30 weekend Masses.**

If you wish to come to any of these Masses, you must let us know before, please leave a message at the Office 53821155 or on my mobile 0419323397.

**We are still dispensed from our Sunday Mass Obligation (canon law 1248) if we can't make the 10 who can attend any Sunday Mass.**

We encourage you to participate in personal and family prayer, reflect on Scripture, make a spiritual communion.

I will pray for you in Mass each day. If you wish to be part of our daily Mass, and you have Facebook, please link into Eucharistic Group to go online, at the times for Masses below.

**Our Parish Bulletin is online**  
[www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://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.**

**SMJ Church will be opened each day from 9am - 5pm for private prayer. Please enter and leave the Church, by the door near the Presbytery.**

- \* You will need to sign in as you arrive your name address AND phone number.
- \* use hand sanitizer at the door as you enter and use again as you leave the Church. Please sit 2 metres away from anyone else in the Church.
- \* If there are 10 people inside please wait outside until someone leaves or come back later.

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

Tuesday 26th	5.30pm	Our Lady Help of Christians. St Philip Neri Iole Sartori 1st anniv.
Wednesday 27	9.30am	St Augustine of Canterbury. Sorry Day.
Thursday 28th	9.30am	Ellen Fay anniv.
Friday 29th	9.30am	Pope St Paul vi. John Parker jr. anniv
Saturday 30th	10am	St Joan of Arc.

**We welcome back our Schools. Preps, Yrs 1 & 2 this Tuesday SBC Yrs 7, 11 & 12 Tuesday. Yrs 3,4,5 on Tuesday June 9 Yrs 8 to 10 at SBC on June 9.**

*This Monday 25th is pupil free day but all Teachers and Staff will be at School preparing. Thank you to families, schools carers and teachers for your care and support at this time of isolation.*



**Laudato Si' Week 16-24 May,**  
 "I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. I urgently appeal, then, for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all." *Pope Francis*, <https://laudatosiweek.org/>

**This is Christian Unity Week**  
 Ever-living God, who gather what is scattered and keep together what you have gathered, look kindly on the flock of your Son, that those whom one Baptism has consecrated may be joined together by integrity of faith and united in the bond of charity.  
 Through Christ our Lord Amen



## Please Remember in Your Prayers

**Recent Deaths:** Sr Immaculata (*as Mother General was the foundation Mother Superior of the Baptistine sisters when they came to the Philippines 37 years ago*)

**Anniversaries:** John Parker jr. Iole Sartori, Elma Church,

**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, receive updates.



**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 - Plate: \$170.00**

**PG - Envelopes: \$334.00**

**Loose: \$140.00. Easter Dues: \$200**

**Project Compassion: \$100.00**

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:** ‘Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’ Memorise this verse to help you in times of doubt or distress.

**Did you Know?:** Matthew shows Jesus as fulfilling and extending the teachings of Moses. Whereas the Law had been for the people of Israel, Jesus sends his disciples to all nations; whereas the Jewish people had faith in the name of God, YHWH, Jesus sends his disciples to baptise in the name of the Father, son and Spirit.

**Marriage Tip:** Always be ready to speak of your love, kindly of your spouse’s strengthens in the marriage bond. Look for opportunities to build each other up, alone and in public.

**Daily Prayer:** Strengthen us in the power of the Spirit to go and make disciples of all nations, to obey everything that Jesus has commanded us, and to know that he is with us always until the end of the age.

**A Vocation View:** Through His Death, Resurrection and Ascension, Christ showed us the path to eternal life. Know that the Lord is with you always, through your struggles and triumphs, and that he will hear your prayers.

## To help pray Mass for the Ascension of the Lord:

### Entrance Antiphon

Men of Galilee, why gaze in wonder at the heavens? Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

### Collect

Let us pray. Gladden us with holy joys, almighty God, and make us rejoice with devout thanksgiving, for the Ascension of Christ your Son is our exaltation, and, where the Head has gone before in glory, the Body is called to follow in hope.

### Prayer over the Offerings

We offer sacrifice in joy and gratitude, O God, to honour the Ascension of your Son: grant, that through this most holy Exchange we, too, may rise up to the heavenly realms.

### Preface

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. For the Lord Jesus, the King of glory, conqueror of sin and death, ascended (today) to the highest heavens, as the Angels gazed in wonder. Mediator between God and man, judge of the world and Lord of hosts, he ascended, not to distance himself from our lowly state but that we, his members, might be confident of following where he, our Head and Founder, has gone before. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise, the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

### Communion Antiphon

I am with you always, even to the end of the age, alleluia.

### Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, who allow those on earth to celebrate divine mysteries, grant, that Christian hope may draw us onward to where our nature is united with you.

### Prayers of Intercession

Celebrant: Our salvation history continues to pass from one generation to the next by the telling of the story of Jesus and his people. We honour how memory and storytelling is integral to the spread of the Good News. May Pope Francis and our Bishops be filled with the Holy Spirit, and through their preaching and ministry open up for us the life-giving story of Jesus.

Receive our grateful prayers for the generous care of our volunteers and emergency services in this time of isolation. May this week of Prayer for Christian Unity be marked by sincere prayer and good works as we seek that unity of faith and love, which is the will of Christ.

