



# Ss Michael & John's Parish

Horsham-Dimboola–Murtoa–Natimuk- Rupanyup- Nhill

## BULLETIN

25th Sunday Ordinary Time - 20th September 2020



### PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Fr. Peter Hudson  
Parish Secretary:  
Camille Del Castillo  
10 Roberts Ave Horsham 3400  
PO Box 212, Horsham Vic 3402  
Phone: 5382 1155.  
Email:  
horsham@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
Diocesan Website:  
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

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

**From Bishop Paul.** What Step 3 means for churches, religious ceremonies?  
**Weddings** 10 people (including the couple and two witnesses), plus celebrant.  
**Funerals** up to 20 people, plus those required to conduct the funeral.  
**Outdoor religious gatherings** up to 10 people, plus a faith leader.  
**Churches** can open for private worship but only for households, social bubbles and faith leader.

**We can open our churches, for some time each day** for people to spend time in personal prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

**SMJ Church will be open 9am to 4pm Tuesday to Friday.**

**\*\* We continue to wear face coverings outside home. In Church we need to sign in, on the sheets provided, sanitise hands, spray seats.**

**We can still live-stream Mass. This can only involve up to 5 people.**

**Our Masses: Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 9am and Sunday 10.30am.**

The provisions do not allow us to gather in our churches to celebrate Mass as we would dearly wish to. The Bishops of Victoria are making representations to government for an easing of the restrictions in places of worship.



++ It is with deep sadness I inform you that Sr Tirsia Bale died in her sleep at 6am on Friday 18th, in the Convent in Cebu. Sr Tirsia was to have her final chemotherapy on Friday. **Sr Tirsia's Funeral will be in Cebu on Monday.** We offer our deepest condolences and prayers to Sr Manuela, Sr Jesusita and to you all who loved Tirsia.

### THE PLENARY COUNCIL JOURNEY 2020 - 2022



### 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

**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 which appears below.

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

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

Tuesday 22nd	5.30	Sr Tirsia. Fr Paul Mercovich, Sr Barbara May
Wednesday 23	9.30	St Padre Pio. Gavin Frew anniv.
Thursday 24th	9.30	Sr. Tirsia.
Friday 25th	9.30	
Saturday 26th	—	No 10am Mass. Mass 6.30pm tonight

### 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:** Sr Tirsa Bale, Amy Pilgrim (22, from Nhill, killed in car, Qld), Adam Barry (Bendigo), John Fahey AC.

**Anniversaries:** Gavin Frew, Fr Paul Mercovich, Sr Barbara May, Leo O'Connor,

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

**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 is open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 12.30pm.**

### Collections:

**Presbytery (plate):\$213.00**

**Planned Giving Envelopes: \$180.00**

**PG Direct Debit: \$420.00**

**Good Friday Collection: \$90.00 BCAF: \$230.00**

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:** Look for occasions this week to be generous, not only with money, but with time, attention and attitude. Challenge those who lack generosity of spirit.

**Marriage Tip:** "Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest." (Mt 11:28) You may not need this scripture right now, but you'll need it sometime. Hang on to these words of comfort when you're feeling overwhelmed. Be Jesus' comfort to your beloved.

**Daily Prayer:** Open our hearts to the wisdom of your Son, that, without concern for the cost of discipleship or the reward of our labors, we may grasp how incomparable the honor of working in your vineyard from morning until night.

**A Vocation View:** We can never be called "generous". All that we possess we have received from God. It is our vocation to return to God the talents God has entrusted to us

**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.

**21st September: International Day of Peace** In sending his disciples forth on mission, Jesus told them: "Whatever house you enter, say, 'Peace be to this house!'. The "house" of which Jesus speaks is every family, community, country and continent, in all their diversity and history. It is first and foremost each individual person, without distinction or discrimination.

### 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."*

## To help us pray Mass for 25th 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:** Celebrant: The generosity of God, in the teaching and actions of Jesus, calls on us to be generous in our prayer, words and actions, showing a constant witness to charity, justice and mercy.

For Pope Francis in this 'Season of Creation', that his call for us to care for 'our common home', will be heard by leaders and citizens across our planet.

For a meaningful preparation for the Australian Catholic Church Plenary Council in a year's time, that we will listen to what the Spirit is saying to us and gladly put the Spirit's inspiration into action.

