

# Sunraysia Catholic Communities

Parish Office: 5021 2872 Fax: 5023 0337  
257 Eleventh Street Mildura  
P.O. Box 10037 Mildura, Vic 3502  
Presbytery Mildura: 5022 9959  
Presbytery Red Cliffs: 5024 1966  
Parish House Merbein: 5025 2716  
mildura@ballarat.catholic.org.au  
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/parishes

Newsheet: Week 25

Fr. Matthew Thomas PP

Fr. Pat Flanagan

Parish Secretary: Carmel Russo

Office Hours: Tues - Fri 9:00am—4:00pm

Sacred Heart  
Mildura

Our Lady of Lourdes  
Werrimull

St. Francis Xavier  
Irymple

St. Joseph's  
Red Cliffs

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart  
Merbein

*The Sunraysia Catholic Communities are committed to ensure the safety of all children and vulnerable people in our care.  
Child Safety Officers:- Mildura—Peter Issanchon, Merbein—Kevin Aston, Red Cliffs—Bernadette Gardner*

## MILDURA

Recent Death: Rosario Casale, Carlo Orsini, Bianca Bachetti, Marjorie Leary

Anniversaries: Paul Sheahan (20 yr anniversary), Decoroso Tac-an, Emma Nesci (1 yr anniversary), Jan Piscioneri, Chris Bogemann (5 yr anniversary), Maria Cricelli (1 yr anniversary)

## RED CLIFFS

Recent Death: Dame Vera Lynn

Anniversaries: Philip Pezzano (1st yr anniversary)

## MERBEIN

Recent Death:

Anniversaries: June 21<sup>st</sup> Franciska Klarich; 22<sup>nd</sup> Alvina Mary; 23<sup>rd</sup> Edith Holmes; 26<sup>th</sup> Flo Bell, Bill Chandler; 27<sup>th</sup> Brian Ashdown, Jim McSwain.

*(Only immediate family members of the deceased are permitted to arrange anniversary Masses.)*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

*If you want a sick person prayed for, ask their permission. Names will be included for the duration of one month after which family or friends can request more time.*

**Mildura:** Fr Paul Jackson SJ (India), Janelle Carney, Bill Antonie, Fr Denis Dennehy, Vince Alicastro, Teresita Eliquen -Dy (Manila), Melita Suppa, Celia-Dy Dela Tena, Perla Tuionisio, Lily Chung, Lorna Kearney, Sandra McCarthy, Brian Ramsey, Hailey Crossan, Geraldine Brunner, Albis Dy

**Merbein:** Mary Avery, John Dorman

**Red Cliffs:** Bill Antonie, Martin Cameron, Maureen Lee, Edna Chua, Lily Flanagan, Barry Crosbie, Brendan Bell, Caterina Brizzi, Marie Adams, Reynaldo Chan, Albis Dy, Roman & Joe Dy, Robert & Elizabeth Young, Maurice O'Connor

**Bulletins are available outside all main Church doors.**

## Our Parish Schools

Sacred Heart Mildura Principal: Des Lowry 5023 1204

St Paul's Mildura Principal: Vince Muscatello 5023 4567

OLSH Merbein Principal: Narelle Gallagher 5025 2258

St. Joseph's Red Cliffs Principal: Mark Gibson 5024 1654

St. Joseph's Secondary College Mildura

Principal: Marg Blythman 5018 8000

## 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time / Year A 21st June 2020

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading - Jer 20:10-13

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah said:

'I hear so many disparaging me,  
"Terror from every side!  
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"  
All those who used to be my friends  
watched for my downfall,  
"Perhaps he will be seduced into error.  
Then we will master him  
and take our revenge!"  
But the Lord is at my side, a mighty hero;  
my opponents will stumble, mastered,  
confounded by their failure;  
everlasting, unforgettable disgrace will be theirs.  
But you, Lord of Hosts, you who probe with justice,  
who scrutinise the loins and heart,  
let me see the vengeance you will take on them,  
for I have committed my cause to you.  
Sing to the Lord,  
praise the Lord,  
for he has delivered the soul of the needy  
from the hands of evil men.'

Responsorial Psalm — Ps 68:8-10. 14. 17. 33-35. R. v.14

(R.) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

1. It is for you that I suffer taunts, that shame covers my face, that I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my own mother's sons. I burn with zeal for your house and taunts against you fall on me. (R.)  
2. This is my prayer to you, my prayer for your favour. In your great love, answer me, O God, with your help that never

fails: Lord, answer, for your love is kind; in your compassion, turn towards me. (R.)