May we the Church, value the opportunities within our families and Parish, by which we can pass on, from one generation to the next, the grace, truth, peace of Jesus. May those places which, in the distress of poverty and hunger, now face the presence of the pandemic, not be forgotten by the world, but receive the help they need.

May we mark the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, on the environment, as we respect ‘our common home’, and avoiding waste, we make this a better place for everyone.

Bless our Schools as they return over these coming weeks, to re-engage with our children and families, to continue their education in faith and life.

May our departed parishioners, family members and friends find their peace in the everlasting mercy and joy of the Ascended Christ, as we commend to you Sr Immaculata, Baptistine Founding Superior in the Philippines, those who have died from the virus, and remembering those anniversaries occurring at this time John Parker jr. Iole Sartori, Elma Church,

Celebrant: Father, we praise you for you have taken your Son Jesus into your glory and given to him a Name above all names. May we reverence him, who lives and reigns forever and ever.



**Prayer Mary Help of Christians** Immaculate Mary, Help of Christians, Queen of heaven and earth, and tender Mother of humanity, at this time when a pandemic threatens us, we entrust to

you our nation and all who live in Australia. We seek your intercession for all of our community, the weakest ones, from the unborn to the sick, the disabled and the elderly. We commit to you our families, our young and old, and all who are vulnerable, those who are quarantined or anxious. We entrust to your Immaculate Heart those who have lost their livelihoods or employment, our pastors, all essential service workers, and our leaders. We implore your intercession for the protection of doctors and nurses, those who minister to the contagious sick in this crisis. Reign over us, Mother of God, and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as Jesus triumphed in you!

<p>ENCYCLICAL LETTER <b>LAUDATO SI'</b> OF POPE FRANCIS <b>ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME</b></p>	<p><b>THE TITLE</b> Taken from St. Francis' prayer: Cantic of the Creatures. It reminds us that the earth "is like a sister with whom we share our life." "This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her." 2</p>	<p>Laudato Si' is a <b>call to conversion and action</b>, an invitation to <b>change direction</b> by taking on the task of caring for <b>our common home</b>.</p>	<p><b>MISSION</b> Laudato Si' is a call to conversion and action, an invitation to change direction by taking on the task of caring for our common home.</p>
<p><b>QUESTION AT THE HEART OF THE ENCYCLICAL:</b> "What kind of world do you want to leave to those who come after us?" 160</p>		<p><b>MAIN THEMES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the <b>relationship</b> between the poor and the fragility of the planet</li> <li>2. the conviction that <b>everything in the world is connected</b></li> <li>3. the critique of new paradigms and forms of power derived from technology</li> <li>4. the call to <b>seek other ways of understanding</b> the economy and progress</li> <li>5. the value proper to <b>each creature</b></li> <li>6. the <b>human meaning</b> of ecology</li> <li>7. the need for direct and honest <b>debate</b></li> </ol>	
<p>Concern for the environment is no longer optional. A person of faith should show even more responsibility regarding creation, which is a gift from God.</p>	<p><b>INCLUDE IN YOUR EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE:</b> How have I lived in communion with all creatures and with nature?</p>		

**National Volunteers Week May 18-24, 2020**  
**Thank you to all who volunteer their time, gifts, personality, talents and energy to serve Parish, Church, Community**  
*"Volunteering is time willingly given for the common good and without financial gain."*

Volunteering AUSTRALIA  
Leading a culture of giving

**CLERGY APPOINTMENTS:** to take effect from June 1st.  
 Fr Matthew Thomas (from Swan Hill) to Mildura.  
 Fr James Kerr (from Mildura assistant priest) to Swan Hill.  
 Fr Anthony Nagothu (Western Border assistant) to Robinvale.  
 Fr George Kuruwila Koorumullumpurayidam (newly arrived from India) to Western Border, to live in Edenhope.



In 2020 **Reconciliation Australia** marks **twenty years** of shaping Australia's journey towards a more just, equitable and reconciled nation. Much has happened since the early days of the people's movement for reconciliation, including greater acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rights to land and sea; understanding of the impact of government policies and frontier conflicts; and an embracing of stories of Indigenous success and contribution. 2020 also marks the twentieth anniversary of the reconciliation walks of 2000, when people came together to walk on bridges and roads across the nation and show their support for a more reconciled Australia. As always, we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, and Australians now benefit from the efforts and contributions of people committed to reconciliation in the past. Today we work together to further that national journey towards a fully reconciled country. **Reconciliation is a journey for all Australians** – as individuals, families, communities, organisations, as a nation, a journey of relationships between the Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, as we strive towards a more just, equitable nation working for unity and mutual respect as we come together and connect with each other.