For those whose work has been severely affected during this COVID-19 pandemic, and for those who are unemployed, that governments will show compassion and generosity to them as did the landowner in the Gospel.

For places experience environmental disasters: wildfires in the United States and the Amazon, hurricanes in the Atlantic, the ice-shelf melting in Greenland and Iceland and flooding across Asia, that relief efforts from around the world will relieve suffering.

For the refugees in Greece whose camp was destroyed by fire, the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh whose camp is devastated by floods, for those spread across the world in many camps, that respect will be shown to their dignity, and effective help be given to them.

For a safe and blessed school holidays, for VCE students in their studies over this time, and for regional Victoria to keep safe as restrictions are lifted.

For those who have died, Sr Tirsa Bale, Amy Pilgrim, Adam Barry, John Fahey, those who died in violence, through accidents, by the virus, by suicide, that eternal peace may be theirs from our gracious and generous God. We remember Gavin Frew, Fr Paul Mercovich, Sr Barbara May, Leo O'Connor, whose anniversaries occur at this time. Cel:Father, you are kind and full of compassion, abounding in love, look upon our world .....

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. 10.30am you are welcome to a Laying of Wreath Ceremony at the Police Station

**DO YOU LIVE IN A DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITY?**

**DROUGHT COMMUNITY SUPPORT INITIATIVE - ROUND 2**

YOU COULD BE ENTITLED TO GOVERNMENT FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF UP TO \$3,000

St Vincent de Paul Society

**St Vincent de Paul Drought Community Support Initiative**

The Drought Community Support Initiative funding offers \$3,000 per application available for farming households who meet the following eligibility criteria: *over 18 years of age; live/work in an eligible drought declared LGA: includes Buloke, Gannawarra, Mildura, Moira, Pyrenees, Swan Hill, Yarriambiack; be permanent residents/citizen of Australia; be primarily employed in farming related activity.* Staff will assist applicants who need help completing the questions for eligibility. For more information call the Drought Team 1300 846 643 or [www.vinnies.org.au/drougthelp](http://www.vinnies.org.au/drougthelp).

**Centacare's family and relationship team offer support** during COVID-19. View the flyer for programs on offer and contact details Website: [www.centacareballarat.org.au](http://www.centacareballarat.org.au)

**Ballarat Diocese Lay Pastoral Ministry Program Online Study** Low-cost online study and formation for employed or volunteer lay workers in parish and other ministries. 5 week study cycles include Sacraments, Scripture, Youth Ministry, Liturgy, Leadership and more. Registrations open now until October 12 for the next cycle which begins October 18. More information at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au) or email [djurdja.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:djurджа.klaric@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Engaging Your Catholic Faith** is a series of short sessions offered online by Catholic Theological College lecturers on a range of topics including theology, scripture, pastoral studies and spirituality. Sessions will be held from September 14 - October 31, cost \$20 per session. The sessions will be held via Zoom and will run for approximately 90 minutes.

Thursday 8th October, 2pm: Fr Mark O'Brien OP.  
 "God of Violence (OT) God of Love (NT). True or False?"  
 Tuesday 13th October, 7pm: "Catholics and the Eucharist"  
 Rev Dr Kevin Lenehan. Wednesday 21st October, 7pm:  
 Rev Trevor Tibbertsma. "How Jewish was Jesus?" Enrol Now.  
 Email: [rose.sultana@ctc.edu.au](mailto:rose.sultana@ctc.edu.au) or [www.ctc.edu.au](http://www.ctc.edu.au).

**The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is hosting a zoom webinar for anyone who wants to know more about mental health in Australia and to empower participants to understand mental health, the supports available here in Australia and provide an opportunity to reach out, encourage hope and bring fullness of life to those we love and care for.**

The Zoom webinar will be held on **Sunday, October 4, 2020 from 2.00pm – 3.00pm.**

**SPEAKERS:**

**Bishop Paul Bird will introduce the 2020-2021 Bishop's Conference Social Justice Statement 'To Live Life to the Full, Mental Health in Australia Today'.**

**Graeme Davy-Watts is the mental health manager for Centacare. He has almost twenty years of experience in various clinical roles. Graeme will talk to us about the current reality of mental health in Australia, and what supports are available for preventing mental ill health in Australia.** Please register by sending your name and contact email to Dr. Rachel Smith at [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)

**Pope Francis' daily Mass:** Pope Francis' daily Masses are available online through the Vatican's website and YouTube channel. **Mass for You at Home:** is broadcast on Eleven and Network Ten on Sundays and Aurora Channel on Foxtel every day.