3. The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive; for the Lord listens to the needy and does not spurn his servants in their chains. Let the heavens and the earth give him praise, the sea and all its living creatures. (R.)



# Sacred Heart Mildura

## FANTASTIC NEWS

Weekend Masses will commence the weekend 4th & 5th July at Mildura, Irymple, Merbein and Red Cliffs churches and weekday Masses will commence from 7th July at Mildura, Merbein and Red Cliffs.

Sacred Heart Church continues to be opened for personal prayer however strict guidelines are still in force using the hand sanitiser and social distancing. These are directives we are compelled to follow if we open the Church to the public.

SUPPORT OUR PARISHES

## HAVE YOU HEARD THE GOOD NEWS?



Our CDF (Catholic Development Fund – Ballarat) together with CDF Pay have developed an online thanksgiving portal known as CDF Pay for Parishes.

During this period of time where Masses in the diocese are suspended or reduced, parishes need the financial support of parishioners more than ever. As the vast majority of our parishioners give physically to our parish in the first and second collection plates, we are encouraging all parishioners to use our new electronic parish thanksgiving program.

You can now use this portal to support our parish in both/either the first and second collections. Electronic thanksgiving offerings can be made as one off payments or you can set up a regular payment.

You will receive an electronic receipt for any payments made. Payment link can be found by scrolling down on our webpage or using the below link.

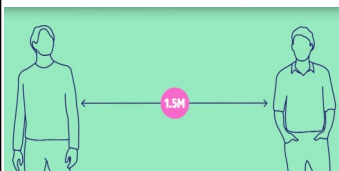
This has only been setup for Mildura at the moment but Merbein & Red Cliffs will be on board very soon.

<https://ballarat.cdfpay.org.au/details/?id=9>

**There have been some technical difficulties this past week, please persevere and try the following day.**

## SACRED HEART PARISH OFFICE

Will open its doors to the general public from next Tuesday—however, please follow the Social Distancing Rules keeping 1.5 metres distance between you and any other visiting members and please use the hand sanitiser provided, keeping us all safe.



**STREAMING** from 5:30pm Saturdays continues

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpujOBwu7YYU-LzjhmqE\\_VQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpujOBwu7YYU-LzjhmqE_VQ)

Or go to the Parish Website: Sacred Heart Parish Mildura  
**Please pass on this information to family and friends.**

We continue to make available via streaming our Masses to those who are able access them via internet. We are very grateful to Rob Klarich for this initiative. **For those without internet or Foxtel, there is a Mass telecast each Sunday morning on channel 10 at 6:00am**, although it is not necessarily the Mass of the particular Sunday that its telecast.

## GOSPEL REFLECTION—Sr. Veronica Lawson rsm

Many of those who once looked through the barbed-wire fences of Australia's detention centres carry personal stories of fear of persecution. One such story, the story of Najaf Mazari, is beautifully narrated by Najaf and Robert Hillman in their joint work, *The Rugmaker of Mazar-e-Sharif*. Najaf is an Afghani Hazara who suffered persecution and torture at the hands of the Taliban. He escaped to Australia via Indonesia in 2002. After some time in detention, he established a rug making business in suburban Melbourne. He was reunited with his wife Hakeema and daughter Maria in 2008 and became an Australian citizen in June 2014.

Some first century Christian groups, including Matthew's community, were a bit like the Afghani Hazaras and Syrian or Iraqi Christians in that they are persecuted simply on account of who they are vis-à-vis those who seek exclusive political and cultural power. They have every reason to fear bodily harm and even death, as suffered by Jesus and his followers. Jesus himself experienced fear in the face of his impending suffering and political execution. Yet Jesus tells his disciples, not once but three times, not to fear those who kill the body.

How are these words to be understood? To return to the story of Najaf: the Taliban had power to destroy his body, but no power over his spirit. A man of deep faith, supported by a family who sacrificed their own comfort and placed their trust in God (Allah), he survived against the most incredible odds. Even if he had died in the effort to find freedom, his faith in the fullness of life with God would remain, in contrast with the bullying power of the Taliban who could kill the body but not an indomitable spirit.

