



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham-Dimboola–Murtoa–Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

## BULLETIN

24th Sunday Ordinary Time - 13th September 2020



### PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson  
 Parish Secretary:  
 Camille Del Castillo  
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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

**Timetable for the Plenary Council from October 2020, and all of 2021 and 2022**

### Catholic Education Week 6-12 September

The theme is **Listen to what the Spirit is saying**, focuses on listening, discernment coming from good dialogue. Gracious God, nurture in us a discerning heart, to hear the Holy Spirit in the voices of others, to challenge our own will, desires, fears, prejudices, to be open to your will.

**Sadly, no Combined Schools' Mass. Hopefully, next Term we can come together. We pray for our Schools. May our Schools have a safe holiday beginning this Friday September 18**

**Annual Good Friday Collection – this weekend** Pope Francis has rescheduled this collection to September 13). Please find information and documentation in the attachment I send to those at home. **Please leave your donation in an envelope marked 'Good Friday' and leave at the Office or bring to Mass when we return. Thank you.**

**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.**

**Funerals, 10 people can attend, we work with the Funeral homes**

**Our Churches are closed to visits and public Mass until further notice from authorities**

**Mass online is at these times**  
**Saturday 6.30pm. Sunday 10.30**  
**Tuesday 5.30pm.**  
**Wednesday, Thursday, Friday at 9.30am.**

**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'.

**Camille's Office Hours:**  
 Monday to Friday 8.30am -12.30pm  
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Fr Richard Leonard will be in our Parish for an Advent Mission this year  
**DECEMBER 5th to 9th**

### THE PLENARY COUNCIL JOURNEY 2020 - 2022



**Taking Place This Week:**  
 Monday: Exaltation of the Cross, celebrates the 'lifting up' of the Son of Man on the cross, into glory, and the paradox of the cross a sign of humiliation and death, yet the source of victory and life.  
 Tuesday: Our Lady of Sorrows, International Day of Democracy.  
 Wednesday: St Cornelius & St Cyprian, World Ozone Layer Day  
 Thursday: St Robert Bellarmine

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

Tuesday 15th	5.30	Our Lady of Sorrows
Wednesday 16	9.30	Sts Cornelius & Cyprian
Thursday 17th	9.30	Jennifer Coutts, Danny Magee, Pat Weldon.
Friday 18th	9.30	Bro Tony Paterson.
Saturday 19th	—	<b>No 10am Mass. Mass 6.30pm tonight</b>

**Staying Connected.**  
 A phone call, text message, email, dropping off food. Thank you to those who bring food to me, to Sr Nonny

## Please Remember in Your Prayers

**Recent Deaths:** Lily Dowling (Mary Lawson's Grand-niece), Roland Amancio (Sr Manuela's nephew)

**Anniversaries:** Silvio Marchesini, Gertrude Brennan, Jennifer Coutts, Fr Peter Claridge, Jack Ivess, Patrick Higgins, Don Spence, Mark Hennessy, Lorraine Preuss,

**Sick:** Debbie Nolen, Fleur Armstrong, Ken Dowsley, Jill & Christie Higginbottom, Heather McPhee, Shilpa Joe, Joan Glen, John McNamara, Elsie Thomas, Sr Tirsia Bale, Doris McDonald, Angela Walsh, Kobe Davison, Shane Kennedy, Norm Griffin, Rick Burchell, Des Gaynor

**Emergency Care: Contact Parish Office 53821155**

**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: Office open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 12.30pm.**

### Collections:

**Presbytery (plate):\$387.00**

**Planned Giving Envelopes: \$857.00**

**PG Credit Card: \$2649.17**

**PG Direct Debit: \$1465.00**

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/ or Parish if you have no envelopes.

**THANK  
YOU**

**Making Connections:** In the Our Father, we ask for God's forgiveness and pledge to forgive those who wrong us.

**Living The Word:** The boundless mercy and compassion of God is freely given when we ask for it. If we are forgiven, we should forgive others. God's household, the Church, is where we should experience this forgiveness.

**Marriage Tip:** Do you show appreciation for the work your spouse does inside the home? Take a moment to say thanks for something he or she does on a regular basis, such as cooking, lawn care or laundry.

**Daily Prayer:** How many times, God Most High, we come seeking forgiveness, yet how often we refuse forgiveness to those who wrong us. Let the word of Jesus challenge our ways and drive anger far away from our hearts, so that we who so much need mercy ourselves may forgive our brothers and sisters from the heart, as often and as easily as we would have you forgive us.