**Taking Place This Week** At the beginning of this year we had anticipated that we would be celebrating Catholic Education Week this week, though we expect that even in our schools that is not the main focus of people's attention. We extend our good wishes to all who are involved in Catholic Education, parents who have been supervising lessons at home, teachers who have been working in unfamiliar and demanding ways at their weighty vocation, to support staff too our thanks and appreciation and above all we acknowledge the school students who are the ones for whom the whole enterprise is intended, welcome back VCE

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults**  
 Our Parish rejoices as we prepare for Reception into the Fullness of the Church our RCIA Candidates:  
 Robert Fry, Maryann & Julia Kardogeros,  
 Maricel Mahmood, Vince, Lance & Lander Rosello.  
*Please pray for our candidates.*

**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 McGennisken** 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.

*Congratulation and prayerful best wishes to Doris and Hugh McDonald on 72 years of Marriage on May 22nd.*

**First Reading: Acts 1:1-11**

In my earlier work, Theophilus, I dealt with everything Jesus had done and taught from the beginning until the day he gave his instructions to the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit, and was taken up to heaven. He had shown himself alive to them after his Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days he had continued to appear to them and tell them about the kingdom of God. When he had been at table with them, he had told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for what the Father had promised. 'It is' he had said 'what you have heard me speak about: John baptised with water but you, not many days from now, will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'

Now having met together, they asked him, 'Lord, has the time come? Are you going to restore the kingdom to Israel?' He replied, 'It is not for you to know times or dates that the Father has decided by his own authority, but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and then you will be my witnesses not only in Jerusalem but throughout Judaea and Samaria, and indeed to the ends of the earth.'

As he said this he was lifted up while they looked on, and a cloud took him from their sight. They were still staring into the sky when suddenly two men in white were standing near them and they said, 'Why are you men from Galilee standing here looking into the sky? Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven, this same Jesus will come back in the same way as you have seen him go there.'

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3, 6-9**

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

All peoples, clap your hands, cry to God with shouts of joy! For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear, great king over all the earth. God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast. Sing praise for God, sing praise, sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth. Sing praise with all your skill. God is king over the nations; God reigns on his holy throne.

God mounts his throne to shouts of joy: a blare of trumpets for the Lord.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23**

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit and how infinitely great is the power that he has exercised for us believers. This you can tell from the strength of his power at work in Christ, when he used it to raise him from the dead and to make him sit at his right hand, in heaven, far above every Sovereignty, Authority, Power, or Domination, or any other name that can be named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. He has put all things under his feet, and made him as the ruler of everything, the head of the Church; which is his body, the fullness of him who fills the whole creation.

**Gospel Acclamation: Matthew 28:19, 20**

Alleluia, alleluia! Go and teach all people my gospel. I am with you always, until the end of the world. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20**

The eleven disciples set out for Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had arranged to meet them. When they saw him they fell down before him, though some hesitated. Jesus came up and spoke to them. He said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.'

**Gospel Reflection Feast of Ascension-Veronica Lawson:**

Loss is part of the human experience and death is generally the most painful experience of loss. As the death toll from Covid-19 approaches 300,000, we become more and more conscious of loss as a global reality. This loss of human life takes place against the backdrop of a catastrophic loss of species and eco-systems, exacerbated in our part of the planet by the recent bushfires. Today's Feast of the Ascension invites us to face the experience of loss in a transformative way. In Ordinary Time, we celebrate the life and ministry of Jesus. Over the period of Lent and Easter, we have been remembering his death and resurrection. As we end the Easter season, the liturgy draws us into another aspect of the Mystery, that of the presence of the Risen One even in his absence. Today's gospel recounts Matthew's story of Jesus' final encounter with his disciples, but does not give an account of Jesus' "ascension" or return to God. For that, we must turn to the first reading, from the Acts of the Apostles. The story presupposes a pre-scientific, three-tiered understanding of the structure of the world. In this ancient view, God is in the heavens above and the prophet Jesus, like the prophet Elijah of old, is caught up into God's presence. The Holy Spirit will "descend" upon God's people and "clothe" them with power to bring the gospel to the ends of the earth. The vertical (up and down) movement is balanced by a horizontal movement: Jesus' family and

followers who grieve the loss of their loved one are told not to keep looking up to the heavens. They have work to do: strengthened by his blessing, they are to stay in the city for the present and be empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue the prophetic ministry of Jesus, to be witnesses to his death and resurrection. They have to face the fact that the physical loss of Jesus means a new and different sort of presence and that they have a role to play in making him present in their world. The gospel reading has Jesus on a mountain top where he commissions his male disciples to make disciples of all nations, literally "to disciple all peoples". He has already commissioned the women on the open road to announce the good news of the resurrection (Matt 28:10). They are to be fearless in their mission. In Matthew's final chapter, then, both men and women are commissioned to proclaim the gospel. There are other dimensions to their mission, namely to baptize in the name of the Triune God and to teach what Jesus has taught or "commanded" them. The confidence that they need and that we need to engage in this mission is the assurance that the risen Christ is with us to the end of time. The gospel has come full circle. In the first chapter of Matthew, an angel announces that the child to be born will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us. The last verse of the gospel invites us once more to ponder that mystery and to commit ourselves to a life-giving gospel mission. Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* shows us the way in the face of distress.

**Next Week's Gospel: John 20:19-23**

In the evening of 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.'

**Next Sunday May 31st is Pentecost Sunday**

**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. Each School also has their own Facebook Page.