Trust in God is at the heart of Jesus' response to suffering. The disciples are sent to proclaim in the marketplace or from the "housetops" the gospel they have received in the security of the household. If they proclaim the gospel and acknowledge Jesus, he will in turn "acknowledge" them before God "in heaven". They can expect rejection and humiliation. This is not to deter them from their mission. They are not to give up the struggle or capitulate in the face of persecution. Like all of God's creatures, including the sparrows, they are precious in God's eyes and will not be abandoned. On the contrary, even the hairs on their heads are numbered by God. Trust in God is the appropriate response to suffering endured for the sake of God's empire as opposed to the empire of Rome. Trust in God does not take away the pain. As we move into this most extraordinary of Ordinary Times, we join with asylum seekers, refugees, the unemployed and the underemployed, with African American communities and especially, in this context, with the First Peoples of this country, for the justice that is their right. They are precious in God's eyes. They are precious in our eyes and must not be abandoned.





## We're not all in this together, yet

This Refugee Week, many asylum seekers and refugees are struggling to survive the COVID-19 pandemic. Some are trapped in immigration detention centres across the country in cramped and overcrowded conditions that make physical distancing impossible. Others are living in our community on temporary visas or no visas at all, struggling to make ends meet.



Despite what we're told, we're not 'all in this together'. But we know that the effectiveness of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic depends on all of us doing our part to flatten the curve. So when we leave out some, we inevitably endanger the health of everyone.

There are over 1300 people locked in immigration detention facilities across the country. They sleep in dorm rooms with bunk beds, queue for breakfast, lunch and dinner then eat side-by-side in crowded canteens. They share toilets and showers and are forced to ration limited supplies of soap and hand sanitiser. Physical distancing and self-isolation are an impossibility. Inside detention the rules are different. And they are dangerous.

Many of those who are detained have health conditions that place them at high risk of severe complications from COVID-19. Abdul\* has Type 1 diabetes and hypertension. He is scared that after fleeing persecution from a Middle Eastern country as a refugee he will contract the virus in an Australian detention centre. 'I am very worried,' he says. 'I'm not going to the communal areas because of the crowd and many people, to be honest, as I'm scared of getting exposed.'

The message from people in detention is loud and clear: 'We are not safe in this place'.

**'This is not about challenging the immigration system. This is a public health emergency and at the forefront of our response must be the basic principle that the health of one affects the health of all.'**

It's a view shared by medical experts. The Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases and the Australian College of Infection Prevention and Control — along with over 1100 medical professionals — have consistently advised the government that immigration detention centres are high-risk environments for COVID-19 which places people at greater risk of infection and possible death.

Inevitably this also risks placing a greater burden on the health system and the wider community.

It is not hard to imagine the consequences of a COVID-19 breakout in one or more detention centres. Think of the cruise liner Ruby Princess. Think of the cases in nursing homes. Think of just how much careful consideration is going into the phased reduction of isolation measures. Australia has managed the crisis well so far. We do not need an explosive cluster in a high-risk detention centre. The impact would ricochet far beyond its confines.

But it's not just people in detention who are suffering.

In the community, many people on temporary visas, bridging visas or no visas at all are struggling to survive. Without access to Medicare, they face significant barriers in getting tested and treated. Many cannot afford to see a doctor, compromising their overall health and increasing the risk of an outbreak.

For these women and men and their children, there is no safety net. They are denied access to the JobSeeker or JobKeeper schemes. Many have lost their jobs and only income due to COVID-19. The situation is becoming more desperate by the day as many people face the prospect of destitution.

Nazim\* has been on a bridging visa for over three years. He worked as a barista in a local café, but lost his job in March when the café was forced to close. 'Being in this limbo — waiting, uncertainty — we are used to this. I thought I am strong enough to handle this, but actually I am not' he says. 'The community really feel for us. They are helping us. It is heartbreaking to not see that support from the government. This is our home. I cannot go anywhere else. It's hard to see that we have been left behind'. And people like Nazim face the added challenge of attempting to simultaneously navigate a complex immigration system. Something made all the more difficult without healthcare or a basic income.

In an environment in which our individual health is dependent on our collective health, we cannot afford to leave anyone behind. Even now, as the numbers of new cases fluctuates across the country, we are told that we cannot return to business as usual and there remains the very real risk of new clusters of infections. So why is there a blindspot when it comes to temporary visa holders?

Globally, there has been a paradigm shift in the way that we live and work. Governments are responding accordingly with paradigm shifts in policy — Australia included. And underpinning this policy is the principle of shared responsibility.