**A Vocation View:** "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Make a stand for mercy, empathy, forgiveness and selflessness!

**24th Sunday:** "If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" Rom 14:8 This is the essence of stewardship, everything we have and are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He wants you to use the gifts He has given you.

### 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."*

**Sacraments of Eucharist, Confirmation  
Reconciliation will be in Term 4.**



## To help us pray Mass for 24th Sunday Yr A

**Gloria:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**CREED:** I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

**Intercessions:** Cel: The Scriptures today remind us that if we desire God's forgiveness, we must be prepared to forgive others from the heart.

That Pope Francis will continue to proclaim the mercy of God in word and action, with a special concern for the protection and care of children and teenagers.

That in our relationships within families, with neighbours and fellow students, we will share the responsibility of caring for children and teenagers with a profound respect That our children whose lives and education have been severely disrupted during the Covid 19 pandemic, and families without work, will be a concern to us all, and especially in regard to their mental health, will strengthen our determination to overcome the inequality and disadvantage it has exposed, and for the unsung heroes of the Covid, that their community service will be justly appreciated.

That as the Universal Church contributes today to the care of her members in the Holy Land, peace and justice will come to all people who live there.

For all the victims of crime, that they will find a path of forgiveness that leads them to a new future.

We pray for our parish community, that we will grow strong in faith and gospel living in response to these challenging times.

That in this 'Season of Creation' leaders and people will learn from the enthusiasm and commitment which young people have towards the environment and share with them our responsibility for this planet and universe.

That Lily Dowling and Roland Amancio, who died recently, the life and death of family, friends and parishioners will continue to have a good influence upon us as we entrust them to God's loving mercy. We pray for

9/11 Victims, Silvio Marchesini, Gertrude Brennan, Jennifer Coutts, Fr Peter Claridge, Jack Ivess, Patrick Higgins, Don Spence, Mark Hennessy, Lorraine Preuss, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Celebrant: Almighty God, kind and merciful, rich in compassion, receive our thanksgiving and our praise.

The National Police Memorial Service on September 29th will not be a public Service in the Church, but be a zoomed Service online from the Victoria Police.

# Ask R U OK?

**You've got what it takes**

Start a conversation using these 4 steps

1. Ask R U OK?
2. Listen
3. Encourage action
4. Check in

**Links to Mass online:**

**St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne:** 1pm Mass is streamed live daily (Mon-Fri) Sunday Mass is available, with the 11.00am Mass live streamed <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-casasanta-marta.pagelist.html> or [shalomworld.org/dailymass](http://shalomworld.org/dailymass)

**Mass for You at Home:** 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>; <https://10play.com.au/mass-for-you-at-home>

**CathNews YouTube Channel:** Daily Mass on Demand.

**Mass with Bishop Shane Mackinlay:** Sunday Mass streamed from St Kilian's Parish Bendigo on their website [www.stkilian.org.au](http://www.stkilian.org.au)

**EWTN Global Catholic Network:** Daily Catholic Mass [here](http://www.ewtn.com).

**Mass Online.** You can google *Mass Online* to find Masses in English and other languages all over the world

The Catholic Church in Australia marks Child Protection Sunday, on which we pray for those who have been abused, their families and supporters. We recognise and apologise for the harm done by priests, religious and lay people in Church settings. The Church takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse. We recommit to practices that support survivors and make the Catholic Church and its ministries the safest possible place for children and people at risk.



**Child Safety Standards.** Ss Michael & John Parish has **Bob Pritchett** and **Jill McGennicken** as 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.

**A Prayer in Isolation, for loved ones away from us**  
*God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid of isolation, in their loneliness be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness be their light; through Jesus who suffered alone on the Cross, reigns with you in glory.*

**Springtime Prayer** - Dear God, We rejoice and give thanks for Spring, for bees, for people tending their gardens, animals, cleaning, for the fragrance of growth, thank you for flowers, trees, crops farmers, forests, friends, carers, for emergency services.... **Rain this weekend**

**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, Maricel Mahmood, Maryann & Julia Kardogeros, Vince, Lance & Lander Rosello. **Hopefully, our Mass of Welcome will be September 27, or October 4th, at 10.30 Mass**



**SEASON OF CREATION**

**Season of Creation**  
**1st September to October 4**  
**Feast of St Francis of Assisi**

The theme for Season of Creation 2020 is "Jubilee for the Earth" in which we are invited to consider the integral relationship between the rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social and political ways of living, the need for just and sustainable systems revealed this year by the global COVID reflect and further act on the urgency of the situation of our world today and act for future generations with local to national responses. Liturgically, we celebrate remembering God's action in prayer. Liturgical resources: [www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-catholic-season-of-creation-sundays-](http://www.columban.org.au/media-and-publications/educational-catholic-season-of-creation-sundays-) Season of Creation and Resource, <https://seasonofcreation.org/celebration>