**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.  
**Mass of Welcome Sunday October 4th, 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 20 3rd Sunday in Creation – [Wilderness/Outback](#)  
 September 27 4th Sunday in Creation – [River Sunday](#)  
 October 4th St Francis of Assisi – [Blessings of Animals](#)



**St Mary MacKillop's 10th Anniversary of Canonisation is on October 17th.**

To mark the 10th anniversary the Sisters of Saint Joseph invite you to celebrate the wonderful life and inspirational legacy of Saint Mary of the Cross. The Sisters have created commemorative prayers, videos and a global vigil in of honour Mary throughout September and

October <https://www.sosj.org.au/10th-anniversary>

**Taking Place This Week:**

Monday: St Mathew, International Day of Peace.  
 Wednesday: St Padre Pio  
 Thursday: Our Lady of Mercy. Saturday: Sts Cosmas and Damian, World Day to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons

**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 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.

**First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9**

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; fmy thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 144:2-3, 8-9, 17-18**

The Lord is near to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts. The Lord is near to all who call him.

**Second Reading: Philippians 1:20-24, 27**

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

**Gospel Acclamation: cf Acts 16:14**

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. Alleluia!

**Gospel: 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 you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

**Gospel Reflection: SunAOrd25 Veronica Lawson rsm:**

From 1973 to 1975, East Jerusalem was my home. Early each morning, I crossed the road from the Chaldean Patriarchate to the Ecole Biblique Archéologique Française. I would greet the Palestinian day labourers lined up beside their vehicles, waiting for employment in the vacant lot that divided Israeli from occupied Palestinian territory. In the wake of the Yom Kippur War, these workers were living through hard times. In the morning, they were chatty and cheerful. Those who found work no doubt remained cheerful: they had the means to support their families and could find some meaning in their lives. Those still waiting for work at midday or later were dejected and shamed, not least by the prospect of returning home without their daily bread. Those who were hired found honour in the society and the means to sustain themselves and their families. Those who missed out on work suffered hunger, indignity and a sense of powerlessness. Confronted by this spectacle day after day, I began to understand the parable of the labourers in the vineyard. In Matthew's parable, those who have worked all day grumble because the underemployed are made "equal" to them. Jesus makes it clear that people's worth is not to be measured in terms of their capacity for economic production. They are all equal as persons. Pope Leo XIII, writing back in 1891 about the condition of the working class, echoes this aspect of the

parable. Those who cannot find work and those who cannot work on account of pandemic or disability or visa restrictions know something of the experience of the Palestinian workers. Their needs are no less urgent than the needs of those who have productive and well paid employment. Minimal social security benefits might address their basic material needs but are less than effective in addressing the underlying issues of human dignity. Parables yield meaning differently in different contexts. We may want to consider the corrosive effects of "envy". Faced with the growing disparity between rich and poor in our world, we may wish to raise questions about the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of the landowner. Those who are conscious of the plight of asylum seekers and refugees, as well as those ineligible for Job Seeker or Job Keeper or any other benefit, may come with questions about "generosity" offered from a base of power over against equal access to the world's resources. In the face of pandemic and of climate crisis, many of those who used to be safe in economic terms now find themselves with huge debts and diminishing security. Many in our world are every bit as desperate as the Palestinian day labourers, waiting in line as never before. As we celebrate this third Sunday of the Season of Creation, we might accept the invitation of today's gospel story to live in ways that promote quality of life for every one of Earth's inhabitants.

**Next Week's Gospel SunAOrd26: Matthew 21:28-32**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. John came to you, a pattern of righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

**Good Friday Collection.** Please place your donation in an envelope marked 'Good Friday' and leave at the Office or bring to Mass when we Return. *Thank you.*

**Spring Beckons.** Spring is a metaphor for change. Some changes we eagerly await, and some we abhor. Some changes we plan and others arrive uninvited. To all these changes we ask the gift of Your perspective beckoning us to expectation, hope, and rebirth. May the sunlight and the rain be reminders that You are at work renewing the earth. As a God of renewal, You are ever at work in our lives, too. Open our eyes and lives to the needed changes in our lives this Spring. Awaken us to new life and perspective, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.