Yet there is a stark exception. A categorical failure to meet the needs of all people. The result is an inequitable response that excludes some of the most vulnerable, putting not only them but our whole community at grave risk. The virus does not discriminate, so we cannot afford to discriminate in our response.

This is not about challenging the immigration system. This is a public health emergency and at the forefront of our response must be the basic principle that the health of one affects the health of all.

There are clear steps that must be taken. Release the women and men in immigration detention into safer accommodation. Provide universal access to medical treatment and Medicare. Apply the COVID-19 financial safety net, regardless of visa status. Protect rights through fairness and flexibility in the immigration system to ensure that no-one is disadvantaged due to the impact of COVID-19.

It is only by taking these steps that we can truly say: we're all in this together.

David Manne is Executive Director and Principal Solicitor of Refugee Legal. Laura John is a Solicitor at Refugee Legal.

\*names have been changed to protect identity

Main image: Woman sitting on couch with head leaning on crossed arms ([bymuratdeniz/Getty images](#))

Topic tags: [David Manne](#), [Laura John](#), [COVID-19](#), [auspol](#), [Refugee Week](#)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Neil & Sylvia Orr who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary last Thursday.



## Second Reading - Rom 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Sin entered the world through one man, and through sin death, and thus death has spread through the whole human race because everyone has sinned. Sin existed in the world long before the Law was given. There was no law and so no one could be accused of the sin of 'law-breaking', yet death reigned over all from Adam to Moses, even though their sin, unlike that of Adam, was not a matter of breaking a law.

Adam prefigured the One to come, but the gift itself considerably outweighed the fall. If it is certain that through one man's fall so many died, it is even more certain that divine grace, coming through the one man, Jesus Christ, came to so many as an abundant free gift.

## Gospel Acclamation - Jn 15:26. 27

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of Truth will bear witness to me, says the Lord,  
and you also will be my witnesses.  
Alleluia!

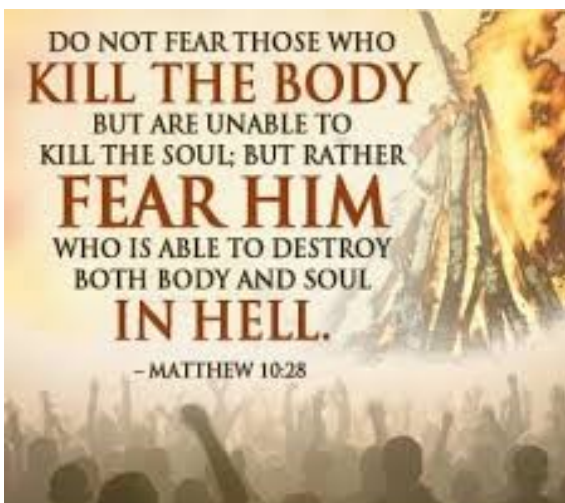
## Gospel - Mt 10:26-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Do not be afraid. For everything that is now covered will be uncovered, and everything now hidden will be made clear. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; what you hear in whispers, proclaim from the rooftops.

'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; fear him rather who can destroy both body and soul in hell. Can you not buy two sparrows for a penny? And yet not one falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Why, every hair on your head has been counted. So there is no need to be afraid; you are worth more than hundreds of sparrows.

'So if anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. But the one who disowns me in the presence of men, I will disown in the presence of my Father in heaven.'



## DIOCESAN NEWS

### St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat - Alpha Online

Alpha is a parish tool for evangelisation, based on hospitality, sharing and open conversation. The same Alpha content is run all over the world by Christians of all traditions and provides a common expression of proclamation, service and witness. Millions of people have tried Alpha all around the world in 112 languages. St Patrick's Cathedral Parish Ballarat offers the opportunity to join the Alpha program online every Wednesday from July 1 - September 9, 2020 from 7.00pm - 8.00pm. Please register your interest with Jess at:

[alpha.jess@icloud.com](mailto:alpha.jess@icloud.com)

### Plenary Council Discernment Papers released

Six Discernment and Writing Groups, one each for the six national themes for discernment that emerged from the Council's *Listening and Dialogue* phase, were tasked with writing papers to bring some major themes and issues into focus. The papers were released on Pentecost Sunday and are available to read at the Plenary Council website <https://plenarycouncil.catholic.org.au/continuing-the-journey-of-discernment/>



## DAFFY'S DAILY

By Annie Tempest.



"It's just that I find that having two glasses of wine at once stops me touching my face..."