'St. Francis asked that part of the friary garden be left untouched, so that wild flowers & herbs could grow there & those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty.' (LS 12)

**THE SEASON OF CREATION – The Spirit in Creation**  
 September 6 1st Sunday in Creation – [Forest Sunday](#)  
 September 13 2nd Sunday in Creation – [Land Sunday](#)  
 September 20 3rd Sunday in Creation – [Wilderness/Outback](#)  
 September 27 4th Sunday in Creation – [River Sunday](#)  
 October 4th St Francis of Assisi – [Blessings of Animals](#)

**CREATION EXAMEN** You are invited to find an oasis of peace and calm for 45 minutes with a guided meditation 'Finding God in Creation Examen', held via Zoom this Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30p This Ecological Examen reflects with gratitude on our personal relationship with God in creation. Developed by St Ignatius of Loyola, the Examen is a simple technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day to help you to listen to the inner movements of your heart

**Not everything is Cancelled** *Sunshine* is not cancelled; *Spring* is not cancelled; *Love* is not cancelled; *Caring* is not cancelled; *Relationships* are not cancelled; *Reading* is not cancelled; *Afternoon naps* are not cancelled; **Devotion, Prayer & Reflection are not cancelled**; *Music* is not cancelled; *Dancing* is not cancelled; *Imagination and Creativity* are not cancelled; *Kindness* is not cancelled; *Conversations* are not cancelled; *Smiles and Happiness* are not cancelled.

**ALL PUBLIC MASSES IN THE COUNTRY AND IN HORSHAM ARE CANCELLED, AND CHURCHES ARE CLOSED, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**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 & Tirsa.

**First Reading; Sirach 27:30 - 28:7**

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4, 9-12**

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name. My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings. It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. His wrath will come to an end; he will not be angry for ever. He does not treat us according to our sins nor repay us according to our faults. For as the heavens are high above the earth so strong is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west so far does he remove our sins.

The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger and rich in compassion.

**Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9**

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the

Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life, it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

**Gospel Acclamation: John 13:34**

Alleluia, alleluia! I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you. Alleluia!

**Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time," he said, "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me," he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'

**Gospel Reflection: SunAOrd24 Veronica Lawson rsm:**

In the opening verses of this Sunday's gospel Jesus is advocating limitless forgiveness (not 7 but 77 times). The parable that follows is anything but consistent with this teaching and with the teaching of Jesus in the Gospel as a whole. We are all familiar with the beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful for they shall find mercy". and with the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, "Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors" (6:12). How then do we read today's story of a king who is prepared to forgive the debt that his slave has incurred, only to resort to torture when that slave fails to forgive his fellow slave? This story raises endless issues: the unquestioning acceptance of slavery and the plight of slaves; the absolute power of the king over his subjects; the institution of debt slavery; the treatment of women and children; the collection of crippling taxes to finance the power of the king; an unjust and cruel ruler as an image of the God of Israel; imaging God as a loving father who nonetheless acts in tyrannical ways. Does the parable come from the lips of Jesus or from the Matthean community? It would be anachronistic to expect a critique of slavery since slavery was simply taken for granted in the

Graeco-Roman world. It persisted without critique for some 1800 years. It has now taken a new and sinister turn with the widespread practice of sexual and labour slavery of the vulnerable, and the pandemic. It is totally out of character for Jesus to image his "heavenly Father" as a merciless torturer. It may be that Jesus did in fact tell such a story in another context and that the Matthean author has linked the sayings on forgiveness (forgiving 77 times and forgiving from one's heart) with this story. It is conceivable that Jesus insisted on the consequences of refusing to forgive. While God is merciful and forgiving, disciples must not exploit God's capacity to forgive. Bad behaviour is not to be tolerated, and those who continually exploit others or fail to forgive can expect to suffer the consequences of their actions. Whatever we make of the story of the merciless king and the unforgiving slave, we heed Jesus' response to Peter, that true forgiveness is "from the heart". In the biblical world, the heart was the core of the person's being, the seat of cognition as well as of emotion. To forgive from the heart is to forgive with the whole of one's being. We are all in need to God's forgiveness if we are to find the freedom to address "from the heart" the plight of the planet.

**Next Week's Gospel (SunAOrd25): Matthew 20:1-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one

has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to ...